

the LINK

LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

Volume 211

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Spring 2021

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

FBC MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTIONS

APRIL~ Soup
MAY~ Cold cereal
JUNE~ 100% juice boxes or large
juice
JULY~ Baked Beans
AUGUST~ Peanut Butter
SEPTEMBER~ Canned Tomatoes

CONTACT INFORMATION

office@fboea.org
Office: 652-2145
Paul Stolzenberg
Pastor
phs736022@gmail.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.

SPRING 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 IN THE PARLOR**



- COUNCIL MEETINGS—APRIL 13, MAY 11, JUNE 8**
- MAY 1—PINE HILL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE**
- MAY 9— MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE**
- JUNE 20—FAMOUS FATHERS**

Pine Hill Scholarship

Do you know a high school senior planning to attend a 2 or 4 year college in September 2021?

A scholarship of \$1,000.00 is available to assist with college expenses to a High School senior with a strong church and volunteer involvement. Applications are available in the church office. These applications have also been sent to local school districts.



Thank You Thank You Thank You

Day after day, week after week and year after year our property committee is hard at work. Building upkeep, heating systems, yard and parking lot areas are always cared for. And, some work goes unnoticed, like the painting of the baptismal. The most recent was cleaning and painting the lower kitchen cupboards. A huge “thank you” to Dale Bove for all his hard work and painting them. They look great! And, not to be overlooked are all the members of the property committee. (and they could always use new members on the committee!) Your hard work and diligence in caring for our church home is so greatly appreciated. ~ Thank You!!

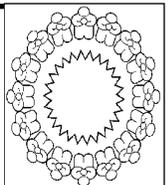
Office Hours:

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**.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April

- 3 Lois D’Arcangelo
- 4 John & Meg Hausauer
- 4 Doug Sernoffsky
- 5 Jim & Jan Nowak
- 7 Shirley Sack
- 8 Katie Kress
- 13 Sarah Dziak
- 14 Kim Collins
- 16 Paul Nowak
- 17 Jim Nowak
- 27 Paul Stolzenberg
- 27 Gwen Fowler

May

- 12 Erin Popek
- 14 Ray & Chris Hartmann
- 15 Donna Dziak
- 20 Karl & Erin Popek
- 23 David Dziak
- 25 Gretta Popek

June

- 7 John Hausauer
- 7 Chloe Scheuer
- 12 Rev. Jim Morrison
- 19 Janet Morrison
- 24 Bill Kress
- 25 Dillon Collins

A Note from Our Friends at St. Pauly

We hope this note finds you well and warm. This past year was challenging in many regards for our company, as well as many of the organizations and people we partner with. On the bright side, however, it seems that lots of people who were stuck at home took the opportunity to clean out their closets! In 2020 there was a total of 32,185 pounds of clothing donated in your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 2,566 people, in need, all over the world.

Thank you so much for continuing to partner with us. We truly appreciate all the support you’ve given to this program.

Sincerely,
The Team at St. Pauly

Please Pray for



- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Tim Lowrey*</i> | <i>Marleen Hanson*</i> | <i>The McClure Family</i> |
| <i>Brian Whitton*</i> | <i>Nick K*</i> | <i>Don McGinnis & Family</i> |
| <i>Lauren*</i> | <i>Scott Rickettson*</i> | <i>Darryl Edmiston</i> |
| <i>Steve*</i> | <i>Dan Mahoney*</i> | <i>Marian Edmiston</i> |
| <i>Harvey Underhill*</i> | <i>Loren Balcom*</i> | <i>Jerry*</i> |
| <i>Zach*</i> | <i>Dave B*</i> | <i>Eric Miller*</i> |

**Illness*

Our Elected Officials and Those serving our Nation and their families

We Interrupt This Pandemic for a Mother's/Father's Day Message

We set aside the second Sunday in May for Mother's Day and June for Father's Day. We love both parents equally but we shower Mom with flowers, presents, special dinners and maybe have a picnic on Dad's day. How unfair is that!

A mother's love, both sweet and fierce, is observed in almost all animals, not just humans. No doubt you've heard this phrase: "... as sweet as a mother's love," and this warning: "Never get between a momma bear and her cub."

A human father's love, on the other hand, is more often associated with unfortunate references, like "tough" and "discipline." We've all heard the warning : "Just wait 'till your father gets home!"

There are two kinds of parental love- a mother's sweet/protective and a father's tough/courageous. We are better people for both kinds of love and we cannot imagine life without both. Unconditional love, encouragement, life lessons, hugs, and laughs are the gifts of love from both parents.

So happy Mother's day on May 16 to all our Moms. You deserve all the flowers, gifts, and praise you get. And Happy Father's Day on June 20 to all the patient selfless Dads. May you get cookies or whatever it is that makes you happy!

May God shower you with His amazing love and kindness.

SPRING

This issue of the Link is our spring newsletter including news and notes for April, May and June. We've included calendar dates, birthdays, and anniversaries for the three months. Church life has been really curtailed by the pandemic, so there hasn't been too much to report. Hopefully by summer those of us who wish to will have been vaccinated. Let's hope we will be back to our full and busy schedule by September. In the meantime, there is always a pew for you on Sunday mornings. We are using masks and practicing social distancing until told otherwise.

Mission News

Plans are in the works to undertake a special mission project with Heifer International. You have all been very supportive of our major mission initiatives through the American Baptist Church- America for Christ, World Mission Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing- and locally with donations to FISH.

But we haven't had a Mission Event in over a year and hopefully we'll be able to do so by October. "Water for Life" will be our theme and fund raising goal. We turn on a tap, flush a toilet, shower, water lawns without a second thought to the abundance, purity, and convenience of our water. Not so for much of the world. And we will endeavor to rectify that in some small way. If you would like, you could start your own personal donation bank by putting a quarter or dime or dollar aside for every time you drink a glass of water, or make coffee, or brush your teeth, or some other water use. Or wait until the fall and we'll all be in it together. Til then, thanks for your support.

P.S. Two of the local missions we support financially have reported some of their undertakings: Friends of the Night People served over 173,000 meals in 2020 and the Community Mission of the Niagara frontier provided 197,000 meals and 1,500 nights of shelter.

Easter is upon us! This year, unlike last, we will be meeting in person here at church. Hallelujah!

The world needs to hear the message of a risen Savior now as much as it has at any time in history. We all know that the world has become a complicated place, and that even understanding our own nation, state, and community seems more difficult as time goes on. And a global pandemic further complicated the issues!

And, speaking of the pandemic, we are now over a year in and people are asking the question, "Should we keep masks on at all times?"

I hear and read discussions regarding mask wearing in a variety of places. And I know that in some circles (hopefully not ours!) that discussion can become quite heated. We want no part of that as we are instructed in Scripture to ...so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18).

Some people question the usefulness of wearing a mask, others firmly believe that it is necessary. It would be counterproductive to have a debate regarding the effectiveness of mask wearing in a group that meets to praise God.

So, in terms of establishing policy for our Sunday church attendance and Monday night Bible study, I checked the New York State guidelines for religious services and read this: Any time employees, volunteers, and/or attendees must come within 6 ft. of one another (or 12 ft., if singing), they must wear acceptable face coverings, unless they are members of the same household.

I do understand that there is a level of comfort and safety that we each need to establish for ourselves. I am asking that each of us who attends our services in person respect the NYS guidelines and, more importantly, respect your brothers and sisters in Christ. What I am asking is that each of us wear a face covering into the building. If you are properly distanced after seating and would like to remove your mask you may, per the guidelines, do so. If you are more comfortable leaving the mask on, do so.

I do hope to see all of you in person.

Pastor Paul Stolzenberg

Pastor's Thoughts

*Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth...
tell of his salvation from day to day. Psalm 96:1-2*

It can be difficult to stay positive and upbeat through the gray skies, cold air, wind, and depressingly short days of winter. Add in a global pandemic and, well, the degree of difficulty increases exponentially.

The good news, in terms of the seasons, is that spring is here! The vitality of nature that has been dormant all winter is springing back to life. Renewal is beginning in all of creation.

The better news is that we are about to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is the fact of His resurrection that allows for all of us the metaphor of renewal that is seen in the spring.

The unpredictable spring weather this year has allowed us to get a jumpstart on our outdoor work, and now we are all looking forward to sunshine streaming through the clouds, warm breezes, trees budding, flowers blooming, song birds returning, longer days, lighter jackets, sandals, the roar of race engines at the local track, all of the sure signs that spring is here. I encourage you to savor the time that is spring. Because of the fleeting nature of spring the best way to enjoy it is as it is presented; one lovely day at a time.

That is the way to enjoy the renewal that is our new life in Christ, also; one lovely day at a time. We can spend long seasons of life in the personal equivalent of winter where everything is dreary, where we are battered by the cold harsh winds of difficulty, where the life that we once enjoyed has become essentially dormant. These seasons of life are independent of the cycles of nature and they can come upon us at any time.

The good news, in terms of life, is that we can have spring everyday!

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that:

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.¹ The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

This is very good news indeed! The Lord's mercies, the Scriptures tell us, are new everyday. The power to begin our lives as new is contained in the power of the Holy Spirit of God and made available to us through identification with Jesus Christ!

As we look forward to the arrival of the renewing of the vitality of life that spring brings about, let's also resolve to let the Good News of the coming of Christ renew the vitality of life that God has intended for us!

A Request from the Buildings and Grounds Committee

At the present time, it appears as if our church may not be able to get the prison work gang to clean up our grounds this year, due to the "Pandemic" they are not allowed out for work assignments. If we are not able to get their help, the Building and Grounds Committee is asking for help from congregation to gather for a grounds clean up on Saturday when weather allows. Date will be flexible due to weather.

Thanks—Work Crew



Church Directory

The church phone book is being updated. If you have a new address, home/cell phone # and/or email address, please let Melissa Bove know the updated info. Don't be missing in action, keep your church family updated. You never know when a card, letter or phone call could be coming your way!!

You can call Melissa at 655-0666, leave a message at 652-2145 or drop a letter to FBC, 591 Porterville Rd, East Aurora NY 14052 or directly to Melissa at 6165 Seneca St., Elma, NY 14059 with any changes you want included in the directory.



While cleaning out a drawer—part of my retirement to-do plan—I came across an old bible of my dad's. In it was a pamphlet titled "Where to look... In the Bible" and I thought I would share some of it with you.

When "things look blue", read Isaiah Chapter 40.

When tempted to do wrong, read the 139th Psalm.

When you have sinned, read 1 John 1, John 3:1-21, Isaiah 53 and make Psalm 51 your prayer.

When you are discouraged, think over Psalm 23.

If you are "bored", read Psalms 103 and 104 or Job chapters 38-40.

When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 27.

When you are anxious for dear ones, read the 107th Psalm.

If you are sick or in pain read Psalm 91.

To live successfully with your fellowmen, follow Romans Chapter 12.

When you leave home to travel, carry Psalm 121 with you.

When you are weary, seek Matthew 11:28-30 and Romans 8:31-39.

For inward peace, consider the 14th chapter of John.

If you have been bereaved, there is a message for you in 1 Corinthians 15 and Revelation 21.

For stirring record of what trust in God can do, turn to the 11th chapter of Hebrews.

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.