

- The - Baptist Beacon

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A Message from Pastor Jacqueline

Greetings Family and Friends,

God was incredibly good to First Baptist last year and we are grateful. We ended the year with the Christmas Eve service that was an absolutely marvelous dedication to our Lord and Savior.

Now in 2024, we are off to a superb start.

On January 28th we had a successful annual meeting. A big thanks to Betsey Adams for the work she did on the annual report.



*First Baptist Church family
at Annual Meeting Potluck*



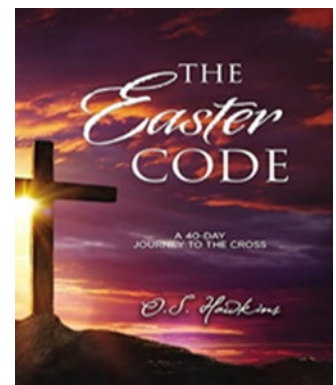
Betsey and Curt

Now that the annual meeting is over, we turn our attention to Lent and Easter, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this period of Lent, prayerfully, you are enjoying and applying the biblical truths of *The Easter Code* to your life. Someone once said, “The gospel brings man to God; devotions keep him close to God.” My hope is that O. S. Hawkins’ devotional is keeping you near the Lord.

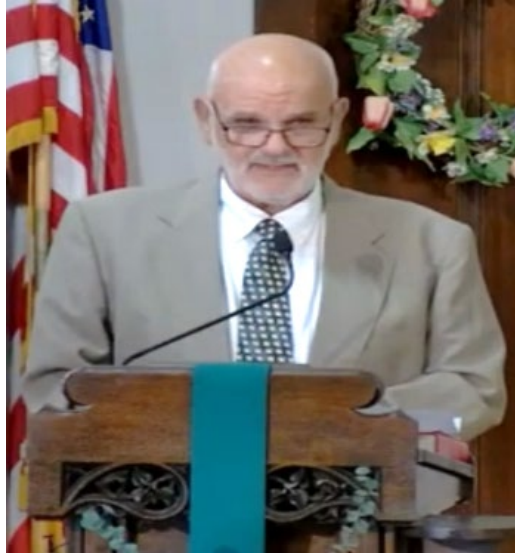
As we journey closer to Resurrection Sunday, may we feel God’s presence more.

In His Service,
Pastor Jacqueline



News from Curt

Moderator, Trustee and Sunday School Teacher



Bylaws Review

2024 is a leap year and our bylaws call for our bylaws to be reviewed during leap years. At the annual meeting in January, the congregation authorized the formation of a bylaws review committee. Our last attempted review was at the start of the Covid Pandemic in 2020. That group had gotten off to a good start, but like everything else, Covid stopped them.

The church Moderator, Curt Brockway, is hoping to reconvene that group and is soliciting other volunteers to undertake that important review. Anyone interested should contact Curt so a committee can be organized.

Your assistance in this important aspect of our church life would be appreciated. Curt's email and telephone number are: cbroc@aol.com and 860-535-2037.

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study Spring Schedule

The Adult Bible Study will be studying the Book of Revelation. Revelation is one of the most intriguing books of the Bible. For some it is scary, for others it is intriguing and for everyone its confusing. If you have ever wanted to gain a better understanding of this book that has so many mysteries, why not join the group on Sunday mornings at 9:30? No prior Bible knowledge is required.

Trustees

The Trustees are busy planning for 2024. They have already installed new brass hand railings for the altar steps. This was made possible from a gift from the estate of Bruce Thornton. If you haven't been able to get into church yet this year, the Trustees think you will find the railings an attractive and functional addition to our sanctuary.

Two other projects they we're working on include upgrading the sound quality of our services in the sanctuary and streaming over the Internet, and repairing a leak in the roof over the Narthex at the front of the church.

News from the Deacons*Mark Kane, Board of Deacons Chair*

We would like to welcome our newest member Lucy Calkins to the board. Lucy's love for the Lord makes her a great addition to the board of Deacons.

As a board, we have been working on a couple of priorities. First, we want to create more opportunities for Christian fellowship. In the near future, we will be planning a young adult and adult game night. Pizza, chips and desert will be provided. I am sure fun will be had by all. Let us remember what our lord has told us, when two or more are gathered in my name, I will be with you.

The second priority is worship music. We have been working with the music committee to explore reviving the choir and a possible praise band. Our music now is great, but we can improve on that. As the month of February ends, we pray that the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you all.

Missions Ministry*Fran Rogers*

The Missions Ministry met in January and will be collecting diapers during Lent to give out to various agencies in Norwich. These include Thames River Family Program, Madonna House, and St. Vincent de Paul Place. We will also be doing an ongoing collection of hygiene items for St. Vincent de Paul Place.

There will be a box located just outside the Parlor to place the various items. We will deliver the box when it gets full. Needed items include toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene maxi pads. Also, please note that we are collecting the America for Christ offering for the months of February and March.

On March 17, the Missions Ministry members as well as others in our church will be serving the community meal at St. Mark Lutheran Church on Broadway in Norwich. The Kane, Barber, and Rogers families will be cooking and serving the meal. Anyone who might be willing to help serve, please let Pastor Jacqueline know.

The Missions Ministry is always looking for help and new ideas. We meet in the church parlor on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30.



Property Committee

Mark Rogers



The Property Committee is a group of talented and dedicated volunteer handymen, artisans, engineers, and hard workers who serve together to keep our church looking great.

One of the committee's recent accomplishments includes:

A new 75" television and a sound bar was added to support high quality sound during church services

Future Projects:

1. The sign for the church was damaged and has been temporarily repaired. The committee is looking for a suitable replacement.
2. Work continues on the sound system to improve the quality during streaming.
3. An intermittent leak in the roof at the front entrance is being investigated.

The Property Committee ensures that the church building, grounds and parking lot are well kept. The committee also makes decisions about the use of the building.

Celebrating Past Events



A great time of fellowship was had by all at October's Women's luncheon. Ladies feasted on Butternut Squash Soup, sandwiches and delicious desserts while discussing Rebekah Lyons' book, *Rhythms of Renewal*.



Emerald, Nancy, Bonnie, Karen, Fran



Jennifer

Hangin' of the Greens

Every year we come together to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. When we are finished decorating, it is absolutely beautiful! The decorating team had so much fun that they cannot wait for this Christmas. See you the same time, same place next year preparing for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



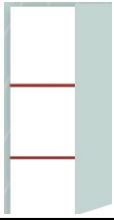
Wendy, Betsey, and Nancy



Pete, Mark, and Nancy

David





Advent Season 2023

Oh how we love Advent! The season reminds us of the importance of Christ in our lives. This joyous time helps us celebrate Christ's birth and his second coming. During the weeks of remembering and rejoicing the arrival of Jesus on Earth, the Meyer, Calkins, Ambruso, Chapin, Mariano and Adams families lit the Advent candles. We thank God for our dedicated families.



The Meyer Family



The Calkins Family



The Ambruso Family



The Chapin Family



The Mariano Family



The Adams Family

Christmas 2023

The Christmas Play

At First Baptist, it would not be Christmas without our annual Christmas play. Hats off to Pam Kane for the great job she did directing our cast of talented actors.

The nativity story told us about Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem where Mary gives birth to the baby Jesus and receives visits from the shepherds and wise men.



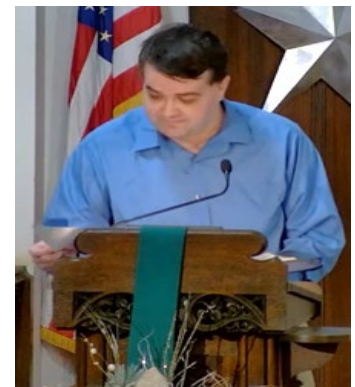
Christmas Eve Service

The scene was set and the sanctuary was decorated. Christmas carols were sung, scriptures were read, and the message was delivered. Everything was simply spectacular for family and friends who came to First Baptist to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



Cheryl, Cynthia, Nancy and Mary

Kevin Mariano

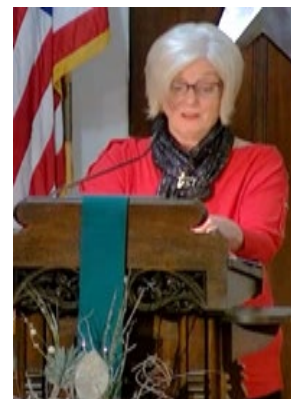


Brandon

Mary and Emma



Karen



Our Church Family

Welcome New Members

In December 2023, after their confession of faith and meeting with the pastor and deacons, the right hand of fellowship was extended to our new members, David Chapin and Tina Harvey. Muriel, Greg and other members welcomed them to the First Baptist family.



David, Tina and Mark Kane



Tina, Muriel, David and Greg

Children's Moments

Children's moment is a fun time for our children to become better acquainted with scripture, prayer and Bible stories. Their participation helps them develop a deeper understanding of their faith and feel more included in the service.



Church Partners

Adult and Teen Challenge of Connecticut



On Sunday, January 28, we enjoyed a great day of ministry and testimonies as we welcomed the Christian faith-based Adult & Teen Challenge of Connecticut from Moodus, Connecticut! Their men's choir sang *Graves Into Garden*, *Overflow* and *Gratitude*. Powerful testimonies were given by Justin, Yvette and Jeffrey!

We look forward to them returning next year on February 9th to tell us more about their rehabilitation services for people struggling with addiction.

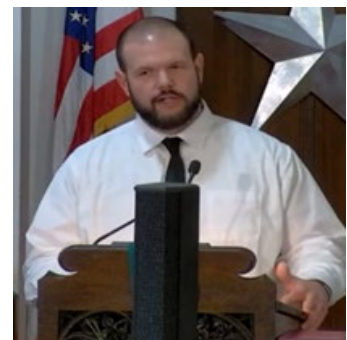
Men's Choir



Justin



Yvette



Jeffrey

Sharing & Caring

Servants Celebration

“Give honor to whom honor is due.” Romans 13:7



On Sunday, February 25th, we recognized Pete Adams and Mark Rogers for the outstanding work they do for the church. We thank God for them and all their commitment to First Baptist. May God bless them!

Youth Accomplishments

Congratulations to Emma Meyer (12) for coming in 5th place overall out of 72 swimmers in the 11-12 Girls session at the Newport Pentathlon swim meet on February 4th! We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you and Hailey Meyer (10) the best of luck in your league championship on March 2nd.



Emma Meyer 5th Place

In Loving Memory



Jean Bergendahl

Bruce Thornton



Rev. Gregory Perry

Lenten Season & Worship



Lenten Service.....Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. ...First Baptist Church
 Blessing of the Palms.....Sunday, March 24 at 8:45 a.m.Chelsea Parade
 Palm Sunday Church Service.....Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m.First Baptist Church
 Maundy Thursday Church Service...Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.First Baptist Church
 Good Friday Way of the Cross.....Friday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m.Chelsea Parade
 Sunrise Service.....Sunday, March 31 at 6:32 a.m.First Baptist (front lawn)
 Easter Service.....Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.First Baptist Church



“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” ~ Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday Worship

Please invite your friends, neighbors and strangers to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a. m. We have hymns, prayer and sharing from God's word.

Weekly Bible Study

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Are you looking to get closer to God and become more intimate with His Holy Word? Do you want to take your faith to the next level? If you answered yes, join us for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

Prayer

We hold a morning prayer meeting in person every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. The Prayer Ministry holds a prayer meeting every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. via the church Zoom. The call-in number is (807) 480-4481. 239239 is the code. Please join us when you are able.

Connecting with MembersMarch Birthdays

Muriel Roderick	March 2
Cynthia Costa	March 2
Mark Ambruso	March 13
Caleb Dutrumble	March 20
Betsey Adams	March 22

April Birthdays

Rachel Weimer	April 4
Frank Royce	April 5
June Deptulski	April 7
Joann Cirrito	April 10
Pete Adams	April 11
Kevin Bell	April 29

May Birthdays

Sarah Henry	May 5
Trinity Ambruso	May 5
Jennifer LaFlamme	May 7
Sharon Fishkin	May 8
Adam Dutrumble	May 20
Bette Royce	May 23
Amy Meyer	May 26
Greg Williams	May 30

Anniversaries

Frank & Bette Royce	March 18
Cheryl & Dan Dutrumble	March 25
Bob & Lucy Calkins	April 16
Helen & Bob Walker	May 27

Please Keep In Touch

June Deptulski, Barbara Bray, Janet Vickers,
Marge Booth, Helen and Bob Walker

