

First Baptist Church
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Good News Letter

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Pastor's Ponderings

August 2018

I am loving summer in Cuba! Actually, I have loved summer no matter where I've been. It is my favorite season, mostly because it brings to mind so many wonderful memories and a favorite pastime – swimming.

Do you remember what it was like to learn to swim? Maybe your parents signed you up for swim lessons like mine did. I remember those first few classes when, at 5 years old, I dropped the security of my beach towel and stood at the edge of the shallow end of the pool with my classmates. I shivered with arms tightly crossed and knees knocking, not from cold but sheer fright. What if I can't learn to swim and all the others laugh and make fun of me? What if I sink to the bottom and can't come back up?

My teacher urged me to take a step and leap into the water where she waited close by. After a long pause I finally jumped in, becoming a tight, stiff, water-crashing ball. I was right – I went straight to the bottom! But I soon found that I could push myself up. In fact, I could stand since we were only in the shallow end of the pool. My teacher laughed at my surprise, and coaxed me to arch backward and allow her to hold me up as I lay upon the water on my back. I needed to learn to relax and know that as I did so, the water would hold me up. But each time I felt her supporting hand move away, I stiffened right up again, legs and torso forming a panicky V. Down I would go again!

As I recall, it took my young classmates and I a very long time to learn to float. We had to first experience and know that the water was buoyant, that it would do the hard work of holding us up. In a very real sense, we had to come to a place of trust. We couldn't just listen to our teacher about the principles of floating. We had to experience it ourselves in a deeply personal way. We had to let go of all that tenseness; we had to give ourselves to the water, trusting that it would hold us up, that we could indeed float!

By the end of that summer floating became my favorite pastime. What fun it was to swim and kick and play and then just turn on my back and just float. Everything became so serene and still as I looked up at the big blue sky and felt the ripples of water lap at me from head to toe. I also learned that if I ever got over to the deep end and felt too tired to swim back to the shallow end or the ladder not to panic – just turn over and float a while until strength returned. Without effort, I knew the water's buoyancy would hold me up.

And so it is with faith. God is buoyant and promises to hold us up. Just as I learned in my swim class so long ago, we cannot just listen to others as they explain the principles of knowing God. We must experience it ourselves in a deeply personal way. Many times we are just like little children learning to swim for the first time. We come to the edge shivering with anxiety and fear, holding on to ourselves for dear life. And by some grace we take the plunge. We experience God's very real presence. We come to know that we can unbind ourselves, let go, and trust the buoyancy of God. In all our struggles, in all our joy, in all our sufferings, and in all prosperity, God's buoyancy never changes. God will always hold us up as he has promised us through Christ our Lord.

So go ahead – take the plunge! Turn yourself over, relax, and float upon the living waters of our gracious and buoyant God!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Lynn

Please note that Pastor Lynn will serve as Chaplin at Camp VICK from July 29 - August 3. Then she will attend Camp JYC from August 3 - 5. While at camp, she will be available in the case of emergencies. To reach her, simply contact the Church Office during secretary's office hours and a leave message. Pastor Lynn will back in the office on Monday, August 6.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support group has been in existence for well over a year now. Those who have attended and those who continue to attend, have found peace there. There is an element of safety when people who are experiencing “like” issues surround you. We do not judge or critique. Rather we laugh, cry, comfort, and talk. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a life changing event and all the concerns and/or problems that come along with the situation, please consider joining the group. Grief is experienced from loss of a loved one, but can also be felt during divorce, loss of a job or other situations that just plain turn your life upside down. Attendance is at will, and everything is confidential. **The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 1 at 1 p.m. in the lounge.** All are welcome and do not need to be a part of the church congregation.

Pencils and Crayons from Heaven – Year 7

Once again Cuba First Baptist is pleased to sponsor a collection of school supplies for needy children grades Pre-K – 5 attending Cuba-Rushford. Supplies may be dropped off from June 1 – August 8 in the collection tub at the Cuba First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Donations of cash or checks made payable to Cuba First Baptist Church memo to read “Pencils and Crayons from Heaven” will be accepted at Cuba First Baptist Church, 17 South Street, Cuba NY 14727.



We thank you for your contributions of: Boxes of 24 **Crayola** crayons, **Fiskars** student scissors, #2 pencils, yellow, red, green, and pink highlighters, **Expo** dry erase markers, **Elmer's** glue bottles, soft and hard case pencil boxes, **Crayola** colored pencils, pencil top erasers, **Crayola** markers, Spiral One Subject **WIDE RULE** notebooks in yellow, red, blue, and green, **WIDE RULE** composition notebooks [marbled cover – any color], **Clorox** disinfecting wipes and packages of **WIDE RULE** filler paper, rulers with inches and centimeters, and large boxes of tissues.

First Baptist Church Thinks SNOW - Bundle Up Babies



In spite of hot, humid temperatures, First Baptist Church is preparing for “Bundle Up Babies” when we provide winter clothing to the WIC Clinic children who visit during October, November, and December. Handmade knitted/crocheted sweaters, mittens, booties, hats, and blankets donated by the community will warm youngsters from newborn through 5 years of age. Donations can be dropped off at the church on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings through November or Sunday before service.

Looking for an opportunity to help with our youth program?

Even if you think you're not able to teach, play, or lead, there are several things that you can do to support a couple of upcoming youth events.

Camp JYC – Aug 3 - 5. We need cookies, cans of drink mix (pink lemonade and fruit punch are always a hit), plastic cups, food storage bags (gal. size), and bags of snacks like potato chips, pretzels or Doritos. These items should be left in the church kitchen by **Wednesday, August 1.**

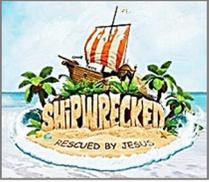
VBS – Aug 13 - 17 We will need drink mixes (canister type), bottles of juices, Goldfish crackers (please make sure it is not part of the recall), pretzels, graham crackers, 7oz. paper or plastic cups, and napkins. These items should be left in the church kitchen before **Sunday, August 12.**

Please mark items either **JYC** or **VBS**. Thank you in advance!

donations



VBS



Grab your life jacket and a friend and get ready to cast away with us! Vacation Bible School will present “**SHIPWRECKED**” by Group Publishing from August 13 - 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. All children entering Kindergarten - 6 grade are invited to join us each morning for fun songs, silly games, creative crafts, and exciting Bible stories. Pre-register online, call the Church Office (585) 968 - 1531 or Melissa Grover (585) 610 - 7082, or at the church. Volunteer opportunities available for youth and adults, contact Melissa Grover for info.

VBS Missions Collection 2018

In May, 24 kids and 9 adults from the Cuba First Baptist family went to the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, NY to “Bunk with Beats.” As a follow up to our visit, this year’s VBS mission collection will benefit the zoo’s education and conservation programs and will buy enrichment toys for the animals. During VBS, we are going to collect money and the following items: gardening tools, rakes, hand tools, white towels, push brooms, tarps (green or black), large Rubbermaid garbage cans and storage totes, Art supplies: non-toxic paint, construction paper, poster boards, sketching pencils, canvases. If you would like to donate, please leave your donation in/ by the display in the Court. Thank you for your participation.

Free Family Movie Night

We will be showing the movie “Moana” on Friday, August 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bring your friends and something comfy to lay on as we have snacks, have fun, watch a movie to round out our VBS week!



Kids in the Kitchen



On Friday, August 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., will be making some delicious treats for fellowship hour and also some items for the Table Ministry. (And if course, there will be some snacking too). Youth (boys and girls) in grades 3 - 12 are invited to join together to mix, stir, create, bake and cook several recipes that will not only be fun to make, but offer an opportunity to serve their friends, the church and the community. Organizers are also in search of a couple of adult helpers.

All are welcome and kids are invited to bring their friends to join the fun. In order to prepare, participants are asked to sign up in the court, contact Claudia Little (585-968-3061), or email at claudialittle7@icloud.com.

This cooking session will end at 3 p.m. Parents are invited to come in and see what the kids have “cooked up”!

Child Safety Policy Review/ Training

If you work with children in any capacity (any “in-house” events, movie night, VBS, junior church, nursery, kids in the kitchen, camps, trips, mission work, etc.) or you think you might be interested in doing so in the next year, you need to attend. If you were unable to attend the training on July 22 or July 29, please contact Faith Stewart or Bill Beck. Thank you for all you do with our children!

Family Fun Day



Connect. Care. Conserve.

Be on the lookout for a Family Fun Day. Once a date is decided upon we look forward to visiting all our furry friends at the Seneca Park Zoo. A church family day out is being planned to see the expansions to the zoo and the impact of our VBS missional project.

Small Group Updates and Opportunities:



Small Groups start back up on Sunday, September 9 at 11:15 a.m. We hope to offer opportunities for fellowship and learning for all ages. Keep an eye on your bulletin for class specifics. If you would like to lead a class or discussion group please contact Bill Beck.

Save the Date!

First Baptist Church will partner with the Palmer Opera House to welcome the Brothers McClurg back to Cuba for a concert this November. On November 9th at 7:00pm join us for an evening of worship and praise music, Obi Community Church praise band will open the evening with worship music and Brothers McClurg will share their original music along with a few holiday classics. Tickets available soon \$15 presale and \$18 at the door.

Volunteers are still needed to help work the event and provide some refreshments. Please contact Lois Lounsberry or Bill Beck if you would like to serve in either way.



Not familiar with this local (they hail from Buffalo), Kingdom Bound Alum and national recording talent? Then check them out here, <http://brothersmcclurg.com/>! Don't miss out!

ABMen News



The **Annual ABMen's State Conference will be held August 10 - 12 at Keuka College** on Keuka Lake. Please consider setting apart a weekend to attend this event, there will be food, fishing, and fun along with encouraging speakers and men from all over the state who share our love for Christ. Our men's fellowship is open to all men, are encouraged to invite friends from other churches and your friends from the community. See Bill Beck **asap** if you are interested in attending.

The ABWM continues to work through the summer months. The **Rummage Rooms** are extra busy (and also furnish financial support for the church). If you have items to donate, please leave them at the South Street door or take on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. We welcome all gently used clothes, household items, small appliances, books, jewelry and toys. Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronics (TVs, microwaves, computers, etc.) or upholstered furniture. Anyone who would like to help sort items or work during the hours of operation, can contact Melody Hayward or Claudia Little. The ladies are always looking for more hands. This is a great opportunity in the summer for those who have some time off. Men and youth are welcome too.

Even though we do not have regular meetings in the summer months, we continue to serve others through the **Table Ministry**. Deli containers are available in the church kitchen for anyone who would like to share some soups, casseroles, breads, muffins, or anything that freezes well. Please take some home so you can be ready to share. We are also looking for volunteers to deliver items. The hardest part of this ministry is knowing WHO might benefit from our efforts. If you know of anyone (does not have to be from our church) who could use a meal or two due to illness or anything that has turned their lives upside down, please let Claudia Little know (585-968-3061 or claudialittle7@icloud.com).

Kids in the Kitchen will be meeting on Friday, August 24 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Kids in grades 3 - 12 are invited to come and enjoy cooking with friends of all ages. We'll be making 4 different recipes and hopefully learning some new skills, along with some great fellowship.

The women continue to support the church financially, physically and spiritually through their work. Please consider attending our meeting on **Sunday, September 23** immediately following Sunday School (about 12:15 p.m.). We'll be enjoying a light lunch and then have a "KITCHEN SHOWER" for the church.

Suggested items: Dawn dishwashing soap, Cascade POWDERED Dishwasher detergent, Clorox II cleaning agent, a SMALL food processor, wooden or plastic mixing spoons, "scrubbies", plastic measuring cups, food storage bags (quart or gallon), nonstick fry pans (8" - 12"), or spatulas (rubber, metal, or plastic).

Do you have some cookware sitting in your kitchen, not being used anymore? We'll take them! They do not need to be new, gently used is fine. It's going to be a FUN party so please bring the kids along, too!

Mark your calendars for the Fall Market! It will be a **holiday themed** event on **Saturday, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** If you are interested in being a vendor, or know someone who might be; please contact Lori Little at 585-307-7064. Spaces go very quickly; don't be disappointed – call now. We're hoping that Mrs. Claus may be attending and offering Christmas cookies to the kids

Please remember that there is a signup sheet in the court for anyone willing to supply flowers or décor for the sanctuary. These do not have to be purchased items. Use your creativity!

As always, we thank everyone for their support in our events, missions and activities.

Musings of a Church Mouse



It seems like a long time since I've written to my family. I have lots to tell you. Sadly, I miss seeing some of my family in the summer, but I know that many go on vacations and have family things to do. I hope they remember about their church family, too....we miss them.

I have to tell you that there was a Sunday in June that I will long remember. It was Children's day and I was expecting some fun, but nothing of the likes of what I saw. Pastor Alex (I think she likes me well enough) was in charge of the kid's message, which of course the adults all loved too. She was hysterical! She had a really good message about how life is kind of a race and sometimes we fall down if we're not prepared for it and sometimes we still fall down. But that's okay, God is there to help us. Seeing her run up the aisle, racing with the kids, in her bright yellow boots, her robe, a Paddington Bear type hat and carrying a large backpack was a sight I will never forget. Everyone was laughing, but I also saw many nodding their heads in agreement. She sure is a hoot, and smart, too!

The Dads had donuts before church on Father's day, then the Grads were honored in the service and afterwards with a beautiful cake. I've only been here a few years, but I was pretty surprised to see these kids graduating. It seems like only yesterday they were just little kids. I know they'll do well.

During Dairy days, there was a hospitality center here for people to stop in, get a drink, and use the facilities. Outside, there was a Penny Carnival that looked like A LOT of fun. Kids could come play games, win prizes, have fun, and a snack. They

seemed pretty happy. It was nice to see the adults helping out with the kids. We are a family!

One of my favorite couples, Bob and Sandy Beard, had a party to celebrate their anniversary at church. The Fellowship hall looked so pretty, and the food looked great (as always – at least to me). Over 50 people came to help them celebrate. They have been married 60 YEARS! I cannot even imagine anything lasting that long, but they truly are a great pair – full of love and faith.

Speaking of great pairs....guess who came to visit? Larry and Linda were in church one week while they were in the area vacationing. They look great and everyone was so happy to see them (including me – Larry and I go way back).

The kitchen seems to always be busy. I have a hard time scooting through some days. Often there are ladies packaging up foods to send out to some of our family who could use a hand. They also do things like meals after a funeral or make sure there is coffee and snacks after church every Sunday. One day there was a strange man working on the oven – Not sure who was more surprised! But all is well now and the oven works great now.

I know August is full of things happening and I will be able to tell you about most of them. Pastor Lynn faithfully works up in her office and even more at home. I don't know how she manages with those cats! (UGH)

It's pretty warm outside, so I'm going to go rest in a nice cool place. I'll let you figure out where that might be. Thank you for letting me be your special friend, I love you all and I love my church.

As always, your church mouse.



An Interview with Joanne Guild by Claudia Little

You may have noticed a warm friendly face frequently in the sanctuary lately; Joanne Guild was welcomed into the church family on July 15th with lots of hugs and applause. I remember a conversation I had with Joanne quite a few months ago when she wasn't feeling too well and wasn't able to attend. She said "I want to join the church, I just can't get there now" Well – she's better and she's here! It's certainly not her first time...but more about that in a bit.

Born Joanne Rose to parents Charles and Ruth Rose, she entered the world in March of 1939 in Olean, NY. They had 4 other children. June Gaeta (deceased), Jeanne Smith, William Rose and Jim Rose. From conversations, I know that Jeanne is her other arm, and is "there" for her sister whenever she might need her.

In July of 1956, Joanne married the love of her life, Samuel Guild after meeting him in school. They were married right in Cuba First Baptist. They were a happy couple who shared so much, but sadly Sam passed away in 2014.

Sam and Joanne had 2 children. Their daughter, Sherie also passed away in 2014 (it was a really tough year). Their son, Dr. Gerald Guild, is a psychologist who works with handicapped children. His accomplishments make his mom so proud, and he is a big part of her life. Three grandchildren; Meghan, Alec and Paige complete the picture, but Joanne noted that she has borrowed grandchildren!

Cuba Rushford Schools enjoyed her talents as the "technology coordinator". To this day, she LOVES anything techie. As a side note, I might say that she has pretty much every technological gadget there is. We laugh about how Alexa reminds her to take her pills and when to go assorted appointments.

Joanne's spiritual walk began when she was living in Olean. Beginning at the mere age of 5, she walked from 15th street to the First Baptist Church of Olean for Sunday school every week. As a little girl, Joanne recalls a very hot night. She had gotten out of bed and was sitting on the floor by an open window to find some cool air. As she looked out into the night sky, she saw one star that was more beautiful than all the others. She remembers that after looking at that star, she KNEW there was a God, and she still loves looking at the heavens.

When asked about her favorite hymn, she chose "How Great Thou Art", and her favorite Bible verse comes from John. Chapter 14, 1-7."

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; ^[a] believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going. "^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. ^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Something we should know about her? That she's forgetful! (I think she fits right in with the rest of us). The other VERY important thing to know is about her dog, Casper. Her life revolves around this little cutie and he has recently had some health issues, causing lots of vet visits and sleepless nights Thankfully, Casper appears to be doing pretty well, which makes Joanne so happy. He is her friend, her companion and her "baby".

The answer to the best thing in life came easily – Love. Her time with her husband and her family is priceless.

And finally, her closing thoughts "Coming back to this church is like coming home". I can't think of a nicer complement to our church and family. If you haven't had an opportunity to chat with Joanne, Please make a point. She is full of good thoughts, a strong faith, and a loving personality. I have known her for most of my life, and getting to know her even better in our "more mature" stage of life has been a joy and a pleasure.

Prayer Requests:

Prayer Requests - **Health Concerns:** Henry and Nancy Mayo's niece, Kelly, Nancy Mayo's son, Greg, his wife Barb, and Barb's brother, Alan, Ruth Davis **Continuing Prayers:** Betsy Hubbard, Fred and Linda Goldthwait, Esther Knapp, Harry Hardman, Martha Miller, David Halstead, Duke and Sheila Burnett, Candy Parish (Nettie's sister-in-law), Keith and Vyrna Brown (Kim Gleason's parents), Michael Hayes (nephew of Alice Resch and Katy Harbeck), Susan Stoddard (Sallie Miller's sister)

Remember in Care Facilities

Cuba Memorial Hospital - Gene Case, Doc Gilroy
Batavia VA- Dennis Chamberlain
Eden Heights- Helen Swift, Betty Parker
Highland Healthcare (Wellsville) - John Hoagland
Livingston Cty. Center for Nursing & Rehab. - Katie
Hamilton Manor Hills (Wellsville) - Elva Gross
Pines (Olean) - Connie Battistoni
Wellsville Manor- Flora Prentice

Special Interest Missionaries

David and Joyce Reed, IberoAmerica and Caribbean
Dan and Sarah Chetti, Lebanon

***All those serving in the military, police, and firemen.**

***All those in and outside of our congregation who may not be listed but need the healing power of the Spirit.**

August Birthday's

8th – Meredith White Martin, David Kumpf
11th – David Halstead
15th – Eric Grover

16th – Garrett and Bella Morehouse,
DeAndre Ahrens
17th – Erica Goble
29th – JoAnne Hoagland

August Anniversaries

1st - Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
2nd - Bob & Kim Gleason
9th - Brian Lewandowski & Sherry Campbell

12th - Bruce & Sharon Matteson
19th - Bill & Marion Clark
25th - Walt & Ida Hibbard



The Rummage Rooms is in need of summer and fall items for men, women, children, and infants. Infants and children's items of any type are always in short supply and welcome. We ARE the Hands and Feet of Jesus. The Rummage Rooms are open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Please keep the Food Pantry in mind as you shop. Don't know what to get? There is a shopping list on the table in the Court for your convenience. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make checks payable to "Cuba Food Pantry" and mail to North Park Wesleyan Church Attn: Pastor Megan Cusumano 32 Spring St. Cuba, NY 14727. Thank you!

