



**Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School for All Ages: 11:00 a.m.**

## **FINAL HARVEST IN CONCERT AT FBC**



The message of Final Harvest: God will send to His Church an unquenchable fire. The wind of the Holy Spirit will cause it to burn hotter than on the day of Pentecost, and spread rapidly. It will spread with fury and devour all that is not holy. Then He will send the latter rain, wash away the dross, refresh and make new. The Glory of the Lord will be seen by the entire world and manifested through His Church. There begins the end time harvest.

This message burns in the heart of Final Harvest as they seriously pursue communicating the gospel of Jesus, the Messiah; the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb. 13:8. Through their unique and intricate harmonies, this gospel and message of God's last call for His final harvest has been their focal point since 2006.

Their wide range of music style includes southern gospel, contemporary and original classical inspirational. Though each person is assigned a part, they often switch parts as needed, confusing everyone listening.

Join us on Saturday, August 9 @ 7 p.m. for this **free** event that promises to be uplifting, inspiring and FUN! A Love Offering will be collected. Final Harvest will also lead our morning worship on August 10.

## **AT FIRST BAPTIST**

**Interim Senior Pastor**

Ivan Crossno

**Secretary; Keyboards**

Penny Sorokes

**Minister of Music**

Sue Neely VanBrunt

**Audio Visual Specialist**

Casey Sage

**Custodian**

Rachel Green

**PHONE: 716- 372-5151**

**EMAIL: [ofbc133@gmail.com](mailto:ofbc133@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITE: [oleanfirstbaptist.com](http://oleanfirstbaptist.com)**

**FACEBOOK: [oleanfirstbaptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oleanfirstbaptistchurch)**



The Board of Christian Education is excited to announce this summer's Vacation Bible –“Magnified” – will be held August 1-3

inviting us to take a closer look at the details of God's amazing world and to magnify—or proclaim—the greatness of God in all we see and do.

The Board will also be hosting a luncheon on Sunday, August 3, at Noon, right after Sunday school. All are welcome to attend and enjoy this fellowship time together. Registration to attend or volunteer and a donation list will be outside the Board of Education office in the weeks ahead.

## ***A Musical Note***



### ***Summer is a time for music!***

Music is always in season!! During the summer, our Sr. Choir and In One A-Chord Handbell Choir take a well-earned break. This provides an opportunity to hear a variety of wonderful vocal and instrumental special music during worship. As always, we encourage you to lift your voice in praise during congregational songs that will include many of your favorites!

You can look forward to hearing music by our Sr. Choir, Final Harvest trio, Jim Molyneaux, Jeanette Butler, Karen Goodwin, Kate Eifert, 3:16 Praise & Worship, Ken Boser, Jim Sorokes, Dave Deitz, Jerry Nutt III, Lindsay Cummings, Penny Sorokes & Sharon Boser, Mike Schultz and Yvonne Perry Clark.

*Sing'cerely, Sue Neely VanBrunt, Minister of Music*

# The Family of God

Alexandra Freer is recovering at home from a recent surgery. If you would like to send a note or a card to offer your encouragement, her address is:

303 Yardman  
Cuba, NY 14727



## JULY/AUGUST BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

**Monday, July 14 @ 5:00 pm**  
Board of CE @ Lori Funden's house

**Tuesday, July 15 @ 6:30 pm**  
Trustees

**Tuesday, July 29 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
Ad Council

**Tuesday, Aug. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
Trustees



**Update your contact info!**

If you've made any changes to your mailing address, home phone or cellphone number, or email address.....

Please call the church office to update your information

**Updated Church Family Directories** will be prepared on July 2. Copies will be available in the Church Office.

The *Ladies Wednesday Bible Study* will be on pause during the months of July and August. The group will resume their studies at 9:30 am on Wednesday, September 3. Please join us then and in the meantime enjoy the beautiful world God created for us!  
Rita Wymer



The Olean area **MEALS ON WHEELS** program is experiencing a critical shortage of volunteers –

in particular to deliver meals.

Please call 1-716-373-8032 if you can help.

## THOSE LITTLE PINK ENVELOPES IN THE PEW RACKS...

What are they for???

The funds collected through your donations using the pink envelopes are used to offer support to OFBC members with emergency needs. Perhaps the need is utility bills, a medical emergency, or groceries. We all experience unexpected financial needs from time to time. Your church family is here to help! Simply let a member of the Diaconate know if you need a helping hand. We'll do our best to be of assistance. So please take a moment, consider donating through the pink envelopes – it allows us to show the love of Christ to our members when they need it most!



If you would like a CD copy of a recent worship service or sermon, please use an order slip found on the table in the church office to place your order. Cost is \$5/cd

## Pastor Search Update

The Search Committee continues to work to find the pastor God intends for Olean FBC. We have had several applications that are of interest and are pursuing them by checking their educational background, professional experience, statements of faith, and listening to samples of sermons. We are also conducting conversations with some applicants via Zoom on-line meetings. We remain hopeful that we will have a candidate to present to the FBC congregation for your consideration sooner than later!



**OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day!!



**INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF AT FIRST BAPTIST ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, AUGUST 14.**



## Memories of Bygone Days of White Cross By Rita Wymer

*White Cross supports vital needs around the world to promote Health and Wellness, Education and Abolishing Global Slavery.*

Probably the first memory of someone doing White Cross was watching my sister knitting string (cotton of course) into mittens to be sent to a leper colony in India. Many pair of all sizes of these mittens were sent from First Baptist of Salamanca. But my first memory of being involved in White Cross myself was when I was in 7th grade.

At one of the Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) meetings, a lady from the church came with five used cotton bed sheets. These sheets had the salvage edges torn off, the hems opened and the top of the sheets clipped every three inches. She told our group we were to tear the sheet at each clip into strips. As we worked, she told us about a clinic in Vellore, India, that needed bandages and other supplies. She explained the strips we tore would have the end overlapped and hand stitched into 10-yard strips and rolled into bandages. She then showed us a finished bandage and that we were a part in the making of needed bandages to be sent to Vellore.

Since that time, I must have prepared sheets, torn and rolled a few hundred bandages of different sizes for clinics and hospitals in India, Burma, Congo, and



Philippines. Many of you remember making these bandages! We also sent other supplies: surgical caps, masks, lab coats, patient gowns and squares of different sizes of sheets used to clean and cover wounds or to cover containers of water or bottles.

These squares kept bugs out of the patient's drinking water and baby bottles, enclosed pills and all sorts of things. The squares were sent in staked piles of 50 and tied after putting a threaded needle through the center of the square and back up through it while keeping the pile square. The thread ends were tied in a ½ bow to be easy to untie. The squares could be from one inch to nine inches square.

There were other items made—wrappers for instruments, baby layettes, gauze squares cut and folded four thicknesses then bundled in 50s and tied as other squares. (I never enjoyed making and tying these.)

Another project for the Philippines was patchwork pieces 5"x7". The government would not allow yard goods sent in but would allow patchwork pieces made of cotton. These were cut from scraps. (Most of the moms made clothing for the family so had pieces left over.) These pieces were bundled in stacks of 100 and tied as the bandage squares were. When the pieces arrived at the mission station, the native women would hand stitch them into clothing, bedding, pillowcases, curtains or whatever the need was. As they worked, the missionary would teach the Bible to them.

Each church received an overseas request and an overland request from the National Board divided to the states then the associations, then to the churches. The missionaries would have sent their needs to the National Board to be divided down. A few of the over-land missions I remember re Upstate Home for Children, an orphanage in the beginning, now Springbrook, helping handicapped children and adults. Bacon School and College for Native Americans, still open now for anyone to attend. Many Christian centers helping children and adults like Dayton Christian Center in Ohio, The Place in New York and Camron Children's Center in Rochester, New York.

The last few years before COVID, Olean First Baptist had received requests for Camron Community Christian Center. Each year there were requests for school supplies, games, clothing, household needs, hygiene items, etc. Remember the Christmas tree in August, decorated with tags with items requested for the center? The last year we had requests for Camron, Nancy Taylor and I delivered the items to Camron and toured the center. It is amazing all they do!

After COVID, White Cross was changed from sending items to sending money for the needs of our missionaries. There will be a table set up in the FBC lobby to receive donations for White Cross for two weeks during the month of September.

NOTE: Vellore Hospital is now one of the most respected teaching hospitals in India. All started because of our missionaries going to India to heal the sick while teaching about Jesus, then training nurses and doctors to also heal others!







Now that we are halfway through 2025....how is that possible?.....the Trustees want to update the congregation on our 2025 giving levels. While we are meeting our responsibilities (largely due to underspending by our boards and committees), the overall giving is behind in all three areas of our budget. The General Fund is behind schedule by \$7,200.00; the Capital Fund by \$3,300.00; and the Mission Fund by \$4,000.00. Individual giving statements will be issued in early July so please check them for accuracy and talk with Penny if you find errors. If you are a bit behind in your pledge, please prayerfully consider catching up as you are able.

## AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Many have been asking about the progress (or lack thereof) on the aggregate replacement effort. The work on the New Testament window has been completed except for some minor modifications that can be addressed by volunteers at our church. The upgrade of the Old Testament window is also complete. However, for a variety of reasons (including an unacceptable increase in the cost for the additional work and the declining health of the contractor), the Trustees decided to hire a new contractor to continue the work. A new, more cost-effective proposal has been submitted, and work should start very soon on the remainder of the windows. The new contractor will also upgrade the roof to eliminate the repeated leaking issues we have been experiencing, especially in the front of the sanctuary.

There has been progress on the digital sign project. The new sign has been ordered and is scheduled to be shipped from the manufacturer in early August. Our new contractor will be installing the footer at the north end of the Fellowship Hall wing. Arrangements must also be made to have equipment available to unload the sign from the truck when it arrives in August and to install the sign on the footer. Please note that the cost of the sign was covered by the generous donation of a church member, but the cost of the footer, electrical wiring, etc. was not covered.

We will be receiving an assessment of these costs from the contractor.

Please be in prayer for both activities... the building upgrade and the digital sign installation. Also, if anyone feels moved to make a donation toward these efforts, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees [Matt Sage (chair), Dana Boser, Jerry Nutt, Pam Nutt, Geoff O'Dell, Penny Sorokes, Jim Sorokes]. However, such donations should never be made in lieu of your normal church offering. Our church must still cover our normal expenses, and those expenses will continue to increase, especially when we install a new senior pastor.

-The Board of Trustees

## 2025 Give 716

We are excited to announce the return of Give 716 for its 5th year in 2025," said event organizers Michelle Roberts (Buffalo Bills Foundation) and Rich Jureller (Buffalo Sabres Foundation). "As we celebrate the 5th anniversary of Give 716 this summer, we look forward to partnering with hundreds of the wonderful charities that make our community a great place to live and to create an exciting campaign that will entice Buffalonians far and wide to support these special organizations.

"Buffalo's Give 716 will begin at 7:16 p.m. on July 15 and run until 11:59 p.m. on July 16. This is a great opportunity to support We Are His Hands. On a daily basis at the church, we receive calls or visits from local community members needing help with purchasing groceries or other essentials. The We Are His Hands fund provides an opportunity to assist with the needs of people particularly in the areas of food security and other basic human needs. Tell friends about our page and help to support our cause. To donate, go to [www.give716.org](http://www.give716.org) and click on "Find a Charity".





I possess like many preachers a great ability to bloviate (if you are not familiar with that Word, look it up—just don't use it to my face because if you say it to me, it will hurt my feelings-sensitive soul that I am). Sometimes I can throw words around that are not familiar to some in the church. Some of you have asked me what I mean when I say 'Evangelical' as in 'we are an Evangelical Baptist church'. Let me try and briefly define what I mean by paraphrasing two of my favorite writers on the subject. The two writers are J.I. Packer and D.W. Bebbington. They are oriented to British Evangelicals, but their definitions would fit most of us who think of ourselves as Evangelicals in the United States. According to Packer there are six Evangelical essentials:

- 1) The supremacy of Holy Scripture because it is 'inspired' by the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the God who died the only truly meritorious and substitutionary death for sinners.
- 3) The vital leadership of the Holy Spirit who equips and empowers the people of God for mission and ministry.
- 4) The necessity of conversion which entails a direct encounter with God originating in his grace.
- 5) The priority of evangelism with a focus on the need for personal conversion.
- 6) The importance of fellowship which expresses the idea that the church is a living organism and a living community who have believed in Jesus Christ.

David Bebbington in his massive study called Evangelicalism in Modern Britain offered four main tenets of Evangelicalism:

- 1) Conversionism means that lives need to be changed.
- 2) Activism which means the gospel lived and actively shared.
- 3) Biblicism or a very high view of the Bible.
- 4) Crucicentrism or a stress on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Personally, I prefer Packer to Bebbington, but they are making points that are interrelated. I have heard and read that you could summarize all of the above essentials in Trinitarian formula something like this:

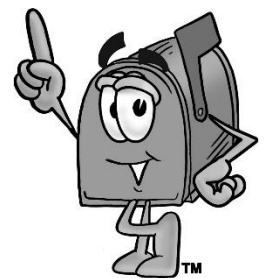
- The Revealing Initiative of God the Father.
- The Redeeming Work of God the Son.

□ The Transforming Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of how you phrase or breakdown Evangelicalism it begins in the Gospel. An Evangelical is a person from, of and for the Gospel. So, the question to each of us is are we a person who can be described with the above? I hope so. There are other choices such as Fundamentalism or Liberalism. Sadly, the Protestant church in America has opted in many quarters for Fundamentalism or Liberalism and the result has been the decline and marginalization of these churches in our culture. It is my hope that OFBC will wear the label of Evangelical with a full awareness of what it means in terms of identifying us and at the same time informing us of what we need to be about as a church.

Pastor Crossno

### *The Church Family Mailbox*

*is located just outside the church office door. Be sure to check it out and find the slot with your name. You'll be able to find your copy of the At First Baptist there as well as other messages and mailings. Your cooperation enables us to save money on postage expense during the year. **Please** do not use your slot to store personal items – it makes it difficult (or impossible) to insert necessary communications.*



*Also, remember that the **information tower** near the office window contains copies of recent board minutes from the monthly meetings of our church boards (Trustees, Diaconate, Christian Education, Christian Missions and Advisory Council) as well as forms for building use, scholarship applications, and more. This is an important way to stay up-to-date on the happenings/workings of the church. Please help yourself to a copy. If you find that something is not available, please leave a note in Penny's office mailbox, send a message to [ofbc133@gmail.com](mailto:ofbc133@gmail.com).*





## THE ASST MODERATOR MUSINGS

This is another one of those Musings in which there are numerous topics addressed because the Assistant Moderator has a lot on his

mind! So rather than spend any more time explaining why, let's just get right to it...

I was very impressed by the three teenage young ladies who sang "Praise" during the Youth & Children's service in June. I am referring to Leah O'Dell, Cheyenne Rust, and Abby Rust! Based on the initial rehearsal, I was a bit apprehensive about how things would go, but hoooweee, was I ever wrong!! They sounded wonderful and made me feel honored to have the opportunity to accompany them! And then Leah gave a well-organized and very well-delivered message! They all gave me a feeling that our future might be in good hands!! Their parents also deserve some praise for raising such talented daughters!

Speaking of talents, our Seekers Class has been doing a study based on a video series by Chip Ingram. The title is "Your Divine Design – How to Discover, Develop, and Deploy Your Spiritual Gifts." The material has been very thought-provoking, and we are to the part in the study where we try to identify our primary gift. Pastor Ingram believes that there are seven, what he characterizes as, "motivational" gifts... those activities that seem to energize us and when used can bring fulfillment and fruitfulness to our ministries or walk with God. Those include prophesy, service, teaching, encouragement (or exhortation), giving, leadership, and mercy. Chip suggests that we all likely have more than one of those seven gifts, but there is one that will outweigh the others. As we were discussing this, many in our class suggested that it is sometimes difficult for people to see their own spiritual gifts and, often, others can see them in us better than we can see them in ourselves. I think there is a LOT of truth in that... especially in people who are humble and don't want to draw attention to what they do to further the kingdom of God. And yet, I also firmly believe that each and every one of us has one or more of these gifts. But I also agree with Pastor Ingram that we shouldn't expect to have the same spiritual gifts as others. And someone who is not gifted in a certain area will only get frustrated if they try to use a spiritual gift they don't have. It's like the old saying

says, "You can't be everything to everybody." Attempting to do so will do more damage than good. Anyway, as I looked around the Seekers classroom, I think I could identify at least one spiritual gift for nearly every person in the class that day, but I wondered if they would identify the same gift in themselves? In coming sessions, we'll be discussing how to build or grow our spiritual gifts. And at some point, we'll be taking a spiritual gifts survey. If you are interested in taking the survey, please let me know.

As many of you know, my Mom (Helen Sorokes) was in the hospital recently after experiencing a serious medical event. In fact, we weren't sure she was going to survive this one... but God had other plans and thanks to the prayers from members of our church and those from her home church (St. Mary's), she recovered and was able to return to The Pines in Olean. Please accept my sincere gratitude for your support. And to the ladies and gentlemen (you know who you are) who visited her either in the hospital or The Pines, God bless you!

Finally, on a sad note, by the time you read this article, our beloved German Shepherd, Selah, will have moved on to wherever pets go after they pass away. There was a movie, "All Dogs Go to Heaven" and I hope that is true, because that means we have a chance to see her again one day. She was with us for almost 11 years and was our constant companion and source of entertainment around home. I know many will suggest that she was "just a dog," but those folks don't truly understand the special connection that forms between people and their pets... especially dogs (with apologies to cat lovers). It has often been suggested that dogs (if raised correctly and given half a chance) are the truest example of unconditional love. And I think that is the reason why dog is God spelled backward. Rest well, puppy dog!

Still listening for that still small voice,  
-Jim Sorokes  
Assistant Moderator





## *Wake Up Calls Come In Various Packages*

We often wonder, “How DOES God still speak?” We know He spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Genesis notes how God actually called out to them, “Where are you?” after they had sinned and went into hiding. But you don’t hide from God. He’ll find you.

He spoke to Moses on the mountain, from a burning bush, making clear what He wanted from this reluctant but appointed servant. Prophets of old heard from God in some way. The Bible often says, “God spoke to” one anointed prophet or another.

Today, we sometimes discuss how we can hear God’s voice. Most of the time in these days, it is not a spoken voice, although a few believe they have heard one, either from God or an angel. Occasionally, we get a message (or get the point at least) when He places someone in front of us that brings our thinking or actions forward on something we may have been feeling we are supposed to do, but aren’t quite sure. Mostly we hear through impressed thoughts from the Holy Spirit when we rely on His guiding light as we read the Bible. When we are ready for a certain revelation, He’ll highlight it in a way we can’t miss it, even if we’ve read over the same words 100 times. When we pray, if we are still, those impressed thoughts, inclinations and nudges can bring clarity to whatever we are going through.

I have noticed that sometimes it is through a “forced” stillness that I feel closest to God, like during my recent illness. After a diagnosis of diverticulitis, I underwent some super strong antibiotic treatments that left me nauseous for more than a week, even with another med meant to help, then had a hard time once the meds were done. I would sit in my chair most of the day, unable to do much. No TV, no reading as these made me dizzy. Nights brought a stark sleeplessness, also part of the medicine effects. Liquids became my mainstay for a while. This is recommended to let the stomach and body rest from the work of processing food. On days I felt kind of okay, my stomach growled. I was hungry! But I didn’t dare try to eat anything solid but a few bites of dry toast washed down with a liquid.

During one of those bouts of belly rumbles, I cried out to God. “I’m sooo hungry!” I lamented. And He used it as a teaching moment. With one of those “impressed thoughts,” He gently reminded me that while my hunger was real, I could look forward to better days when I could actually eat some of the food in my storehouses. He pointed to individuals across the world—and in our own community—for

whom hunger is a daily challenge, real hunger. The nudge was not to forget how it felt and use it as impetus to help others.

I’ve been hearing that contributions placed in our food barrels at First Baptist have been much lower than in previous times. Of course, we’re all struggling with higher food prices, but what about those whose paychecks are already depleted before they get through a month not knowing where their next meal will come from? Those who can’t find work or are unable to? A picture in my head of those empty or near-empty barrels reminded me I haven’t donated in a long time.

I understand the hygiene bag donations have also been way down. The need hasn’t disappeared, not by a long shot. We have volunteers at FBC who work tirelessly to both feed and supply necessities for down and out members of our community. No one wants to see the ministry stopped. Others in the community know our church through these programs. I am still trying to get back to my old self in a slow recovery process. I can eat a few more things now, cautious to keep it to foods that won’t aggravate my condition. But one thing I plan to do now is get back to making regular attempts to fill up the barrels. When God gives a wake-up call, it’s a good idea to heed the still, small voice, however it comes, and obey!

*Deb Wuethrich*

### **GENESIS HOUSE** **PERPETUAL WISH LIST**

#### **Women/Men/Children**

Personal Care Items: Deodorant, Razors, Shampoo,  
Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Body Lotion

Diapers

Clean Winter Coats

#### **Household and Move-Out Items**

Cleaning Supplies, Paper Products, Dish Soap,  
Laundry Soap, New Pillows, Bath Towels, Wash  
Cloths, Dish Towels, Brooms, Mops, Working  
Vacuums, Pots, Pans, Crockpots, Spices, Dishes,  
Silverware, Cooking Utensils, Blankets, Sheet Sets

#### **AND Volunteers to meet a variety of needs**





## **JULY**

- 1 Aaron Ketchner  
Lynn Brown
- 2 Paul Horton
- 5 Kara Mascho  
Kelli Sorokes Bashford
- 7 David Hornburg
- 10 Joseph Funden
- 13 Summer Gayton  
Marilyn Voorhees
- 15 Laurie MacNeill
- 16 Judy Wightman  
Lorana Selph
- 17 Jarred Martin  
Tim Selph
- 18 Tim Spiller
- 21 Huntson Robert Franklin
- 22 Clarissa Spiller
- 28 Trevor Moore
- 29 Don Martin
- 30 Chad Ketchner

## **JULY**

- 2 Larry & Jill Selph  
Jerry & Cindy Nutt Jr.
- 7 Jerry & Pam Nutt
- 10 Geoff & Cheri O'Dell
- 22 Larry & Bonnie Kettle
- 24 Pastor Jason & Tiffany Hladik
- 26 David & Sharyn Hornburg

## **AUGUST**

- 3 Jack & Louise Croft
- 4 John & Sue Keim
- 5 Eli & Marcie Rust
- 7 Dana & Cari (Matejka) Boser
- 11 Terry & Alli Armstrong Schnell
- 25 Matt & Casey Sage
- 27 Steve & Chris Rosel
- 28 Tim & Elizabeth Spiller

## **AUGUST**

- 1 Jamie Geise  
Valerie Kane
- 3 Jagger Pascucci
- 4 Owen Heiler
- 11 Gail Winship
- 12 Mitchell Martin
- 19 Isaac Anderson
- 20 Erik Hartburg
- 23 Robert DeLong
- 25 Drew Taylor
- 31 Emily Schultz-Cone



### **GIVING TO INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES**

Would you like to give extra money to American Baptist International Ministries but feel money is too

tight right now? Here is an idea for you: Christian Community Credit Union issues an IM VISA Signature rewards card that donates thousands of dollars annually to International Ministries (IM). This is a regular credit card that earns rewards points for you for travel or merchandise. For each new card that is approved, IM receives \$50 plus additional donations every time the card is used. For more information call 1-800-347-2228 ext. 47777 or visit on line [myuccu.com/IMcard](http://myuccu.com/IMcard) and state that you are an American Baptist if asked.

