

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

FEBRUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy New Year to all!

Our kids performed a Christmas program for us under the direction of Sister Diana Harrison. They did an excellent job and it was a blessing to watch them perform.

The Harrison family provided "goodie bags" at Christmas in loving memory of Sister Donna Harrison. She had such a giving spirit and loved her church family so much. She is truly missed by all.

Our Peppy Calebs enjoyed a noon meal at Bonnie Café in Mt. Vernon. A good time of fellowship and good food was enjoyed by all.

We are enjoying being back in the auditorium for our worship services. Wednesday evening "in person" services and a Bible Study are set to begin in the near future. Contact Brother Curtis for details.

Our Sunday morning service on January 16th was moved to online since we have several who have Covid or Influenza. Trusting God to watch over each and everyone.

*"Beloved, if God so loved us,
we ought also to love one another." - 1 John 4:11*

FIRST CHURCH – BENTON

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

We had our Church Christmas party on December 15th. It was a great time with our Church family! On December 19th we had our Christmas service and celebrated Communion.

On December 22 we had our Candlelight service. The Candlelight service is always such a special service for our Church.

Pastor Phillip Kennedy attended the Pastors breakfast on January 3rd at the Bonnie Cafe in Mount Vernon.

This year on Sunday mornings we have been looking at essential functions of the local church based off of an article by Clint Morgan .

On Wednesday we have been studying the book of Job.

We are looking forward to what God is going to do this New Year as we serve the Lord in Benton.

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School Attendance during December was 81. Joan Gray, 88, passed away on December 5. She was a sister to Ivan Ryan. Deon Bennett, 84, passed away on December 24. Condolences to these families.

Several from our church are on a Daily Bible Reading Program Guide to finish the entire Bible in one calendar year. We also have a Daily Prayer Schedule. Services were canceled on January 9.

*"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7*

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

We participated in the “Wreathes Across American” ceremony at the Cisne Cemetery. Brother Ernie had a part in the service. He and Suzanne were able to place the wreaths on the graves of several Blue Point veterans.

The Junior Church under the direction of Bill and Christal Lewis presented the Christmas program: “Greetings from the Heart; the Secret Life of Christmas Cards”. Following the service that morning treat bags were passed out to everyone in attendance. That evening we held our annual Candlelight Service with a fellowship afterwards.

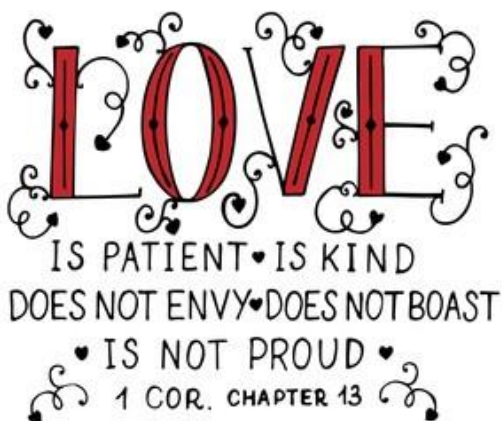
Home missionary church planter Josh Bennett spoke at Blue Point on Sunday, December 26th and reported on the work at the Awaken Church in Tifton, Georgia.

Brother Ernie recently enjoyed the Free Will Baptist pastor’s breakfast in Mt. Vernon. He also attended a breakfast for area pastors held in Wayne City.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the East Central District meeting at the Pleasant View Church.

Our church did make a donation to the family of Sean Riley, the deputy from Cisne who was killed in an interstate shooting.

Brother Ernie also attended the funeral of Delores Payne from the Ina Church.



HARMONY CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Cody Alstat

Greetings from Harmony. We held our yearly church office elections on December 26th, we are blessed to have people step up to hold these offices. The following offices were filled: *Trustee*- James Krike, *Sunday School Superintendent* – Charlie Swann, *Assistant Superintendent* – Dick Cremer, *Clerk* – Buffy Diefenbach, *Assistant Clerk* – Jennifer Meacham, *Treasurer* – Penny Blades, *Assistant Treasurer* – Kathy Cremer, *Youth Leader* – Cody Alstat, *Song Leader* – Charlie Swann, *Assistant Song Leader* – Kaitlynn Swann, *Moderator of Business* – Dick Cremer, *Nursery Coordinator* – Jennifer Mecham, *Primary 1* – Sherry Stewart, *Primary 2* – Cody Alstat, *Jr High* – Kay Veller. We appreciate all you do in service to the Savior and the body of this church!

We had two new members join our church on January 2nd, Brother Kent and Sister Tedra Dunford asked to join our church.

Our Birthday and Anniversary Meal was held on January 2nd, we had a wonderful fellowship and a wonderful meal after our evening worship. Our Youth was supposed to have our monthly outing at Emery Brothers, but due to Covid-19 hitting the skating rink we had to cancel.

Our church voted to make Kent Dunford our Interim Pastor during our Business Meeting on January 9th, please keep him and his wife Tedra, in your prayers during his time with us.

Our Masters Men and Sisters of Strength met for their monthly meeting, we had a total of 17 in attendance.

“God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as through God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ behalf: Be reconciled to God. “

- 2 Corinthians 5:19-20”

The State Executive Board

will meet Monday evening, February 7 at 6:00 pm, at First Church in Mount Vernon. Plans will be finalized for the State Association which meets March 17 – 18 at Calvary Church in Salem.

ILLINI INITIATIVE

Campus Pastor: Tyler Penn

A new year is ushered in and another point in time to look back and look forward comes upon us. It seems that 2020 was the year of covid for us. 2021 was the year of the Bridge Church and we are so excited to have pastor Ed and Rachel with us. It looks like 2022 is going to be the year of building up our ministry in funding, in communication, in students and in church connection. I am excited to see what this year brings.

We end the year with a great time with students. We had a dozen of them over for a Christmas baking day in December. It is such a great time to have them in our home for some Christmas treats and traditions. I am super excited as several mentioned a desire to attend church with our family this year. I would ask that you would pray for this very thing. That these students who ended the year with us would be joining us for church services in 2022.

We have met with our leadership team at English Corner and are really excited what this semester will bring. I believe there are some really good opportunities to build relationships this year that will last. This year will find me in the rhythm of working with students through the week and then traveling to churches on the weekends to raise support for our account with I.M. It will be a balancing act this year of serving students and raising funds to serve students.

I appreciate your continued intercessions, prayers, and support for our family, church, and students. Please be in prayer that we can build a foundation of stability this year for our ministry and the Bridge Church even through all the instability of our times. May God bless you and give you love, joy and peace!

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel

Reporter: Heather Phillips

Praying this February update finds everyone healthy and avoiding all of the sickness going around!

Catching up on a few events we have had since our last newsletter...

We finished December with our Kid's Christmas Program...we had a great night watching all of our young people show their talents celebrating the birth of Jesus! The littlest ones from the nursery all the way up through 5th grade participated! Following we had a wonderful cookie fellowship in our Life Center. It was a fun-filled evening!!

During the month of December, we set up a Photo Backdrop for DO-IT-YOURSELF photos. So many of our church family took the opportunity to catch a quick pic or take a memorable family photo. We are thankful for some creative folks at PFWBC who came up with the idea!

On Saturday, December 18, we gave away Christmas Dinner Boxes to people in the Pittsburg Community. It included a ham with all the sides. We were able to give over 150 meals! It was such a blessing to give away the meals and give a wave and a Merry Christmas to those in our community.

January was a much-needed slow-down for PFWBC. We had our monthly skate night for the youth at Emery Bros. Skating Rink in Marion and will have another one this month on February 10. Everyone always has a great time at skate night!

Just a reminder as we go through the next few months of winter that you are precious to God, and HE loves you!!

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Note to Reporters: The deadline for news articles for publication in the March issue of the Newsletter is February 15. Please address all correspondence to davids@mvfreewillbaptist.org

NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
P.O. Box 1 Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

jesus loves you

MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURES

- + **Meditation on the Scriptures is the key to a blessed life** (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1).
- + **Meditation is focused thinking about a particular Scripture** throughout the day and night (Psalm 1:2).
- + **Meditation brings fruit in the way we treat others**, the way we do our work, and the decisions we make (Psalm 1:3).
- + **Meditation is the key to keeping our heart on track** (Proverbs 4:23) and our lives in sync with the Lord (John 15:7).

NAFWB

MAKING THE MOST OF QUIET TIME

- + **Stop everything and be still** (Psalm 46:10).
- + **Expect to hear from the Lord** (Psalm 119:18) and be changed (Acts 4:13).
- + **Have quiet time at the same time & place** (Mark 1:35).
- + **Note the character and characteristics of God** (Psalm 25:4; 29:2) as you read the Word and delight in it (Psalm 37:4).
- + **Examine your life in light of Scripture** (Proverbs 4:26; 2 Corinthians 3:18) and make needed changes (Proverbs 3:6; John 13:17).

NAFWB