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LINK

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

APRIL 2024



Contact Us!

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(716) 652-7272

FBC Food Collection:

May—Cold Cereal

June—100% Juice Boxes or Large Juice

July—Baked Beans

In This Issue

- ⇒ We Celebrated Easter... A Lot...
- ⇒ Do you know any HIGH SCHOOL seniors?
- ⇒ 60 Years?!? Congratulations!
- ⇒ So much mission success!!
- ⇒ Announcements on Announcements!



Pine Hill Scholarship

Do you know a high school senior planning to attend a 2 or 4 year college in September 2024? A scholarship of \$1,000.00 is available to assist with college expenses to a high school senior with a strong church and volunteer involvement. Applications are on our website and are due May 15th. A notice about the availability of this scholarship has also been sent to local school districts and local churches. If you have any questions, feel free to ask members of the committee, Marge Lowrey, Lendra Kress, or Pastor Paul.

?? WHAT'S HAPPENING ??

Do you have an event or some other item to share with the congregation on Sunday? Your announcement can be prepared in advance of Sunday's service. Send your information to debbie@mende.us. Alternately, you can call or text, 716-870-6102.

-Prepared by Deb Mende

Announcement

There will be a quick congregational meeting immediately after service on April 7, 2024. We will be installing our slate of officers per our constitution. The slate proposed slate remains mostly unchanged from last year, with one exception. Carl Mende will be installed as the chair of the Missions Committee. And he will have some pretty big shoes to fill, so to speak. Chris Hartmann is stepping down as committee chair after many years of service in that position. As Chris transitions out of her chair position, the Council would like to express our gratitude for her dedicated service in the position. Her passion, commitment and tireless efforts have been tremendously appreciated. She was able to identify areas of need that our congregation, limited though our resources are, could make a difference. She will remain as the lead person for the Helping Hands for Haiti initiative that we have the privilege of hosting.

Thank you Chris.

Easter Celebrations



Do This in Remembrance of Me - Maundy Thursday

On March 28, 15 members gathered around the large round table to partake in the Lord's supper, a portion of the Passover celebration. Jesus introduced His disciple to the bread – symbolic of the body of Christ and the wine – symbolic of His blood shed for the remission of our sins. Pastor Paul explained the meaning of the word “maundy”, that it comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it^[b] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Luke 22: 14-20

We passed the bread around the table and then the wine, where we dipped the bread into the chalice. We ate and drank together then ended with a prayer. Peace be with you.

The Walk

An interactive experience of the way of the cross

On Good Friday at noon members of the East Aurora Churches Together hosted “The Walk” at St. Matthias’ Episcopal Church on Main Street, East Aurora. The Walk was an interactive journey through the way of the cross. Members from six congregations were welcomed into the sanctuary with a smile and a guide for the journey. We moved through the fourteen stations of the cross as we pondered what Jesus and those around him experienced walking the “Way of Sorrow”. Not only did you hear the stories about the journey, but also there were tangible things to experience along the way. All types of music filled to air to heighten the experience. Everything culminated at the cross, lay your burdens down, give praise, and thanksgiving.



The 7 Last Words of Christ

This year at First Baptist we have a Good Friday Service. The evening started with an orchestra led by Ivan Docenko, played the Seven Last Words of Christ prelude.



Pastor Paul welcomed everyone and began the readings with an intro.

The Gospels record that during the six hours Jesus was hanging on the cross He made seven different statements. These statements are of tremendous significance because they are the last words of Jesus before His death. They demonstrate that Jesus was consistent in His life and in His message until the end.

Then the seven last sayings of Christ were read, interludes in between the music. The seven last saying were:

- "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"
- "Today you will be with me in Paradise"
- "Woman, behold your Son"
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- " I thirst "
- "It is finished"
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"

The seven statements Jesus made from the cross have far-reaching significance for us today. They once again remind us that His death, besides being a fact of history, was much more than that. It was the supreme sacrifice that secured our salvation. His final words show us that we can have the utmost confidence in Him as our Savior.

Sonrise Service

We gathered in the parking the lot by the large wooden cross to welcome our risen Savior. Heather played *Amazing Grace* on her trumpet. Pastor Paul reminded us of the three hopes, *No Hope, Cautionary Hope, and Hope (and Grace and Love)*. Though the sun was not shining our heart were filled with light. He has risen indeed!

After service we gathered inside to partake of a small fellowship. We left with joy in our hearts.

Easter Service

He Has Risen!!! Yes, He has risen indeed! Our worship room was filled with songs and joy because He lives. We serve a risen Savior and celebrated that He is alive through song, prayer, scripture, and words of wisdom. Pastor Paul encouraged us to go tell somebody about our risen Lord. Amen

Pastor's Thoughts

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
Lamentations 3:22-24

As Easter approaches, Christians around the globe prepare to celebrate the most significant event in their faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This holy day symbolizes hope, renewal, and the promise of new beginnings.

The story of Easter is one of triumph over adversity, of light emerging from darkness, and of love conquering all. Because of the resurrection we know that no matter how dire our circumstances may seem there is always hope for a better tomorrow.

At the heart of Easter is the message of redemption and forgiveness. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus offered humanity the ultimate gift: the opportunity to be reconciled with God and experience eternal life. This act of love and sacrifice is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, and Easter is a time to reflect on its profound significance.

Easter is also a time of joy and celebration. It is a time for families and communities to come together, to share meals, and participate in joyful worship services. The Easter season is marked by traditions such as egg hunts, Easter parades, and the sharing of hot cross buns, all of which serve to unite believers in a spirit of fellowship and joy.

But beyond the festivities and traditions, Easter carries a deeper spiritual meaning. It reminds us that no matter how challenging life may be, there is always hope for a brighter future. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, so too can we emerge from our trials and tribulations, renewed and strengthened by our faith. As we celebrate Easter this year, let us embrace the message of hope and new beginnings. Let us remember the sacrifice of Jesus and the incredible love that God has for each and every one of us. And let us carry that love and hope with us throughout the year, spreading joy and kindness wherever we go.

Support for a Worthwhile Organization

February was America for Christ month. This American Baptist Homeland Ministry mission supports local congregations with grants to establish vital ministries for their communities. We presented a series of bulletin inserts, and a worship service devoted to Lamentations 3:22-26. A message by Carl Mende and mission moment by Chris Hartmann reminded us that God's love and compassion never fails for each new day. Meg, Melissa, and Ray also took part in the service.

Our AFC donation of \$275.00 will be sent to The Cameron Community Mission in Rochester NY which provides services including free meals, child outreach, clothing closet, programs for the developmentally disabled, teen services and much, much more. Thank you so much for your generosity and compassion.

Volunteers answer the call

More than 60 men and women worked together on March 9 to produce 282 home delivery kits better known as birthing bags. They cut fabric, serged edges, sewed bags and blankets, strung bags and filled them with essential supplies. Completed bags were packed in shipping boxes which will be forwarded to Miami and then Grisson Gard in Haiti.

Many of the workers were 'first-timers' who had seen an article in the local East Aurora Advertiser and answered the call to help. There was a job for all ages and skill levels, including clean-up at the end of the day.

Thank you, all who participated in this worthwhile project.

St. Pauly Update

Last year 23,341 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 4,300 people all over the world.

The First Baptist Church of East Aurora
 591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

Happy 60th Anniversary to Meg and John Hausauer!!!



April 4th

Happy Birthdays to
 4/3 Lois D'arcangelo
 4/4 Doug Sernoffski
 4/8 Katie Kress
 4/13 Sarah Dziak
 4/14 Kim Collins
 4/16 Paul Nowak
 4/17 Jim Nowak
 4/27 Pastor Paul
 4/27 Gwen Fowler

Happy Anniversary to Jim and Jan Nowak
 on April 5th!

Please Pray for

Rose Gassman*
 Elaine Rickettson*
 Melissa Schneck*
 Tim Lowrey*
 Christie Carson*
 Ken Furnier
 Elna Houqland
 Preston Smith
 Tom Heineman*
 Nate Fox
 Robert Heinemen
 Heidi Teton*
 Matt Roberts
 Eric Miller*
 Zachary Gallson

Sheldon Webster
 Carol Smith
 Joshua Maston
 Harvey Underhill
 John Kenny*
 Randy Smith*
 Brenda Nickerson*
 Dave Stolzenberg*
 Kendall Johnson Smith*
 Carl Baue
 Taylor Bauman*
 Darleen Murphy
 Heidi Teton
 Matt Roberts
 Titus Weaver
 Diane Kress

Steve Miller*David Erb
 Jodi Gallson's Family
 Mike & Sarah Dziak

*indicates illness