

Blaine Visitor

April 2025

From Pastor Jim's desk...

All Things New

C.S. Lewis wrote, "There is someone that I love even though I don't approve of what he does. There is someone I accept though some of his thoughts and actions revolt me. There is someone I forgive though he hurts the people I love the most. That person is...me."

A few weeks ago, we got just a little teaser of spring. The weather was beautiful, the sun was shining, and all seemed right with the world. And then... we were reminded that we live in Northern Michigan and the snow and cold returned. I, however, remain optimistic that spring is right around the corner.

Every year, as I experience spring and walk among the budding flowers and newly greened grass, I am reminded of newness, rebirth, and resurrection from the dead. God has such a beautiful way of bringing things back to life. He takes that which seems dead or desolate and makes it delightful. He takes the barren things and brings new beauty. He transforms the ugly into the unbelievable. He is both capable and willing to do this miraculous thing over and over and over again.

The problem with withered and worn things, though, is that we desire to hide or discard them. We have a difficult time believing that anything beautiful could come from our winter worn stalks. Sometimes, we do or say things that are wrong. Sometimes, we go places that we ought not go or don't go places where we should. We leave the most important things unsaid or we say the really petty things that don't benefit anyone.

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God knows. He knows and He still loves us. In fact, that's exactly why He sent His Son to die on our behalf. We know, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

I want to let you in on a little secret. Sometimes, we are our biggest critics. We can't forgive ourselves, so we don't believe that anyone else could, especially a perfect God. God wants you to know that He loves you and wants nothing more than to bring newness to your life. Spring is on the horizon. Let it prove to you that God loves you so much that He wants to forgive and heal and bring new life to the ugly areas of our lives. May we, like David, cry out to a loving God, "Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:4-5).

Oh yeah, C.S. Lewis also said, "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."

Blaine History

"So the years came and went, and through them all the church has played a most important part in our lives. Not always have affairs gone smoothly, but with patience and Christian love we have overcome difficulties. The church endures from generation to generation. When things go wrong, it provides comfort; in times of grief, it gives strength; and in joyous times, it celebrates with us. The years move along and your children sitting beside you in the pew are replaced by some of their own, and then comes the day when a great-grandchild joins those going up for the children's sermon. I love the church!" -

- Bertine Orr

There is still a lot to love!

April Events

- 2** Young Adult Ministry 6:00 pm
- 6** Choir Practice 6:00 pm
- 7** Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 8** Women's Bible Study 9:30 am or 6:30 pm
- 9** Elders Meeting 6:30 pm
- 10** Lunch With Friends
at the Church 12:00 pm
- 13** Choir Practice 6:00 pm
- 14** Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 15** Women's Bible Study 9:30 am or 6:30 pm
- 16** Egg Filling for Easter Egg Hunt 5:00 pm
Young Adult Ministry 6:00 pm
- 21** Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 22** Women's Bible Study 9:30 am or 6:30 pm
- 27** Choir Practice 6:00 pm
- 28** Women's Bible Study 9:30 am or 6:30 pm
- 30** All Church Potluck 6:00 pm

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT/EASTER:

Lent Study during Sunday School

Beginning March 9
through Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday, April 17:

Supper and Service: 6:30pm

24 Hour Prayer Vigil

8 pm April 17-8 pm April 18

Good Friday, April 18

8 pm Tenebrae service with drama

Easter Egg Hunt for children:

Saturday, April 19 at 11 am

Easter Worship: Sunday, April 20 at

10 am (One Service) **He is Risen!**



Sermon Schedule

April 6- Pastor Jim

1st Reading: Psalm 119:1-8
2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1:3-11
Sermon Title: "Studious Soldiers"

April 13- Pastor David

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-10
2nd Reading: Mark 11:1-11
Sermon Title: "Who Do You See?"

April 20-Pastor Jim

1st Reading: Matthew 28:1-7
2nd Reading: Various
Sermon Title: "Risen King, Victorious Lord"

April 27- Pastor Jim

1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-17
Sermon Title: "Who Are You?"

SERVING THIS MONTH

Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Leader: Ron Sobkoviak
Greeter: Robin Groesbeck
Usher: Volunteer Needed

Welcome Center (both services):

Cathy Bodell

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Elders: Linda Byers & Deb Larimer
Worship Leader: Lynda Faber
Diaconate Servers: Ben & Angela DeWys,
Shannon, Matt, and Dayne Gillison
Diaconate Preparer: Linda Yeager
Greeter: Jannette Ervin
Usher: Wendy DeLisle

Missions Committee Update

Mission team heading to work in North Carolina, March titling to support trip:

A team of 14 volunteers from Blaine will be heading to Canton, North Carolina at the end of the month. The team will be working through the Baptists on Mission and helping rebuild homes that were damaged by Hurricane Helene last fall. Volunteers will be involved in a variety of construction activities ranging from laying subfloors and hanging drywall to installing tubs and toilets. The group will be travelling down in several different groups with one choosing to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamston, Kentucky on the way. The volunteers will be hosted by Crestview Baptist Church in Canton which will provide food, showers and lodging. The team will be on site working Monday, April 28 through Friday, May 2. March's titling of 5% will be earmarked for the mission trip.

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Mission Report Continued:



BACN Winter Food Drive scores another success

The Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) brought in over 5,500 pounds of food during its winter food drive March 6-8. This will stock the pantry for 2.5 months! Thanks to everyone who supported the drive by covering a shift at the Family Fare in Benzonia on Thursday, March 6 or by donating food or covering the project in prayer. Blaine donated 180 pounds of food through the Sunday food bag collection.

February's tithing to support camp, conference scholarships

February's 5% tithing of \$960.90 was deposited in the camp scholarship fund. Church members can apply for funds from this account when planning to attend a Christian camp or conference. Applications can be found on the board in the fellowship hall and should be submitted in advance of applying for the desired program.

Tithing, baby bottle program to support local programs in honor of moms

In honor of Mother's Day, Blaine Christian Church will honor local programs that support parenting. May's 5% tithing will go to the Hope House which currently houses four moms and their children. We will also participate in the annual Baby Bottle Blitz which collects funds to support the Lighthouse Pregnancy Center which is dedicated to sharing God's love and grace by providing individuals and families with education, resources, and supportive mentoring for life.

In other Missions Committee business...

- April's 5% tithing will be used to help winterize a community member's home.
- Blaine Christian Church will host a representative from Teen Challenge on May 18 and June's 5% tithing will go to this program.
- Mary Pulido put a card together with \$200 from discretionary funds for a local family to help defer the funeral expenses for their son who died in car accident.
- \$500 from discretionary funds was delivered to a local family following a devastating house fire.
- The committee will be submitting proposed changes to update the Missions portion of the church's website to include fresh pictures and links to organizations that the church supports.

Keep eyes open for missions opportunities

If you hear of someone in need or have a suggestion for how our church's tithing should be spent, reach out to a committee member. Current members include Sue Spalding, Mercy Sobkoviak, Mary Pulido, Trevor Magnotti and Wendy DeLisle.





Sunday School News



Our Sunday School ministry is an important part of our church life. It is a place for folks to learn from God's Word, to meet others on the faith journey, and to support one another.

In early April our classes for the children will be studying Jesus' life and events leading up to Easter as we get closer to Easter. The youth are meeting with Pastor Jim and Karl Tietz looking at "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman which is about being a follower of Jesus.

LENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

The adults will meet in the worship area and continue Bob Goff's study "Undistracted" This study is helping those who participate to be more focused on Jesus and His priorities for their life.

"You have permission to eliminate distractions! You have permission to live a more fulfilling life!

Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for his good purpose.

- Identify the distractions in your life
- Eliminate them so that you can recharge and refocus on your God-given purpose
- Start living a less-distracted and more joy-filled and love-oriented life

Plan to make the time to participate in this study and come to Easter morning more focused on Jesus and the journey you are on with Him.



Opportunities to Learn

SMALL GROUP STUDY

A group for young parents meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (9:45am) in the west lower classroom. Children too young for Sunday School are invited to come with their parents. They studied "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table" by Louie Giglio through RightNow Media in March and are switching to a Lent study in preparation for Easter. Reach out to Angela DeWys if you have questions or interest.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

This group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The Young Adults will be continuing their study of the Sermon on the Mount. They will be meeting on **Wednesday, April 2 and 16 from 6:00-7:30 pm**. This group is for post high school through 30 somethings. A wonderful meal is provided by different members of the congregation, then time is spent in study and fellowship. Please continue to invite young adult you know to join this ministry.

MID WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: A Men's Bible Study will begin April 7 and meet Monday nights at 6:30 pm. They will be continuing their study of the book of Acts. See Bruce Caylen or Rob Janusch, if you have questions.

WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDY: A Spring Womens' Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, April 8. The study is titled "Meant for Good" by Megan Fate Marshman. The study examines the biblical idea that God has a great purpose for your life. In this six-session study on Jeremiah 29:11-14, you'll discover that you are enough for God to use for His purpose, how to hear His voice, and face the future with confidence.



Holy Week Events

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday, April 13

We will gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am with palms and hosannas raised in praise. There will be Sunday School at 9:45 for all ages.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 17

The worship committee is hosting a simple supper of soup and bread at 6:30 pm. At 7:15 pm there will be a worship service based on the Seder meal with communion as we remember Jesus' final meal with His disciples.



PRAYER VIGIL: Thursday, April 17 (8 pm)-Friday, April 18 (8 pm)

Folks are invited to come to the small sanctuary to spend time in prayer for our world, our community, our church and the requests of those who participate. Sign up in the fellowship hall for a time to pray at the church during this vigil. You may also choose to pray at home as others pray at the church.



GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 18 at 8 pm

For the first time in many years, we will have a Good Friday service. The service will be a tenebrae worship service with drama as we remember Jesus' death on the cross.



EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 19 at 11 am

Children up through age 11 years are invited to come to the church for an Easter egg hunt and storytime. Please dress for the weather and bring a container for your eggs. Invite a friend to come with you.



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter will be a special day for our church as we have the chance to gather as one body for worship and fellowship this day.

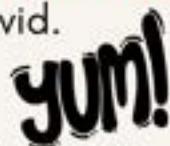
- **Easter Brunch: 9 am** Planned and served by the hospitality committee.
- **Easter Worship: 10 am (One Service)** Come and celebrate the resurrection with the church family and bring a friend or two with you.



Announcements

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

On the second Thursday of the month (April 10) at noon there is a potluck. Following lunch, cards will be signed and sent to people in and around the church who could use a bit of love. **This month "Lunch with Friends" will be held at the church.** If you have questions, please contact Pastor David.



ALL CHURCH MONTHLY POTLUCK

The Membership/Evangelism team invites everyone to the All Church Monthly Potluck on the last Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at church. This month, it's on Wednesday, April 30. These potlucks are meant to help with two things:

- We want church family who attend either the first or second worship service to have a chance to meet for fellowship and get to know each other better.
- This is the perfect occasion to invite someone who does not yet attend Blaine - friend, neighbor, family. This potluck is open to anyone.

Bring a dish to share and get to know someone you haven't met yet.

Volunteers Needed

As Christians, we are given talents through the Holy Spirit. Using those talents are part of the discipleship process. In addition, Blaine Christian Church needs you to use your talents and to be God's hands and feet. Here are some of the opportunities to serve:

SUNDAYS: Worship reader (both services), greeter or usher (both services), Kids Kare (both services-see Mary Barnum or Carolyn Waterson), fellowship time (both services). See the sign ups in the fellowship hall and add your name.

OTHER: Provide a meal for the Young Adult Ministry or when called upon to help someone in need. Help tend the garden. See sign ups in fellowship hall.

Choose a way you are willing to serve, as together we make our church a warm welcoming place of worship, study and fellowship.

Announcements

Spring Clean Up

The Property Committee has scheduled two Clean-up Days:

- **Indoor Clean-up Day** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12 at 9 am.**
 - We will be doing a scrub down on the church: cleaning windows, dusting away cob webs and just making the church look good.
- **Outdoor Clean-up Day** is set for **Saturday, April 26 at 9 am.**
 - We will be prepping gardens, cleaning up debris and getting ready for the summer mowing season.



Please come and do what you can to take care of God's House.
All hands on deck, please.



Lighthouse Pregnancy Care Center Sends a Note of Hope

As we move through the season of Lent we ponder on our Lord's suffering and death because of His love for us. We remember the hope we have in eternal life with Him. Please support us in prayer as we share the Light of Hope with the folks who come through our doors at LPCC.

Save the Dates: VBS 2025

We know it is still winter, but as families make summer plans we want you to know the **VBS 2022 will be AUGUST 4-7 from 6:00-8:10pm** each evening. Please mark your calendars now and make this an important part of the summer planning for your family.

The theme will be "**TRUTH NORTH: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**".

Grandparents: Invite your grandchildren for a week of fun with you and then include VBS in the evenings for them. More information coming in future newsletters.



Staff

Office Manager- Open

Pillar III: Christian Education &

Membership & Evangelism-

Carolyn Waterson (231) 882-9802

Pillar II: Congregational Fellowship,

Missions, Property , Open

Committee Chairs

Christian Education

Mary Barnum (231) 313-8922

Congregational Fellowship

Rick Kemperman

Membership & Evangelism

Ben DeWys (616) 490-2508

Missions

Sue Spalding (517) 617-3661

Property

Chuck Wolverton (231) 912-0505

Worship

Tom Brown (231) 383-2364

**The deadline for the May
Blaine Visitor is April 21.**

Birthdays

- 1 Jeri VanDePerre
- 4 Deb Kessler
- 5 Nona Nugent, Joel Sobkoviak
- 8 Cynthia Briske, Ella Thompson
- 11 Gianna DeWys
- 13 Griffen Magnotti, Bruce Peabody
- 15 Ralph Jenkins
- 18 Ron Sobkoviak
- 19 Mylie Kelly
- 20 Zoey Putney
- 21 Donnie Tanner
- 22 Patrick Kenny
- 25 Gloria Magnotti, Gene Meyer, Ken Nye
- 26 Jenny Caylen
- 27 Becky Kline
- 29 Bob Bell, Meagan Zych

Anniversaries

- 2 Frank & Bonnie Putney
- 23 Ron and Barb Sobkoviak
- 14 Kent and Julie Elliott





April 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 Jim Thompson

Pastor David Spalding

(231) 352-9148

www.blainechristianchurch.org

email: blainechurch@gmail.com

Blaine Christian Church

7018 Putney Road

Arcadia, MI 49613

SPRING SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Bible based. Jesus focused. People loving.