



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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Dear Congregation,

This is still a blessed month. I am honored to serve, in what limited capacity I am allowed, during this blessed season of Lent. Lent is not about the building. It is a space you make within your heart, as we move closer to that day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our Blessed Hope, who surely:

*“took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5).*

These are words that have been so many times, for thousands and thousands of years, yet are perhaps never so truly felt as in times like these. These precious words are reminders that Jesus does know what we are going through in our pain, in our suffering, in what feels like a punishment, as we are all “grounded” to our homes.

Jesus understood the weight of our afflictions and volunteered to take the full eternal brunt of them upon Himself, for our sake, because He loves us, oh how He loves each one of us. He dearly loves you.

Christ has done His part to purchase healing for each of us. Not all will receive that healing in this life. I pray you do. I pray you do, and that you take this opportunity, when we are all forced to give up fellowship for Lent, to advance in your pursuit of a closer relationship with God in all His glorious splendor.

May you have a Holy Spirit encounter. May you draw closer to Jesus. May the Lord reveal Himself to you in a new and exciting way.

May the Lord bless and keep you, until we meet again.

Regards,

Pastor Meredith

# Local News

St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

## First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

Dear Friends,

Thank you for continuing to partner with us on the clothing drop-off shed program! In 2019 roughly 3,212 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 389 people all over the world.

Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$ 935 in 2019.

Thank you for continuing to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. We truly appreciate all the support you've given this program!

Sincerely,  
The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

## *Easter Flowers*

Sorry...  
Due to the current situation.  
Easter Flowers have not been ordered.  
Checks will be returned.

Debi Cross

April 5, 2020 - Palm Sunday,  
Communion Sunday

April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday,  
Passover begins

April 10, 2020 - Good Friday

April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday

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

## *Careful Planning Makes a Difference*

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.  
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# Local News

## **A Prayer in Spring**

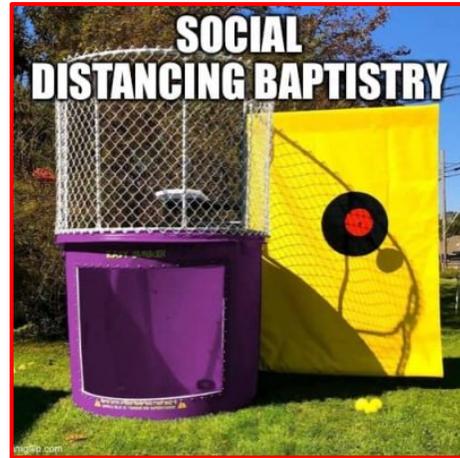
Robert Frost - 1874-1963

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfill.



## ***Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic***

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Amen

## *From The American Baptist Churches Of Massachusetts*

### *What About Camp?*

We have received a number of inquiries about summer camp at Grotonwood and Oceanwood. The short answer is, we don't know yet exactly what will be happening: a regular camp season, and adjusted camp season, or a cancellation of the camp season. These decisions will be made around May 1<sup>st</sup> as the trajectory of the COVID-19 epidemic becomes clearer. Our camp leadership is working hard and preparing for all of the possibilities for the summer season. Please keep them all in prayer.

### **CALLING ALL YOUTH! JOIN US!**

**When: April 3**

**Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Where: Virtual Youth Gathering on FaceBook Live**

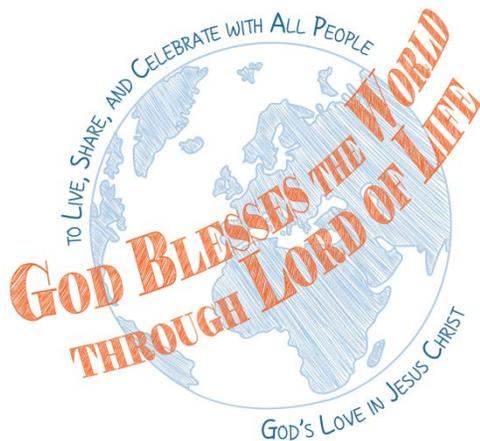


In light of the current climate and the fact that Grotonwood has had to cancel two youth events already, we wanted to do something awesome to stay connected with our camp community!

On Friday April 3rd between 3:00-4:30pm we'll enjoy some 'socially distant' fellowship with our youth! This program is geared to youth in grades 2-8 but all are welcome!

Program includes: Counselor challenge, worship with Breeze, Q & A with the Grotonwood staff and of course we'll be diving into the Bible with Unit Leader Julia.

Bring your questions about summer camp, your Bible and a note pad!



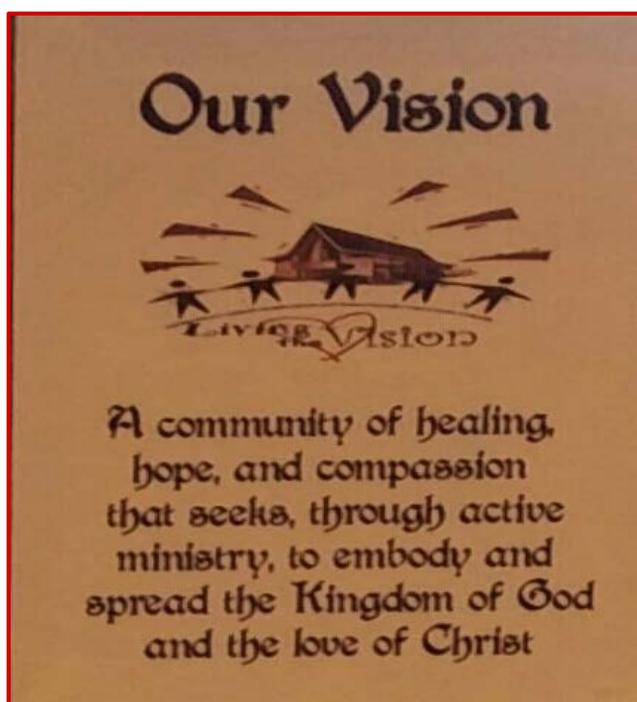
We as a Congregation  
We cannot physically meet  
Every week right now  
Our Love for each other  
Is still there !!!!

Please pray for each other, the doctors and nurses who are providing care for the Corona Virus

If you are able in these trying times could you please mail your offering envelopes to:

Linda Gosselin  
10 Washington St.  
Fitchburg, MA 01420-5425

The church has regular monthly bills to pay even though we are not holding services.



# Recipe of the Month

## *Taco Stuffed Peppers*



### ***Ingredients:***

PAM Avocado Oil Cooking Spray Pump  
4 small bell peppers  
1 pound ground beef (80% lean)  
1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
1 pouch (8 oz each) Ground Beef Taco Skillet Sauce  
2 cups shredded Mexican blend cheese, divided  
2/3 cup canned black beans, drained, rinsed  
2 large avocados, pitted, peeled  
1 pouch (4.5 oz each) Original Guacamole Mix  
2 cups shredded lettuce  
1 small tomato, chopped  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, optional

### ***Preparation:***

#### Step one

Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray 9x13-inch baking dish with avocado oil spray.

#### Step two

Cut peppers in half through the stem and remove the seeds. Place cut side down in baking dish and bake 15 minutes.

#### Step three

Brown ground beef with onion in a large skillet over medium heat; drain. Stir in taco skillet sauce and cook until hot. Stir in 1 cup cheese and black beans.

#### Step four

Remove peppers from oven and stuff with ground beef mixture. Top with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake 10 minutes, until cheese is melted and peppers are tender.

#### Step five

Meanwhile, prepare guacamole mix according to package directions. Serve peppers topped with lettuce, tomato, 2 tablespoons guacamole and cilantro.



*April Birthdays*

- 01. *Kayleigh Force*
- 05. *Marilyn Carter*
- 05. *Neville Yangsi*
- 05. *Susan Force*
- 10. *Cedric Labah*
- 15. *Zachary Rooney*
- 18. *Eric Mbunwe*
- 19. *Mildred Labah*
- 21. *Joe Weeks*
- 25. *Donna Auger*



*Happy Anniversary*

*April Anniversaries*

- 4. *Carl & Betty Rousell*
- 28. *Ed & Portia Perkins*



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

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# 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)  
Mark & Diane Bigelow  
Marsha – return of lung cancer  
Nancy Peters  
Roberta Poole  
Ed Guerard  
Tom and Karen Adams  
Karen Simpson  
Elaine Corzine  
The Blake Family  
The Steward Family  
Roger Abell  
Pastor Becky*

## ***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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