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LOVE GOD—LOVE EACH OTHER—LOVE THE WORLD

# LINK

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus  
Christ as we love, learn and live the  
word of God.

DECEMBER 2023



## Contact Us!

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## FBC Food Collection:

December—Fruit

January—Canned Hash, Stew, Chili

February—Vegetables

Hail, Hail the Hams all Here!

Or it was. The annual ham dinner was back and a huge success! Over 250 hearty eaters were served. A great, big “Thank You” to all that helped make it the success that it was ~ squash cookers, bakers, servers, set up and take down, dishwashers (by hand and machine), cooks, planners, decorators and more. The congregation always comes through!!

Thank you, Dale for preparing a wonderful repast and thank you Winnie for your 70+ years of knowledge and guidance (and the secret ham gravy recipe!)

See you next November....



Take a poinsettia home!

If you would like a poinsettia placed on the altar in church on the Sunday before Christmas as well as Christmas eve in honor or memory of someone, orders can be placed with the order blanks found on the table at the back of the sanctuary or by emailing or calling the office and leaving a message. Red poinsettias in 6” pots are \$9.00, and 10” baskets of red or marble are \$16.00.

## Christmas Donations

Many bags of non-perishable food donated by our members were delivered to FISH for the Thanksgiving food collection for clients. In addition, the Mission Committee purchased gift cards as part of the Toydrive by FISH. These gift cards, from local businesses such as Rosies, the Theater, Bookworm, and others will be distributed to older children and teenagers for Christmas. As in other years, we make monetary donations to local charities: FeedMore, Friends of the Night People, Cradle Beach, Community Mission of the Niagara Frontier, Salvation Army, Seneca Gospel Mission, Rural Outreach Center, FISH, Jericho Road.

## Can you dig it?

While we were all pleased with the food, fellowship, and funds associated with the ham dinner, not everything was good news! After Dale and Lucy spotted a backup of water in kitchen the morning of the dinner, it was discovered that our septic tank was full, and the leach field was not draining. The restrooms served by the system were closed and remain closed. After many phone calls and consultations with plumbing concerns by John, it was determined that we need a new septic system. This will be an expensive undertaking. Perhaps as much as \$50,000. Bids for estimates for a new tank, leach field, and grease traps for the kitchen are progressing. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.

## A Mission to Haiti

More than 30 men and women gathered in the fellowship hall at First Baptist to complete all the steps needed to produce 160 birthing bags for Haiti. We cut out fabric, surged the edges, sewed, stuffed, threaded drawstrings, and packed the bags to get ready to ship to Haiti to assist rural women in safe home births. The handmade bags contained sterile pads, gloves, antibacterial gel, lengths of string, alcohol wipes, as well as an outfit for a newborn and receiving blanket for Mom. The fellowship hall was lined with tables with sewing machines, cutting tables, and tables to fill baggies with supplies. The hall outside of the room was the assembly line for filling the completed bags. As the participants worked, they made new friends, talked, laughed, and enjoyed the day of service.



# The First Baptist Church of East Aurora

## 591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)*

The world can be a very dark place. If we watch the news it can be easy to be discouraged, pessimistic and even cynical. Sometimes we can even believe that the world is in the worst shape now that it has ever been. But as the book of Ecclesiastes tells us, there is nothing new under the sun; mankind has looked at the world since the introduction of sin in the Garden of Eden and felt the same way.

God made a promise to Abraham, found in the book of Genesis, the promise of a people to worship the one true God, and the promise of a Messiah.

But even the people of Israel, God's chosen people, went through decades, centuries, wondering if the promises that God made to Abraham were true: would they ever actually see the promised Messiah? They waited for the promise to come to life.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)*

The Messiah came at exactly the right time. And He is the light of the world.

The light of the world comes and shines a light and reveals what is genuine and what is counterfeit. **So, what does this light reveal exactly?** Jesus, as the light of the world, reveals to the world what God is really like and sets the record straight about who God is. As well, He shows us what true humanity is supposed to look like, by both redeeming it and leading us to a better way--full of life.

As you enjoy your McDonald's Peppermint Hot Chocolate, or my favorite Tim Horton's Peppermint Mocha, driving around checking out Christmas lights while listening to the Christmas Carol station, after you have strung your own lights and finished your decorating, please remember that the Light has come. Even when the seemingly necessary chores to celebrate the season weigh heavy on you, the Light has come. Even when we make the difficult decisions regarding how we socialize and celebrate, the Light has come. And after the calendar has flipped and we are looking forward to a new year, the Light has come.

Merry Christmas!