

# the LINK

LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

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

## FBC MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTIONS

JANUARY ~Canned Hash, Stew, Chili  
FEBRUARY~ Vegetables  
MARCH~ Tuna  
APRIL~ Soup  
MAY~ Cold cereal  
JUNE~ 100% juice boxes or large  
juice

## 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.



**JANUARY 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 \*\*\*HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE\*\*\***

**JANUARY 17TH—2021 CHURCH BUDGET MEETING—DIRECTLY FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP**

Congregational Meeting

We will be having a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> immediately following our Worship Service. The only item on the agenda will be the 2021 Church Budget and due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be held in the sanctuary **without** a combined lunch.

Worship Chairperson Needed

**Your Church Council is looking for someone who would like to fill the position of Worship Chair. If you are interested contact either Melissa Bove or Pastor Paul.**

Advent

Greetings to all of you who were not able to attend church this advent season. We missed you, and here’s what you missed. Our sanctuary once again glowed with the decorated tree and windows. The crèche took center stage. We sat apart from one another but we still sang carols through our masks. Each week a candle was lit on the Advent ring. Pastor Paul’s sermons focused Isaiah 9:6- “He shall be called...” On bell Sunday we rang our bells when we heard or sang the word glory or glorious. We were treated with wrapped sponge candy instead of cookies one Sunday. Poinsettias and candles added even more seasonal beauty. Christmas Eve Candlelight and special music by Katarina; a beautiful ending to a special season.



Merry Christmas.

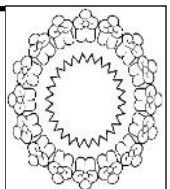


**Office Hours:**

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

**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**.

## Christmas Mission Outreach

Our church had the privilege of being able to make monetary and other donations to many, many local organizations this Christmas season. I want to share with you some of the grateful responses we have already received.

*“ Because of your generosity we can help men, women, and children have a better tomorrow by improving their health outcomes ” (Jericho Road); “ We are blessed by your ongoing commitment to ROC. Your gift is truly transformative ”; “ Because of you we can continue to spread hope and joy to the children and families we serve ” ( Cradle Beach); “Wow. Thank you for your generous donation now more than ever. Just last month we provided 2,513 meals to your Niagara Frontier neighbors. ” (Community Missions of N. F.); We appreciate the compassion you continue to show our neighbors who face challenges every day. ” (FISH).*

More notes of thanks come in the mail every day. They are posed on the bulletin board for you to see.



FISH Food and Toy Donations

All we have to do is ask, and you, our church family respond with amazing generosity. We asked for supplies for holiday meals and Jackie delivered a carload of food! A carload! We asked for toys and Ray and I delivered another carload of quality toys and gift cards for boys and girls of all ages.

In the days ahead, we will probably continue to ask for donations. And you will probably oblige, because that's who we are!

### *Please Pray for ....*

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Victor Cane*</i>            | <i>Joni Novick*</i>      |
| <i>Tim Lowrey*</i>             | <i>Meghan Lee*</i>       |
| <i>Tom Clancey*</i>            | <i>Tom Heinemen*</i>     |
| <i>Gary Musial</i>             | <i>Harvey Underhill*</i> |
| <i>The Grunsweig Family</i>    |                          |
| <i>The Pikula Family</i>       |                          |
| <i>Dee &amp; Cliff Mikolon</i> |                          |

*\*Illness*

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



## Pastor's Thoughts

There are certain views that lend themselves to contemplation. Gazing at the stars on a clear summer night comes to mind. Or enjoying the colors of nature as autumn peaks. Beaches, clear mountain lakes, the first snowflakes of winter, and so many other examples of the beauty of creation leave us with a sense, not only of awe, but of musing. Along with musing, reflection.

There are markers in time as well that seem right for contemplation, musing, reflection. One of those markers, the coming of the New Year, is, for many people, prime time for reflection. We often take time at the end of the expiring year to assess it, to dissect it, to consider what was good and positive in it, and what was negative in it. We use that assessment to resolve to make changes for the coming year, to leave the negative behind and to look to increase the good, the positive.

As you are reading this we are at that point, at the end of 2020 and looking ahead to 2021. Some of us can't wait to get 2020 behind us, to get back to some sense of normalcy. Others can't help but wonder, "What if 2020 was just a warmup for even more chaos in 2021?"

2020 was a challenging year in many respects (I know, I'm REALLY stating the obvious there. Or perhaps even understating it). And the ramifications of some of the events of 2020 will be with us for some time; no one knows how long COVID-19 will be a threat. Also, the aftermath of a brutal election season will linger indefinitely. The civil unrest that was part of the year has yet to resolve. And as yet no announcement has been made regarding the fate of the 2021 Erie County Fair.

There are any number of ways to reflect on the year that was. We can be afraid for the future, for example. Or we can be optimistic about what is coming next.

We are just past the celebration of Christmas. I would ask you to remember back to the announcement made by angels to the shepherds watching over their flocks: *"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"* (Luke 2:8-11)

The instruction given to the shepherds is the same instruction given to us today: Fear not! And for the same reason: because Jesus Christ, our savior, who was born that day, IS still with us today.

Further, we find instruction given to us by a now grown up Jesus in Matthew 6:7. Jesus is asking a question that is still valid today:

**And which of you by being anxious (or by worry) can add a single hour to his span of life?**

We know the living God. We are His children. We know that Jesus Christ came to earth to give us the opportunity to have our sins forgiven and to teach us how to live lives pleasing to God. We, as Christians, can have joy in that realization not just at Christmas time, but all throughout the year. All throughout every year. And friends, there is much optimism to be had there!

## Happy New Year.

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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.