

LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

the

LINK

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

JANUARY 2025



Contact Us!

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Paul Stolzenberg, Pastor: phs736022@gmail.com



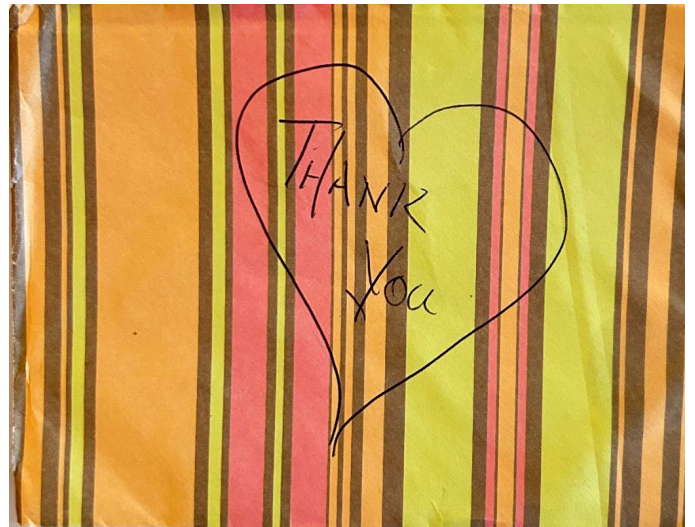
(716) 652-7272

FBC Food Collection:

- January—Canned Hash, Stew, Chili
- February—Vegetables
- March—Tuna

In This Issue

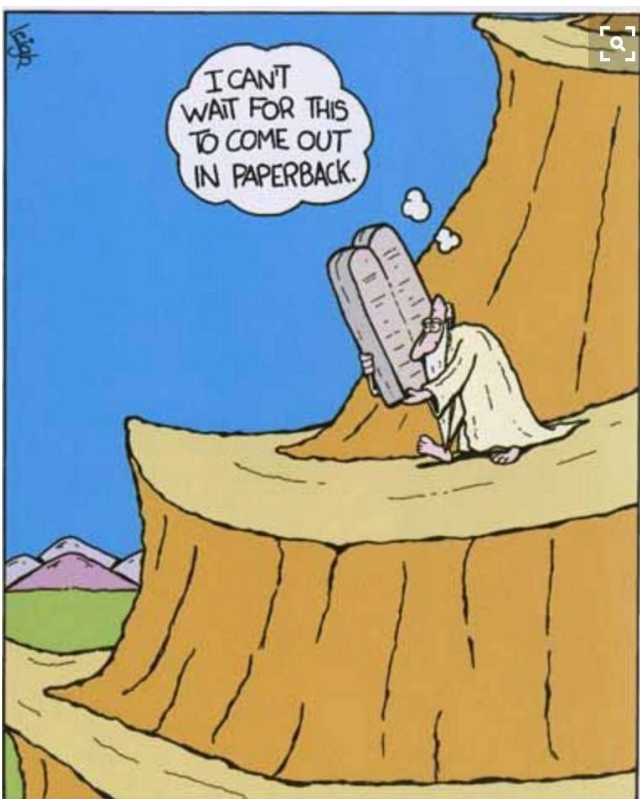
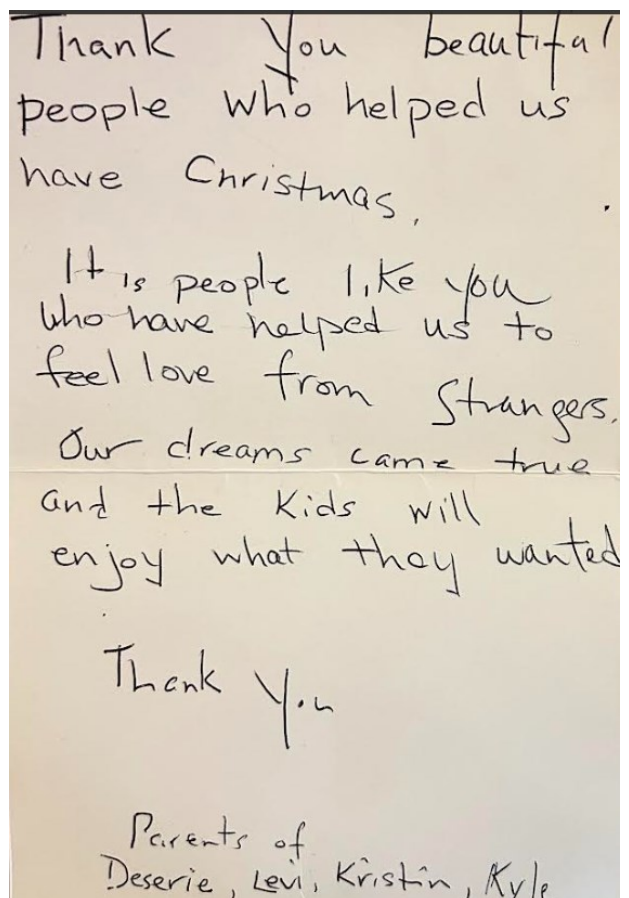
- ⇒ Wait? What Year is it?
- ⇒ We had a holiday!
- ⇒ Thank you!!
- ⇒ What's next?
- ⇒ Did Someone Say Spaghetti?



We, as a church, have started a relationship with the Seneca Gospel Mission, located in South Buffalo. That organization provides many services to folks in need in South Buffalo. One of the ministries that they provide is help for families at holidays, like Christmas. They have a budget that provides gifts and gift cards for families to help to make Christmas a little more special.

I received a call from Mike Reid, one of the principles asking if our congregation could help in that effort because they had disbursed their allocated budget but then received word that there was another family that they would like to help. As a congregation, FBOEA did not disappoint. I want to share with you a hand written note that the family wrote to us in response.

Thank you to all who contributed!



Mission Donations

In addition to the gift card and fruit basket that we donated to a needy family of 6, the congregation through the Mission Committee made several other donations this Christmas.

We supported the Christmas Toy Day distribution at FISH with gift cards for teens and youth. We purchased a dozen gift cards for local businesses that were on the wish list of the youth whose families are served by FISH. In addition monetary donations were made to Feedmore, Friends of the Night People, Hearts and Hands, Rural Outreach Center, Cradle Beach and Camp Good Days and Special Times. Every gift makes a difference. Thank You!

The Unexpected...

This year's Advent season started out with a bang or should I say snowstorm! We didn't have service that first Sunday but Hope was in our heart... O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The greens weren't hung until Tuesday and hands were there to decorate. From the Nativity, tree, greens, wreaths and poinsettias, the church was decked out in all her glory. The next Sunday we lit the candles of Hope and Peace and the bells were rung to sounds of "love" for Bell Sunday. The candle was lit for Joy the next Sunday and cookies were eaten and exchanged. For the fourth Sunday we stayed warm in our home because the church was less than 45 degrees, brrr. Christmas Eve service was joyful. The Love candle was lit, the scriptures were read and the choir and congregation sang Christmas hymns. Pastor Paul reminded us that we need a Savior and He is here. Sloane read the reading and lit the Christ candle. And then the sweet moment came where we lit candles, the church was darkened and we sang Silent Night, all is calm, all is bright. We left joyful and our hearts full, Christ is born!

Christ came in a way that no one expected the Messiah to come. His parents had to make the journey to Bethlehem with unexpected twists and turns. Only to get there and find there was no room in an inn for Mary to give birth to Jesus. So, He was born in a stable and was placed in a manger. Did the shepherd think that they would be the first to see the Messiah? And wise men following the star to worship a new king? This reminds us that God blesses the unexpected. Even when things don't go the way we planned, if we trust in Him, we will get the blessing. All is calm, all is bright... sleep in heavenly peace. Amen



Just A Little Reminder

On Sunday, January 19th, following our worship service, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch. Join us for a look back on 2024 and a look ahead to 2025 while enjoying a delicious lunch and fellowship with your fellow congregation members.



Pator's Thoughts

Believe it or not, it is 2025. I know that we say this every year, but, where has the year gone? While it seems to have moved by rather quickly, we are thankful for the opportunities 2024 afforded us to minister.

As we stand at the threshold of a brand-new year, I hope we can embrace the promise it holds with hearts full of faith and hope. The New Year is a canvas of endless possibilities, painted by the hand of a loving God who desires good for us.

Jeremiah 29:11 reassures us: **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

Step into this year with confidence, knowing that God walks before you, lighting your path and guiding your steps. Though challenges may come, His grace will sustain you, and His strength will uplift you. Let each day be a reflection of His love and an opportunity to share His light with the world.

Remember, every sunrise is a reminder of His unfailing mercies, which are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). So, hold onto His promises, dream boldly, and love deeply.

May this New Year bring you peace, joy, and abundant blessings. Move forward with faith, for the best is yet to come!

Happy New Year!

Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle

By popular demand, the spaghetti dinner and basket raffle will be back!

So, take advantage of the after Christmas sales to gather items for your baskets for that ever-popular raffle! Once assembled, if you would like to "unclutter your space"~ they can be stored up in the choir loft.

The date for this fundraising event is still being finalized but you have time to create some fantastic baskets. We will keep you updated when the dinner and raffle date is determined.



Happy New Year!

Here we are again facing a new year. Any organization no matter if they are religious, charitable, or commercial, facing a new year financially is like dealing with that two-prong fork hanging on the side of your outdoor grill. The first prong is developing a budget. That task is done and the congregation will vote on it at our annual meeting on January 19th. Now, to the second prong, determining where the money will come from to support that budget. This is where we need your help. On the table, at the rear of our sanctuary, are pledge cards. Please take one home and prayerfully consider what you can give to your church. Then fill it out and return it to church by dropping it in the collection plate on a Sunday morning. If you can't get to church, but would like to pledge, just call the office and a pledge card will be mailed to you. Thank you for helping us tackle that second prong.

Have a happy new year, Ray

A New Year's Eve Prayer

As we close this year, we pause to pray,
Thankful for Your grace along the way.
Through challenges faced and blessings found,
Your faithfulness has always been profound.

We look to You for strength anew,
For wisdom in all that we pursue.
In times of joy, in times of need,
May Your Word be the guide we heed.

As the future unfolds, unknown and wide,
We trust in You, our faithful Guide.
Though the road may twist, though trials may come,
In Your presence, we are never alone.

Help us to love as You have shown,
To serve with grace, and walk in Your light.
Let our actions reflect Your heart,
And bring peace and truth to those we meet.

As we step into the year ahead,
Guide our hearts and keep us led.
May we live with purpose, trust, and fear,
And seek Your will throughout this year.

Amen.



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

Please Pray For...

Rose Gassman*
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*
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
Jon Feilds
Ward Brunning
Robrert Novick
Carl Bae
Bev Able

Adam Kampf
Maryann McFadyen
Brett Begley
Pastor Gary
Rev Gary Palmer*
Carm Bauser
Patrick Hoagan
Bev Crosno
Karfen Kloc
Larry Allen*
Carol Cotton*
Gabby Gilbert

*Indicates illness

Happy January Birthday!

Carl Mende 1/9

Matt Novick 1/12

Beth Hanavan Holbert 1/17

Meg Hausauer 1/21

Tom Heineman 1/21

Joeleen Gallson 1/27