

First Baptist Church  
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585-968-1531



# Good News Letter

Rev. Lynn A. Sullivan, Sr. Pastor  
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<https://faithlife.com/cubafirstbaptistchurch/activity>

But one thing I do: "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13b-14 ESV)

I almost missed it. I truly had not wanted to serve as pastor for an entire week at Camp Vick this summer. I am too old, I said to myself, I won't be able to connect with the kids. I am a creature of comfort, I said. I don't want to have to put up with uninvited creatures (mosquitos, moths, mice & spiders) and bad weather (rain & cold). I am out of shape, I said. I am not used to walking through woods and up hills, and besides, I have a bad knee. I said, I said, I said.

Thus saith the Lord: "Go and serve me there! It will be good for you. You will be stretched beyond but not far from your comfort zone. You'll have fun. I will be with you."

So I packed my bags tucking in skepticism, resentment and fear (I was not happy to have heard that this was God's plan for me) and headed off to camp.

It wasn't easy, but I knew God was with me, after all, since this was the Lord's idea, I held God accountable and leaned into the Lord hard. My prayer on most days was "Lord, you got me into this, please get me out."

I must say that the staff and the kids were great. So was being out in the fresh air most of the time and sitting around campfire at night learning silly songs. I truly enjoyed it. What made it hard was me. I resisted surrendering my "won't be able's," "I am's" and complained inwardly – much! By the end of the week I was so ready to leave Camp Vick and head out to the next big thing – Camp JYC!

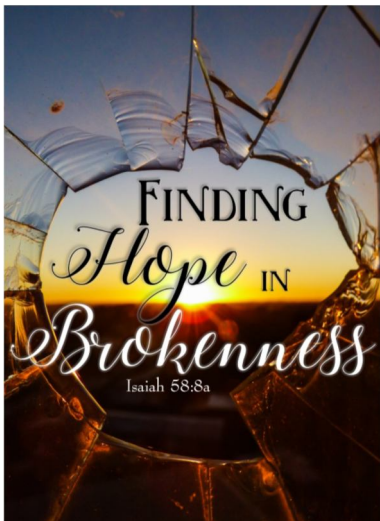
So after leading my last Bible study with the kids, I nearly ran to the cabin to load up my car. I was bringing my last bag out when it happened. I heard a small voice call my name. "Pastor Lynn, can I talk to you?" I turned and saw a boy, one of the younger ones. He said he had an "important decision to make" and he wanted me to help him make it. We sat together on the cabin steps, and he told me that he remembered what I had said earlier in the week. I couldn't remember, but amazingly God was at work. Together we talked. He had lots of questions! And then he made his decision – to ask the Lord Jesus to come into his heart, his life. We prayed together, and it was so. At our "amen" we looked up at each other with big smiles on our faces. "I'm so happy, I said, I have a new brother in the Lord!" "And you are my sister now!" he grinned.

To think that in all my grumbling and hurry, I almost missed it! God is SO good!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Lynn

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## **Finding Hope in the Brokenness Isaiah 58:8a**



American Baptist Churches of New York State Biennial 2018 September 28 - 30, 2018  
Bethany Baptist Church, 149 Beattie Street, Syracuse NY

- Friday, September 28, 2018 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pre-Biennial "Caring for Brick & Mortals" A Church Safety & Risk Management Seminar \$20 per person (includes lunch, program costs, and resources).

- Saturday, September 29 - Sunday, September 30 Biennial 2018 \$45 per person (includes Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, refreshments, ice cream social, and program costs).

Registration deadline is September 14 (\$5 per person late fee after this date).

There are lodging options. Child care is available but all children must be pre-registered as care is based on interest. Please see the websites below or see Pastor Lynn, who will be attending.

<http://www.abc-nys.org/brick-and-mortals.html>

<http://www.abc-nys.org/biennial-2018.html>

## Fall Book Discussion - "The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith" by Timothy Keller

Starting Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Lynn will lead us in a 7 week bible study/ book discussion, "The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith" by Timothy Keller. "Taking his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity, Timothy Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable, Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way." Cost of the book and study guide are \$10 (for both). If you'd like to join the discussion but \$10 is a little too steep, don't let that stop you from coming. Speak with Pastor Lynn to make arrangements. Please sign-up in the Court by Sunday, September 2 so books maybe ordered and shipped in time for the group to begin.



## Grief Support Group



The group continues to meet monthly and has become an important part of the lives of many. Some people come regularly (every month), others only when they are feeling the effects of their situation more than normal.

The group is open to any adult in the area. It is a Christian group that offers an opportunity to share (or not share) with others who are experiencing the throes of a life-changing event. Although many are dealing with the loss of a loved one; anyone facing divorce, job change or any event that affects a person emotionally, physically and/or spiritually share similar feelings. Grief has no shelf life and can pounce upon us at any time.

Many in the group are years into their "new life", yet still deal with assorted issues and "bad days"; some are fresh in their journey. Regardless, the compassion and friendship of this group is a valuable aide in dealing with any life-changing situation.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm in the church lounge. Meetings generally last an hour or so and are completely confidential.

If you are, or know someone who is dealing with a tough time. Please consider joining the group.

In September, the group will meet on **Wednesday, September 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge**. All from the community and area are welcome to attend.

## Choir Notice

Choir rehearsals will resume Thursday, September 6 at 7 p.m. with choir director, Nettie White. New members warmly welcomed.

You DO NOT need to know how to read music to join! Come and make a joyful noise!



## Small Group Updates and Opportunities:



Small Groups will be starting back up on Sunday, September 9. We hope that you will find something for you and your family's spiritual development and grow in relationship with those you worship beside each Sunday. If you feel called to lead group study or discussion please reach out to one of our Pastors, Melissa Grover, or Bill Beck. There is a place and a need for all whom wish to serve.

- ❖ Bible Basics with Pastor Alexandra Freer - Fellowship Hall
- ❖ The Wired Word with Henry Mayo and Ann Scott discuss current events from a Christian worldview - Lounge
- ❖ Effective Parenting by Chip Ingram with Maghen Beck - Upstairs Meeting Room (across from the Nursery)
- ❖ K - 4 with Joanne Guild - Primary Room
- ❖ 5 - 12 with Bill Beck - Media Room

## Children's Worship

Beginning Sunday, September 9, we will again offer two types of children's church; Club 320 for 4 - 7 graders led by Bill Beck and Jr. Church for ages K - 3, during the worship service. And as always, supervised care by a qualified adult for infants and young preschoolers is available upstairs in the Church Nursery



Please note, we need Jr. Church volunteers for the fall. Please see Melissa Grover or Maghen Beck if you're interested or sign-up in the Court. Thank you.

## Free Family Movie Night



Free Family Movie Night on Friday, September 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (movie to be announced at a later date). Bring your friends and something comfy to lay on as we have snacks, have fun, watch a movie the whole family will love!

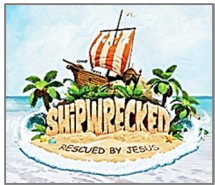
## Family Fun Day

You are INVITED!! On Saturday, September 22, everyone is welcome to join us for a church family day out at Seneca Park Zoo. Last May, our youth spent an overnight there where we learned about the animals and all that goes into taking care of them. This fall, we are going back for the day to present our VBS mission donation and to see the new habitats at the zoo. Over the summer, major improvements were made to install giraffe and ostrich exhibit. Even Bill the Rhino (no relation to our own Bill Beck) has a new and bigger habitat.

Group rate admission is \$7 for children 3-11, \$10 for people 12-62, and \$9 for 63+ (children 2 and under are free). **RSVPs must be in by Sunday, September 2** to get the group rate. Our convoy will leave from church at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a bag lunch (coolers and drink provided) to picnic when we arrive. Limited transportation may be available for unaccompanied youth, please contact Bill Beck at 585-307-4792 for info or sign up in the Court. See you there!!



## VBS



**Thank you to everyone who helped make our Shipwrecked VBS a success.** We were able to share the message that "Jesus Rescues" to 30 - 40 kids and over 20 volunteers throughout VBS week. We appreciate everyone who helped with decorating, leading groups, donating snacks, and so much more! We couldn't have done it without a community of helpers! Our mission collection this year is going to the Seneca Park Zoo when we visit for Family Day on September 22. The children who attended VBS were able to collect money and items to donate to the education and animal care departments. Thanks again! We look forward to hosting more events throughout the year for children of all ages! Stay tuned!

## A Note From the Sunday School Superintendent

As always, no ministry can happen without the help of many people. We are indebted to everyone who had any hand in making our big August events a success. Camp JYC welcomed 36 youths (including 6 teens) and VBS ranged from 30 - 40 children during our week at Shipwrecked. There are of course all the people you see in classes, in cabins, in kitchens, and in canoes. But it wouldn't happen without those who are providing food donations, rides, prayer, financial support, decorations and all the folks who help bring in the "set pieces" and then restore the church to its native state. Year after year God provides this church with an amazing team in front of and behind the curtain. THANK YOU!!!!



## Pencils and Crayons from Heaven Project – Year 7 - Smiles Abound

Fifteen congregational, community and CR Elementary PTO volunteers assisted with the set up or distribution of over 1800 school supplies for 92 children on Sunday, August 11 at Cuba First Baptist. As an extra bonus, each child got a new toothbrush, floss and toothpaste. The children and parents/caregivers were very thankful.



Since the Dr. Lyle F. Renodin Foundation funded 36 of the 92 backpacks given to the children, a board member from the Foundation came to see the distribution in action. The visiting board member was very impressed with the whole project along with the spirit of volunteerism and generosity. Through the generosity of our congregation and community, the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Pencils and Crayons was a tremendous success.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 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.

## 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 a brief training session.** If you were unable to attend the training in July, please contact Faith Stewart or Bill Beck.



## Save the Date!

Cuba First Baptist Church  
@ The Palmer Event Center Presents:

**NOV. 9**  
**7:00pm**  
Doors open at 6:00pm

Featuring:  
**Brothers McClurg**

**&**

Tickets:  
\$15 PreSale  
\$18 Door

**OCC Worship**

Coffee, Water and Snacks will be offered.  
Brothers McClurg is a traveling version of your churches worship team with many players and faces each adding to what God is doing in times of worship.

**PALMER**  
OPERA HOUSE  
12 W. Main St. Cuba, NY 585-209-5512  
www.PalmerOperaHouse.com

First Baptist Church will partner with the Palmer Opera House to welcome the Brothers McClurg and a special guest back to Cuba for a concert this November. On Friday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. 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!

Get your tickets online here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3604121>

## ABMen News

The ABMen NYS convention was held at Keuka college on the weekend of August 10 - 12. The convention was attended by roughly 40 men from around the state and featured speakers such as Dr. Jim Kelsey, Steve Reynolds, Tom Bell, David Cross, and from ABCOPAD, Rev. Mark Thomas Mahserjian-Smith. The many missional projects of our men were highlighted and discussed along with workshops that challenged attenders to seek "the change you need". Ways of engaging a changing culture both in missions and evangelism were the highlights of this year's workshops. The convention elected Bill Beck to serve as the Alle-Catt rep for ABMen during the weekend's business meeting.



With summer over we hope to continue building this ministry here in Cuba and welcome all men of any church (not just our ABC brothers) to be a part of this. We still pray that the Lord will lead us to missional opportunities here in our community, possible mission trips to a variety of locations, and the encourage each other in our spiritual walks and in life. **All men are invited to gather at Cuba McDonalds on Saturday September 15th at 8am for coffee, prayer, and discussion.**

## ABWM News

**American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES** The ABWM is looking forward to another year of service at CFB. On Sunday, September 23, our meeting will feature a light lunch at 12:15 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting and a "kitchen shower"! Like any shower, there will be games, food, prizes, and of course gifts for our very own kitchen. Over the years, many items have become too worn or broken; we also thought it would be a great time to stock up on our cleaning items. Suggested items: Dawn dishwashing soap, Cascade POWDERED Dishwasher detergent, Clorox II cleaning agent, a SMALL food processor, wooden or plastic mixing spoons, "scrubbies", plastic or glass measuring cups, food storage bags (quart or gallon), non-stick fry pans (8"-12"), or spatulas (rubber, metal or plastic). Maybe you have some of the cookware sitting in your kitchen, not being used anymore. They do not need to be new; gently used is fine. It's going to be a FUN party! Please feel free to bring the kids.

The Rummage Rooms are as busy as ever, and now it's time to get out the warmer clothing. We have secured some new racks (from Bon Ton), and are always looking for better ways to sort, display and organize the merchandise. If you would be willing to work a day or two a month, please let Melody Hayward or Claudia Little know. Better yet, stop in and see how great it's looking...you may feel the need to get in there and help!

The Table Ministry is always looking for soups, muffins, small breads, casseroles or other items that can be frozen and distributed to those experiencing a tough time in their lives. If you would like containers to take home so you can share your favorite recipe: they are in the kitchen, or see Claudia Little. All items need to be labeled with name of food and date prepared. If you should know of someone who could use an extra meal or two, or even just a treat, please let any of the ladies know, or leave a note in the ladies mailbox in the court.

Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. On Saturday, November 3, we'll be hosting the Fall Market from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We're adding a little extra holiday flare this year, Mrs. Santa will be serving cookies to the kids from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.! What a treat! The "Not Your Everyday Bake Sale" will be offering all types of foods to delight the family while a "Soup and Side" luncheon will be served from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in being a vendor, or know of someone who is, please contact Lori Little at 585-307-7064. There are still a few openings left, but they go fast so please act a.s.a.p.

As always we thank the church family for their support. Without you, the ABWM would not be able to provide the physical, financial and spiritual support that we have all come to love.



**Musings of a Church Mouse**

I just can't believe how fast summer has gone. Before you know it, we'll be shivering and shoveling snow. (Not me, but I'm feeling for you all).

August was a pretty exciting time at my church. Pastor Lynn was on vacation for 2 weeks, but that didn't seem to slow things down any. I like hearing Pastor Alexandra preach, too (and she makes me laugh sometimes). The kids had a busy time as well. One Sunday, there weren't any kids and some of my favorite adults were missing. I was worried, but then I heard that both pastors, the kids, and about 18 adults were all at a place called "Camp JYC". There were almost 40 kids there from Friday until Sunday afternoon. From what I've heard, EVERYONE had a great time. I'd really like to go, but I might not be appreciated there, plus who knows what might jump out and eat me! I'll be content to just hear the stories.

Speaking of stories, I have to share one with you all. I knew that Pastor Lynn was going to Camp Vick for a week, and I also knew that Claudia Little was going to Camp Pathfinder for a week. They both had a great time and both said they needed a nap when they got home.

Well, as luck would have it, I have a cousin who lives at Pathfinder. He's a camp mouse, has lived in some cabins there for quite a while and normally lives a pretty low profile life (like I do). His name is Bob and he's a first cousin on my mother's cousin's father's side (we have a large family). Anyhow, while Claudia was at Pathfinder, she happened to run into Bob, in the bathroom in the middle of the night. Although both were a little startled, they quickly realized that they had a friend in common and all was well. About 2 days later, Claudia asked her

counselors if any of them had met Bob, and one lady said she had. She woke up in the night to find Bob nestling in her hair! Well, I guess that wasn't a very popular thing for a mouse to do but the lady said he was cute and didn't hurt anything. I want you all to know that I WILL NOT get in your hair, physically or figuratively. I sent Bob a note and told him he might want to not do that anymore. I'm sure he'll be more careful. Phew!

One Sunday this month, just as I thought everyone was probably going to go home and I was about to take a little mouse nap (cat naps are scary) there was a lot of commotion. All of a sudden there were pieces of ships, life preservers, wooden trunks, fishing nets and all kinds of thing that you might find if you were "shipwrecked". It was time for Vacation Bible School! On Monday the kids started coming. I knew some of them, but some were new to me. There were all sizes and some of the older kids were helping the adults. They were all very nice and looked to be having a wonderful time. They played games, sang lots of fun songs, did crafts, had snacks and had some Bible time to learn some important things like how God is always with you, and will rescue you. It was great. On the following Sunday, everybody got to see them sing their songs and see pictures of some of the things they did. The kids also brought in money to give to help the animals at the Seneca Park Zoo. I thought that was pretty cool... I think I may have some relatives there too.

Very soon we'll be having Sunday school and small groups after church. I like those because it gives my humans a time to talk and laugh, and maybe share some thoughts about things. If I can't BE a human, I'm glad that I have such nice ones to hang out with. Thanks again for allowing me to be your mouse.

Sincerely, Your Church Mouse



**Save the Date!**  
**Be the Church**  
**Sunday, October 21, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**Lunch and sharing in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m.**  
**Keep an eye out for more details!**

An interview with **Justin Kerr** by Claudia Little



It's not often that we offer an interview from one of our youth. It makes the whole spouse, jobs, children, and grandchildren thing very hard to do. But this month, I thought you all might like to hear about one of our own kids who is doing some very cool things.

Justin was born in Hornell, NY on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 (he's 14). He is the son of Tamara Clothier and Greg Kerr. Most of us know his sister, Emma too (she's 9). He started school in the Canisteo-Greenwood system and transferred to Cuba Rushford in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He's currently in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

He has one dog and 4 cats. I found it interesting that his dog like to eat corn – off the cob. Hmmm

He loves football (both watching and playing). He will be playing defensive tackle on the modified team this year.

Like most guys his age, he loves cheeseburgers, and video games. You won't find his favorite song in the hymnal, but I don't think that's odd for a 14 year old. He loves "Paradise City" by Guns and Roses.

He has been attending CFB since he moved to Cuba. His faith journey is one that is still in progress, but he proved to be excellent help at both Camp JYC and VBS as a teen leader.

The "best thing in life" is family. He also considers his church family to be his friends. He misses Pastor Larry, but likes Pastor Lynn and he got a very funny smirk on his face when asked about Pastor Alex. (I'm pretty sure they like each other).

So far, his life seems like a pretty normal one for a teenager. Here is where it gets exciting.

This past summer, Justin was selected to attend the ARC/ORAU Middle School Summer Science Academy in Oakridge, Tennessee. This Academy is sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ARC and ORAU collaborate to provide this one-week hands-on science program for talented students from the 13-state ARC Region (from Mississippi to New York). The appointment was awarded in recognition of Justin's academic potential and interest in science. He was **one of only 2** from NYS to attend.

The goal is for the students to have an opportunity to participate in STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath) challenges related to current scientific research topics and to participate in other cultural and educational activities. At the end of the week, each group was required to make a presentation about their research experience.

Scott Jordan, one of Cuba's well-known teachers nominated Justin to attend this opportunity.

There were 27 young people in attendance. They were allowed to choose their focus subject and he choose coding and was able to create a drone (which he brought home!). In addition to the scholastic challenges; the kids went on a dinner cruise, tackled a rope course complete with zip line, and participated in the escape room challenge as teams. (They didn't win, but it was great fun).

Our young friend did his presentation at the end of the week, and then was told that the staff (comprised of teachers and science professionals) had decided to send him a new laptop. How cool is that!

In this day and age, what a refreshing breath of fresh air comes into the room with Justin. He remains a little shy with typical "growing pains", but after working with him several times and doing this interview; I see a wonderful young man; Full of promise and a bright future. We should be proud to call him family.



## Prayer Requests:

**Health Concerns:** Sharon Perkins, Dustin Frederick, Mary Searle, Bert & Mickie Tidlund's son, Brian, Henry & Nancy Mayo's granddaughter, Katie, Duke & Sheila Burnett, Esther Knapp, **Continuing Prayers:** Ian Snopkowski, Betsy Hubbard, Fred and Linda Goldthwait, Harry Hardman, Martha Miller, David Halstead, Candy Parish (Nettie's sister-in-law), Sandy Beard, 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.**

## **September Birthday's**

1st – Luanne Perry  
2nd – Pastor Lynn Sullivan  
4th – Bruce Sheldon  
5th - Kim Gleason  
11th - Faith Stewart

13th - Lee Gross  
21st - Katy Harbeck, Samuel Grover, George Santangelo  
25th – Kirby Pierce  
30th – Hailey & Aaron Kumpf

## **September Anniversaries**

3rd - Paul & Susan Jeffers  
12th - Larry & Andrea Wise  
15th - Gary & Carol Shaffer

17th - Gene & Sallie Wild  
20th - Fred & Linda Goldthwait



The Rummage Rooms is in need of fall and winter 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.

If you're looking for your favorite dish or tray, you may want to look in the church kitchen. We have accumulated quite an assortment of dishes over the past few months. Please stop in the kitchen and see if you have a dish or container there.



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!