

JUNE 2026

“Striving to be the Church of Jesus Christ Where Every Member is a Minister”



AT FIRST BAPTIST

Senior Pastor
James P. Balson, Jr.
Secretary-OBX Division
Penny Sorokes
Audio Visual Specialist
Casey Sage

Minister of Music
Sue Neely VanBrunt
Organist
Jeanne Gross
Custodian
Rachel Green

PHONE: 716- 372-5151

EMAIL: ofbc133@gmail.com

WEBSITE: oleanfirstbaptist.com

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

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Faith and Fellowship Classes for All Ages: 11:00 a.m.



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 14!

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us for a special **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY** on **June 14!** Our worship service this morning will be uniquely led by our children and youth, sharing their faith and talents with the congregation. After worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a special Intergenerational Faith & Fellowship time led by Pastor Jim. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to connect and grow together before we share a meal. The Board of Education will be firing up the grill to provide hot dogs and hamburgers. We invite the congregation to bring along their favorite side dishes or desserts to share. All are welcome!!

VBS – Watch Sunday bulletins for details on this year’s Vacation Bible School, tentatively scheduled for August 7-9.

The Board of Education would like to honor the educational achievements of our congregation! If you or a family member is celebrating a milestone—such as a graduation (Pre-K through University), a new certification, or an academic honor—we want to recognize you on June 28th. Please submit the student’s name, school, and milestone details to the church office by **June 7**.



June 21 will be a special day at First Baptist as we celebrate our fathers. The Board of Christian Education will present gifts and the Hospitality Committee will offer great refreshments.



WORSHIP/STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking for additional opportunities to engage in a Bible study or worship time beyond our Sunday morning service (9:30 a.m. with Faith & Fellowship at 11 a.m.), you might want to consider the following regular activities:

9:30 a.m. Monday Morning Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Ladies Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Pause for Power

The Family of God



We extend **LOVE AND SYMPATHY** to Gail Winship on the recent loss of her granddaughter; and to Tom Cross on the passing of his brother-in-law, Don Boyer.

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Dan – 716-307-1326 (bigbaldpastor@yahoo.com)

Terri – 716-307-1327 (terri0254@yahoo.com)

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS FOR OUR FBC MEMBERS!!



The Olean City School District Music Boosters proudly recognize **Timothy Spiller** as an inductee to the OCS D Fine Arts Wall of Fame, a musician, craftsman, mentor, and lifelong contributor to the arts in our community.

Nominated by his daughter and former honoree, Clarissa Spiller, this recognition celebrates a life devoted not only to music, but to service, creativity, and quiet leadership.

Timothy's musical roots run deep in Olean. From his great-grandmother, an organist at Bethel AME Church at the turn of the 20th century, to his mother, Lois Easley, and uncle Billy Easley, music was never simply an activity — it was a way of life.

His journey took a defining turn while attending Olean High School when choral director Nancy Hefty invited him into the choir room and encouraged him to sing. That single moment sparked a lifelong passion that would shape his future.

Timothy continued his studies at Roberts Wesleyan College, where music and family intertwined, beginning a chapter that would influence generations to come.

His career led him to remarkable stages, including touring with the Duke Ellington Orchestra under Mercer Ellington, performing for President George H. W. Bush, singing at large-scale events led by Billy Graham, and sharing his music internationally. Yet, after these accomplishments, Timothy chose to return home.

Throughout the Southern Tier, he became a familiar and beloved presence in the local music scene,

holding a residency at the Castle Restaurant and performing regularly at Moonwinks in Cuba, New York. A dedicated songwriter and performer, he continues to share his music with audiences today.

For more than 50 years, Timothy has carried forward a cherished New Year's Eve concert tradition at First Baptist Church, begun alongside his mother, Lois Easley — a testament to both family legacy and community connection.

Beyond the stage, Timothy is a master woodworker and upholsterer, preserving a level of craftsmanship rarely seen today. Known for helping family, neighbors, and strangers alike, he gives his time and talents freely, embodying humility, integrity, and generosity.

Today, he brings together a lifetime of artistry by hand-crafting acoustic guitars — quite literally creating the instruments that carry music forward.

Timothy Spiller's life reflects what the Fine Arts Wall of Fame represents: dedication to the arts, commitment to community, and a legacy that continues to inspire.

Congratulations to Timothy Spiller on this well-deserved honor and thank you for enriching the artistic spirit of Olean for generations.



Congratulations to FBC member **Violet Butler** whose family and friends recently honored her with a surprise 50th anniversary of nursing party at Absolute Care in Allegany. Vi graduated from Arnot-Ogden Hospital School of Nursing in Elmira, NY, in 1976. She has worked as an RN continuously for 50 years.

Her career has found her working at Marion General Hospital in Indiana, Olean General Hospital and St. Francis hospitals in Olean, and most recently at Absolut of Allegany for many years.

In early May, **Harvey Galloway** was honored by his Wilson, New Hampshire High School by being added to their Sports Wall of Fame. Congratulations!





- 4 Hilary Faulds Mason
- 5 Cheryl Smith
- 13 Deb Wuethrich
- 20 Catriona Nolan

- 22 Matthew Ketchner
- 23 Valerie Nolan
- Clarissa Spiller Ivan
- 25 Donny Martin IV
- 26 Maddox Keim
- Cruz Ivan
- 28 Bonnie Kettle
- 29 David Deitz



- 8 Randy & Carrie Samuelson
- 20 Jim & Carol Molyneaux
- 27 Mike & Valerie Kane



INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR
THE COMBINED JULY/AUGUST EDITION
OF

AT FIRST BAPTIST
ARE DUE TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE
Ofbc133@gmail.com
NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY, JUNE 18.



JUNE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- Monday, June 8 @ 5:30 pm**
Board of Christian Education
- Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:30**
Trustees
- Sunday, June 28 @ Noon**
Diaconate
- Tuesday, June 30 @ 6:30**
Advisory Council mtg



The Ladies' Breakfast dates have been changed to the first (@ Perkins) and third (@ Friendly's) **Tuesdays** of each month. All are welcome to join in the fun at 9:30 am on those dates

PLEASE NOTE: The Friday prayer time with Pastor Jim has been moved to **11:30 on Wednesday** mornings. All are welcome to join him in prayer in the chapel.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. This offering is promoted during June. Throughout the year, there may be special appeals for particular disasters. Please be sure to designate your OGHS gift.



The Church Office will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 am until 4 pm. Pastor Jim will be available from 8-3:30. The office will be closed on Fridays and Saturdays



"Tenderhearted"



Christian sympathy is a characteristic which is both a natural disposition of a regenerated heart, as well as a clear command to every child of God.

Consider these plain texts:

"...Weep with those who weep."

- Romans 12:15

"...the members [of the church] should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." - I Corinthians 12:25,26

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you..." - John 13:34

To look on the sufferings of others and allow our hearts to be moved with love is a most Christ-like characteristic. **Matthew 9:36** says that as Jesus looked on the crowds and considered their physical and spiritual condition, "**He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.**"

In **I Peter 3:8**, Peter tells us "**Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted...**"

What a terrible burden we would bear if we had to carry our sorrows alone! What a blessing that God has first, promised that *He* will never leave us nor forsake us, not even in our worse days (**Hebrews 13:6**) and second, ordained that *His people* would have compassion on one another and help each other bearing the burdens of this life (**Galatians 6:2**).

In a world with so many burdens, hurts, sorrows, difficulties, and troubles we must beware of allowing our hearts to become hardened and unfeeling.

In describing Jesus' present High Priestly ministry to the Saints, the writer to the Hebrews said that the Lord Jesus Christ, sitting upon His Throne of Grace, sympathizes with all our weaknesses and is willing to give to us the mercy and grace we require in our times of need (**Hebrews 4:15,16**). In the old King

James it says He is "**Touched with the feeling of our infirmities.**"

Dear brothers and sisters, let our hearts be like Jesus! May we cultivate such a tender and observant spirit that we allow our hearts to be moved with compassion and "touched" with the infirmities, cares, and sufferings of those surrounding us.

Such tenderheartedness will move us to pray, speak, *and act*, and to be more like our Savior!

Pastor Jim



OLEAN FBC COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the Profession of our Faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this Fellowship, joyfully enter into Covenant with one another as One Body in Christ.

Realizing our need for Regular Communion with God and with His help,

- We will make prayer a part of our daily living, seeking forgiveness for our sins and renewal of our Spiritual Life.
- We will be Regular in our Church Attendance, participating in Worship, Bible Study, Training and services of this Church, in order to become the Church of Jesus Christ where "Every Member is a Minister."
- We will Pledge to show our gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, giving cheerfully and regularly of our Time, Talents and Treasures to support the Ministries of the Church and the spread of the Gospel.
- We will try to avoid experiences and habits which defile the body hinder our witness, believing our bodies are a temple of the living God.
- We will seek to live to the glory of Christ, who has called us into His service, believing that our membership in the church is a call to witness in the world.





THE ASST. MODERATOR'S VIEW

Our next big project will be the “home-grown” collection of Advent devotions for a booklet to be distributed late October. I mentioned this last month. I will be working with the Board of Christian Education, the body responsible for the materials we use for Sunday school and Advent and Lent seasons. The Advisory Council will also be kept in the loop. Please do not think this is something you just won't be able to take part in. I've been looking back at older issues, one back as far as 1989, and you'd be surprised at who contributed, folks who did not consider themselves writers but wrote down heartfelt thoughts devoted to God.

I am going to include a sample from the 2021 Reflections issue, a devotion Rita Wymer first wrote in 2015, just to give you an idea, and perhaps another next month so you can be thinking of what YOU might have to add. It will be our September deadline before you know it, so please be thinking of contributions.

SEEK PEACE

Psalm 34:14 “Seek peace and pursue it.”

- I used to worry and fret over nearly everything:
- *Will I have enough money to pay all my bills?
- * Do I have enough time to get everything done?
- *What gifts can I get everyone?

This fretting and worrying all the time zapped my strength and peace. I was losing my peace! Matthew 6:25 (NKJV) tells us, “Therefore I (Jesus) say to you do not worry!!” Psalm 34:14 tells us, “Seek peace and pursue it.”

When I truly put my trust in God and gave all my worries into His hands (and did not take those worries back), God gave me His peace! Now I seek His peace when I start to fret about something. Oh yes, I still have concerns about people and things, but I do not let these concerns overtake all my thoughts to “worry” about them. I give them to God in prayer and let Him take over these concerns. If you tend to worry about things, remember to give it to God and Seek His Peace!

Dear God, as we leave our worries with You, please give us Your peace. In Jesus' Name! Amen.
All you have to do is share a little testimony! We look forward to seeing what others might have to say. It will be our September deadline before you know it, so please be thinking of contributions. Send them by email to me anytime (deborahmarcein@gmail.com). Or put submissions in my lobby mailbox. Let me know if I can assist! Deb Wuethrich, Assistant Moderator

Excerpt from a 2017 column by Pastor Millard Cook:

Many are not satisfied with the way they pray. That is why Jesus gave instruction to His followers on how to pray.

I. When you pray, pray sincerely – Mat. 6:5

Jesus was aware that many had problems in learning to pray because they did not pray sincerely. They were making a stage production out of prayer, praying to be seen by others. As a result, they knew nothing of true prayer.

1. Be truthful in prayer – There is no place for untruthfulness in prayer. Paul urged Christians. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth” (Eph. 6:14) We do not pray to fool God but to communion with Him.
2. Be thankful in prayer – As Christians we are to give thanks always for all things. The psalmist said, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” Psalm 100:4
3. Confess your sins in prayer - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” I John 1:9 – There are open sins that are known by others and there are hidden sins that are known only by God. There are sins of commission as well as sins of omission.
4. Ask of God in prayer – James 4:2 “Ye have not because ye ask not” Phil. 4:6 “Let your requests be made known unto God.” This includes request for ourselves as well as our requests for others. Do not be bashful you are only hurting yourself.

II. When you pray, pray secretly – Mat. 6:6

1. It will keep prayer from becoming a show – The prayer of the hypocrites was all about show and to be seen of men. It was filled with a false piety and a false concern for others.
2. Shut out the thoughts of the world – when you pray can be bombarded by all types of thoughts. A whole list of things that you need to do that very day will come to your mind. Keep a pencil and paper handy so that you can make a note and get that thought out of your mind. For those thoughts can cause so much distraction and we can lose the urgency of prayer.
3. Have communion with God – This is the private time that you are able to know God in a personal way. You will be able to gain spiritual knowledge from God and be enabled to serve with greater strength.

III. When you pray, pray simply – Mat. 6:7-8

1. In words – The hypocrites of Jesus' day would pray complex and high-sounding prayers. Pray is to be a simple language that comes from the soul. Words that show our love for our Lord. Words that show our need and our commitment to trust that He will supply.
2. In faith – Without faith prayer is meaningless. We express our faith that we believe in God. We exhibit our faith by our obedience to His Word. We exercise our faith in the way in which we serve Him.