

American Baptist Women State Convention
"Satellite Gathering"
Ice Cream Social and Country Store Auction
Friday, April 28, 2023
6:30 to 8 pm
FBC Great Room



Proceeds from the auction will be sent to ABWM NYS General Fund.
In 2022 we were able to send \$150.

What Should I Bring?

- ☐ Yourself and a friend!
- ☐ Your favorite ice cream topping. (Chocolate & Vanilla ice cream are provided)
- ☐ Items for our Country Store Auction. Use your imagination and bring your items to the Church by April 26
- ☐ Any amount of money you would like to contribute to the ABW Offering/NYS General Fund. (Any contribution will entitle you to 5 auction tickets.)

*Ice Cream Social & Country Store Auction
An Evening of Laughter, Smiles & Love
Friday, April 28, 2023*



AND...

ABWM Spring Rally May 6th, at 9am, at Clifton Springs

Program : Sharing the Fruit - Rev. Ann Gardner will talk about gardens -
both Biblical and spiritual
Report on the fruit tree project for Cameron.
See Diane DeLooza if you would like to attend and need a ride.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR Sunday, April 16

“The Words of Jesus” - After Worship in the Church Library
“A Woman’s Faith”
Matthew 15:21-39; Mark 7:34 – 8:10



NYS AMERICAN BAPTIST CAMPING NEWS

NEW FOR SUMMER 2023

Registration is open for the 2023 Summer program. This year’s theme is “Love Your Selfie: Made in God’s Image”. This year we are adding new programs, and focusing on different types of camping to serve everyone of all ages. Our structured programs are at Pathfinder Lodge, while Camp Vick will be focused on group rentals and family camping.

You can download the schedule and registration form [here](#); and all descriptions and pricing on summer camp page. Brochures are coming soon. Want to make sure your church/organization gets copies of our brochure? Contact our office to check that you are on our list.

We are also offering new programs and opportunities this year including Wilderness Adventure, Day Camp, Spring Youth Retreat, Camp Reunion Weekend and a Pastor’s Retreat Week.

Watch for more information to come for updates and contact our Board of Missions for scholarship assistance.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Thank you to all the generous people in this congregation. As of March 19th, we have received \$1,055 for the America For Christ Offering. In addition, those who have maintained their regular Missions contributions have made it possible for us to send \$ 542 to our local Food Pantry, \$ 813 for United Mission Basics, and \$ 20 for Love Gift. We also have \$ 10 to start our Backpack Penny collection. Be sure to read the letter from Habitat for Humanity to see what their future plans are.

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

Almighty God who brings new life back again out of the deadness of the winter, we thank you for the symbol of everlasting new life you have given to us, the resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ. In him we see hope of new life in the midst of our despair over not being the people we would like to be. We pray that through your son, Jesus Christ, we might be able to die to our old life of hurts, frustration, and sin and rise to a new life of love, joy, and peace. May we be able to rejoice with the disciples that Jesus Christ is risen indeed, and because of it, we can live also. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

WOMEN OF THE WAR

Your prayers and support have sustained suffering Ukrainian Christians amid a devastating war. You’ve empowered them to read and share the hope of God’s Word in the face of death, destruction, and despair. Yana is a steadfast follower of Jesus Christ, a loving mother, a passionate teacher, and the proud wife of a Ukrainian Bible Society employee. She is also a refugee.

Imagine having just a few hours to pack a suitcase before fleeing your home.... This was the reality for Yana and for millions of Ukrainians who fled their homeland to escape war. In 48 short hours, Yana kissed her husband goodbye through a bus window, slept at a border crossing in freezing cold weather with her two children (with only their suitcases for a bed), and arrived at the doorstep of total strangers in Poland. Yana didn't even have room in her suitcase for her Bible.

But Yana's most treasured possession wasn't something that you can pack in a suitcase. It was her hope in Jesus. Even when she was forced to go weeks without a physical Bible in her heart language, the eternal promises of God's Word were hidden deep in Yana's heart. "I know who my Savior is, and I know his plan for me," Yana said. "That's really my hope." After arriving in Poland, Yana didn't waste any time sharing the hope of Jesus with others. Without fail, Yana would take time to embrace weeping Ukrainian mothers, pray with them, and encourage their families with words of comfort and hope.

And while Ukrainian and Russian Bibles are still scarce in Poland—where more than 3.9 million refugees have fled since February— Yana still joyfully shares God's Word when she can. She has already given Polish Bibles to the family who hosted her during those first days in Poland. "I am really happy that I can share God's Word here, even in this situation," she said. "It's a blessing!"

At first, Yana didn't think that her family would be apart for so long. "All of us hoped that in a few days, maybe in a few weeks, we would return home," Yana explained. As the days passed and each morning brought more tragic news of the ongoing war, discouragement and despair threatened to sneak in. Still, Yana and her family clung to God's Word—and made sure that the Bible remained part of their daily routine. Each evening, Yana would join a Zoom call with her children and her husband. Even after long and exhausting days, they would spend time talking, praying, and reading God's Word as a family. Until they are together again, God's Word remains a shelter for Yana and her family, reminding them every evening that they are not alone.

Her husband was risking his life to deliver humanitarian aid and Scripture back home. And, while they were safe from air raids in Poland, Yana and her children grieved the way this war has changed their lives forever. "From time to time, we feel this sadness," Yana told me. "We miss Ukraine very much. We miss our city, our school, our work, our parks." But despite the trials she has faced, Yana's joy is undimmed. And it's real. Yana's joy—deep and wide and written all over her face—is rooted in Jesus Christ. "There will be a time when we won't have any crying, any suffering, any death, any wars. "All of us can be the tools which God can use to help other people," she said.

From the American Bible Society which we support in our Annual Mission Budget

From 5th Century St. Flavion in Constantinople:

"Spread the love and know the light of Christ, rising in glory dispels the darkness in our hearts and minds. Thanks be to God".

Report from the Board of Christian Education

- 📍 Our annual Chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, May 13
 - At Lyon's National Bank Parking Lot
 - From 11 am until sold-out (generally by 2 pm)
 - \$13 includes ½ chicken, salt potatoes, choice of salad and roll
 - We thank you for all the support you have shown in years past

 - 📍 Penn Yan Community VBS
 - June 26-30
 - 9 am to Noon
 - Theme: Stellar -- "Shine, Jesus' Light"
-

Backpack Program for April



Fruit Cups

We Celebrate April Birthdays!

10 - Kirsten Decker

17 - Ralph Clancy

23 - Don Lawrence



AN UPDATE FROM SARAH MCCURDY

Dear Friends,

Thank you for praying for me last month as I took my first trip as a Regional Coordinator for Education. I traveled to Mexico City where I was able to spend time learning about two different ministry partners as well as close our (Peter's & my) time as Global Servants with Seminario Bautista de Mexico (SBM). It was truly a bittersweet time spent with the leadership of the seminary. It was a joy and a blessing to spend time with each of them, share a meal or two together, hear about what God is doing in and through the various ministries of SBM and thank them for the opportunity to have worked with them.

This center is called EduK. It is in an impoverished area on the outskirts of Mexico City. EduK was opened in the middle of the pandemic and has become a pillar of hope for the moms of the children who attend. Many of the families of this community live not knowing what or if they will eat the next day. Many live in one or two room homes that do not have running water nor electricity. Others live in tents. EduK is a place of hope for the moms of the community. A place of hope that their children will, through the ministries of the center, have a chance for a better life when they are grown. The moms hope their children will get a high school education, go on to college, get a good job, and be bilingual!

Currently, the center has programs for children ages 18 months through 8 years of age. There are hopes and plans to grow and expand the center to offer programs from pregnancy to age 20. Once the children age out of the current program, the hope is that they go to public school (which for most of them this is a 45-minute walk one way). Recently, the program heard from one of the moms that their child's Kindergarten teacher was amazed at what her child already knew! Her child knew their colors, numbers, letters, shapes and had exceptional social skills. These simple academic and social skills are not the norm in this community.

Please stay tuned for another update from my trip to Mexico City! You can expect to receive it in a couple of weeks.

Sarah McCurdy, Regional Coordinator for Education in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

FROM YATES COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Dear First Baptist Church Friends,

This is to acknowledge, with much appreciation, your generous gift of \$ 800.00 which was received on March 6, 2023. Your "Super Subs" were indeed missed but you persisted in your desire to improve life's prospects for needy families in Yates County with this gift. Community support is a key element in our ability to promote dignity and hope through affordable housing in Yates County. Your ongoing generosity exemplifies the support that brings meaningful results. Thank you so very much!

We are happy to report that six (6) Yates County Habitat For Humanity partner homeowners now own their homes "free and clear" (mortgages discharged). Also that a "partner" family has been selected for our next home (our 20th) with construction to begin next month at the Cedar Street site in Keuka Park.

We recently purchased two properties at the Yates County tax auction, one in Dundee and one in Rushville, which creates the basis for continuing to provide affordable housing for the needy. Thank you for your special role in making all this possible. Wishing you God's blessing of success in your mission goals.

Sincerely and in behalf of all the YCHFH volunteers and future homeowners,
Richard D. Smith,
YCHFH Treasurer

2000 Year Easter Report on God's Plan

In Rome in the 57th century there were 3000 Christians united in 5 congregations. The total population of Rome at that time was 800,000. Sixty years after Christ's death scripture had been translated into 6 languages. The planning, sacrifice and determination to spread Christ's message is astounding! The following gives a timeline understanding the growth of Christianity in our world.

6 B.C. Jesus Christ's birth

27 A.D. John the Baptist Preaches in Judea

28 A.D. John the Baptist beheaded by Herod's son

30 A.D. Jesus is crucified. Brother James becomes leader of Christians

62 A.D. James executed

63 A.D. Joseph of Arimathea mission to Great Britain

66 A.D. Thaddeus establishes church in Armenia

71 A.D. Missions to Egypt

117 A.D. Earliest manuscript written by John (found later by archeologist)

180 A.D. Christian mission school opened in Alexandria

300 A.D. Christian population in Rome 15 million

340 - 386 Christianization of Goths, French, Scots, and Jews (Bible translations)

410 - 647 A.D. Christians in Spain, Wales, Iceland, Germany, Holland

690 - 1000 A. D. Denmark, Poland, Sweden, Slavic countries, Normans, Norway, Iceland and Greenland, Hungary, Syria and etc.

1947 A.D. Dead Sea Scrolls found

2020 A.D. 2.4 billion Christians on this planet

God's purpose in motion. As we celebrate Easter 2023, keep faith for God's plan is moving right along and remember to give God the glory.

Deacon's Corner

We all know the old adage, "give credit where credit is due". It feels good after accomplishing a very difficult problem, to give ourselves a wee "pat on our back". However, in Genesis Abraham warns us about giving credit to ourselves when the credit is God's working through us. The moment to take "all the credit", we are taking away from God who has been guiding us through the problem. Crediting our success only for ourselves is a dangerous position. We are partners with our God.

BEND LOW

~ by Richard Wehrman, West Bloomfield, NY

What seed,
thrust in the earth
by your teachers,
watered by your soul-friends
and family, finally
breaks its shell, sending its
root deep in the earth
and its green life
into heaven? That old voice
that watched and complained,
that prodded and judged,
commenting how fast
or how slow, how fat
or how thin - all that is
over now. The shell has been
drained, like the locust
who breaks through his former
self in order to grow.
You are the green life rising
to God's call; you are
the blossom, the fragrance
and the beauty.
Become those who bend low
the better to love you;
let love be your being,
for it is
what you are.

A Strong Foundation Shaped by Love

And Jesus said: "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."

Matthew 7: 24-25

This morning as I made my way toward church, I realized that the hills and valleys between Rochester and Penn Yan are becoming familiar to me. So too the rhythms of our community life and worship together.

There is something miraculous and stirring about entering into a community long shaped by the gospel of Jesus. Through days, weeks, decades and nearly two centuries - this blessed place has gathered the questioning and the faithful - the hurting and the joyful - the little babies and those approaching the end of their earthly journey - and everyone in between. In the small details of life, generation to generation, God has been shaping this holy gathering called First Baptist Church into a place of awareness, depth, kindness and resilience. This is how God works with us - like a potter shaping clay - molding us into good vessels that can hold Holy Love for the world around us.

I write to you on a Wednesday morning and the church is buzzing. The Christian Education team is working away in the library. Theresa is polishing the wooden railings filling the entryway with the fresh odor of Murphy's oil soap. Judy is clearing shelves to make space for the diaconate. Peggy is solving problems left and right - all while getting Holy Week organized. These daily tasks, done with love in our shared community, matter. They pattern us to be in relationships of caring. They pattern us to serve God's vision for a loving world.

There are days when our church feels so small and the world around feels so big. Yet, just think about it. We stand on a firm foundation, built for centuries by our ancestors in the faith. Look at Jesus and the disciples. Look at Paul wandering from house church to house church. Look at the little communities in every age and place that have carried out daily practices of love and have thereby carried the flame. God has always worked with small committed communities to get the Word out to the world. Little streams carve out huge caverns over time. So too the little loving churches roll on through the years reshaping lives and hearts with God's light and love.

I feel richly blessed to join this particular stream in this particular place at this particular time. And, I am looking forward to our first Holy Week together.

May your April be filled with holy moments.

With love from your Pastor,



Penn Yan First Baptist Church
224 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Our Mission is to Create a Caring Community to Honor and Serve God.



April 2023
Newsletter

First Baptist Church * Founded in 1830

Phone: 315-536-9821

Office Hours: Tues–Fri 9 am to Noon

E-Mail: office@firstbaptistchurchpy.com

Rev. Rachel McGuire

Phone: 585-748-8503

Email: pastor@firstbaptistchurchpy.com

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10 am to Noon

Website: firstbaptistchurchpy.com

Financial Officer: Diane DeLooza

Church Staff/Volunteers

Pastor: Rev. Rachel McGuire

Choir Director/Pianist: Barbara Stewart

Organist: Sheryl Robbins

Secretary: Peggy S. Smart

Accountant: Jan Hafner

Our Schedule

Sunday Worship – 10 am

Children's Sunday School - 10:15 am

Adult Sunday School - 11 am

Church Officers

Moderator: Cheryl Stewart

Diaconate: Judi Scheel

Christian Education: Sue Willson

Trustees: Trevor Conrad

Missions: Don Lawrence