



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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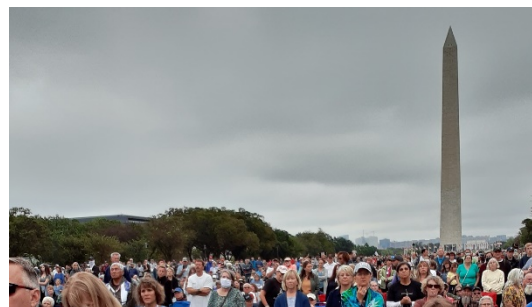
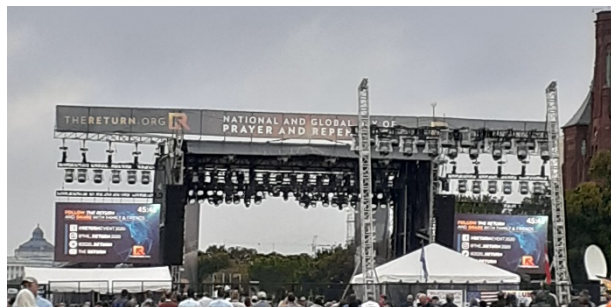
NUMBER 10

Dear Congregation,

It is wonderful to be back in the place where the Lord has called me, here with all of you at FBC Fitchburg. As you are aware, I was away this past weekend, called by God to go to our nation's capital that I may be a delegate of repentance for this congregation, myself, and my family in observance of the Word of the Lord to King Solomon at the dedication of His first Temple:

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God said it, and I believe it. The below pictures were taken on Saturday, September 26, 2020, the day of Shabbat Shuvah, “Sabbath [of] Return” *הַבּוּשׁ תְּבוּשׁ*, which refers to the Shabbat that occurs during the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Only one Shabbat can occur between these dates. This Shabbat...literally means "Return!", and marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year. This was the purpose and focus of this gathering; a prayer for a return to God.



So we all, as one turned our faces to the East, toward the Temple, most without realizing that this was in fact the direction to which we were all pointing, and repented before the Lord, for all our sins. We prayed we may as one nation, under God, and each of our churches, and homes would be forgiven. We, as individuals, committed to return to Him in sorrow for our transgressions, with sincerity and hope that He may yet return His favor upon us, heal this land and give us more time to reach the lost before His Return.

It was a solemn day. It was not a time of rejoicing, entertainment or excitement. I cannot say that I have “seen DC”. In fact much of the day I felt entirely alone amidst the crowd with my Savior, Jesus. It was a day of weeping, ashes, repentance and humbling. You were all there with me, as I stood in one accord and prayed for our church and this nation. I am aware that there was another gathering on the other side of The Mall were some

50,000 additional people gathered at the Capital Building in order to stand in the gap before the Lord. On this day there were two mountains, and two assemblies, gathered together for two separate purposes to pray as one.

I am reminded of how there were two mountains upon which the Law was given unto mankind, and that God established both governmental leaders and the office of the priesthood. I do not pretend to be either, beloved, yet I was very sure that my place was among the ministers and missionaries called from around the globe to repent for having not been faithful to preach the Gospel of God's Word in truth and love, nor to do His will upon this earth in my own life, or encourage it fully in others. This was my place, among the prayerful.

I repented for having withheld Scripture that was unpalatable. I repented for having neglected spending as much time in prayer as I may have, having let the distractions of the world lure me away from making more time for God. I repented for having failed to lift each of you up in a way that would be beneficial for you in keeping with God's plan for your life, rather than praying myself for what I desired for you. May you receive all that He has for you, even if it is not what you, yourselves ask for or desire. I repented for all my sin, known and unknown.

I repented, we repented, and by the glory of God I believe He heard us, for the ground truly shook with His glory that day. As the Hebrew New Year begins and this American year comes to a close on this year of 2020, I pray that you have each gained a new vision for the things of God, for His will for your life and for what He is calling you into in this next season of this new era.

I pray that you are bold for the things of God without being brash. I pray that you roar without being rowdy and that you find the things of this earth less palatable as you feast on the Word of God, and may the Spirit of the Lord grant you the wisdom, strength, courage and will to do it.

"Behold, I hear the sound of an abundance of rain" (1 Kings 18:41).

Ken Y'Hi Ratzon (קני יהי וצור). May the Lord's will be done. May the Lord continue to bless and keep us all ways, and may He indeed heal our land. Maranatha and Amen.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

Works Cited: <https://www.hebc.com/holidays/shabbat-shuva-2020>

October 11 – Guest Preacher Rev. Phil Goff

**VIRTUAL MISSION WORKS
IS COMING –
Save the Date – October 17, 2020**



**You do not want to miss our first Virtual Mission Works!
Three sessions – Morning – Afternoon – Evening.**

Come Worship with us...

Come enjoy the Workshops...

Come and hear the Word...

**WEBINAR SERIES – ARE YOU ALSO LEADING AN
ON-LINE CHURCH?**

WORLD MISSION OFFERING

Dear Pastor or Mission Leader,

We all find ourselves this spring and summer living through very uncertain times. As followers of Jesus Christ, sometimes the best response we can give in the face of overwhelming unknowns is to take the time to remember how each of us has experienced and known God's faithfulness in the past.

As I think about International Ministries, the first thought that comes to my mind is how our 206 years of continued participation in the mission of God has only been possible because of God's faithfulness to us. God has been faithful in allowing us to serve him through two world wars, the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, 9/11, the 2008 recession, and so many other times of distress, upheaval, and loss around the world.

In each of these crises, it was not always obvious what God was up to or where God's hand was at work. In John 11, when Jesus reaches the tomb of Lazarus and meets Mary and Martha after Lazarus' death, the sisters are both saddened by the fact that "if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Yet, even in this sad statement, there is a clear expression of trust and hope in Jesus.

My prayer is that this letter finds you in a place where you are able to trust Jesus to make clear in God's time the things that perplex you.

This year's World Mission Offering theme is "I once was blind, but now I see." We are seeing God at work in so many hopeful and encouraging ways through our global servants and global partners. And we are sharing some of those stories with you and your church this September and October through videos, bulletin inserts, and other resources so you can see the impact you are having on global mission. Your participation now more than ever will help global servants and partners rebuild and re-establish ministries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and crisis. We have created a downloadable document (available at www.worldmissionoffering.org) to offer you specific ideas on how to use our materials, whether your church will be meeting in person or virtually in September.

When confronted with uncertainty, we as Christians have the opportunity to respond with faith in Jesus. I urge you to consider prayerfully how your faithful giving and prayers could be used by God at this moment to impact the lives of many in need of him around the world today... until it is on earth as it is in heaven.

Gratefully,

Sharon Koh

Sharon Koh, Executive Director / CEO W940 1

Local News



Women's Circle News



We are sorry to report that in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided to not hold meetings until such a time as it is considered safe for us to gather again without risking exposure to the virus infection and possibly causing a member to become ill or to transmit it to others. From time to time, we will communicate to the members via emails, phone calls, or in-person about issues concerning us that may come up. At this time, a memorial gift of \$100.00 will be made to the church in memory of Connie Gariepy who had been a long time active member of the Women's Circle and First Baptist Church of Fitchburg. Every Christmas season we have made and packaged holiday goodies to provide to the shut-ins of the church. Sadly, that cannot take place this year. We can discuss possible safer alternatives so we don't forget our shut-ins who are even more isolated in efforts to keep safe and well during this pandemic. Let's pray the medical and scientific community has an effective vaccine soon so we all can be vaccinated and resume our normal routines at work, church, and home.

Central Massachusetts Baptist Association

An organization of American Baptist Churches-USA -
Congregations in Central MA

Dear Congregation,

The Executive Committee of the Central Massachusetts Baptist Association has decided that there will not be a Fall Meeting this year due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Blessings,

Mark S. Bigelow

*"With
GOD
All Things
Are
Possible!"*

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.
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Medicaid Planning
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Operation Planting Hope celebrates White Cross legacy

For many years, through an initiative known as White Cross, faithful American Baptist women have acted as the hands and feet of Christ, providing much-needed gifts and volunteer services to American Baptist Home Mission Societies' mission partners.

Beneficiaries have included some Community Outreach Ministries partners, who were known as Neighborhood Action Program Christian community centers — such as Weirton (W.Va.) Christian Center-ABHMS' Native American Ministries, race track chaplains and others. These mission partners have benefitted from decades of reliable service and continuous streams of donations offered by White Cross volunteers. ABHMS and its partners are eternally grateful for their faithful service. The legacy of those faithful White Cross supporters will be celebrated as part of the launch of "Operation

Planting Hope," which will replace White Cross. "Operation Planting Hope" provides opportunities for even more ABHMS' mission partners to benefit from the financial and hands-on support of ABHMS' growing volunteer base.

"Many ABHMS partnering organizations depended on donations they received from White Cross to help support their ministry efforts. 'Operation Planting Hope' will allow that support to continue, while serving a much broader audience at considerably less cost with

These mission partners have benefitted from decades of reliable service and continuous streams of donations offered by White Cross volunteers.

greater impact and benefit," says the Rev. Kadia Edwards, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministries.

"'Operation Planting Hope' will allow passionaries to volunteer and share gifts of support with a wide range of ABHMS-related partners who are working to heal and transform communities in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Recipe of the Month

Peach Balsamic Chicken Skillet



Ingredients:

2 tablespoons canola oil
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (5 oz each)
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 cup sliced yellow onion
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 cups sliced firm ripe yellow peaches (2 cups = about 4 small)
1 can (14.5 oz each) Hunt's® Diced Tomatoes, drained
2 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh basil

Preparation:

Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper; place in skillet. Add onion; cook 5 minutes or until chicken is browned, turning once. Remove chicken from skillet; set aside.

Add balsamic vinegar; cook 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in peaches and drained tomatoes.

Return chicken to skillet. Cover, reduce heat and cook 8 to 10 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink in centers (165°F). Sprinkle with basil just before serving.

For gluten free preparation, confirm all recipe ingredients are gluten free by reading product labels each time you make this recipe.

Judson Press' Secret Place customers receive prayer via telephone



When customers of The Secret Place-Judson Press' 81-year-old daily devotional publication-call the publishing organization's Customer Service department, they receive more than a friendly voice confirming their order. They receive prayer from Loretta Beach, Judson Press customer engagement associate and a minister at Siloam Baptist Church, Norristown, Pa. In addition, Beach asks for permission to share the prayer requests with her church for further prayer.

The Secret Place, Beach says, lends itself to needing *OE* - wanting prayer.

So she takes the first step in asking what a customer's needs are-especially important during this uncertain time marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and racial unrest. Says Beach: "They'll ask, 'Does ABHMS have a prayer ministry?' I'll say, 'I will put you on our prayer list, but would you like me to pray with you now?'"

No customer has ever refused prayer, she adds.

Many Secret Place customers, she notes, are the eldest of the elders. They are often alone-especially during this time of quarantine.

"They're hurting, scared, stressed out, going through so many emotions, and I may be the only person they hear that day," she says. "The Word says we should pray for one another. My job is to be a connection with the Lord, to be a friend and a voice on the other end of the phone."

Judson Press is the publishing ministry of American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

To order The Secret Place, visit judsonpress.com or call the Customer Service department at 1-800-458-3766.



October Birthdays

- 01. Rebecca Irfan
- 02. Craig Poole
- 02. Brady Blake
- 21. Timothy Primeau
- 23. Olivia Ruschioni
- 27. Pam Chapman
- 28. Kristen Primeau
- 29. Nora Wesseh
- 30. Maxwell Ruschioni
- 31. Jason Ruschioni



October Anniversaries



- 5. Michael and Meredith Christian
- 23. Eric and Conference Mbutwe
- 30. James and Kristen Primeau



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

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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
Atera Mbunwe
Family of Connie Gariepy

Our Missionaries

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

Daniel Auguste and the Haitian
Missionary Team

Other Concerns

The Lutheran Church
1200 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg

Baptist Church of Grafton
First Baptist Church of Gardner

For those under persecution for their
faith.

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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