



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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Dear Congregation,

Back to school, back to work. This is true of our secular lives as well as our spiritual lives here at church. Now is a time for new cloths, new supplies and new expectations. It is also a time to set ourselves to the tasks of strengthening our minds, meeting new friends and forming new attachments. Our whole city seems to be bustling with new life and preparation as the store lines grow and we find ourselves waiting for, well everything.

How do we keep our eyes on Jesus when they want to roll back at the person before us in line who is not prepared, or the driver that seems to be in more of a hurry than ourselves? The half brother of Jesus understood what it was like to live with siblings who wanted their parents attention, and elders whose task was to educate him expecting James to sit quiet and listen for long stretches of time. James wrote this bit of advice to the scattered Jewish Christians as they tried to live in new situations among new people unlike their own:

“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:7-8).

James understood that situations come and go, yet our position and character in Christ should remain steadfast regardless of our circumstances. The eyes of a Christian are expected to look up in hope and expectation of the coming return of Jesus. Our time here, no matter how long, is temporary. Even the worst day will soon pass, but Jesus remains permanent in His position as Savior and one who prays for us (John 17:20-21). I invite you to consider these words of encouragement as you prepare for the start of another year.

Whether you are out in the world or here in church fellowship, remember who you are, whose you are and labor to be patient with those who are not as far along their spiritual walk with Christ as you may be at present. Know that your Heavenly Father not only cheers for you as you go about your new routine, but is also happy to hear about how things are going in your life when you return to Him in prayer.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

September



September 2	Communion Sunday
September 3	Labor Day
September 8	Ladies Circle Meeting
September 9	Rally Sunday, Rev. Phil Goff Guest Preacher Deacon's Meeting
September 16	Rev. Phil Goff Guest Preacher
September 22	Pizza Party and Dorm Decorating, 1:00 P.M.
September 23	Fall Business Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon
September 30	Baby Dedication Service of Zuirel Waruhui

October is World Mission Offering Month

ABCUSA News

AWANA Ministry Yields Dynamic Discipleship and Growth in the Dakotas

Pastor Bruce Miller and leaders at two South Dakota congregations have used AWANA as an educational initiative to spark growth and discipleship exceeding their expectations. The AWANA ministry is entirely in keeping with the American Baptist Churches USA Commitment to Discipleship, one of seven denominational priorities currently being carried forth.

AWANA is a ministry based in the U.S. in Streamwood, Ill. Founded in 1950, its mission is to equip local volunteers in churches around the world with Biblical evangelism and discipleship solutions so that today's children may become tomorrow's Christian leaders in every aspect of society and culture. It aims to "reach kids, equip leaders and change the world for God."

Miller explains that in September 2009 at First Baptist Church in Winner, SD, parishioner Alice Minchow, had a passion to start an AWANA ministry for "Cubbies" (ages 3 and 4). In September of that year the ministry began with four teachers with the intention they would switch off on Wednesday nights. Minchow was joined by Jessie Elsasser, Linda Schroeder and Donna Brozik. The ministry started with only one child and one teen attending church.

"The intention was to have something for this one child in the form of Christian education," Miller explains. Seven other children joined in.

In 2010 Rev. Bruce and his spouse, Lori, came to Winner and started working with AWANA, adding the group "Sparks" (grades K-2) and "Truth and Training" (grades 3-6). "We had 18 children in attendance by then. The game floor was 12x18, and there was not enough room for the children to assemble for book time," Miller explains. In 2011 AWANA began with 30 children, and "space problems were definitely an issue."

Miller explains that in December, 2011, the congregation received an anonymous gift of \$100,000, having in mind to build a new church. "The building we had was very inefficient," Miller, a retired contractor, explains. "The walls were made of concrete block and did not have any insulation in them. The windows were also in very poor condition."

"We formed a building committee and started meeting for the sole purpose to consider what our greatest needs were," Miller says. "We decided no matter what that we needed to start by making the current church a better space for

AWANA to meet," Miller says. "We had a 100 percent approval vote to take the pews out of the church, add carpet and purchase a larger AWANA game floor mat."

Miller explains how gratified he was in his early life as a pastor in Winner that the congregation was so unified and open to such a move. "Winner is far off the beaten path," Miller says. "Many people won't move there because it is so far from a big town. The annual income for many is below the poverty line. The church has about 50 percent working in some sort of agriculture and another 25 percent retired and on a fixed income." He says much of the church's progress

resulted from prayers for wisdom, discernment and unity. “We needed God’s wisdom, and we really wanted unity within the body of Christ,” Miller says. Unity resulted.

In 2012, one year before the new church was scheduled to be completed, 50 children were attending AWANA to start the year. “All of our leaders were looking at each other with fear!” Miller says. “It looked like our new building would not be big enough, and we were not even in it yet!” The congregation decided to add additional classroom space in the new structure’s lower level.

“We needed more meeting space, so we added still another 3,000 square feet of finished space in the lower level, including two more bathrooms,” Miller says.

“In 2013 we started AWANA with 68 children in the new building and quickly moved up to 78,” he continues. “In 2015 we added TREK (junior high AWANA) so that by the time the original eight children graduated from the ministry we would have the next level in place and functioning.” Now, “Journey” (high school AWANA) is in place at First Baptist. “We needed 30 leaders for an AWANA ministry of that size,” Miller says. “Whenever we needed more leaders, someone would call and ask if they could help. It was amazing to see God’s provision along the way!”

About a year ago, Miller moved to Wessington Springs, SD, to Immanuel Baptist Church, where AWANA ministry had begun 26 years before.

“They had about 30 children in the ministry but no ‘Cubbies’,” Miller says. “We’re going to be adding Cubbies to the ministry and adding one more room in the lower level of the church to make room for one more class.”

“Bruce and the leaders there did a fantastic job of ministry and growing the church in Winner,” says Rev. Randy Rasmussen, regional executive for American Baptist Church of the Dakotas. “The AWANA Ministry there is still going strong.”

Who knows what may be possible in Wessington Springs?

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Local News

Quit looking for a better church.
Make the church you're at better
by being a better church member!

#You are the church

Please consider signing up for...



*Worship Leader
Usher
Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour*

We all enjoy these services!

Careful Planning Makes a Difference

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

114 Merriam Ave - Suite 204
Leominster, MA 01453
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Elder and Disability Law
Medicaid Planning
Estate Planning
Asset Protection
Probate Avoidance

Women's Retreat

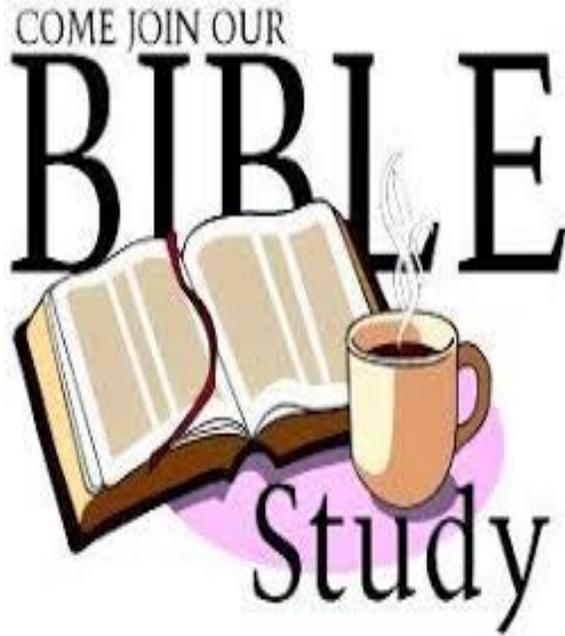
From September 20-30th, 2018 there will be a *Wellness Retreat for Clergy and Lay Women* at the Canonicus Camp Conf Center in Exeter, RI Sponsored by the ABWM & WI Organization. For more information, please visit :
<http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=32>

All are invited!!!

On September 22nd there will be a Pizza & Dorm Decorating party starting at 1pm. The Youth will be invited to share in fun, fellowship and fanning out their artistic talents by setting up their "Dorm" in the new youth room to the left of the sanctuary. Parents and Partners are welcome to Join in, there will be plenty of work to be done in removing old items and bringing up some things from storage in order to make the new Youth Room a comfortable place for our young folks to sink into the Word of God and explore the meaning and relevance of scripture in their daily walk with God.

Baby Dedication

There will be a Baby Dedication of September 30th. The Irfan family and her parents welcome you to attend the dedication of Zuriel Waruhiu before the church and God, with a celebration meal to follow church service downstairs in Adams Fellowship Hall. All are welcomed and encouraged to join in this happy occasion.



New Day & Time

Every Tuesday
Afternoon

2 P.M.

Starting

September 4, 2018

All are Welcome to attend



Pastor Meredith H. Christian

Will be in the Office on:

Tuesday: 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Thursday: 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Pastor Meredith may also be reached by phone: 774-276-0505

or email: meredithhchristian@gmail.com

Recipe of the Month

Slow Cooker Buffalo Chicken Wraps



Ingredients:

No-Stick Cooking Spray
2-1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 can (15 oz each) Manwich® Original Sloppy Joe Sauce
1/4 cup hot pepper sauce
2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
2/3 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons Ranch dip mix
2 cups thinly sliced celery
1-1/2 cups shredded carrot
12 flour tortillas (12 inch)
3 cups shredded romaine or iceberg lettuce
Blue cheese crumbles, optional

Preparation:

- **Step one**
Spray inside of 4.5-quart slow cooker with cooking spray; place chicken in slow cooker. Stir together Manwich, hot sauce and brown sugar in small bowl; pour over chicken. Cook on LOW 4 to 5 hours or HIGH 3 to 4 hours, until chicken is tender.
- **Step two**
Stir together yogurt and ranch powder in medium bowl. Stir in celery and carrot until well combined; set aside. Remove chicken from slow cooker. Shred chicken with two forks and return to sauce in slow cooker.
- **Step three**
To serve: Build wraps with about 1/2 cup chicken, 1/4 cup celery slaw, 1/4 cup shredded lettuce and blue cheese, if desired. Serve immediately.

Tips

We kept this recipe mild and kid friendly—for more heat, increase hot sauce to 1/2 cup.

Bone-in chicken breasts also work great in this recipe. Remove the skin before cooking and remove all bones before shredding the meat.



First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway

Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

Accepting Bids for the 2018-2019 Snow Season:

A. Snow Plowing of Driveway and Parking Lot

B. Sanding and Salting of Driveway and Parking Lot

C. Shoveling or Snow Blowing and Sanding of:

1. Main Entrance

2. Handicap Ramp

3. Entrance to Adams Fellowship Hall

For more information please contact Mark Bigelow, Deacon of Stewardship at msb080456@aol.com

Bids will be accepted through October 1, 2018 and contract awarded by October 31, 2018.





Ruth Alice (Arnold) Abell

October 17, 2018 - June 28, 2018

On June 28, 2018, our Mother was called home to her Lord's heavenly garden. Ruth was born in Lincoln RI, daughter of Raymond J Arnold and Muriel R. (Armstrong) Arnold. She spent most of her life in Lunenburg Ma, graduating from the Lunenburg school system in 1942 and marrying the love of her life, Sidney B Abell in 1944. She was active in the Grange and town activities as a young woman. Ruth loved gardening, camping, golfing and music. She composed the music for her Senior class song. She drove buses for the school system for many years before retiring. Her life's work was raising her 9 children. Ruth was a firm believer in her Savior and Lord and was active throughout her life at the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg until retirement, then was an active member of Palm Beach Baptist Temple in Fl. For 22 years, until moving back to this area in 2006, living with her son and his wife in Fitchburg, again becoming an active member in her old church.

Ruth will be truly missed by her extensive family and friends. She was a quiet, soft spoken woman who loved her God, her family and friends and her world. God bless you Mom.

-With love, till we meet again.



Stewardship Committee Appreciation

We would like to thank all members and friends for keeping their pledges up during the summer months and remind anyone who is behind to try to catch up this month.



Stewardship means more than just giving money every week.....

Stewardship should also include giving of your:

“Time and Talent”

to help our church needs, whether it is serving on a committee; singing in the choir; being a Greeter or an Usher or a Worship Leader; hosting coffee hour; doing minor repairs around the church; mowing the lawn; shoveling snow; the list is endless.

More importantly it is sharing your “time and talent” that God gave you to help our church for today and tomorrow.



September Birthdays

- 3. *Karen Adams*
- 6. *Justin Cross*
- 7. *Kathy Gosselin*
- 18. *Nicole Yangsi*
- 19. *James Primeau*
- 24. *Atera Mbunwe*



Happy Anniversary

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

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PRAYER LIST

Anoura Rose Angelini

Atera Ngange

Bette Adams

Cindy Beck

Connie & Will Gariepy

Daniel Bascomb

Joyce (Ron Martin's daughter)

Kathy Gosselin

Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)

Linda Gosselin

Mark & Diane Bigelow

Marsha – return of lung cancer

Nancy Peters

Renee Brideau - Crohn's Disease

Roberta Poole

Abell Family

Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)

Tom and Karen Adams

Karen Simpson

Roger Steward

Karen Knowles

James Hope

Roberta Stewards

Other Concerns

For those under persecution for their faith.

Our Missionaries

Rovaungha Richardson

Marilyn Raatz

Daniel Auguste and the Haitian Missionary Team,m



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.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

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