

# the LINK

LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

Volume 210

Number 7

www.fboea.org

October 2020

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**FISH of East Aurora**  
960 East Main Street  
East Aurora, NY  
(716) 652-7272

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## FBC MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTIONS

OCTOBER~ Soup  
NOVEMBER ~ Canned Ravioli  
DECEMBER ~ Fruit  
JANUARY ~Canned Hash, Stew, Chili  
FEBRUARY~ Vegetables  
MARCH~ Cold Cereal

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**office@fboea.org**  
**Office: 652-2145**  
**Paul Stolzenberg**  
**Pastor**  
**phs42757@yahoo.com**

**Worship 11 am every  
Sunday**



## Our Church Purpose Statement

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus Christ  
as we love, learn and live the word of God.



**OCTOBER DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:**

**SUNDAYS—11 AM MORNING WORSHIP  
11 AM CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MONDAYS—BIBLE STUDY 7PM**

*I would like to express my gratitude to my church family for the cards, calls, and kind thoughts over the past few months. Each time I look at the beautiful flower bouquet, I think of you all. I am blessed to have so many kind and caring friends. I am looking forward to joining you all again soon.*

*Fondly,  
Winnie*



**Office Hours:**

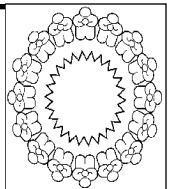
Saturdays  
10am to 4pm  
Erin Popek  
Admin. Asst.  
  
652-2145

10/12 Marge Lowrey

10/9 Lendra & Bill Kress  
10/9 Liz & Aaron Bove

**PRAYER WHEEL**

Please call **Melissa Bove** at **359-5182** with all your prayer concerns.



If Melissa is unavailable, please call **Pastor Paul Stolzenberg** at **812-7533**.



Check out our website FBOEA.com. Carolyn Lansom has been working weekly to improve our church website in order to reach out to the community to let them know who we are. There is a map, photos, pastor’s blog, calendar, and more. If you have anything you would like added go the website send it to Paul at [phs736022@gmail.com](mailto:phs736022@gmail.com) and it will forward it to our web coordinator.

*Please Pray for ....*

- |                       |                             |                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Ralpg Geitter*</i> | <i>The Bielecki Family</i>  | <i>Joni Novick</i> |
| <i>Tim Lowrey*</i>    | <i>The Sekoch Family</i>    |                    |
| <i>Jean Schultz</i>   | <i>The Swigonski Family</i> |                    |

*\*Illness*

*Our Elected Officials and Those serving our Nation  
and their families*



## Pastor's Thoughts

As we are all well aware by now summer has moved on into autumn. Many among us lament the passing of the summer. And while I will miss the warm weather and sunshine, I always welcome this particular season; it has always been my favorite time of the year. The cool crisp mornings, the ushering in of the not too distant holiday season, the beautiful variety displayed by the changing of the colors of the leaves are just a few of examples of why autumn is special.

As I was thinking about this time of year and why I consider it to be the best it occurred to me that I view the seasons almost like a brand. There are unique characteristics for every season, that which makes them different, just as there are unique characteristics of every marketable product. That thought then turned to other aspects of life that we don't normally think of as being marketed. And that brought me to thinking about churches in general and our church in particular. Do churches have unique characteristics that we can identify? Does that make them a brand? I believe that it does.

All churches, I believe, have brands. And we can identify some of those attributes that make them a brand. There was a humor piece that was circulating around the internet a while back that I include here: How many (fill in the blank) does it take to change a light bulb?

**Pentecostal:** Ten. One to change the bulb and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

**Presbyterians:** None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

**Roman Catholics:** None. Candles only.

**Baptists:** At least 15. One to change the light bulb and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.

**Episcopalians:** Three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks, and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

**Mormons:** Five. One man to change the bulb and four wives to tell him how to do it.

**Unitarians:** We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

**Methodists:** Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. A church-wide lighting service is planned for Sunday. Bring a bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

**Nazarene:** Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

**Lutherans:** None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

**Amish:** What's a light bulb?

While this was written with a tongue-in-cheek tone, I think it illustrates the point. There are characteristics that can be attributed to churches, branding, if you will allow me to say.

So, what is our brand? My belief is that it is our responsibility to make sure our "brand" doesn't get in the way of reaching others with God's love and truth. But what would others say?

In other words, if someone who regularly attends our church were to tell their friends about it, honestly, what would they say?

Would they say, “Eh. It’s pretty boring, but my wife makes me go”?

Would they say, “I always feel welcomed, from the minute I walk in the door”?

Would they say, “Really good music, nice people, but that sermon...”?

All churches are providing experiences for those who visit or try to visit. Some are good experiences, some not so much.

And this is why some churches need a brand adjustment.

By brand adjustment, I don’t mean a new logo or a more expensive bulletin printout. I simply mean that some churches need to be continually working to provide a better experience for those who are involved in their church, and for those who could potentially be involved in their church.

Does our church need to do a better job of reflecting Jesus’ love and grace in the experiences we are providing? Do we need a brand adjustment?



## Mission News

### WORLD MISSION OFFERING 2020

This year’s WMO theme is “I once was blind but now I see” based on Mark 2:22-25, Jesus healing the blind man. We are seeing God at work in so many hopeful and encouraging ways by our ABC global servants and partners. Now more than ever our support of the World Mission Offering will help rebuild and re-establish ministries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. When confronted with uncertainty we as Christians have the opportunity to respond with faith in Jesus. Please give what you can in the envelope enclosed with this issue of the Link.

## **Work in Progress**

**We live in a fast-paced culture that prefers the immediate over the prolonged, the event over the process, the destination to the exclusion of the journey. We visit “fast food” restaurants and prepare “instant” meals at home, expect not only next day but same day delivery, and access libraries of information with the click of a mouse or touch of a link in our smartphones.**

**The story of Jesus healing a blind man in Bethsaida found in Mark 2:22-25 was not an instant miracle. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, to a quiet and private place where he could attend more intimately to the man’s need. He first spit in the man’s eyes and applied his touch, then asked if he saw anything. Indeed, the man could now see people, but his vision was not clear—the people appeared “like trees.” In this case, the miracle happened in two stages—it took a second touch from Jesus to transform the man’s eyes.**

**This story of Jesus healing the man reminds us that genuine transformation often— probably most often—happens over time rather than in an instant. Just as it took both an initial and then a second touch from Jesus to restore the blind man’s sight fully, making disciples of Jesus involves both leading persons to an initial commitment to Christ (“baptizing them”) and ongoing formation in the way of following Jesus.**

**We are all works in progress. And we and we should look forward and work diligently toward a time when God’s will is done “on earth as it is in heaven”**



# Fall Festival

**The First Baptist Church of East Aurora  
is hosting a Fall Festival!!**

- ⤷ **Saturday October 17th from 4:00-6:00 pm**
- ⤷ **Trunk or Treat from 4:00-6:00 pm**
- ⤷ **Costume Contest at 5:15!!**
- ⤷ **Games**
- ⤷ **And more!!!**

**591 Porterville Rd. East Aurora**

**For more information call 716-652-2145**

**\*For more information call (716) 652-2145  
The First Baptist Church of East Aurora**



This year's trunk or treat event will look a little different but will be just as much fun! This will be our third year running the event! Please, Please consider decorating your car this year!! We have had great participation the last 2 years and the more trunks — the more fun!!!

**I CAN SMELL  
AUTUMN DANCING  
IN THE BREEZE  
THE SWEET CHILL OF  
PUMPKIN  
AND CRISP  
SUN BURNT LEAVES**

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**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EAST AURORA**  
591 Porterville Road / East Aurora, New York 14052



The LINK is a monthly publication distributed to members, families and friends of the First Baptist Church of East Aurora, New York. The purpose of this publication is to provide a communication "link" between the pastor/church officers and the congregation, between members of the congregation, and between the church and the larger community which it serves. Publication deadline is the third Tuesday of each month.