



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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Dear Congregation,

Welcome to a new season. Welcome to a new era. Welcome friends, to a new ecclesiastical year. This will be a year full of choices. This will be an era of accomplishments in Jesus' name, and surely, I pray in confidence, that this will be a new time within the Church of God of physical, mental and financial healing for you, for this country of ours and the world that we, as children of God, have been given to steward, to His glory.

From where does my confidence come? From history and relationship, for people have been here before, and by looking back, I can see that God has already given patterns in history to support us in such times as well as a relationship with Him that allows me to trust that He can and will yet again heal myself, each of you and this land if we, His friends, will only turn away from ourselves and seek His face with humility and repentance.

As I look back to the history of the people God first set apart as His own, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, I see that after the people had committed the grievous sin of worshiping the golden idols of their previous oppressors, God called His friend Moses to spend time with Him. The people of Israel had just taken all that the wealth the Lord had given them and formed it into an idol of worship. Moses commanded the spiritual leaders to choose where their loyalties rested and then act on their choice, after which the Lord still brought a plague upon the people as punishment for their sin.

As the people suffered, "The LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.'" (*Exodus 33:5*). At this point in history, God was fed-up, yet He was still willing to speak to His friend Moses (*Exodus 33:11*). Because of the relationship that Moses had with God, he was in a position to petition for the people:

*"Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name" (*Exodus 33:15-17*).*

God was merciful to the people, and centuries later, when Solomon built the first Temple of the Lord, the Presence of God came to him and declared, "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (*2 Chronicles 7:13-14*).

This was a promise that the Lord kept when His people were once again embroiled in idolatrous behavior and taken up to a mountain, before the presence of God and His prophet Elijah and asked to choose whom they would serve (*I Kings 18:21*). Jesus also reminded the crowds around Him that it was not possible to vacillate between 2 masters, for we, as individuals, cannot serve both God and mammon (*Matthew 6:24*), or any one or thing else. Time and time again God has warned His children that He is a Jealous God, and His children are not to worship any other god (*Exodus 34:14*).

We are all God's children, and history is clear that we have all sinned fallen short of the glory of God (*Romans 3:23*). We will do it again. The key to remember here is that those that have chosen to be a friend of God, those of us who have chosen to humble themselves, to pray, seek the face of God, turn from our own wicked desires in repentance have a promise that God will listen to His friends, just as He listened to Moses, and Solomon, and our friend Jesus. There may be repercussions from our actions, for this is a broken world, yet God can be trusted to hear from heaven once more, forgive us for our sins, through the shed blood of Jesus and yes, heal our land.

One of the last things that God had to say to His church through the Beloved Disciple, John, was "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (*Revelation 3:19-20*).

For those of you who trust in Jesus, for I know that you do, will you be a friend of God? There has never been a better time to take His friendly advice and pray, repent and seek the will of God, and surely there has never before in history been a greater time of need in God's loving, healing touch across this land then here and now. May we each lean on our Friend, the Lord our Healer (*Exodus 15:26*), and pray to our Great Physician. Amen.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

Box Full of Kisses (Love)



Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, “This is for you, Daddy.”

The man became embarrassed by his overreaction earlier, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her; “Don’t you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?”

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried;

**“Oh, Daddy, it’s not empty at all. I blew kisses
into the box.
They’re all for you, Daddy.”**

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child.

Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

Moral of the story:

Love is the most precious gift in the world.



First Baptist Church

Mark S. Bigelow, Deacon of Stewardship
1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

September 1, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

The Stewardship Committee (Linda Gosselin, Bette Adams, Phil Goff and myself) would like to thank everyone for their continued giving through these trying time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Your giving has put the church in a very good financial position heading into the Fall and Winter months when our expenses rise due to electric, heating and plowing bills.

If you are unable to get to church services we ask if you could do your best to send your envelope to:

First Baptist Church of Fitchburg
1400 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

Please keep each other in your prayers,

Blessings to all,

Mark S. Bigelow

Mark S. Bigelow

Deacon of Stewardship



The American Baptist Churches Of
MASSACHUSETTS



Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center

Some great news for your Sunday afternoon ↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

Our September Day Camp extension has been approved!

We have received approval from the Nashoba Board of Health to extend our day camp program until Friday September 25, 2020. We are delighted to confirm that we have made the decision to move forward with hosting four more weeks of camp.

Families wishing to register can head on over to <https://grotonwood.org/daycamp> to enroll for the following:

- Week 11 – Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2020 – MasterChef 🍳
- Week 12 – September 7-11, 2020 - Star Wars ✨
- Week 13 – September 14-18, 2020 - Disney Gospel 🎬
- Week 14 – September 21-25, 2020 - Jumanji 🍎

Enrollment for each week closes the Thursday prior, at midday.

Example: you need to register by no later than this Thursday August 27 for our Week 11 session. Note that payment in full is required to secure the spot(s).

Families wanting to register for single days through our Flexi-Day option and/or extended breakfast and dinner clubs are welcome to do so in exactly the same way. The only adjustment to our breakfast and dinner club programs is the price, which has increased from \$10 to \$12 to cover rising food costs.

Day Camp will continue to be hosted at the Family Center.

As we head in to September, we hope this extension alleviates some of the issues families are facing around schooling and childcare. We will continue to provide life-skills building, outdoor education, and of course, fun and socialization in a controlled and safe environment. Where possible, we will also provide participants with online learning and homework support.





Prayers

On Monday, August 24, 2020
The Lutheran Church
1200 John Fitch Highway

Our Neighbors had a Fire

Which destroyed their over 100-year-old Pipe Organ

Along with a lot of Smoke Damage throughout the church building

I have spoken to Pastor Dan Spigelmeyer on Monday evening to offer our church's help for their needs may be.

Mark S. Bigelow, Deacon of Stewardship

Local News



**Sunday, September 20th After Church
Pizza, Salad & Drinks
Will be provided !!!**

September 6 - Right Hand of Fellowship
(Cyprian and Mildred Labah)

September 20 - Fall Meeting (Pizza, Salad and
drinks provided by safe vendor)

September 26 - National and Global Day of
Prayer and Repentance (observed as televised
service)

*"With
GOD
All Things
Are
Possible!"*

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

114 Merriam Ave - Suite 204
Leominster, MA 01453
978-466-5011

Elder and Disability Law
Medicaid Planning
Estate Planning



637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) - Leominster, MA 01453 - Phone: 978-227-5556
Email: restore@ncmhabitat.org

Recipe of the Month

Oatmeal Cream Pies



Ingredients:

6 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 cup confectioners' sugar

1 tablespoon heavy (whipping) cream

1 package (7.9 oz) Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Nutrition Information

405 calories, 51g Carbs

Preparation:

Step one

Place butter in a medium bowl and beat with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until creamy, about 1 minute. Add the confectioners' sugar and heavy cream and beat until fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes.

Step two

Spread the cream filling on the bottom of a cookie and place another one on the top. Enjoy!



September Birthdays

- 03. Karen Adams
- 06. Justin Cross
- 07. Kathy Gosselin
- 18. Nicole Yangsi
- 19. James Primeau
- 22. Joshia Irfan
- 24. Atera Mbunwe



September Anniversaries

- 27. Tom Jr. & Karen Adams



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
Primeau Family

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.

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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