

A monthly newsletter for members and friends of
First Baptist Church of Painesville - December 2019

CHURCH LINK



From the Pastor's Desk

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH!

John 1:1-5 lets us know that "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men, and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not".

Perhaps about A.D. 90 God led the elderly disciple John to give the churches near Ephesus he had so faithfully served information in writing that would lead people to believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and so have life. He wrote his gospel to help the churches understand the way to be faithful in a world of persecution, ridicule, and religious competition.

Jesus Christ came into this world to reveal His Father's mind to us concerning the great matters of our salvation. Were it not for Christ's manhood, the sight of the Godhead would be formidable to us; but through Christ's flesh we may look upon God without fear. Christ's person in two natures being the God-Man looks upon his human nature as incarnate while retaining His divine nature.

Christ took our flesh so that He might know what it is to be faint, sorrowful, tempted. Isaiah 7:14 says "therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear as son and shall call his name Immanuel". The wisdom of God has astonished men and angels. If God had put us to find out a way of salvation when we were lost, we could neither have had a head to devise, nor a heart to desire.

But here was the masterpiece of divine wisdom, to contrive a way to happiness between the sin of man and the justice of God. Jesus Christ would become our mediator, our redeemer to reconcile us back to God.

**“...Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

Isaiah 9:6 says “for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”.

Thank God for Jesus who in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead (Colossians 2:9). He is of the same nature and essence with the Father. John 14:1 Jesus said ‘ye believe in God, believe also in me’. You see in the fullness of time God sent forth his Son, made of a woman (Gal 4:4).

Christ incarnate is nothing but love covered with flesh. As Christ’s assuming our human nature was a master-piece of wisdom, so it was a monument of free grace. The Word became flesh and love was the intrinsic motive.

Merry CHRISTmas,
Pastor Edwards

Giant Eagle Gift Cards



Giant Eagle gift cards are available for you to purchase from First Baptist. We have \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200 gift cards. Purchase them during the week in the office. This is a benefit to First Baptist because we earn 5% of the total we sell!



Recycle Paper

Place your paper to be recycled in the green and yellow *PaperRetriever* bin on east side of the church building. Items accepted: **newspapers, magazines, catalogs, direct mail, office paper, phone books, school paper shredded paper in clear plastic bags.** Items not accepted: **cardboard, cereal boxes, kitchen/bathroom paper products, plastic, metals, garbage.** We can earn between \$5 and \$20 per ton of paper we collect and help the environment at the same time!



Hosanna Circle

Due to the church being cold (furnace problem) the Nov. 4, 2019 meeting was held at the home of Jacquie Wolf.

Twelve sisters were present. We joined voices in singing, followed by Bible scriptures, poems, or thoughts shared by each sister. Once again our prayer list was long of family members and friends needing our concern.

December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent; so Saturday, November 30, we plan to decorate the church starting at 9 a.m. We hope again this year, there will be many hands to do the work so time spent won’t be too long. We will again have the big tree in the narthex for all church attenders to decorate with hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. Hats and gloves will go to Extended Housing and the rest to Hope Chest.

It was announced that four of our church members are taking part in the Messiah presentation Sunday, December 1 at 4 p.m. at St. John Vi-anney.

Jacquie thanked all for the great response in bringing food that night for the food pantry. Thanks also to the hostesses and to Bev for her well organized presentation, which included our participation as well. The theme was “Beloved Community—All Are Welcome, Safe, and Free.”

Our next fellowship is the annual Christmas pot luck on Monday, December 2 at the church at 6:30 p.m. Sisters are to bring Christmas readings/poems to share, as well as their dish to pass.

Matthew 21:22 *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith.*

Jacquie Wolf

A big THANK YOU...

...for your food donations. During the month of November, we helped 6 families with food! Please remember to check the expiration dates on the items you donate.

ChurchLink

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of First Baptist Church
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Several Ways to Celebrate Christmas at First Baptist Church of Painesville



Poinsettias

We are grateful for the beautiful Poinsettias which have been purchased by our congregation in memory or honor of a loved one and will emblazon our sanctuary this Christmas season.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a traditional symbol used in our Advent Worship. Its round shape symbolizes God's never-ending love. This year, members of our church family will light the Advent candles during the Advent worship services.

Christmas Cards for the Homebound

Place your Christmas cards for our homebound members and friends in the card box in the foyer. They will be delivered during Christmas Caroling. A list of names and addresses can be found next to the box.

The Sharing Tree (Mitten Tree)

Hosanna Circle will sponsor our Mitten Tree again this year. Everyone is invited to bring new mittens, gloves, warm hats, scarves, socks, etc. to decorate the tree, located in the foyer. Other suggested winter needs: new or slightly used towels, blankets, bedding, dishes, small kitchen and household items, seasonal clothes in all sizes including coats, sweatpants, and hoodies. Any item(s) you can donate will be much appreciated. Monetary donations will also be accepted. This year, hats and gloves will go to Extended Housing and the rest to Hope Chest.

Advent Worship and Music:

We invite you to the Lord's house to worship Him with Carols of Christmas at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in December.

The 70th annual presentation of Handel's Messiah will be presented on Dec. 1 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John Vianney Church, 7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor, Ohio. There are four individuals from First Baptist that will be participating this year. Come begin your Advent season celebration by hearing the word of the Lord presented through sacred music by a multi-voice choir from throughout Northeast Ohio, string orchestra, piano, organ harpsichord, trumpet and professional soloists! A free will offering will be taken.

Church Family Christmas Gathering

All are invited to a Church Family Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Turkey, dressing and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. The musical group, Circle of Friends will be performing. Everyone is asked to bring a \$5 Christmas ornament for gift exchange. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Christmas Caroling

Join the 1st Baptist Singers as they deliver Christmas joy by singing Christmas carols to our homebound members and friends on Sunday, December 15 at 12:30 p.m. . Young and old and in between are encouraged to participate in this all-church caroling activity!

Christmas Offering

Our special Christmas Offering will go to our "Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering," which is collected during the month of December and the Christmas Eve service.

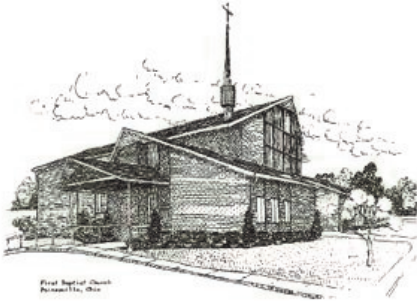
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Every Christmas Eve the congregation fills the church to sing carols and to celebrate the Christ's birth by lighting candles. This year, the Christmas Eve worship will take place on December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
10801 Johnnycake Ridge
Painesville, OH 44077

Return Service Requested

Guest



Weekly & Monthly Events & Meetings

Bible Blast, Youth & ABF - Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Praise Practice - Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

Worship - Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Communion - First Sunday of each month, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

1st Baptist Singers - 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:30 p.m.

Hosanna Circle - First Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. (October, November, February, March, April and May); 6:30 p.m. - (December & June)

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Mary/Martha Prayer Circle - 2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

“Link” Reports Due - 18th of each month