

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church

134 North Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456

(315) 789-3220

E-mail: genevabcc@rochester.rr.com

Web Site: genevafirstbaptistchurch.org

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Phyllis Granger, Pastor

Bill Robbins, Assistant Pastor

Nancy Robbins, Secretary

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Beverly Simons - Moderator

Bill Robbins – Visitation/

Christian Education/Evangelism

Geoff Marshall - Personnel Manager

Gary Hartman- Property Manager

Verne Marshall - Financial Advisor

Judy Hartman - Fellowship Coordinator

Sheila Griffin - Worship

Susan Belding - Missions

Peter Achilles - Treasurer

David Belding - Financial Secretary

Nancy Robbins - Church Clerk

OUR SCHEDULE

Neighborhood Saturday Lunch Ministry - 11:45am – 12:15pm

Worship - Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship - Sunday, 11:00 – 11:30 am

Bible Study - Sunday, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Prayer Time – Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Newsletter of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

134 North Main Street

Geneva, New York 14456

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2018

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10am Pastor Bill	2	3	4 Prayer Time 5:00 pm Phil/Jan Forsline Anniversary	5	6	7 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
8 Worship 10am Pastor Bill	9	10 Dennis/Wendy Doyle Anniversary	11 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	12	13 Mike Vorozilchak Birthday David/Jamee Sealy Anniversary	14 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am Ben Sealy Birthday
15 Worship 10am Dale Wakley	16 Dorene MacDonald Birthday	17	18 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	19	20	21 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
22 Worship 10am Rev. Granger	23 Cindy VanNostrand Birthday	24	25 Prayer Time 5:00 pm	26	27	28 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
29 Worship 10am Rev. Granger	30					

Pastor Page

I enjoy collecting quotes from magazines, books, newspapers and various sources, and I keep a quote journal close by so I can jot them down. The quotes cover a variety of topics. I shared some of those quotes with you in the past, and I thought it was time to share again. Hopefully you will find one or two that speak to you.

“Your beliefs become your thoughts;
Your thoughts become your words;
Your words become your actions;
Your actions become your habits;
Your habits become your values;
Your values become your destiny.” Mahatma Gandhi 1864-1948

“Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.” Henry Ford

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable,
and receives the impossible.” Corrie Ten Boom

“I still think that the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved,
just having no one. That is the worst disease that any human being can
experience.” Mother Teresa

“From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however,
makes a life.” Arthur Ashe

“If the will to walk is really present, God is pleased
even with your stumbles.” C. S. Lewis

“Does thou love life? Then do not squander time,
for that is the stuff life is made of.” Benjamin Franklin

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all
of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia

“What do we live for, if not to make the world a less difficult
place for each other.” George Eliot

“Winners are not people who never fail...
but people who never quit.” Artist – Tom Browning

“What you are is God’s gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God.” Leo Buscaglia

“Some people come into your life as a blessing, others as a lesson.” Mother Teresa

“The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything, but they make the most of everything they have.” Sam Cawthorn

“Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First, we make our choice. Then our choice makes us.” Ann Frank

“Look back and thank God. Look forward and trust God. Look around and serve God. Look within and find God! God closes doors no man can open, and God opens doors no man can close.”

“Try to be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.” Maya Angelou

Hopefully you have found a few quotes that have spoken to your heart or your spiritual walk. If you have a special quote, please share it with me. I’d love to add it to my quote book. May God bless your April days with sunshine and the warmth of His love.

Rev. Phyllis Granger

Preaching Schedule

April 1	Pastor Bill
April 8	Pastor Bill
April 15	Dale Wakley
April 22	Pastor Phyllis
April 29	Pastor Phyllis

Ministry to Children

Living Waters Association is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, April 7 at the American Baptist Church of Big Flats, 180 Hibbard Road, Horseheads. Barbara Van Valkenburg, with 35 years experience working with children, will be the leader. Registration is at 9:30 with first session starting at 10:00 and final session ending at 4:00. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. RSVP to David Daniels at 607-351-2152 or dcd3@cornell.edu

Report from the Financial Secretary

Remarking on the recent weather, Mrs Corbett wrote a note saying “*March is for kite flying but not this March!*” Too cold! So our kite flying must move into April. This year Easter falls on April Fool’s day and there is perhaps something wonderfully appropriate in that coincidence. Because, from the outside, the Easter story looks like sheer foolish fantasy. But, from the inside, bathed in Christ’s all-embracing love, it is we who feel a bit foolish tying ourselves in knots over our daily worries and fears.

“And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”. Luke 12:29-32

Sharing the Good News is a bit like flying a kite. You are never quite sure on what uplifting journey God’s wind will take you. But what an amazing and wonderful adventure!

Attendance

March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
39	31	24	40

Pledging

At the close of March and the beginning of spring our pledge collections continued to run well ahead of expectations. Given our total pledges for 2018 we would expect \$13,921 at this point in the year, but actual pledge giving currently stands at \$22,118 which is \$8197 more than anticipated!

God has truly blessed our congregation with a great spirit of generosity. It is shown not only in financial contributions but much more importantly in the care and respect we show towards each other. It shines forth in our prayers, in the visits we make to shut-ins, in the warmth of our fellowship, in the way we listen with interest to each other and reach out to lend a hand. I feel this spirit personally each time Sue and I are off on a trip to see grandchildren, and Tena and Marlyn readily step in to help cover my duties. I see it in our Christian Ed class when people share deep personal stories in an atmosphere of support and love. And I know others also feel this spirit in activities throughout the Church and like me are inspired.

Dave Belding
Financial Secretary

THE STUDENT LOAN FUND

Our Student Loan Fund has limited funds available for loans for the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are due May 15. Blank forms and Loan information sheets are available from Marlyn Stanton, Mary Achilles, and Tena Milne. Contributions in memory (or in honor of) individuals are always welcome!

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?

What if God didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives???

SURE IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, ISN'T IT??

Pastor Bill

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2018

AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2018

Dear 1st Baptist Family & Friends,

Most of us are able to keep clear in our minds the origin and goal of Christian ministry. Its origin is in Christ, who gives spiritual gifts and gifted people to the church. Its goal is the building of the body of Christ in knowledge, faith and love. Less clear is the living, dynamic, God-appointed process that moves from origin to goal. Notice carefully what the following verses teach us. God gives to the church spiritual leaders whose role it is to equip saints for ministry.

The Apostle Paul echoes this truth in Ephesians 4:11-13: *“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”*

God’s pattern for producing people with powerful faith and genuine love is not to have the pastor-teachers do all the work of the ministry. They are to equip the saints to do the ministry. They are you—all of you—who have set yourselves apart for God through faith in Christ. According to God’s pattern, the building of the body in faith and love is the immediate result of the ministry of the laity.

The Lord Jesus Christ intends every member of the church to do the work of the ministry. The intention of ministry is to build up each other’s faith and love. God’s design is to use human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of his children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love.

The America for Christ Offering (AFC) 2018 reminds us that it is in our service to the church and the community that many experience the Christ in us. We are encouraged by this year’s theme to come alongside people and build them up. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC offering and help us to reach our goal as we partner in home mission.

Your Pastor, Rev. Phyllis Granger
and
Mission Coordinator, Susan Belding



CULTIVATING LEADERS EQUIPPING DISCIPLES HEALING COMMUNITIES

Ephesians 4:11-13

Remarkable resources address effective discipleship

Every church faces the challenge of developing an effective discipleship strategy. American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) offers a wide range of resources to support these efforts, including:

- topical Bible studies, such as "Children, Poverty and the Bible";
- 60 downloadable workshops for Church Life and Leadership, with options in English, French, Spanish and Karen; and
- the annual Discipleship and Christian Education Guide.

Kudos for the Discipleship and Christian Education Guide

"ABHMS' Discipleship and Christian Education Guide remains one of the best and most helpful resources produced by any denomination for congregational educators."

— Rev. Israel Galindo, Ph.D., Columbia Theological Seminary and Judson Press author

"This is the best thing out there. I hope they NEVER stop producing it. If they ever couldn't afford to publish it, I would pay for it myself!"

— An attendee of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts 2017 gathering

"The Discipleship and Christian Education Guide is a biblically sound and culturally relevant resource that connects our church to our American Baptist family, while allowing freedom to adapt it to our local church setting."

— Rev. Dr. Carla A. Romarate-Knipfel, Central Baptist Church, Woodbury, N.J.

Gifts to the America for Christ offering support production of discipleship resources. To download resources, visit www.abhms.org > Publications & Resources. For more information, contact the Rev. Cassandra Carkuff Williams, Ed.D., ABHMS director of Discipleship Ministries, at cwilliams@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3873, x2459.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2018

Your America for Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.

www.abhms.org



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