



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching New People for the Kingdom of God

NOVEMBER 2015

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

Clip and Save

November Church Calendar

Each Sunday at 9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School led by Margaret Underwood

Each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. – Worship gathering with children’s program downstairs during the message

Each Thursday at 6 p.m. - Prayer and Bible study focusing on the “Covenants of God”

Sun., Nov. 1: Communion Sunday, November birthdays celebrated and Daylight Savings Time ends.

Mon., Nov. 2: Pinterest Party at the church begins with snacks at 5:30 p.m. ; craft class begins at 6:15. For craft supplies and more information call Toni at 943-0653.

Tues., Nov. 3: AB Women’s Meeting at noon at the church. Aleesha Spence is the hostess.

Sun., Nov. 8: Special guest Pieter Kalkman, AB International Missionary from Eastern Europe/the Czech Republic who works with his wife and daughter to strengthen and grow the churches in Armenia.

Sun., Nov. 15: Community Missions Sunday with special guest Tim Hamilton, executive director of Love in the Name of Christ.

Sun., Nov. 22: Annual church meeting and potluck will follow the worship service. Please bring a dish to pass and stay for the church meeting where the 2016 budget and other plans will be shared.

Thursday, Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Day

Sun., Nov. 29: The first Sunday of Advent

Looking ahead . . .

Tues. Dec. 1: American Baptist Women missions meeting at noon

Dec. 2 through Dec. 17: Adopt-a-Family Christmas gift program through Love INC

Thurs., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Clip and Save

Pastor Jeremy’s Think Tank



Stories of the Gospel

Thanksgiving and Christmas are nearly upon us. As I write this article, we’re only four Sundays away from the beginning of Advent, which begin Sunday, November 29. Only eight Sundays remain until Christmas, and just nine Sundays remain in 2015. Where, oh where did 2015 go?

Yet, these next two months are among my favorite times of the year. The air is cooler and one just longs to be with family and enjoy a warm cup of coffee by the fireplace. Joy is something that’s experienced and talked about around the dinner table as mentions of gratitude and thankfulness become commonplace. It seems that these months are also the times when families put aside their differences and come together to celebrate. Truly great moments happen in November and December.

As far as the news goes, I also love this time of year because we will hear stories of hope, love, sacrifice and honor that remind us of the good we can do for one another. For once, the news will focus just a little bit more on what’s right with the world instead of what is going wrong in our world. As if we need a reminder of what is wrong around us!

Who among us does not love a good story of hope? A story that reminds us that we can make a difference and that miracles can still happen each and every week in our community? All of us marvel at these stories and fortunately the month of November is one where we’ll have a few opportunities to hear these stories. We have the opportunity to hear “Gospel Stories” as we continue to look for ways to further the Good News of Jesus and reach new people for the Kingdom of God.

For starters, on Sunday, November 8 we will have one of our missionaries, Pieter Kalkman, with us during our worship gathering. Pieter and his family are missionaries with International Ministries based in the

Czech Republic who will give us stories of hope, stories of the Gospel making a difference in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. As I have been conversing with him on email he has mentioned that he's excited to share with us stories of how Muslims are coming to know Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit and our missionaries. I'm certain you'll want to join us on November 8 and hear the message Pieter will give us as he shares "Gospel Stories" while challenging us from God's Word.

The following week - on November 15 - we'll be honored to hear more "Gospel Stories" that are happening in our own backyard. It's nice to hear how God's Kingdom is being expanded internationally, but we must always remember there is work to be done in our community. Tim Hamilton, from Love in the Name of Christ Grand Traverse, will join us that morning during worship. He'll provide not just stories of what Love INC is doing in our community, but he'll also share opportunities that are available so we can be on the frontline ministry to those who are hurting.

Third, on November 22, we will gather as a church following our morning worship for our annual potluck and business meeting. This is a time when an update of church matters will be shared and also where we believe God would have us be part of "Gospel Stories" for 2016. I know most of us do not like meetings and really may not think much about the church budget, but November 22 is crucial to our continued goal of furthering the mission that God has called us to.

Our church budget should not just be viewed as dollars and cents, but instead, as a vision for what we as a church believe God would have us do in the upcoming year. It is a faith budget in that we're asking God to provide the resources, both time and financial, so that His work and His Gospel may be shared with others. The budget is also a measuring stick to help us understand how well we are being stewards of what God has given us. Our meeting should help us all feel as if we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Lastly, on November 29, we will begin our Advent series as we take an intentional look at the genealogy of Christ. Though our Advent series is still in the foundational stages of planning, it's my hope that as we look at those in the lineage and history of Christ we will see some of the greatest gifts we can give to others - gifts that God has given us. We will look at not just the "good guys" of the lineage but those who some would say "should not be part" of what would become the

family of the Messiah. The Gospel changes everything and that includes what we can give to others this Holiday Season.

Lots of great things happening this November here at FBC and I hope you will join us.

Be God's,

Pastor Jeremy



According to Toni Hulett, "Folks were in line at the door at 9 a.m. and traffic was steady all day!" Our annual Craft, Baked Goods and Rummage Sale, held Oct. 10, was again a success as hundreds flocked into the FBC basement and enjoyed the variety of offerings available. Income from this annual event will be used for missions and church initiatives; a total of \$3,322.47 was generated. Thanks to ALL who participated!

A Colorful Way to Help Others

By Aleesha Spence

The **Crayon Initiative** is a non-profit organization that recycles unwanted crayons into new crayons and donates them to art therapy programs in children's hospitals. Kids' Church will be collecting **used/broken/unwanted crayons** through November 15 for this project. Feel free to ask your friends, neighbors and relatives for donations! Then we will sort the crayons so they can be melted and made into new crayons at a facility in California. You can also donate money to cover the cost of shipping the crayons. Thanks for helping us serve others and for helping to keep crayons out of landfills. For more information, check out thecrayoninitiative.org or talk with Aleesha Spence. A container for the crayons will be made available in the narthex.

American Baptist Women's Mission Update

By Margaret Underwood

The next American Baptist Women's meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, at noon at the church. Aleesha Spence will be our hostess. Refreshments include a light dessert – lunch is not provided. Please come prepared to discuss our Christmas baskets and White Cross Quota.

Here's a brief history of our White Cross affiliation through the years. During WWI, church women assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages, and other medical supplies for the US service personnel. As these needs were met, the women were convinced that similar services would be of help in the work of Christian missions. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women from Cleveland organized the White Cross Service League, channeling the groups formed for the war effort to support Baptist missions.

Through the years, women, men and entire congregations have become involved in meeting "quotas" and continually supporting all mission fields – not only with bandages and other needs, but with monetary contributions.

Current Financial Update

(through October)

YTD Offerings and Craft Fair Income - \$64,786.97

YTD Expenses - \$56,033.67

YTD Missions Offerings - \$8,805.22

"The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouses of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands."

Deuteronomy 28:12



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gift Collection Begins in December

The generosity of those at First Baptist Church will help make Christmas a little brighter for families in need in Grand Traverse County. Love INC will again be sponsoring the Adopt-a-Family program, and two families will be the FBC recipients. Children and parents are included and their ages, sizes and gift wishes will be made available on Dec. 2. Clothing, toys, household goods and food make good gift selections; specific information will be shared in late November and collection boxes will be set up in the Narthex. The Christmas gifts will be delivered to families on Dec. 17.

Thanks to all who participate by helping our neighbors in need!



November Birthdays

Nov. 4 – Zeke Fleet

Nov. 6 – Hannah Strait

Nov. 7 – Vicki Hains

Nov. 10 – Gary Weibe

Nov. 11 – Hudson For

Nov. 12 – Adam Strait

Nov. 13 – Bonnie Carter

Nov. 14 – Maxine Pelizzari

Nov. 21 – Joe Hulett and Connie Peplinski

Nov. 25 – Gary Walter

Nov. 27 – Marian Gauthier



Pictured above are Pieter and Nora Kalkman and their daughter Nora.

Meet Pieter Kalkman

IM Missionary Pieter Kalkman will join us at FBC on **Sunday, Nov. 8.** Please plan to attend and hear how God's work is being done in Eastern Europe.

The Kalkmans are based in Prague, Czech Republic where they serve through International Ministries as liaison and volunteer coordinators with the European Baptist Federation (EBF). They match the skills and interests of short term mission volunteers from the United States and Puerto Rico with the needs of more than 50 Baptist unions that are part of the EBF. There are only 2.4% Bible believing Christians in Europe, making this is a priority mission field.

In the early 1990s, the opening of the former Eastern Bloc countries in Europe provided numerous opportunities to help and encourage struggling churches and Christian organizations. The Kalkmans travel extensively, meeting with partners throughout Europe, the Middle East and West Asia to identify needs and to coordinate opportunities for American Baptist churches and individuals to engage in mission in the region. Facilitating the volunteers and volunteer groups is important in developing relationships across national boundaries to glorify God in Europe and around the world. ***For more information visit the Kalkman's website at: www.kalkmaneuropa.org***

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

