

First Baptist Church of Central Square

February 2024

701 North Main Street
P.O. Box 476
Central Square, NY 13036

www.fbc-cs.com
315-668-2138
fbccsny@gmail.com

Birthdays:

Phil Vanderlinden 11
Victor Vrooman 14
MacKenzie Grace Casatelli 14

Anniversaries:

Phyllis & Craig Wilson 14

Please submit witness articles and prayer requests to

fbccsny@gmail.com

Fun Fact: This will be my 8th year producing The Witness! - Rebekah

Watch Past Services

<http://www.fbc-cs.com/media.htm>

Sunday School

We will start again soon!

Christian Education

No update this month.

Diaconate Updates

It is already one month gone in 2024. If you are reading this, then God has blessed your beginning of the New Year...so go ahead and please celebrate!!

That is the positive of a new start, but the fact that over 30 of our members or friends are still on our prayer list and need all of us to continue praying for their well-being. Looking forward to this month in our "Thankful New Year" let's be glad together we have an additional 24 hours on February 29th to show that we can be "BBB" (Baptists Being Better) .

Your Diaconate and Pastor Lillian continue monthly to share Communion Elements on the first Sunday and occasionally assist with the Community Free Lunch on the 4th Wednesday. Further outreach includes a card ministry, phone and e-mail contacts, personal visits and, finally, occasional worship assistance and more. If you know of needs, please notify: Pastor Lillian, Rich Mizerski, Maggie Heitmann or Don Haury.

And, the Deacon's Fund is always there for support and assistance supported by donations from the big hearts of our fellowship. Our little church continues to reach out as if we were much larger!!

THANK GOD!! AMEN!

Your Diaconate

Trustee Updates

Please consider getting needed supplies for the church.

Women's Group

Join us at **10am** on February 10th, 2024 at Good Gollys for a special breakfast and fellowship! Women will pay their own breakfast bill.



Food Pantry - Pasta, Sauce, Toilet Paper

Free Lunch - Feb 28
(Goulash - Noon - 1pm)

Chicken and Biscuit Fundraiser - Feb 24th
Chicken - \$12 Each



FBC Giving Tree
Take a leaf...fill a need!

There are many little items that keep our church functioning and clean. Please stop by the table and grab a leaf to help support us financially.

Most items are probably a duplicate item on your shopping list!

If you are unable to stop by and grab a leaf or two and still want to support our fundraiser you can give any monetary amount by mailing it to the church:

First Baptist Church of CS
PO Box 476
Central Square, NY, 13036
Attn: Cherie House/Money Tree Fundraiser

These funds will be used for larger projects that the Trustees are working on.

Fundraising Committee

Be on the lookout for upcoming fundraisers!



From the Pastor

As I sit here contemplating my thoughts for February 2024, I'm feeling the chill of the drizzly, gloomy day. But the good news is, tomorrow is GroundHog Day and it is something to look forward to. Tomorrow Phil will emerge from his hibernation to let us know whether winter is over or if we must continue to endure it. Really? With all the modern technology available we are still looking to a ground hog for a weather prediction??

I don't have much faith in Phil. For one thing, he lives in Pennsylvania and that is a whole different weather world than we live in here in upstate New York. I have more faith in the wooly worm. Now there's something I can believe in!

Faith: the writer of Hebrews tells us: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

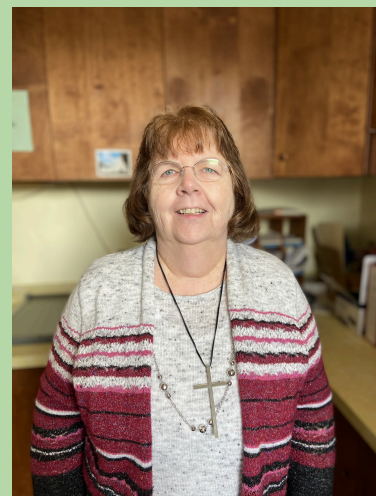
Hmmm. Well that's some food for thought. If I see a wooly worm in the fall, I can hope that the distance of the black on its back is short indicating a short winter. But am I certain? I really can't see the future or the weather patterns.

It's for better to put my faith in the creator of all people and things. He is faithful and His Word has been shown true throughout the history of mankind. The groundhog and the wooly worm aren't as dependable as our God. Praise be to our God and Savior Jesus Christ. In Him we can put our trust and faith. Amen.

Pastor Lilly



From our Pastor



The Christian Origins of Groundhog Day

By Conejo Guardian



Groundhog Day may seem like a comical product of the modern era, but its roots actually stretch back to when Christians celebrated the purification of the infant Jesus on that early February day.

February 2 is roughly equidistant between the winter solstice and spring equinox and has been observed by many ancient peoples. The Celts celebrated February 2 — Imbolc, they called it — as the first day of spring, and records of these Celtic celebrations date back to the tenth century A.D.

Christians have celebrated Candlemas on February 2 as the day Mary brought Jesus to the Temple to be dedicated to God, and this is where Groundhog Day traces its beginning. In accordance with Jewish law, Mary brought Jesus to the Temple to be presented to God 40 days after his birth, which is observed on December 25. February 2 marked the fortieth day and was thus the day for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Some believe the name “Candlemas” comes from when Simeon held the Savior and declared Jesus is the light of the world. Candles handed out in church services or brought by lay people to be blessed hearken back to this truth of God’s nature.

As the date coincides with the coming of spring, traditions of predicting weather grew up around the holiday. If the sun came out, people began to believe there would be a long winter; if the sun remained hidden, they hoped and believed that spring would come. Romans brought the holiday north to the Germanic tribes, and the Germans developed the day into what we now recognize as Groundhog Day: if the badger, hedgehog or other animal popped out of his hole and saw his shadow, winter continued, they said. If he didn’t see his shadow, spring was approaching.

German immigrants brought the tradition with them to the new world and chose the American groundhog to foretell their seasons. In 1887, the holiday was first officially celebrated in Punxsutawney, Pa., and is celebrated to this day with the groundhog predicting the weather in the holiday’s American hometown.

While a groundhog playing weatherman is a far cry from the presentation of Jesus Christ at the Temple, this fun holiday is rooted in a spiritual celebration of new life.



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This is your copy of *The FBC Witness*:

