



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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Dear Congregation,

This time of year encourages me to clean out and go through old things in anticipation of beloved guests and the new things that the holiday season often brings. These times were my mother-in-law's favorite, as she loved Jesus, family, food and shopping each with a fiery passion. I recently came across this note in her things. I share this note from *Gloria Beatrice Christian* unedited, in the hope that it is as much a gift to you as it was to me.

Dear Friend,

How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you--and I waited. You never came. Oh yes, it hurts me--but I still love you because I am your friend. I saw you fall asleep last night and I longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awakened late and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Today, you looked so sad--so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down so many times to--but, I love you.

Oh if you would only listen to me! I love you! I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves in the trees and breathe in the color of flowers. I shout to you in mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature's scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need in your head. Oh, if you only knew how much I want to walk and talk with you. We could spend an eternity together in heaven. I know how hard it is on this earth, I really know! And I want to help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you too. My Father is that way, you know. Just call me--ask me--talk with me! Oh please don't forget me. I have so much to share with you!

All right, I won't bother you any further. You are free to choose me. It is your decision. I have chosen you and because of this. I will wait, because I LOVE YOU.

Your friend
JESUS

May we each respond promptly...
Regards, Pastor Meredith

Mission works 2019 Information

This MissionWorks Conference was attended with (maybe), 200 American Baptists with many representatives from several American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. It is always nice to gather with so many familiar friendly faces.

We'll start with the lobby, where several display tables made available various ministries of our denomination, including one from Women's Ministries; about 22 in all, with a welcoming smile and a free *Milky Way* on several tables.

There was a key note speaker when we all assembled in the main dining room, including Reverend Marsha Scipio, Associate General Secretary for Missional Initiatives and Partnerships of American Baptist Churches U.S.A. and Dr. Samira Ec-Yasin in the Community Church of Barrington, a suburb of Chicago, bringing preaching and teaching, especially with youth and children.

The meals were very tasty, and as you know cost money, as does the registration, but it is a joy to meet the 200 or so like minded friends from other American Baptist churches who love their church as much as we do ours, and want to know the fact that they are trying their best to spread the love of Christ.

I hope and pray that our next Mission Works (In October 2020), will have more of our congregation and for more A.B. churches to attend. I don't know anything about those who work at the DoubleTree, but just maybe through our example, perhaps they will hear the message of the saving grace of Christ our Savior.

Whenever we have another Missionworks, maybe you could consider attending? It's a great feeling to be with likeminded folk who are trying to make the world a better place to live. If money is an issue, our church can probably help out.

I just thought you might wonder what MissionWorks is all about.

Blessings,

Marilyn (& Chet)

The Twelve Days of Christmas - True Meaning Behind the Lyrics

To many people, the lyrics of the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” seem strange beyond belief. The odd carol’s words might make one think it is a novelty song, in the vein of “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” or “My Favorite Things.” Though a host of modern internet sites and some magazine articles have tried to reduce “The Twelve Days of Christmas” to a little more than a silly Christmas carol, most scholars of the Catholic Church deem it a very important surviving example of a time when that denomination used codes to disguise their teachings. Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics, this song was transformed into a carol at a time when celebrating the twelve days of Christmas was one of the most important holiday customs. By understanding the meaning the clerics chose the twelve days as wrapping for their poem, the full impact of the tradition of the twelve days of Christmas can be understood.

The 12 Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtledoves.

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God’s plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens.

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to [1 Corinthians 13](#), the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds.

One of the easiest facets of the song’s code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings.

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch. The Five Books of Moses are the biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying.

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was “hatched” or formed by God.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming.

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking.

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing.

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping.

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping.

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming.

The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

The Context & History Behind "The 12 Days of Christmas"

Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in sixteenth-century England. Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered. Thus, the church went underground. To hide the important and illegal elements of their teaching, clerics composed poems that seemed sill to most people. But these verses were veiled works that taught the church's most important tenets. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is said to be one of these teaching tools.



Christmas Poinsettia Price list & Order form



6 ½" Pots	Single Plants	(Approx. 5-7 Flowers)	\$8.50 ea.
7" Pots	Double Plants	(Approx. 10-12 Flowers)	\$14.95 ea.
8" Pots	Triple Plants	(Approx. 15-18 Flowers)	\$19.50 ea.
10" Pots	Four Plants	(Approx. 20-24 Flowers)	\$29.95 ea.
5" Pots	Single Plants	(Approx. 3-4 Flowers)	\$5.50 ea.

<u>Color</u>	<u>5" Pots</u>	<u>6 ½" Pots</u>	<u>7" Pots</u>	<u>8" Pots</u>	<u>10" Pots</u>
Red	<input type="checkbox"/>				
White		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pink		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marble		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Red/White			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Red/White/Pink				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to First Baptist church

Turn in to Debi Cross

No Later than DECEMBER 08, 2019

In Arms Of Santa

“When I walked in, he was laying there, so weak it looked like he was ready to fall asleep. I sat down on his bed and asked, ‘Say, what’s this I hear about you’re gonna miss Christmas? There’s no way you can miss Christmas! Why, you’re my Number One elf!’

“He looked up and said, ‘I am?’

“I said, ‘Sure!’

“I gave him the present. He was so weak he could barely open the wrapping paper. When he saw what was inside, he flashed a big smile and laid his head back down.

“‘They say I’m gonna die,’ he told me.

‘How can I tell when I get to where I’m going?’

“I said, ‘Can you do me a big favor?’

“He said, ‘Sure!’

“When you get there, you tell ’em you’re Santa’s Number One elf, and I know they’ll let you in.

“He said, ‘They will?’

“I said, ‘Sure!’

“He kinda sat up and gave me a big hug and asked one more question:

‘Santa, can you help me?’

“I wrapped my arms around him. Before I could say anything, he died right there. I let him stay, just kept hugging and holding on to him.

“Everyone outside the room realized what happened. His mother ran in. She was screaming, ‘No, no, not yet!’ I handed her son back and left as fast as I could.

“I spent four years in the Army with the 75th Rangers, and I’ve seen my share of (stuff). But I ran by the nurses’ station bawling my head off. I know nurses and doctors see things like that every day, but I don’t know how they can take it.’”

In despair, Schmitt-Matzen was ready to hang up his suit.

“I’m just not cut out for this,” he reasoned.

But he mustered the strength to work one more show.

“When I saw all those children laughing, it brought me back into the fold. It made me realize the role I have to play. “For them and for me.”

Local News

Sunday, December 1st Special service
"Hanging of the Greens"

The youth will be putting on a short called
"It isn't easy being alone".



Troop 65127

Meets 1st and 3rd

Wednesday @ 5:30 P.M.

For more information call Stacey Phillips-Year @ 978-413-0372

*Let May Goff know your favorite hymn
We will sing one a week as long as they last*



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Local News

Are you interested in both local and global missional opportunities?

Are you passionate about sharing mission opportunities in your congregation? Would you like to me more involved with missions at the level of Regional Ministry?

Then the TABCOM Mission Advocate Ministry is FOR YOU!!!! We would love your partnership in this venture.

I will be reaching out individually to the people on our Mission Advocate list with more information.....but MEANWHILE.....SAVE THIS DATE:

Saturday, January 25 @ Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center

I will be facilitating a training opportunity for all Mission Advocates!! Registration Information Coming Soon!!

If you are not already on the Mission Advocate list.....and would like to be, please contact me at keddy@tabcom.org.

Yours in Mission Mindedness,
-Rev. Christine Keddy, TABCOM Director of Missions



**First Baptist Church of Fitchburg
Adams Fellowship Hall**

**Every Monday Night
7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.**

The basket outside of the ladies room is for donations for the homeless shelter, which could be toothpaste, toothbrushes, body soap, or clean face cloths and towels.

Also acceptable are sheets and pillow cases. Sheets need to be twin sized for the beds at the shelter. Clients get to take these home when they go, so there is always a need for these. They do not have to be new, so if you have several you aren't using, that are in very good condition, they would be acceptable.

M. Carter

Winter Wonderland
CHRISTMAS AT
GROTONWOOD
FREE ENTRY
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7
4.00PM - 7.30PM
LIVE-ANIMAL NATIVITY
FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA
CRAFT MARKET
FESTIVE FOOD AND DRINK
KIDS ACTIVITIES
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
CHRISTMAS CONCERT 6:00 - 7:30PM
157 PRESCOTT STREET GROTON MA 01450
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE ON 978 448 5763
EMAIL OFFICE@GROTONWOOD.ORG OR GO TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
GROTONWOOD
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Recipe of the Month

Strawberry Cream Cheese Cobbler



Ingredients:

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 quarts whole strawberries, capped and washed
- 4 ounces cream cheese, cut in small pieces

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter and pour into a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish. In a small bowl, mix together the egg, milk, flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Pour directly over the butter in the baking dish, but do not stir.

Add the strawberries, arranging in a single layer as much as possible. Sprinkle cream cheese pieces over strawberries. Place in preheated oven and bake for 45 minutes, or until top is golden brown and edges are bubbling. (Crust rises up and around the fruit, but fruit will still peek out of top.)



The Women's Circle is hosting

Christmas Craft Making

Saturday, December 14

10:00am-12:00pm

**Create Christmas ornaments/decorations
for our shut-ins and to take home**

**Coffee, tea, and hot cocoa available
along with Christmas goodies to munch on.**

**Everybody is Welcome
For This fun Event!**

RSVP to Linda by Sunday, December 7





December Birthdays

- 09. MICHAEL RUSCHIONI*
- 13. MICHAEL BIGELOW*
- 18. WIL GARIEPY*
- 19. Jim RUSCHIONI*
- 24. BETTY GIORDANO*
- 30. MICHAEL DEMARTINO, II*
- 30. TOM CROSS*
- 31. CHLOE RUSCHIONI*



Happy Anniversary

December Anniversaries

- 31. PETER & KRISTEN SPRIGG*



IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

978-345-5622

E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST

Anoura Rose Angelin
Annie De Martino
Bette Adams
Claire Budroe
John Mim
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)
Kathy Gosselin
Kathy Young (coworker of Diane Bigelow)
Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)
Linda Gosselin
Lorraine (friend of Pam Chapman)
Matthew
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Nancy Peters
Paula Ustin
Roberta Poole
Ed Guerard
Tom and Karen Adams
Karen Simpson
Elaine Corzine
The Blake Family
Renee Brideau - Crohn's Disease
The Steward Family
Roger Abell
The Yangsi Family

Pastor Becky
Martha Quinn
Brady, Amy Giordano / Weeks
Pastor Garcia & his ministry

Our Missionaries

Light A Candle Ministries
Rovaungha Richardson, William Seo
mission trip to Afganistan

Daniel Auguste and the Haitian
Missionary Team

Other Concerns

Baptist Church of Grafton
First Baptist Church of Gardner

For those under persecution for their
faith.

For our civic leaders- local and
national

Prayers for those suffering from acts of
violence around the world



**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, PLEASE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN
THE BEACONLIGHT!**

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY US WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THESE LISTINGS.

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