

Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



When writing to the church at Philippi, Paul declared, this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

It has been one year since we closed our doors to in person worship and learned to use technology to bring worship into our homes. We worshipped outside, when the weather permitted, which not only provided in person opportunities for socialization, but also gave a profound public witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. Over the course of the year, we tried reopening strategies to bring the family back into the home we love so much. At each step on this journey, we have struggled to balance our commitment to faith and worship with our commitment to protect all entrusted to our care. There has been a steep learning curve and we have stumbled along the way. With each faltering step we have picked ourselves up and continued to *press on toward the goal of the heavenly call*.

One unanticipated blessing of the current pandemic is our partnership with the Livingston County Health Department. Our facility has provided easy accessibility for hundreds of persons seeking the COVID-19 vaccine. In opening our doors to the community, we have functioned as the hands and feet of Christ for those seeking the vaccines. The professional staff and volunteers have been a joy to work with.

Growing from this partnership, and in consultation with public health officials, we feel comfortable lifting some of the restrictions that have affected worship. Accordingly, we are taking steps to open worship to a more familiar format.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will conduct two worship services. 8:00 am and 10:00 am. We are requesting that you make a reservation to attend one of these two services. This is the last time you will be asked to make a reservation to attend worship.

Moving forward the following guidelines will be in place:

- Beginning Sunday April 11, reservations will no longer be required.
- Effective Easter Sunday the ribbons will be removed from the pews and you will be invited to sit wherever you like.

From the Pastor (cont.)

- You are asked to sit only with family or with those persons with whom you travel to and from worship.
- If you are not sitting with family, or traveling companions please maintain at least three feet of social distance.
- All entry will continue to be through the gym. Exit through the main front door.
- Sanitize your hands prior to entering the sanctuary.
- Masks will be worn upon entering and leaving the sanctuary.
- If you choose to remove your mask, please be respectful of your sisters and brothers who choose to wear a mask and maintain social distance.

These guidelines will be reviewed periodically and adjusted according to the best information available. Our purpose has never been to restrict anyone's worship practices. Our sole aim is to maintain the safest possible worship environment for everyone.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Jim



Maundy Thursday Service

Everyone is invited to join us for a very special time of worship and reflection on Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 pm. No reservations will be required but covid protocols will be in place for the safety of everyone who comes to share in worship.

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Adult Ministries: The Ruth Circle has begun meeting again. When the church fully opens once again, there will be plans for a Women's Sunday and a mother/daughter tea.

Children's Ministries: ABK continues to meet. The Valentine's Day activities were a success. Volunteers are working on bags for Easter for the children. ABK will end with the school year in May.

Plans are being made for summer VBS.

Fellowship: In January we served 46 families, representing 138 people in our food pantry. In February we served 22 families with a total of 66 people. Gift certificates for Easter have been ordered from County Market.

Associate Pastor: New furniture has been installed in the youth room.

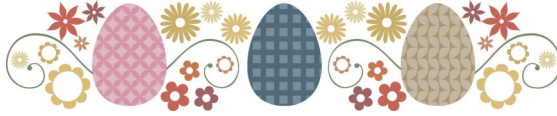
We have been meeting with high school aged students every other week with drop in nights. The group wants to plan a lock-in. The goal would be to have about twenty kids signed up ahead of time and then build on that core group.

Senior Pastor: Proposed changes to covid protocols moving forward. Eliminating the need for reservations after Easter, removing the tape from the pews, etc. Masks would still be worn on entering and leaving the sanctuary and the traffic flow will remain the same to limit crossing paths. As we move forward it is important that we do so safely and with the greatest respect for the health and welfare of everyone.

Suggested changing our mission statement from "growing the family of God" to words from Esther - "For such a time..." Telling the Story - "We proclaim Christ crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:23). Nurturing Disciples... "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Serving the Community... "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). Committed to Prayer... "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:8).

What we do has to be surrounded by prayer.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



A





- 1 Bob Matteson
- 1 Brianna Meister
- 2 Jenna Battleson
- 4 Tom Battice
- 5 James Juanita ♥
- 6 Wayne and Debbie Verdun
- 7 Don and Eva Schiff ♥
- 8 Tyler Hoover
- 9 Lucy Jackson
- 9 James Letsos
- 9 Dean Sidfrids
- 10 Eislely Levin
- 11 Bill Bowman
- 12 Sarah Walters
- 13 Carter Wykes
- 15 Gabriella Krueger
- 15 Evelyn Vietti
- 16 Virginia Asper
- 16 Dan and Karen Meister ♥
- 19 Cheryl Stith
- 21 Jim Wolfe
- 25 Marshall Hoover
- 25 Jordan Staley
- 26 Dean and Becky Easton ♥
- 26 Donna Hammond
- 27 Ron McBeath
- 27 JoAnn Miller
- 28 Christina Beck
- 28 Karen Meister
- 29 Devin Battice
- 29 Michael Cole
- 29 Jill Cole

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>4 Easter 8:00 am Worship 10:00 am Worship</p> 	<p>5 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>11 10:00 am Worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>18 10:00 am Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>25 10:00 am Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>

April



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 	2 Good Friday 	3
7 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	8 7:00 pm Board of Ministries	9	10
14 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	15	16 Newsletter Deadline Don't Miss the 	17
21 Admin. Professional Day 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK 	22 Earth Day	23	24
28 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	29	30	

IMAGINE - Biennial Mission Summit

Plan to experience the vitality of our American Baptist family together with other American Baptists from all corners of the United States and the world through the June 2021 online Biennial Mission Summit event! Join one of the most diverse Baptist denominations as we imagine new possibilities and celebrate together the love of Christ and the joy of being a part of American Baptist Churches USA.

The online Biennial Mission Summit will feature scheduled programming on each of the three event days, June 24-26, 2021. Participants will draw from a library of pre-recorded sessions, along with resources and offerings for prayer, worship, live workshops, inspiration, fellowship, and online fun, all while connecting with both regular attendees as well as American Baptists who have not attended an in-person event before!

- Visit with American Baptist Partners and related organizations in the virtual exhibit hall.
- View the on-demand library of resources and recordings at your leisure before, during, and after the event.
- Connect with other attendees around similar areas of interest.

Registration for this on-line event is now open. Cost for registration prior to March 31st is \$100. Registration after April 1st is \$125. Visit www.americanbaptists2021.com to view the entire schedule of events and to register your spot.

Imagine what God has in store this June!



Newsletter Deadline

All articles for inclusion the May edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, April 16th.

You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.

Schedule Notes

In honor of the Easter holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, April 4th and the church office will be closed on Monday, April 5th.

We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy holiday weekend.

On-Line Giving



With on-line giving, it's easier than ever to tithe or make donations to special fundraising campaigns like this month's America For Christ offering! .

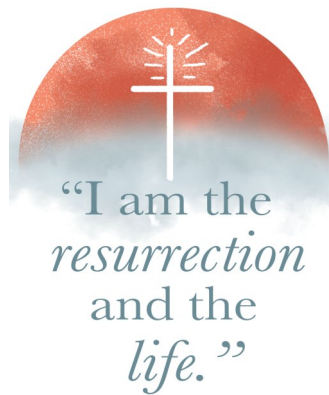
To make an on-line donation, simply visit our website www.fbcpontiac.org and follow the donation link near the top of the page. Our on-line giving is powered through PayPal and allows you to use an existing PayPal account or any debit or credit card you'd like. You'll have the opportunity to leave specific notes about your donation and you'll receive a donation receipt in your e-mail!



**Prayer Chain
Number**

815.419.4454

If you wish to receive prayer chain calls, please contact the church office at 815.842.4321 and request that your name and number be added to the list.



John 11:25



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