

# MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2020 ARTERY

Pastor Luke Beattie • Organist Bill Lawson • Choir Director Jan Kliewer  
(607) 723-0031 • [www.mainstreetbaptist.net](http://www.mainstreetbaptist.net) • MSBaptistChurch@outlook.com



Greetings Church Family,

Happy New Year! Every calendar starts somewhere. The solar calendar starts on January 1<sup>st</sup>; the school calendar starts around September; but the church calendar starts with Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. The church starts its year anticipating the comings of Christ—both his first coming in the flesh to save us from our sins and the second coming where every enemy will finally be trampled underfoot.

Things will undoubtedly look different this year from our traditional celebrations filled with numerous gatherings of family and friends. And if our hope and joy is anchored simply in normal celebrations and festivities, we are setting ourselves up for immense disappointment.

It is all the more important that our focus remain on the one thing which will never disappoint us, the one who promises never to leave us nor forsake us, the one who descended from heaven to earth, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and made man so that he might live and die and indeed rise from the grave to save us from our sins.

As we start this new church year we will be focusing on Christ by going through early portions of the gospel according to Mark. If you get two free hours try to read or listen to the entire gospel in one sitting.

December's tentative sermon schedule:

Dec 6: Mark 1:1-8

Dec 13: John 1:19-28

Dec 20: Luke 1:26-38

Dec 27: John 1:1-18

May the Lord bless you as you read his Word this Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Luke

## Upcoming Events

November 29 – Advent begins – The Hanging of the Greens at 6 pm.

December 6 – St. Nicholas Day

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

December 25 – Christmas

December 26 – St Stephens Day or Boxing Day

## December Birthdays

- 2 Michael Theil & Cassandra Dewitte
- 3 Marissa Dewitte
- 6 Pastor Timothy Bennett
- 12 Nehemiah Steele
- 14 Aubrey Carl & Daniel Fassett Jr
- 17 Isaiah Space
- 19 Cindy Petito
- 22 Beth Blakeney & Sue Naismith
- 25 Pia Bennett
- 26 Taylor Bennett
- 27 Chauncey Boughton & Andrew Runion
- 28 Steve James
- 29 Betty Gevert



## Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 – Blake & Aubrey Thrasher (8 years)
- 20 – Tom & Tabetha Reed (23 years)
- 24 – Shawn & Diane McMahan (4 years)



*Our sympathies are expressed to the family of Mrs. Doris Willett who passed away November 18, 2020. Doris joined Main Street Baptist Church on June 10, 1956 by baptism.*

*Our sympathies are expressed to the family of Mr. Donald Abbey who passed away on November 20, 2020. Don served in Italy during World War II and joined Main Street Baptist Church in 1947. He was married to Audrey Sivenright, the daughter of our 9<sup>th</sup> pastor, Rev. John M. Sivenright.*



#### Changes to the Directory

Nancy Devine

Mailing Address: PO Box 131 , Conklin, NY 13748

Home Address –1085 Conklin Rd , Binghamton, NY 13748

Phone: (607)349-7755 or (607)759-2739

Anna and Bob James

No Land Line - Cell Phone 607-644-0024

Mary Anne Samples

No phone

**Out of State**

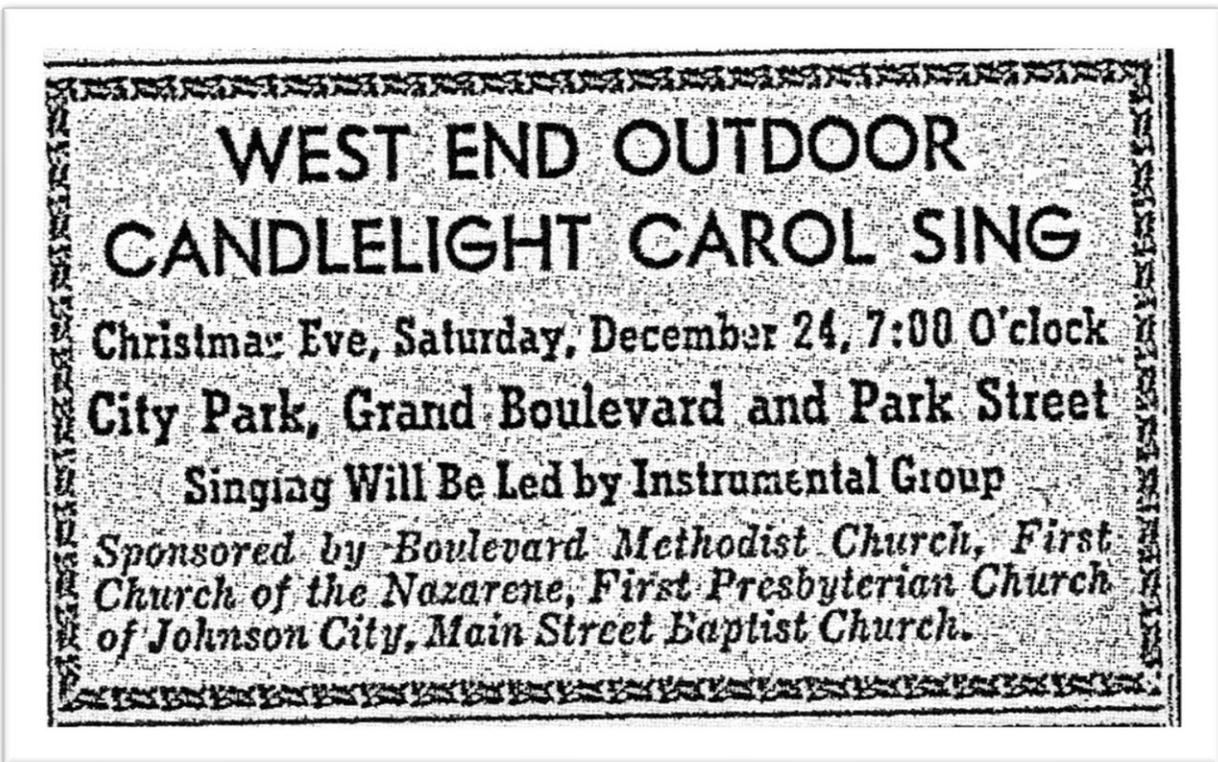
Rhaylene Abbey - 309 Erskine Ave, Apt 208 Kodiak, AK 99615

Deceased – Rodger Summers

 Pease's Christmas Tree Farm located at 209 Gray Road in Harpursville will be open Nov 27, 28, 29 and Dec. 5,6 and 12,13 from 9-4. Trees are \$15. All proceeds go to Main Street Baptist Church.

 One of the earliest versions of the Christmas tree was known as "The Paradise Tree" which featured apples as decorations. This was based on the Biblical passages regarding the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2 -3). There are several books about Christmas and the various traditions in the church library.

## **A Look Back - 60 Years Ago**



AD in Binghamton Press [Friday] December 23, 1960 Pg. 12

On December 24, 1960 Main Street Baptist church joined with the Boulevard Methodist Church, First Church of the Nazarene, and First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City for an evening of Christmas caroling. Boulevard Methodist's Gareth Green musical director was scheduled to lead the group.

## MISSION NEWS

### **PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER, VESTAL/ OUR DECEMBER BREADBOX**

**The Pregnancy Resource Center in Vestal is a faith-based organization that counsels people dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. They provide information about pregnancy, parenting, adoption, and life skills, and refer to community resources that help with financial burdens. There are on-line parenting classes and people can get help one-on-one with counselors. All is free and confidential. With participation in the on-line parenting classes, credits are earned toward tangible items like diapers, baby clothes, toiletries, high chairs and other things needed in caring for an infant. Jesus' love and faithfulness and forgiveness is at the center of care for those who are deciding whether or not to keep their baby. Your mission committee shares this valuable organization at this time of year to celebrate the wondrous birth of our Savior and Lord, born to a virgin who had to deal with circumstances that would bring her under criticism and hardship.**

**If you choose to support this organization in December, please write a check to the church and notate it for December breadbox. There are small envelopes by the offering plate for cash. Thank you.**

### **THE LEMAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER EXCERPTS**

#### **GOALS FOR 2021**

**Eight months ago we were preparing to embed ourselves in Ethiopia for a few years. That door has been shut for some time now and doesn't appear to open any time soon. You've heard in our last newsletter about how we're currently involved in remote translation checking and consultant training. But we've also been asking: "How can we emerge from the COVID challenges even more ready for service?"**

**The answer that keeps coming back – learn French. Beginning in 2021, we will focus on learning French as a family. We're working with a school in France that specializes in helping families to this end. We will begin courses online in January until we can obtain the necessary visas to study in France. We plan to pursue these studies for one year and see what God has next.**

**Please pray with us for open doors and that this investment of time and study would produce great dividends for the Kingdom.**

**The Lemans are part of our budget now and for 2021. Marcus has already been involved in going to different areas of the world, learning how to make Bible translations that are in people's heart language.**

## **MISSION GIVING**

**In this unusual, exhausting, unnatural time of COVID, we thank you for your mission giving that has helped us give out the monies designated for people and organizations in our budget and at the same time, give to mostly local missions each month in the form of breadbox offerings. There has always been a heart for missions in this church, and God has blessed people around the world as recipients. We have been blessed as a church family by God as He enables us in following the Great Commission. For many, times are difficult financially, but we trust God to provide what we need. Thank you for your faithful giving. It doesn't go unnoticed.**

### **CHRISTMAS POEM – unknown author**

**“Let the stable still astonish;  
Straw – dirt floor, dull eyes,  
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;  
Crumbling, crooked walls;  
No bed to carry that pain,  
And then, the child,  
Rag-wrapped, laid to cry  
In a trough. Who would have chosen this?”**

**“Who would have said: 'Yes.  
Let the God of all the heavens  
And earth  
Be born here, in this place'?  
Who but the same God  
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms  
of our hearts  
and says, 'Yes.  
Let the God of Heaven and Earth  
be born here-  
in this place.”**

Mission News & poem submitted by Mission's chair Diane Runion