



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of Fort Wayne, Indiana



February 2023
Newsletter

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Peter Janzen
peterjanzens
@hotmail.com
(260) 414-7434

Finance Secretary:

Nick Jewell

Admin Assistant:

Janet Welch

**First Baptist Church
of Fort Wayne**

2323 Fairfield Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
Office: (260) 744-2373
Fax: (260) 458-0395

Web:

firstbaptistfw.com

Email:

firstbaptistfw
@gmail.com

Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Peter Janzen

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love [caritas: generous love from God and for others]. But the greatest of these is love.
I Corinthians 13:13.

February has so many dates to remember! There is Ground Hog Day, the 2nd. There is Valentines Day, the 14th. There is Ash Wednesday, the 22nd. There is Presidents Day, the 20th. And there is the whole month of February that has been designated Black History Month! Suffice it to say, no date has as much influence as Valentines Day!

In I Corinthians 13:4-8a Paul gives us an excellent answer to the meaning of caritas/agape/generous love. I encourage you to read those verses right now.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

In Jesus Christ we have a lover and a companion that is incomparable to any other earthly relationship. Still, we crave the intimacy and the comfort of someone to love. The best way to be loved is to live with caritas, that is, to love like Jesus loves us. Love from God is a gift. Love for others is the gift of God increased through the Holy Spirit. However we choose to remember Valentines Day, or any of the days and events of note for February, I urge one thing for us all: receive the love of God for you and share the love of God in Christ with others. There is no higher calling than to love.

Pastor Peter Janzen



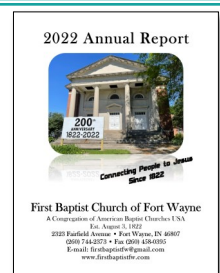
The 200th Anniversary Celebration committee would like to thank all those who participated in the service January 15th. The service was a combined effort with our Burmese families. It was very inspiring to hear from the Legacy Committee recipients about their use of the funds they received — Burmese Christian Fellowship, Mynamar Institute of Theology, Northeast Indiana Neighborhood Engagement, Associated Churches, Inasmuch Ministries, Redemption House, Friends of India, and Friends of Burma. The Burmese children's choir provided our special music. Following the service there was a coffee hour where everyone could get together and talk further about their projects. First Baptist and the Burmese congregation provided food that consisted of rice cakes, somas, cucumber sandwiches, fruit, and cookies. A good time was had by all.

We felt that this was a good way to wrap up the six month celebration of 200 years — looking at what we can do to be part of our community, and striving to do God's work for another 200 years. Again, thank you to everyone that helped make the 200th Anniversary celebration a great part of our lives.

In August we will have a service to remove the signage from the sanctuary and in front of the church. There will be more concerning that as we near that date.

—Nancy Noak

If you cannot attend church and would like a copy of the 2022 Annual Report mailed to you, please contact the church office.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brian Blair—Lutheran Hospital, room #585
- Phyllis Arvola—continued prayers, Byron for rehabilitation
- Gene & Joe Miller (Janet's friends)—continued prayers, Gene at Byron Health Center
- Family of Don & Joyce Schaab—as they grieve the death of 5 mo old granddaughter Allison on 1/26
- Pat (Don Schaab's sister)
- Randy Rusk—continued prayers
- Les Roberson—continued prayers
- Diana (Brenda Routhier's sister)—continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers



2022 Legacy Gift Recipients

Friends of Burma, Inc.

This nonprofit corporation was founded in 1985 by Neil & Diana Sowards after a visit there. It has grown into an organization of about 700 donors who support the programs. The three largest ones involve support for orphans in seven orphanages, 360 annual scholarships for students studying for the ministry, and two Baptist hospitals. Friends of Burma also has many smaller programs such as self-help groups (Micro Credit), glasses for students, hearing aids for ministers, mosquito nets for evangelists, Christmas gifts (\$50) for the very poor, relief for internal refugees. Last year, we collected over \$800,000. Our overhead is less than .015% (\$1.50 out of every \$100.00 donated.) We have one paid staff member in Myanmar. All the work in the U. S. is done by volunteers.

Myanmar Institute of Theology

Donation to support its staff during this time of closure during the Civil War of \$10,000. This was matched with \$11,000 from member of Friends of Burma, Inc. Aid to Myanmar Baptist Convention for relief to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of \$10,000.

Friends of India Mission

The Friends of India Mission (FOIM) began when First Baptist Church's then pastor, Rev. Valui, led a group of church members to New Delhi in late 2013. Seeing the need in the city and slum area, the travelers decided to form a group whose purpose is to support the church and slum school that were visited. FOIM continues to use Pastor Valui as the liaison with Pastor Angam in New Delhi, who provides leadership for both the church and the school.

FOIM's main focus in terms of financial help has been the slum school, as education is seen as the main and perhaps the only way that the children in the slum can escape the wretched poverty in which they live. FOIM has provided funds to help expand the school building, repair a storm-damaged roof, buy school uniforms and supplies, contribute to salaries for the school teachers and buy furnishings for both the school and the church. FOIM is funded by the monthly contributions of those church members who originally traveled to India, as well as contributions from other interested parties. Pastor Angam regularly provides financial reports, updates, prayer requests, and pictures of the ministry in New Delhi along with gratitude for the support of the Friends of India Mission of Fort Wayne's First Baptist Church.

Northeast Indiana Neighborhood Engagement (NINE)

The mission of Northeast Indiana Neighborhood Engagement (NINE) is to support families in their time of need and share the Gospel of Jesus.

NINE purchased over 250 hardcover books to distribute to students and the LUSU school. The book was Sulwe meaning "star". Pastor Lewis King went to school several times to speak with the kids about the importance of being a star that shines bright in their homes and community. He is also working with the school to develop a parent's group to help assess the needs of the families. NINE partnered with Ling's Community Outreach, local families and youth groups to pass our school bags and supplies and health kits and fed over 350 families praying with the people. Also passed out 400 Christmas trees, and 500 food baskets. With Zion Lutheran 6000 diaper were passed out as well as hot meals for families in need. NINE appreciates the support the Legacy Committee has given to their projects.

Associated Churches

Two ministries of Associated Churches that go hand in hand toward meeting the needs of mothers with infants through preschool-aged children are the long-standing ministry, A Baby's Closet (ABC), and a new ministry, Journey Beside Mothers (JBM). For over 25 years, ABC has been helping families meet their babies' needs through this incentivized ministry which provides essential baby items and opportunities for nutrition education and other parenting education. JBM started two years ago in response to a common need many of the mothers visiting ABC seemed to have, little to no support from anyone in their lives that could assist them in their path of motherhood. JBM provides volunteer women to mentor mothers and opportunities for mothers to get together to support each other through a weekly playgroup. Additionally, JBM provides teen mom support by meeting with pregnant and parenting students in their school and inviting them to share in a teen mom gathering where they are encouraged in parenting and in their journey of faith. Through all of the ways ABC and JBM serve this vulnerable population, our heart is that the mothers and children will experience the love of Christ and be drawn closer to a relationship with Him. Thank you so much for your support of these ministries. Your financial and prayer support is so valuable. We ask additionally that those in the congregation that feel a tug to explore this ministry you would take a leap of faith and do so. We need mother mentors and would love to have women of First Baptist Church join us in this rewarding work.

Inasmuch Ministries

Inasmuch provides limited financial assistance to those in need, but in the last few years the needy not only includes the unhoused and difficult-to-employ, but also those who work full-time yet have trouble making ends meet. Money from the Legacy Fund allowed Inasmuch Ministries to start the first Circles chapter in Allen County. Circles is a community-led, research-based program that began in Ames, Iowa in the 1990s. Circles focuses on relationship-building to help people achieve personal growth and financial stability. Participants who want to move out of poverty (called Circle Leaders) build friendships with middle-income and high-income volunteers (called Allies). Through online or in-person training and weekly meetings, Allies and Leaders form relationships. The opportunities and obstacles Leaders experience are shared with the larger community, so the barriers can be overcome successes can be celebrated.

Redemption House is a network of transition homes for women who desire to redeem their lives from past destructive behavior by developing a faith-based lifestyle and by gaining the skills necessary to achieve and maintain success. Women residents are assigned to Redemption House by the courts as an alternative to jail. During a six-month residency at Redemption House, women work to develop job skills, find freedom from addictions, and mend broken relationships. As a Christian community, we grow together in faith and positive lifestyle choices. We form partnerships with local agencies, organizations, businesses, churches, and individuals to carry out our important mission. We rely on the expertise and generosity of allies who believe in what we do.



Shoebboxes

Kerima Armuelles writes:

“Gracias por el obsequio. Saludos desde Panama.”

Can you translate the above? Well it says: “Thanks for the gift. Greetings from Panama.” And Kerima sent two pictures.



Now I want all of you that have packaged up kits, filled school kits, or filled shoeboxes to look closely at the contents of the box. Did you notice the necessity kit, the hat, ball, coloring pages and toothbrush? Don't all the items look familiar? Yep that's one of our boxes. Anyone remember making any of the items or packing this box?

It is nice to hear from shoebox recipients. Hopefully we will hear from a few more.

What's next? The gathering of items has already begun for 2023, but the problem this year is that stores have not had big after Christmas sales. Our next big sales should be after Valentine's Day and Easter.

I know Del is still on the lookout for beanie babies on the internet. Nancy has been checking out Dollar Tree. Ruth and probably Dennis Crill have been making hats. And Brenda, Susan, De, Linda, Joyce, and others are out there looking too. Of course I never stop looking.

One final note. Operation Christmas Child set a goal for 2022 to try and reach 11 million shoeboxes. They were just a bit shy with the total coming to 10,599,907. Of the 10+ million the USA filled 9,303,130 boxes.

Watch for more news about the shoeboxes.

—Sharon

First Baptist Church February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY NEIL & DIANA SOWARDS!! 	3 HAPPY BIRTHDAY NATE EMMERT!!	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Communion Coffee Hour— Alicia Ellis	6	7	8	9	10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEL PROCTOR!!	11 HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHYLLIS ARVOLA!!
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Noisy Offering Coffee Hour— Janet Welch	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— Susan Elser	20	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— Sharon Rusk	27	28 6:00 PM Council Meeting				