



# *Blaine Visitor*



**FEBRUARY 2024**

## *From Pastor David's desk...*

On Valentine's Day, we will be having a worship service to acknowledge Ash Wednesday. This is a service where we place ashes on our foreheads which symbolizes both death and repentance. Then, on the Thursday prior to Easter, we will be having a service celebrating Maundy Thursday. This service marks the night of the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples.

So, what happens in between these dates? Ash Wednesday is a marker for the beginning and Maundy Thursday offers an ending point to the 40-day observance of the period known as Lent. If you don't know, the tradition of Lent began at the Council of Nicaea (325, AD). The council chose a 40-day period due to several Biblical writings. First, there is story of Noah as God sent rain for 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:4). Next, Moses spent 40 days on the top of Mt. Sinai to receive instructions from God (Exodus 24:18). Then Elijah walked for 40 days and 40 nights to the mountain of God, Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). But, the most influential passage was Matthew 4:1-11 that describes Jesus' 40 days of desert fasting, praying and temptations.

**Continued on the next page**

## **Church Events**

- **Feb 2nd– Congregation-  
al Fellowship 2:00 p.m.**
- **Feb 7th– Young Adult  
Ministry 5:30 p.m.**
- **Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – Lunch with  
Friends noon**
- **Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Ministry &  
Evangelism Committee  
Meeting 10:00 a.m.**
- **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>—Ash Wednes-  
day: Soup Supper 6:30  
p.m., Service 7:15 p.m.**
- **Feb 21st- Young Adult  
Ministry 5:30 p.m.**
- **Feb 21st– Blaine Visitor  
Deadline**

Lent has become different things to different religions. In preparation for Easter, they will fast every Friday, cutting breakfast and lunch down to smaller portions and avoiding eating meat from land animals. Many protestant religions also practice some form of devotion to the Lord during Lent; often this means giving up something (like chocolate or avoiding the use of the cell phone for non-essential things).

As noted earlier, Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a time to reflect on your life and how you are living for the Lord, Jesus Christ. During the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday (okay, that is actually 46 days, because Sundays aren't counted because these are the Lord's day and you know what you should be doing on this day), I want to challenge you to do something that prepares you for Easter. Some ideas may include:

1. Give up something that takes you away from God (phone, tv, alcohol, etc.),
2. Do something that brings you into closer relationship with God (in the 40 days of Lent, read the Gospels-10 days for each-Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).
3. During each week, pick a person who needs help and show Jesus' love through loving your neighbor.
4. Quiet yourself for 20 minutes each day in devotion and prayer.

I hope that you will give yourself an opportunity to participate in this early church tradition. It is a wonderful time to reflect and seek God's forgiveness in preparation for the greatest gift ever given to us, Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only begotten son..." (John 3:16).

**Pastor David**

## *Sermon Schedule:*

**February 4th— Gary Waterson**  
**First Reading: Psalm 139: 1-18**  
**Second Reading: John 1: 43-51**  
**Sermon Title: I Know Who You Are!**

**February 11th— Pastor David Spalding**  
**First Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1-12**  
**Second Reading: Mark 9: 2-9**  
**Sermon Title: Preparation**

**February 18th— Gary Waterson**  
**First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17**  
**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22**  
**Sermon Title: A Fresh Start**

**February 25th- Pastor David Spalding**  
**First Reading: Romans 4: 13-25**  
**Second Reading: Mark 8: 31-38**  
**Sermon Title: TBA**

# Pastoral Search Committee Update:

In early January, Wayne Faber, the Chair of the Search Committee, followed up with the candidate who decided to withdraw his name after interviewing but before visiting Blaine. The committee wanted to make sure he did not have second thoughts about not continuing the process with us. He told Wayne that he and his wife, after much prayer, have decided to start a church plant where they are currently living. He also shared that as he went through the process with the Search Committee at Blaine, it became clear to him that the new church plant needs to be very similar to Blaine Christian Church. This comment says a lot for who we are as a church. When another pastor sees Blaine and wants to start a church just like Blaine, it's humbling, reassuring and an honor. Great job at being a wonderful church!

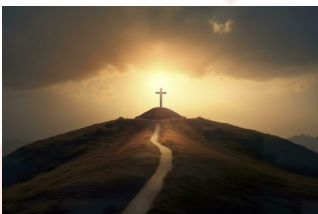
Currently, we are anticipating receiving more resumes from the Vanderbloemen Search Group to review very soon, potentially even by the time you are reading this update. When that happens, we will begin reviewing the new candidates and interview any individuals we desire to consider further.

Please keep praying for the Search Committee as we continue through this process of finding our next senior pastor. Pray for whomever our next pastor will be and for his family. The Search Committee would also like to thank the congregation for all your prayers and encouragement throughout this entire process. The Lord knows who our next pastor will be and when he will be here.

*Blaine Christian Church Pastoral Search Committee*

## Lent 2024: Guided to the Cross

The season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter and celebration of the resurrection) begins on Wednesday, February 14th. During this season of reflection on what Jesus did for us on the cross we will be guided by our devotion-"Guided to the Cross - 'we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. These daily devotions reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.' The devotionals will be available to pick up in the fellowship hall beginning February 4th. There will also be devotionals for families with children called "Footsteps to the Cross"-again reminding you that Lent is a journey to the cross and beyond.



## Ash Wednesday, February 14

### SOUP, BREAD AND WORSHIP

#### Lent Begins- Guided to the Cross

You are encouraged to begin the season of Lent with the church family with a simple soup and bread supper at 6:30 on February 14th followed by short worship service (7:15pm) with ashes to help us prepare for this season of moving to the cross and then on to Easter. Plan now to come and be blessed by this time of fellowship and worship together.





## Serving this month:

### **Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am**

Worship Leader: Carl Barnum

Greeter: Robin Groesbeck

Usher: Volunteers needed

### **Traditional Service 11:00 am**

Elders: Bob Bodell & Linda Byers

Worship Reader: Debra Kessler

Diaconate Servers Shannon & Matt Gillison  
and Ben & Angela DeWys

Diaconate Preparer: Linda Yeager

Greeter: Kathryn Mathieu

Usher: Volunteers needed

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

**Sign up sheets are posted in fellowship**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

A reminder that there is Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am each Sunday between our two worship services. This winter the younger children's classes are looking at the life of Jesus. The Middlers and Junior High classes continue to look at how they are called to "Be Bold" about living out faith each day. The High School youth are participating in the study "One At a Time" with the sanctuary adult class and the upstairs adult class is starting a new study on the book of Luke. Join a class this week and be encouraged in your faith journey as you learn with others.

## **MID WEEK BIBLE STUDIES**

The men's and women's winter studies continue through the end of the month.

**Men's study: Monday-6:30pm:** The book of Isaiah.

**Women's study: Monday at 6:30 or Tuesday at 9:30:** Psalm 23.



## STAR FOR THE YEAR

On the last Sunday of 2023 and in celebration of Epiphany, folks were able to pick up a star during worship with a word on it that was their word to ponder on and realize how God is calling them to live the word out in their life in 2024. There are still some stars available in the basket outside the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have not picked one up—reach in and take a star(don't sort through—just take one) then take it home and post it in a place where you will see it each day. It will be good to hear how God uses these words in people's lives this year.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **It is Winter Food Drive time at BACN!**

The drive will be Thursday, Feb. 22, Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24. Blaine Christian Church will be covering the Thursday shifts at Family Fare in Benzonia. A sign up sheet is on the board in the fellowship hall. Help is needed for shifts that run noon-2 pm, 2-4 pm and 4-6 pm.

Volunteers greet customers, answer questions, and encourage shoppers to purchase items for the drive or make a donation to BACN. Grab a friend and sign up. Other shifts are available at Save A Lot, the Honor Market and the Frankfort Family Fare. Call Jeri Bushong at 989-329-2714 to see additional where help is needed.

You can also help by donating to the drive at any of the locations or by participating by filling a BACN bag at the church. Food items needed most include cereal, canned chicken, canned pasta (like spaghetti or ravioli), soup, peanut butter and jelly. Watch for the bags being handed out at church closer to the time of the drive.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Christian Education committee continues to offer the chance to help with the Young Adult Ministry to the church family. There is a need for those that are willing to help provide a simple meal each time they meet and also a need for at least 2 people to do childcare each time. If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry-speak with Mary Barnum(CE chair) or Carolyn Waterson(CE staff). There is a sign up for meals in the fellowship hall.



## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

YAM has been meeting for over a year now and continues to have new folks come. It is a group that is enjoying time together and supporting one another in their faith journeys. This group is for post high school through 30s age to come together and have a meal, fellowship, and discussion. The meal and childcare is provided and discussion was held on the direction for the group.



This group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with the next meeting date being WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th from 5:30-7:00pm. Once again there will be dinner served and childcare provided for those needing it. Pastor David and Sue continue to provide leadership for the group as it develops and grows.

Be inviting and plan to participate and get to know other young adults and build community with one another. The group will then again meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 5:30pm

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Did you know that our church has a **RightNow Media** subscription available to you? This is an online library of over 20,000 studies to help supplement your faith journey. If you have questions about signing up or how to use RightNow Media, reach out to Angela DeWys

## SMALL GROUPS

The Christian Education committee is looking at the idea of beginning more small groups for folks to be involved in and be encouraged by others meeting together. The group could be a study group, a game group, a hobby group, an exercise group.....or some other idea. It could be short term or ongoing—determined by those in the group. If you are interested in being in a small group or helping set up a small group—see the sign up in the fellowship hall and you will be connected with others with similar interests.



## FUDGE FOR COLLEGE KIDS

Once again this Valentine's Day the church is sending fudge to our college kids as a reminder that we are thinking of them. Please make sure the church has your college kid's address by February 4th so fudge can be mailed to them. Thank you to those that provided fudge for this ministry to

## Another Blaine Christian Church Cookie Blitz

This year's Membership/Evangelism team members invite our entire church to join us in reaching out to medical professionals and staff at a few hospitals and clinics in our Benzie and Manistee communities.



We are asking for volunteers to make at least 4 dozen cookies (even more would be helpful), and then bring them to the church on Sunday morning, February 11th.

After church, the team will prepare trays of cookies to take to these places during the week of February 12th. The cookies are being given as a way to express how much God loves them and how much we, at Blaine Christian Church, appreciate them.

Thank you for your help and partnership in this effort to reach others for Christ. For any questions, please talk to Jannette Ervin or Carolyn Waterson.



# Staff

**Office Manager-** Angela DeWys

**Christian Education-** Carolyn Waterson  
(231) 882-9802

**Congregational Fellowship, Missions,  
Property Membership & Evangelism,**  
Open

## Committee Chairs

### **Christian Education**

Mary Barnum (231) 313-8922

### **Congregational Fellowship**

Dodie Putney (231) 649-0614

### **Membership & Evangelism**

Jannette Ervin (615) 856-7855

### **Missions**

Sue Spalding (517) 617-3661

### **Property**

Jeff Jordan (231) 360– 1965

### **Worship**

Tom Brown (231) 889-4285

**March Blaine Visitor Deadline:  
February 21st, 2024**

# February

## BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jo Ellen Lathwell
- 3 Dave Puccio
- 4 Elizabeth Putney
- 5 Donna Brown, Jenny Larimer, Bob Bodell
- 7 Loraine LaGuire, Dayne Gillison
- 9 Kim Shadwick
- 11 Lorraine Nordbeck
- 12 Rick Kemperman
- 15 Perci Merrill-Tietz
- 16 Sapphire Shadwick
- 17 Lyle Cook, Jaydin Shadwick
- 18 Rhonda Nye
- 20 Piper Putney
- 22 Mike Zych
- 23 Bonnie Putney
- 24 Emersyn Eggle-Putney
- 26 Carolyn Waterson
- 27 Ken Herron
- 28 Pat Swartz-Detman, Lee Ferguson
- 29 Charley Trense

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jared & Kari MacDonald
- 18 Gentry & Cassidy Mobley

**Please contact the church office  
if your birthday or anniversary  
were missed, (231) 352-9148**

# February Blaine Visitor

## **Our Mission**

Our purpose at Blaine Christian Church is to live and share the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we seek to learn, teach, hear, minister, support, grow and worship as a community of faith. As Christ's disciples, we accept the call to reach out with God's love to those outside the church. Thus, as part of the Church Universal, we intend to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of our immediate community and the world. To this end, we commit ourselves to witness and serve in the fellowship and traditions of the Christian Church

**Pastor David Spalding**

**(231) 352-9148**

**[www.blainechristianchurch.org](http://www.blainechristianchurch.org)**

**email: [blainechurch@gmail.com](mailto:blainechurch@gmail.com)**

**Blaine Christian Church**

**7018 Putney Road**

**Arcadia, MI 49613**

## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service**

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Traditional Service**