

# The Visitor

July 2008

What does the Lord require of you?  
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park,

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*A note from Rev. Richard Rose...*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thoughts on praying...

"Won't you look down upon me Jesus, you got to help me make a stand? You just got to see me through another day. My body's aching and my time is at hand and I won't make it any other way." –James Taylor from the song *Fire and Rain*.

Our prayers are manifest in countless forms. Often offered at times of desperation and despair, as in this song, prayer is our yearning to connect with God. They are the demonstration of our desire to engage with the Spirit of love and mercy who is our perpetual (at times our only) source of grace and hope. Certainly prayer is a spiritual discipline; one that requires attention, devotion and serious practice...but for the rest of us for whom such engagement is near impossible given our demanding schedules and daily choices which seem to leave us longing for moments of peaceful quiet, I offer the following suggestion: Breath Prayers. These can be practices anywhere; in the silence of our aloneness or in the midst of the clamor and bustle of our hectic lives.

As you inhale:

God...

Loving Creator...

Divine Light...

Speak, O God...

Yahweh is my Shepherd...

Those who wait upon Yahweh...

O Great Healer...

God of Comfort...

Make me an instrument...

Light of the world...

As you exhale:

Give me understanding.

Grant me your peace.

                    Show me the way.

And help me listen.

I shall not want.

will renew their strength.

Heal my soul.

Calm my spirit.

of your peace.

illuminate my path.

(I am indebted to The Rev. Travis Norvell of Lime Rock Baptist Church in Lincoln, RI for providing many of these Breath Prayers for us)

May God grant rest and hope to your spirit and may your prayers fill you with love and possibility.

Peace,

Rich

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*Monday evening Bible Study*- Please join us for our Monday evening Bible study as we consider the book of Revelation. We will meet in the First Baptist Library. Please see Pastor Rich if you have any questions or need further information.

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**The Pastor's Fund**, a resource to provide financial assistance to people in our congregation and community, is in need of replenishment. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please write your check to the church and indicate "Pastor's Fund" in the memo line. Thank you!

Quote – "I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent."

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

## **Church School News**

From the Board of Christian Education: Parents with children using the children's table during worship are encouraged to sit in the section closest to it to allow children to check in with them as needed. Thank you.



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### Celebrating Change

**Lars Mudrak** has returned from his semester in Peru and will be attending SUNY Geneseo in the Fall.

**John Kim, son of Sun Kim,** will be with his family in Korea over the Summer and will attend Cornell University in the Fall.

# WELCOME

Welcome to Sun Kim, who surely gets the award for traveling the farthest to join First Baptist Church! Sun comes to us from South Korea. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Utah in Materials Engineering and has already shared with us his beautiful singing voice. Sun and his wife were in Ithaca while their son John completed Ithaca High School. Although he has returned to Korea, we look forward to seeing Sun again soon as John will enroll in Cornell University this fall.

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### **A Note From Wendy Fambro...**

Dear friends,

It has been on my mind for some time now to write to my First Baptist family. You all gave me such a loving and memorable send-off, that I felt you had a right to know how things turned out. I've been putting this off until I had something more solid to report, but, apparently clarity is not yet in the picture for us. The short story is that upon leaving Ithaca, I entered into two and a half years of frustration, pain, spinning of wheels, missed opportunities, etc. In other words, as my father would have said - it was a true learning experience. It was also a prophetic time in that my faith and understanding of discipleship became increasingly clear even as my relationship with those I had been called to serve became increasingly strained. Last September, I made the decision to resign. This left us extremely up in the air. Despite being rather spectacularly unsuccessful with my church group, I had been highly effective in the larger community and ended up helping a coalition of faith and social organizations launch a café/Fair Trade gifts/community gathering space in the area - a project dedicated to offering training/employment to people with various challenges, as well as to creating a sense of neighborhood in an area where that is sorely lacking. I am pleased to say that the project is up and running and doing ministry. However, having to move out of the parsonage created a housing situation that didn't allow us to stay in the area.

In April, we moved back to Geneseo, NY to help my mother who is recovering from several surgeries and whose house is on the market. I've been homeschooling Naomi since last fall because of the uncertainty of where we were going to land.

We have been putting most of our effort into Mick's music career which is definitely gaining momentum under all the additional attention (shameless plug: check out [www.miche.com](http://www.miche.com) <<http://www.miche.com>> ). However, this remains an enormously challenging time for us all. I have not felt called to return to church ministry, though I've been creating several different retreat/workshops which I will offer to churches. I spend most days seeking new places and ways to bring Mick's music to the world, and seeking a meaningful place of employment for myself, or a way to supplement our income while traveling with Mick's music.

You can see now why I've not written before. It is hard to sound inspired and filled with a joyful faith when there is nothing specific toward which to point. Nevertheless, I remain inspired, hopeful, committed to the path of faithful living no matter how unclear that path is. I truly believe that I made the right decision in leaving my last call, as it was swiftly draining me of that joy which is at the foundation of my walk with God. And, I want you to know, that in my moments of greatest doubt during those years, I would think of my ten years with you and feel grounded again. Thank you.

We hope to drop by for a visit in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, keep being the wonderful folks that you are, and let Rev. Rose know how important he and his family are to you as often as you can. In peace and joy, Wendy Fambro

For a complete calendar of events and audio of weekly sermons,  
check out the First Baptist Church website!

[www.firstbaptistithaca.org](http://www.firstbaptistithaca.org)

If you see errors in logistical information on our website, please notify the church  
office at [fbdewitt@verizon.net](mailto:fbdewitt@verizon.net) so we may make corrections.

Thank you for your help!



The trustees request the help of the congregation in keeping up with pledges during the Summer. Even though the programs of the church slow down over the Summer, the expenses of the church continue on. It is necessary to keep a steady income throughout the Summer months, so even if people do not attend as regularly, it would be appreciated if program pledges would be kept up to date.

~Marlene Sack, Finance Secretary

## WELCOME

Welcome to Susan Madar! Susan began attending First Baptist church a year ago. She grew up in Lakawanna, New York and first came to Ithaca to attend Cornell. Soon after graduation with a degree in mathematics she returned to the area where she has worked at a variety of occupations and has been involved in church and community life. For a number of years she could be found working at Loaves and Fishes which she says has had a great impact on her life and her sense of mission. During this period of transition in her life she seeks the solace and support that First Baptist offers. We welcome her as a thoughtful, sensitive and discerning presence in our midst.

From the Laneys...

Joan and I are tremendously grateful to all of our marvelous friends at Ithaca First Baptist for your many and varied expressions of concern and support related to my recent open heart surgery. Surely, you know how much we continue to love all of you, and it has lifted our spirit to hear from so many of you. Many thanks!! ~John Laney

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ashlee Martinez, the latest recipient of the Christian Jensen scholarship. Christian Jensen was a long-time and much-beloved pastor of First Baptist, and the scholarship continues to link his service to the church to the service of our young people. Ashlee, who was baptized in Cayuga Lake a few years ago, has been a vital part of our Youth Group. She has consistently volunteered to help in the nursery on Sundays, and she can always be counted on to assist with special projects. Ashlee will be enrolling in LeMoyne College in Syracuse this fall and will study nursing. We know that she will succeed in all she does.



## Summer Music



- July 20 -** Debbie Allen, flute
- July 27 -** CSMA Recorder Ensemble
- Aug 3 -** Small Women's Ensemble
- Aug 10 -** Marlene Sack
- Aug 17 -** New Creation Singers or David Caughey
- Aug 24 -** David Caughey or New Creation Singers

76<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Gathering at Keuka College- August 8-10, 2008  
"Developing Good Habits" (Psalm 1)  
Speaker: Rev. Bill Dodge, Executive Director of the Utica Rescue Mission  
Saturday Sunrise Service with Rev. Bill Carlsen  
For more information, visit [www.abmennys.org](http://www.abmennys.org)

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## Lectionary Readings for July

July 13

Genesis 25:19-34 or Isaiah 55:10-13 ~ Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11 ~ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20

Genesis 28:10-19a or Isaiah 44:6-8 ~ Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25 ~ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27

Genesis 29:15-28 or I Kings 3:5-12 ~ Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 or Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39 ~ Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 3

Genesis 32:22-31 or Isaiah 55:1-5 ~ Psalm 17:1-7, 15 or Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
Romans 9:1-5 ~ Matthew 14:13-21

August 10

Genesis 22:1-14 or Jeremiah 28:5-9 ~ Psalm 13 or Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 or I Kings 19:9-18 ~ Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b or Psalm 85:8-13  
Romans 10:5-15 ~ Matthew 14:22-33

August 17

Genesis 45:1-15 or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 ~ Psalm 133 or Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 ~ Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

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The American Baptist Men 2008 Booster Club support will go toward assisting the Karen refugees who are being settled in Utica, Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester, NY. They come to our country with just the clothes on their backs and need supplies for their daily lives. We would like to divide our 2008 Booster Club receipts among the church groups working with the Karen refugees in these four cities.

The Karen people are an ethnic group in Southeast Asia enduring an ethnic cleansing program in eastern Burma. The result is between 500,000 to 1 million Karen people living in hiding within Burma. In addition, refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border house some 155,000 mostly Karen refugees. Thousands more live in refugee-like situations in Thailand and Burma, and millions of other Burmese from a variety of ethnic groups seek refuge and a way to make a living in surrounding countries.

No end to the difficulties is in sight for Karen refugees, so governments around the world are accepting Karen people from the camps in Thailand for resettlement. Tens of thousands of Karen will likely be coming to the U.S over the next few years. If you would like to make a contribution, please send to ABMen NYS, c/o Harold V. Files, 291 Miramar Rd., Rochester, NY 14624.

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## Summer 2008 Calendar

For information about these events please use contact information provided: For New Creation Singers rehearsals (David 273-7864)~ Morning Meditation (Tony 277-1158)~Bible Study ~Choir Rehearsals, (Jennifer 277-7664).

<b>Sun</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>9:30am-12:00</b>	<b>PEACE CAMP</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>9:30am-12:00</b>	<b>PEACE CAMP</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>9:30am-12:00</b>	<b>PEACE CAMP</b>
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>July 17</b>	<b>9:30am-12:00</b>	<b>PEACE CAMP</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>July 18</b>	8:15AM	Morning Meditation
		<b>9:30am-12:00</b>	<b>PEACE CAMP</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Adult Education Planning Meeting</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
<b>Wed</b>	<b>July 23</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>July 25</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sun</b>	<b>July 27</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>July 30</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>August 1</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sun</b>	<b>August 3</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship-Communion</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Music Committee Meeting</b>
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
<b>Wed</b>	<b>August 6</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>August 8</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sun</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>All Board Meeting</b>
		7:00pm	ACT Meeting
<b>Wed</b>	<b>August 13</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>August 15</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sun</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
<b>Wed</b>	<b>August 20</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>August 22</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sun</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Wed</b>	<b>August 27</b>	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
<b>Fri</b>	<b>August 29</b>	8:15am	Morning Meditation
<b>Sat</b>	<b>August 30</b>	8:30am	GARAGE SALE
<b>Sun</b>	<b>August 31</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Doorstep Reception</b>
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers

Summer Office Hours are generally Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Rev. Rose is generally in the office Mon. 1:00-5:00, Tues-Thurs 9:30-Noon, but is not in on Friday. If you need to meet with someone in the office, please call first to be sure someone is available. Rev. Rose is available at other times by appointment.

The carpets have been cleaned in the Library, Historic Room, and the church offices. It's nice to have them clean! We ask that you be mindful of food and beverages that are used during your time in these rooms in order to keep them looking great!

## First Baptist Garage Sale

Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Who is on the telephone?

Many in the congregation donate items to the Garage Sale. But the reality is we need YOUR help before, during and after the sale! I'll be in touch with many of you near the time of the sale to see how you might help. Watch for the next Visitor with more info!

Linda Caughey, 273-7864 or jonesy125@twcnj.rr.com

Very Important ~ if you have furniture, specialty items, sports equipment, etc. that should be advertised in the newspaper, please contact the office and/or fill out a slip with the information as soon as possible! Otherwise, your donation won't be priced correctly!

Specific items and information for the sale...

Large items for pick up – call Rich Barron (657-2880)

Bake Sale items – call Sue Eymann (277-1158)

Plants for the Plant Sale – call Jan McCarrick (272-8611)

Café food items or help – call Liz Wilkinson (272-1354)

Books – Dick Fielding (273-3459)

Financial – Marlene Sack (272-5820)

Church Display – Linda Nicholson (272-0358)

Flyers & signs distribution – call Debbie Allen (273-1365)

Newspaper Ads – Katy Gottschalk (277-2426)

Items may be dropped off after August 1<sup>st</sup>. (Please no guns, war toys, old paint, air or electronic equipment before 2005. Air conditioners & refrigerators may be sold from the owner's home using a write up of contact info (name and phone #).

Volunteers needed to sort, price, sell and clean up – call Andrea Mooney (272-2951) or Linda Caughey (273-7864)

AND

From my garden to your garden ~~ from my house to your house: Large sale items or plantings can be listed in the next Visitor, purchased and picked up directly from the owner before the sale. Or descriptions can be posted at the sale for purchase later. Contributions are made to the church. (see below)

From the Caughey yard to yours: Lilies of the Valley, Day Lilies, Japanese Iris,  
Peonies

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Garage Sale – item to advertise in the papers:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Item \_\_\_\_\_ est. Value \_\_\_\_\_

Description