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

JULY 2024



**Contact Us!**

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Paul Stolzenberg, Pastor: phs736022@gmail.com



(716) 652-7272

FBC Food Collection:

July—Baked Beans

August—Peanut Butter

September—100% Juice Boxes or Large Juice

**In This Issue**

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- ⇒ We Have a Winner!
- ⇒ We All Win at the Picnic!
- ⇒ Love is Always in the air at FBOEA!
- ⇒ 2Thoughts!

**TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME**

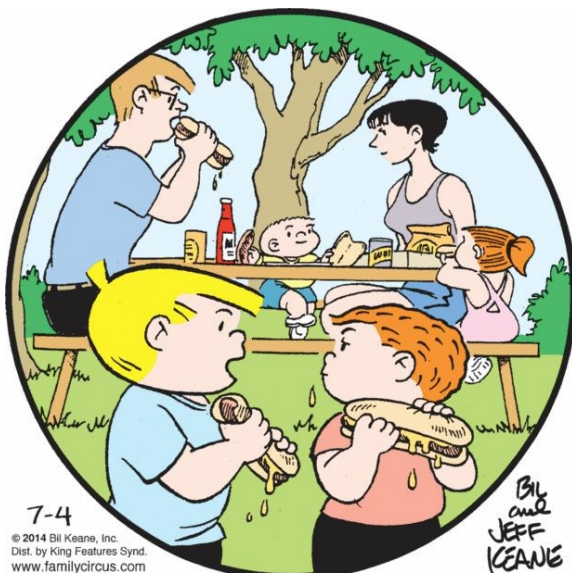
Plan on joining us on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> for a Bison’s baseball game vs. the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders starting at 7:05 pm. The event is sponsored by the Honda Friday Night Bash and there will be fireworks at the end of the game. A sign-up list will be at the back of the church. Tickets are about \$20 each. We will plan to obtain tickets adjacent to first base. We will coordinate to buy tickets for the group and distribute them to you prior to the event.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-

**PICNICING TIME**

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, after church. We will supply the hot dogs and rolls, plates, cutlery, and beverages. Plan to bring a dish to pass and share for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship, food and activities. We will have a few fun things to participate in for your amusement.



7-4  
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BILL  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

**“Today’s a good day to eat hot dogs, ’cause that’s what our fourth fathers always ate.”**



**Summer Vacation**

By the time you are reading this, we will have completed our last Sunday School and Bible Study for the summer.

Please plan to join us again in September when we reconvene.

Congratulations to our 2024  
Pine Hill Scholarship Winner

Ava Virgien, a graduate of Iroquois H.S. and an active member of Revive Wesleyan Church, East Aurora Campus is our 2024 Pine Hill Scholarship winner!! It was a joy to meet and celebrate with her and her family on Sunday, June 23rd, when she was presented with the scholarship during morning worship, with a reception following the service.

At Iroquois H.S. Ava was a Scholar Athlete, a member of the Spanish Honor Society, the National Honor Society, the Yearbook club, and participated in Varsity Hockey, and Varsity Lacrosse.

Recipients of this scholarship are based on their commitment to their church, a strong faith and active involvement in their community. Her pastor wrote "Ava is a committed Christian, attends church weekly with her family and is involved with Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings where she is a capable and trusted helper with the young children of the congregation." She also states. "Ava also puts her faith into action at her school, where she has played a crucial role in implementing and running a bible study for her peers" In addition, as a part of Ava's numerous 4 H activities, she raised and donated chickens to Feed More WNY.

Ava will be attending Alfred State college, majoring in diagnostic medical sonography.



Where shall we send our Pie Sale Profits?

A recent headline in the Buffalo News "*One year later, refugees making WNY their home*"

We had a small part in this success story when we designated our profits from the 2023 pie sale to Jericho Road Resettlement services. Jericho Road and other resettlement agencies have integrated many asylum seekers into the community to become contributing members in the past year and continue to do meaningful work.

Now we have an opportunity to use the 2024 pie sale profits to make a difference somewhere in our community! The list of charities is long. The mission committee invites all members of the congregation to propose a charity this year. We will compile a list of nominations from you, and then select one for our donation.

Here is a short list of possible but not exclusive places, each of which can be researched on the internet: Friends of the Night People, Habitat for Humanity, FeedMore backpack, baby needs, or pantry program, Family Promise of WNY, Harvest House, South Buffalo Community Table, Veterans One Stop Center, Ronald Mc Donald House, Cradle Beach Camp, FISH of East Aurora, Rural Outreach Center, Grace Community Mission. There are many many more!

Do you have another worthwhile charitable organization? Let Carl, Paul, or Chris know if you have a charity of choice.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dan and Jackie Novick! They were married in June after a short engagement!



## Pastor's Thoughts

Summer is here, officially. And well, it's really been hot so far!

Summer is the season that many people that I know wait all year for. The season is noted to include the months of June, July, and August. Three months, essentially (we can still have good weather into October – we just can't count on it), out of twelve. Oh, sure, there are the various holidays to occupy our time (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) but it is summer that we wait for.

Then, when summer arrives, there is so much to do. Getting out the lawn furniture, tending to gardens and flower beds, summer vacations, baseball games, various fairs, carnivals, Fourth of July celebrations with fireworks, picnics, visits to parks, hikes, cook-outs with friends and family. And then... Labor Day is here. Time to pack summer things away and wait for next year.

There is a potential danger in our approach. We wait all year for summer, then rush through it so quickly that we may not enjoy it. We could become so busy enjoying the summer that we...don't *actually* enjoy the summer.

There may be other areas of life that are similar. For example, we can't wait to graduate high school, so we do what we need to do to get out without enjoying what it has to offer, then look back and say, "I wish I had tried..." fill in the blank. We begin college, or a career, and become so busy with creating a home, raising a family, paying bills, working we don't enjoy that phase of life. We look so forward to retirement...and soon, we are retired and wonder where the time went.

I wonder, do we rush through our time with God in a similar way? I mean, we spend time at church worshipping God, we spend time in prayer giving thanks and making requests and petitions, maybe we spend time reading or studying our Bibles. But do we take the time to truly experience worship, prayer and study? Or do we rush through those activities because, well, there are so many other things that we need to do?

Psalm 1 describes a person whose...**delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

(Psalm 1:2)

James encourages us to...**Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** (James 4:8)

As we go through summer, as we go through life, I want to encourage everyone to take the time, maybe slow down if that's what we need to do, but take the time to really enjoy the wonderful gifts that God has given us. Enjoy the summer. And enjoy fellowship with God.

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## Baptism

I am often asked about the significance of baptism. I am also asked about the timing and method of baptism. Some faith traditions baptize babies, some sprinkle those being baptized with water.

Let me see if I can explain, for those who might be asking now. For the Christian, a personal testimony is a verbal witness of his faith. Similarly, baptism is a visible witness to that faith. The act of baptism expresses union with Christ, and with our spiritual family.

But the primary reason for baptism is that Jesus commanded it of His disciples.

**<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** (Matthew 28:19-20)

As Baptists we believe that the proper time to baptize an individual is after they have made a verbal confession of faith. That confession occurs once they have an understanding of who Jesus is and how His death, burial, and resurrection is sufficient for people to be reconciled with God, and they have made the conscious decision to become an active follower of the Risen Savior.

We practice baptism by immersion simply because "baptize" (baptidzo, in the original Greek) means immersion. Just as Jesus was immersed in his baptism by John the Baptist, we immerse in our baptismal.

While baptism isn't required for salvation, it is instructed. And typically a profession of faith is often made in a private setting, baptism is a very public event where family and friends are invited to attend and witness. In that way it is an opportunity to celebrate and welcome a new believer into the faith.

The First Baptist Church of East Aurora  
591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

Please Pray For...

Rose Gassman\*  
Elaine Rickettson\*  
Melissa Schneck\*  
Tim Lowrey\*  
Christie Carson\*  
Ken Furnier  
Elna Houqland  
Preston Smith\*  
Tom Heineman\*  
Darlene Murphy\*  
Ed Hausauer  
Tony Consentino  
Allison Nowak  
Robert Heineman  
Heidi Teton\*

Matt Roberts  
Eric Miller\*  
Zachary Gallson  
Sheldon Webster  
Carol Wirth  
Joshua Maston  
Taylor Bauman\*  
Nate Fox  
Donte King  
Bev Able  
Stephanie T  
Harvey Underhill  
John Kenny\*  
Randy Smith\*  
Steve Miller\*  
Brenda Nickerson\*  
Dave Stolzenberg\*  
Kendall Johnson Smith\*

Karl Baue  
Titus Weaver  
David Erb  
Joshua Moston  
Ward Brunning  
Jon Feilds  
Ward Brunning  
Robrert Novick  
Carl Bae  
Bev Able  
Stephanie  
Don Fields\*

\*Indicates illness

Happy Birthday to:

Harvey Underhill—7/5  
Kathryn Smith—7/8  
Deb Mende—7/9  
Lendra KIress—7/15  
Walter Popek— 7/16  
Dale Bove— 7/22  
Sharon Haas—7/23

Happy Anniversary to:



Sarah&Mike Dziak

July 5



Sharleen&Harvey Underhill

July 22