

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

E-mail: genevalbc@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
(315) 789-3220

June

2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Worship 10am Dale Wakley</p> <p>Mother's/Father's Day Celebration</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p> <p>Sheri Swinehart Birthday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p> <p>Catherine Austin Birthday</p>	<p>7</p> <p>David/Freda Mumford Anniversary</p>	<p>8</p> <p>David/Freda Mumford Anniversary</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lunch Ministry 11:45 am</p>
<p>Worship 10am Pastor Bill</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Worship 10am Pastor Bill</p> <p>Jaimie Frederick Birthday</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p> <p>David Mumford Birthday</p> <p>Scott/Christina Rankin Anniversary</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>David Mumford Birthday</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lunch Ministry 11:45 am</p>
<p>Worship 10am Pastor Bill</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Worship 10am Pastor Bill</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Becky Achilles Birthday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Lunch Ministry 11:45 am</p>
<p>Worship 10am Rev. Granger</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Worship 10am Rev. Granger</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p> <p>Sherry Kelsey Birthday</p> <p>Glenn Kregloh Birthday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Prayer Time 5pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Michael Freier Birthday</p>
						<p>30</p> <p>Lunch Ministry 11:45 am</p>
						<p>1</p> <p>Esther Lee Birthday</p>
						<p>2</p> <p>Lunch Ministry 11:45 am</p>

Pastor's page:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:36-40

With the first commandment, we understand that all we say and do is because we love the Lord and want our life to reflect the image of Christ. The second commandment is a little harder to define. How do you love self? This can be answered in many different ways, but I think the quote “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” helps us understand one perspective.

From January until May 17, I suffered the pain of bone on bone in my right hip. On a score of 1 to 10, my pain measured a 20. While continuing to pastor my flock, I had a great support team. Some lent me medical equipment, and others called me daily or weekly to check on me. An occasional card would arrive on a day I needed it most. On Sunday, I was met the moment my car door opened. Loving people were right there to help me get inside the building and carry my things. Once inside I was met by people wanting to know how I felt and making sure everything was in the sanctuary to meet my needs, including a glass of water. One Sunday I had three glasses of water waiting for me. When prayer time came, the church family was reminded to keep me in prayer. Once back in the reception hall, my refreshments were brought to me, again sometimes by two or more people. **Did I feel the love of God and my church? You bet I did!!!!**

Your prayers carried me through the week before surgery when I could not take my usual pain pills. A church member came to sit with Paul and Sherry during surgery and was there to greet me when I got in my room from recovery. I had visits, cards and flowers. The lilacs not only blessed me but blessed every nurse that come in my room as they enjoyed that sweet lilac fragrance.

There were more cards and phone calls welcoming me home. Is it any wonder I wanted to go to church only ten days after surgery? **My church family welcomed me home and it felt wonderful!!** It was a great testimony of treating me the way you would want to be treated if surgery was on your agenda.

Sometimes we think those little things are so insignificant compared to what other Christians are doing in the world, but that small gesture of love on your part means the whole world to the recipient. Never underestimate the power of showing love in the little ways.

I also want to say thank you for allowing me to minister from the ground floor until I can return to the higher platform. Again it shows your compassion and understanding. I know that God is well pleased with your display of love for your pastor. I ask that He bless you as you have blessed me. It is a delight to serve you.

Pastor Phyllis

Preaching Schedule:	June 3	Dale Wakley
	June 10	Pastor Bill
	June 17	Pastor Bill
	June 24	Pastor Phyllis

Report from the Financial Secretary

May is traditionally the month for planting. In a frenzy of effort fields are ploughed and planted. Gardens are cleared of winter debris and the soil is loosened. Seeds are gently tamped into the soft earth in straight rows and young plants are tenderly tucked into flower beds. At first there seems to be little to show for all the work but empty patches of dirt. But with patience, some care and watering and a bit of good fortune from the weather, the tiny seeds soon root themselves and sprout turning the whole field green. By fall we are often flooded with a harvest so abundant that we just give it away. It is a miracle we witness each year.

Faith is like this. At first it roots silently in the heart. But with patient work resting in the glory of God's love, it blossoms, spreads and bears unimaginable fruits.

He told them, "Because of your lack of faith. I tell all of you with certainty, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

Attendance

May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
40	40	36	30

Pledging

Expected pledges through May were \$24,363 compared to actual pledge contributions of \$31,943. Thus we are \$7,580 ahead in pledges. In addition, our plate collections through the end of May were \$3,805, which is more than \$1000 above last year's tally at the same time.

Dave Belding
Financial Secretary

America For Christ Offering

Thanks to the heartfelt generosity of our church family, we raised a grand total of \$526.33 toward the 2018 America for Christ Offering during the months of April and May. These gifts will help support ministries throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, and bring Christ's loving spirit to those most in need. What a blessing it is to be a small part of God's merciful plan!

Susan Belding
Mission Coordinator

Perhaps we all can relate to these scenarios.

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day ("who really ought to get a job") is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that of all the gifts you give us Lord, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity.

Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Working for God on earth doesn't pay much.....but His retirement plan is out of this world.

Submitted by Pastor Bill

*More of our favorite dogisms from Pastor Bill and Skip
from American Pit Bull Terriers Calendar*

*If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go
where they went.*

Will Rogers

*One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling
blue is that he doesn't try to find out why.*

Unknown

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.

Roger Caras

*God calls us to be good stewards over all His creation. Love
your pets as if God put them in your care. He did and He's
watching!*

Have a joyful month, see you in July!



Thank you! A Letter from Your World Relief Officer

God is doing **more than we can imagine.**

Dear American Baptist Leaders,

The human imagination is pretty incredible. I visited Nicaragua last year and met Luisa (on this year's poster) and heard her dreams for her family. She is a farmer, and their lives have gotten harder as the rains come less frequently. When they do come, it's often in downpours, not in the gently falling rains that best nourish crops. Their life is hard, yet when she pictures their future, she imagines her children growing up, going to college, being professionals, and caring for the Earth.



The human imagination is also limited, bound by our finite human experience. Sometimes the suffering of the world outpaces our ability to imagine new life.

For many, 2017 was an apocalyptic year filled with unbelievable hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods and violence. You prayed, stood with, and gave to people and needs from next-door neighbors to global neighbors you may never meet. As I write this letter in early February 2018, you have given over \$2 million to help the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and mudslides and fires in California. These generous gifts help people envision recovery and new life, strengthened by the assurance that God is working in, through, and beyond us.

The same Apostle Paul who said that God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20) also put the work of building abundance squarely at our feet: "...always seek to do good to one another and to all" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

You have done good to one another and to all. When dreams abound and even when our imaginations run dry, you continue to do good. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are living testimony to this. I offer thanks for your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Let us continue to be strengthened in the knowledge that God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine."

In grateful partnership,



Lisa Rothenberger-Winter
World Relief Officer





Giving Calendar 2018

GIVING CALENDAR DAILY DEVOTION

- At a time appropriate for your household, read the theme Scripture for One Great Hour of Sharing, 2018: Ephesians 3:14-21.
- Invite each member of the household to describe one instance of how they saw God doing more than they imagined since the last daily giving devotion.

- Read the day's entry in the giving calendar. Discuss the situation described and its relationship to your household.
- Consider your contribution for the day and add it to your offering box.
- Pray for the people and situations highlighted in the sharing calendar, and for the people you will meet in the coming hours.
- Remember to take your offering box to church on the day when the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week One	<p>"To God be the Glory..." Give 2 units in an act of praise for God's faithfulness.</p>	<p>767 million people live below the international poverty line. Give 2 units to help eliminate global poverty.</p>	<p>In 2017, droughts caused severe food shortages in Ethiopia, Central America, and elsewhere. Give 1 unit for every grocery store in your town or neighborhood.</p>	<p>Primary school education enrollment in developing countries has reached 91%. Give 1 unit in celebration of this progress and 1 unit to continue the work.</p>	<p>Waterborne illnesses kill more people that all forms of war and violence combined, but access to clean water and adequate sanitation can prevent the spread of these illnesses. Give 1 unit for every toilet in your home.</p>	<p>74% of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally. Give 1 unit for every potted plant at your home.</p>	<p>Luisa, a farmer in Nicaragua, is sharing knowledge of seed selection with her neighbors. Give 1 unit for Luisa's generosity and 1 unit for each of your neighbors.</p>
Week Two	<p>"Who by the power at work within us..." Give 2 units in celebration that God is working in and through us.</p>	<p>653 million people worldwide do not have regular access to clean water. Give 1 unit for every water bottle in your home.</p>	<p>Rain collection, cisterns, and irrigation systems help communities mitigate drought conditions. Give 1 unit if you have ever collected rain water.</p>	<p>Access to clean cooking fuel has increased by 7% since 2000, improving the health and quality of life for families. Give 1 unit in celebration of this progress and 1 unit to continue the work.</p>	<p>Since the 1900s, some 75% of crop diversity has been lost from farmers' fields. Give 1 unit for each different fruit and vegetable you eat today.</p>	<p>More than 65 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide. Give 1 unit if home is a place where you feel safe.</p>	<p>Luisa has improved the harvest of her citrus trees through the use of good seeds, irrigation, and soil improvements. Give 1 unit for each tree in your yard.</p>
Week Three	<p>"Is able to accomplish..." Give 2 units in faith that God is able.</p>	<p>1 in 4 children worldwide suffers stunted growth due to insufficient nutrition. Give 1 unit for every bag of groceries you buy this week.</p>	<p>Education in refugee camps helps children pursue their dreams even when they have had to flee their home. Give 1 unit for each school-aged child in your family.</p>	<p>Maternal mortality rates have dropped by 50% since 1990. Give 1 unit in celebration of this progress and 1 unit to continue the work.</p>	<p>Income inequality has increased by more than 10% since 1990. Give 1 unit for every paycheck you cash in a month.</p>	<p>Poverty and hunger are key reasons for unauthorized immigration from Latin America to the U.S. Give 2 units to help address these root causes.</p>	<p>Luisa's two sons are continuing their educations, thanks to the increased income from their family's crops. Give 1 unit in honor of each of Luisa's sons.</p>
Week Four	<p>"abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." Give 2 units in reverence for God's limitless imagination.</p>	<p>One in five people still lacks access to modern electricity. Give 1 unit for each outlet in your home.</p>	<p>In 2015, more than 300,000 women died from maternal causes. Give 2 units if the women you know have access to reproductive care.</p>	<p>The tuberculosis mortality rate has fallen by 45% since 1990. Give 1 unit in celebration of this progress and 1 unit to continue the work.</p>	<p>One way farmers share new growing techniques with other farmers is by starting demonstration gardens. Give 1 unit for each time someone helped you learn something new today.</p>	<p>Environmental toxins—such as fertilizers and industrial waste—contribute to weakened immune responses, especially in children. Give 1 unit if anyone in your family has recovered from an illness this year.</p>	<p>Luisa's family has been restoring and protecting the banks around a natural spring on their property, to ensure their water stays clean and accessible. Give 1 unit for each faucet in your home.</p>

Serving Others, Serving Jesus

Luisa knows the land. She has lived near El Panama, Nicaragua for most of her 34 years. She is teaching her two sons to know the land. Luisa also sees the land changing. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns make the hard work of farming even harder.

In 2015, Luisa joined a 5-year agricultural project through the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD). With farmers like Luisa, CEPAD is working for holistic change.

On her 1.5 acres, Luisa has improved soil quality with manure and mulch. Drip-irrigation techniques provide consistent water. Luisa has already increased her harvest, but she is more excited about the project's future potential.

Her first focus is seeds. Training in seed selection enabled her to plant quality seeds, which she preserved and catalogued for next season and is sharing with her neighbors.

Luisa's hopes stretch farther than next season, though. She hopes the added income will fund her sons' educations to become professionals. At the same time, she is teaching them the land is part of their future — they are responsible for protecting the spring on their property.

With support from CEPAD and One Great Hour of Sharing, Luisa is planting seeds that will bear abundant fruit for today, tomorrow, and years to come. With God's help, these seeds will bear far more than we imagine.



photo by Craig Thompson

“The citrus right now is flourishing. And that proves that the techniques that they have given us are achieving great results.”

— Luisa Maria Lopez



Sharing resources through One Great Hour of Sharing is an invitation to imagination!

Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders God works, our imaginations go wild! Just imagine how God is bringing transformation! Look at the picture of Luisa Maria Lopez and imagine the impact of God at work through simple seedlings. **Seedlings your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing helped provide and that will offer nourishment and income.** The theologian Gustavo Gutierrez described poverty as “death-dealing. [It] denies the basic human right to existence and the *reign of life*.” Without the burdens of struggle, communities have more time for creativity, learning, and possibilities for life in greater fullness. God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! And when we contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are part of God's work in the world.



More than We can Imagine: A Future of Abundance in Nicaragua

On any given afternoon three years ago, you were most likely to find Luis Alfredo Palacio lounging in a chair watching television. Like many other young men just entering into adulthood, Luis was unsure about the direction of his life. As a soon-to-be father, though, he knew he needed to find work that was meaningful and would help provide for his family. That is when Luis connected with One Great Hour of Sharing partner, CEPAD (the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua). CEPAD works with Nicaraguan communities to improve agricultural techniques and address challenges of climate change and land degradation.

The project assists local farmers in developing techniques for planting, seed selection, irrigation, and soil protection. These



Luis on his farm.

techniques multiply the yields and varieties of crops, providing additional food and income for families. For Luis, it was the opportunity to begin farming and have a way to provide for his family. On a small plot of land behind his home, Luis had the space to begin planting a small selection of crops. Within months, he literally began to see the “fruits” of his labor.

Through this new work, Luis discovered a passion—teaching. As an agricultural promoter, Luis is now teaching five other families how to improve their farming. He has developed a small demonstration plot behind his home to use in sharing techniques like soil curbing to prevent erosion, drip irrigation for water conservation, and using manure to improve soil quality. His hope is to improve the quality of life for himself and his neighbors and to protect the land for generations to come.

Just a few years ago, Luis struggled to imagine his future, now he is helping his community imagine a future of abundance. Through Luis and through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, God is doing More Than We Can Imagine!