

First Baptist Church of Central Square

January 2024

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

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

Birthdays:

Karl Backman 1
Maizie Jane Casatelli 3
Emily Schaefer 6
Lynn Cuny 9
Mark Heitmann 22
Kay Springer 25

Anniversaries:

Maggie & Scott Heitmann 30

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

Thank you for all the support with the white gifts! Because of you all, 5 families were able to have a wonderful Christmas!

Diaconate Updates

The final month of 2023 has presented some challenges as well as celebrations. There have been some family members of both church members and community persons where final journeys were made. Your Diaconate responded with luncheons, miscellaneous arrangements where needed. Celebrations were also recognized personally, via e-mail and/or regular mail.

Food and other Holiday needs were answered through many of your donations and in partnership with the local combined food bank and miscellaneous needs.

The monthly free lunch on the 4th Wednesday of each month continues as our reach-out to the entire community. We're seeing real growth in attendance!

We have made good use of the shawl ministry, sharing them with family members where final journeys happened. That provided the comfort and love Christ gave to use in their lives.

Our Church Christmas Tree and sanctuary decorations gave the entire community a welcoming atmosphere joining the season of Jesus' Birth.

As your Diaconate we are looking forward to 2024 as new beginnings...continuing to welcome all. We have seen or been in contact with those we haven't seen in a while. That will continue! So...we need you to continue staying in touch by contacting: Pastor Lilly, Rich Mizerski, Maggie Heitmann or Don Haury. Do you need our e-mail addresses or phones? If so, contact the church office at: 315-668-2138 or e-mail at: fbccsny@gmail.com! God Bless Us All and have a Happy and Joyous/Comforting New Year 2024!!!



Food Pantry - Cereal & Canned Fruit

Free Lunch -



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.

Trustee Updates

Please consider getting needed supplies for the church.

Women's Group



Please see Maggie.

Fundraising Committee

Be on the lookout for upcoming fundraisers!



From the Pastor

Be still and know I am God. Psalm 46:10

In this busy time of year, the psalmist offers this Word from God. Lately, my brother has been lamenting on his honey-do list. It seems to get longer instead of shorter. It reminds me of a jingle from the days of Captain Kangaroo. "I'm busy doing nothing; working the whole day through..." I'd have to google the rest of the words, if I really cared enough to sing it. But that's how our lives go. We work and work and we are still behind. It seems we have been busy doing nothing. We never seemed to catch up enough to discard that honey-do list.

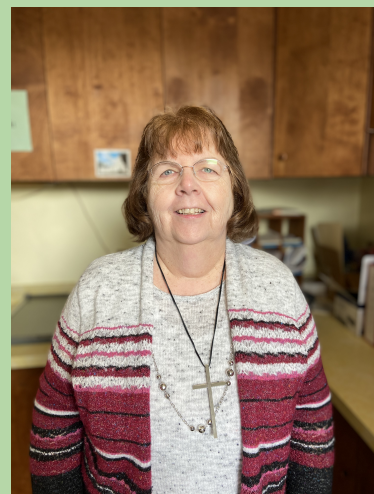
That is especially relevant at this time of year. So much to do; so little time. Well maybe we should be like the stores and start sooner. Just kidding. Seeing the shelves filled with Christmas things before Halloween rankles my nerve endings.

Sometimes we do remember the "reason for the season". When we take time to bask in the presence of God, we are blessed. Unfortunately, we only grab a moment here and there between the hectic preparations. This is not God's plan. He commanded a time of Sabbath. Sabbath means rest. He wants more than anything else for us to rest in Him. So my advice for this month is to put God on your calendar. Give Him some extra time to rest with Him and then maybe you won't be tearing your hair out by the time Christmas Day comes. Yes, it's important for us to be prepared but will 15, 30, or 60 minutes spent with God really keep us from accomplishing all we THINK we have to get done? I think not. Trust Him, He'll help you get it done.

Have a blessed month, resting with Jesus, preparing for His return and celebrating His birth.

Pastor Lilly

From our Pastor



★
glory
to IN
God THE
highest
AND
ON EARTH
peace
&
good will
TO ALL
LUKE 2:14

Welcome January

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life.

January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

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January 2024
This is your copy of *The FBC Witness*:





"To Remind the World of the
Love Jesus Gave"

'Twas the night before
Christmas
and all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.
And on goes the story
about Christmas Eve
And the jolly old man in whom we believe.

Have you even wondered how Santa came to be?
So important to Christmas and to you and to me?
Well, it all began a long time ago,
The night before Christ to earth was to go.

All prepared to make Christ's birth well announced,
With angels and music and anthems pronounced.
But alas, all had forgotten in the final rush
How to make Christ's birthday remembered to us.

The kingdom was searched for the most excellent plan
That would help us remember Gods gift to man.
A saintly old fellow, so jolly and gay
Came up with the best plan that was offered that day.

He said; Send a fellow each year at this time
Who would help people be happy and comfort their minds;
He could help man remember that God loves us so
By bringing presents to both friend and foe.

"He would show by example that true love and joy
Come only when shared with each girl and each boy."
Heaven decided that Santa's plan would be just right,
And Santa was asked to play the part that very first night.

So from the first Christmas right down to today,
When one heard the bells jingling and saw the big sleigh,
They knew it was Santa making his way
To remind the world of the love Jesus gave.

So, this night before Christmas
when you hear Santa come,
Remember he's doing it for the
love of Gods Son.
Remember that he teaches
as did Christ of old
That to give of ones self is
more precious than gold.

(Author Unknown)

