

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Baptist Church
134 North Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456
(315) 789-3220

E-mail: genevafbc@rochester.rr.com
Web Site: genevafirstbaptistchurch.org

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Phyllis Granger, Pastor
Bill Robbins, Assistant Pastor
Nancy Robbins, Secretary

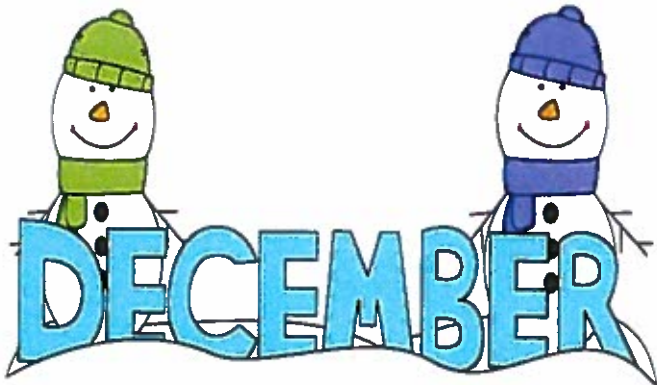
OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Beverly Simons - Moderator
Bill Robbins/Sherry Kelsey – 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 – every Wednesday, 5:00 pm

Newsletter of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
134 North Main Street
Geneva, New York 14456
(315) 789-3220



2017

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am Nate Sealy Birthday John Frederick Birthday Harold/Norma Withiam Anniversary
3 Worship 10am Rev. Granger	4	5	6 Prayer Time 5pm	7	8	9 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am Eleanor Hartman Birthday
10 Worship 10am Rev. Granger Andrea (Belding) Elson Birthday	11	12 ABW Holiday Luncheon 11:30 am Abigails	13 Prayer Time 5pm	14	15	16 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am
17 Worship 10am Dale Wakley Ron King Birthday Jason/Jeannette (Frederick) Bastedo Anniversary	18	19 Board Mtg 6:00 pm Nancy Lamberson Birthday	20 Prayer Time 5pm	21	22	23 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am Gail Jensen Birthday
24 Worship 10am Rev. Granger Christmas Eve Service 7pm Rev. Granger	25	26 Preston Dinkel Birthday	27 Prayer Time 5pm	28 Michael/Marcia Peters Anniversary	29 Susan Belding Birthday	30 Lunch Ministry 11:45 am Karen Rasmussen Birthday
31 Worship 10am Rev. Granger Hymn Sing						

Pastor's Page:

Our Christian calendar year drew to a close with Christ the King Sunday last week. We now start the new calendar year with the celebration of Advent running from Dec. 3 to the evening of Dec.24. Sunday, Dec. 24 we will have two services—one for morning worship and one for a Christmas Eve candle lighting service. Each Sunday a family from the congregation will be sharing a reading and lighting the candles. We will be celebrating the events from the past with the birth of the Messiah, and we will be celebrating a future event—the second coming of Christ to gather his people.

On Christmas day, we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior. When we celebrate the birthday of a child, we usually bake a cake, have a party, and shower him/her with gifts. My question to you is, “What gift would you like to give to the Savior this year to celebrate His birthday?” Since this is a special birthday—the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ, it needs to be a very special gift. This gift cannot come from a store, not even the most exquisite store around. No, this gift must come from your heart.

Think about it; pray about it; and decide what would be the best gift you could give your Lord. Perhaps it is agreeing to meet with Him each morning for a devotion and a short prayer. Perhaps it is a commitment to read His Word faithfully each day. Perhaps it is an appointment to meet with Him each evening to discuss your day—giving Him thanks for the blessings or asking advice on an issue. Perhaps your gift could be the singing of praise songs and hymns each day. Or perhaps your gift could be a monetary gift to the church in His honor. Whatever gift you choose, the Lord will love it because it came from your heart.

Whatever gift you decide to give Jesus is between you and Him alone. No one else will know what special gift you have chosen for His birthday gift. However, Jesus will treasure it because it came from you—one of His precious children. He will be there eagerly awaiting for you at your chosen time of the day. His ears will be waiting for your songs of praise—remember no matter what it may sound like here on earth, it is a sweet, sweet melody by the time it reaches His ears. No matter what gift you have chosen to present to Jesus, He will be pleased because it came from your heart.

As you gather with your family and friends, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rev. Phyllis Granger

Preaching Schedule:

Dec. 3	Rev. Granger
Dec. 10	Rev. Granger
Dec. 17	Dale Wakley
Dec. 24	Rev. Granger
Dec. 31	Hymn Sing Rev. Granger

Harvest Dinner

The Harvest Dinner was a great success. Pastor Preston led us in a short Bible teaching, several shared their testimony, and Steve offered a prayer of thanksgiving for our feast. There was an array of delicious foods—way more than would fit on one plate, so many went back for seconds. There was a hustle bustle of many volunteers helping with preparation, serving, and clean-up. There was a total of 45 adults eating and having fun in the fellowship hall. A great time was had by all.

Report from the Financial Secretary

Filling Gaps

Life leaves gaps. What happens almost always falls short of what should happen. Available resources always seem less than what is needed. It is easy to feel helpless in the face of this gap. We are tempted to hunker down, to reduce expectations or to simply turn our attention away. After all, what real difference can our little contribution make? In Pastor Phyllis' recent sermon entitled "Christ the King" she spoke of the famous parable of the talents. She described how Christ wants us not to worry about whether we are allotted 10 or 5 or 1 talent, but simply to join the effort and invest in God's plan with whatever small contribution we can make. By taking this first tiny step we begin to become full partners in the unfolding of His plan. Our hearts begin to change and others feel this. It requires letting go of fears and reservations. Ultimately the true gap and how it is to be filled rests in God's hands, but He loves us and wants us to be a part of this grand adventure.

Attendance

November 5
36

November 12
36

November 19
27

November 26
37

Pledging

At the end of November, our pledges totaled \$59,876 which exceeded anticipated pledges by \$6,584. In fact, this is \$2,143 *above* the total stated pledges for the entire year and we still have December to go! Plate collections currently stand at a healthy year-to-date total of \$5,271.59. For comparison, note that for the entirety of 2016 plate collections totaled \$2,475.90. God has blessed our giving hearts this year and our congregation has responded with extraordinary generosity.

In 2017 in order to support our worship and outreach efforts we stepped forward in faith and approved a budget that exceeded our anticipated resources from pledging and other income. At the annual meeting last January, our faithful treasurer Peter Achilles noted this income gap of \$8662 which he entitled "other". We were hopeful for some budget savings and perhaps additional giving could fill a bit some of the shortfall and the remainder would have to be drawn from reserves. The good news is that through God's grace and your loving generosity we have not yet needed to draw from reserves. God places challenges before us and often there is a gap between what appears to be needed and what is available. Whether the needs are for financial contributions, or volunteer workers, or prayers, or simple gestures of kindness, it is inspiring to see how our congregation steps forward to join in God's plan and help close the gap.

(If anyone wishes to know where they currently stand on their pledge for 2017, please feel free to contact me.)

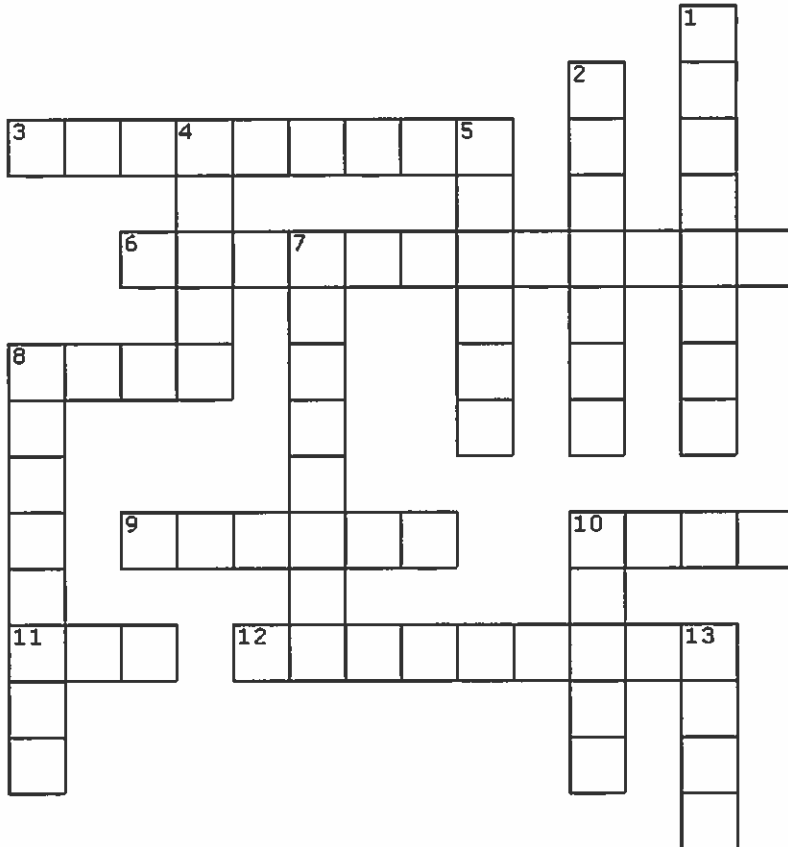
Dave Belding
Financial Secretary

Christian Bible Reference Site

Crossword Puzzle: Jesus is Born

Desktop, laptop: Type with your regular keyboard. Click on a square to type across. Click twice to type down. Or click on a clue then type. Or print this page and solve on paper. **Tablet, mobile, smartphone, touchscreen:** Type with the on-screen keyboard below the puzzle. Tap a square to type across. Tap twice to type down. The **Solve** button at the top of the puzzle shows the solution.

Solve



ACROSS

- 3 City where Jesus was born
 - 6 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 8 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 9 Mary's husband
 - 10 Jesus' mother
 - 11 There was no room for Mary and Joseph at the ____
 - 12 They visited Jesus
- ### DOWN
- 1 "Caesar ____ issued a decree that a census should be taken"
 - 2 They visited Jesus (2 words)
 - 4 King who wanted to kill Jesus
 - 5 Jesus' crib
 - 7 City where Jesus grew up
 - 8 "On earth peace, ____ toward men"
 - 10 Gift brought to Jesus
 - 13 Guiding light for wise men