



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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NUMBER 01

Dear Congregation,

Welcome to the New Year! 2018 was full of changes in my life, and here in this church. It was about this time last year when I received a call to come and sheppard the flock here in Fitchburg, a call that as I look back on this past year, I have no doubt was the will of God for my life, and I pray for this church's as well.

The number 18 is often associated with big changes in our lives, in Hebrew, the word used for the number 18 spells 'life'. *Chai* is a number that represents life in Christ for the believer, whereas 19 seems to be connected with faith, just as there were 19 people listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 (Troy Brewer, *Numbers That Preach*, pg. 160-2). Both life, and faith are meant to be full of change.

When the people in ancient Ephesus were given the Gospel of Christ, they began to experience changes in their own natures and desires, as well as within the collective community. The Apostle Paul, seeking to see the new believers there continue to transform into a more Christ-like character, he gave them these instructions for Christian living:

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."* (Ephesians 4:22-23).

Although I am resolved to take Jesus' advise in Matthew 5:34 and that of James in chapter 5, verse 12 and not take an oath for the new year, I pray that each of you will consider joining me in saying goodbye *l'chaim*, 'To. Life!', and the old year, and look forward to 2019 in faith, taking what we have learned from our experiences in this past year, and seeking to start anew, with a new attitude that is open to the will of God in our lives.

Let us seek holiness, justice and love for ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbors. As we transition from 2018-19, may we each embrace the new life we have been given as believers in Christ and walk out our faith in the new year.

Regards,

Pastor Meredith



- January 1            New Year's Day, Office Closed, No Bible Study
- January 2            Office Hours 9 A.M. to Noon
- January 3 - 4        Pastor Meredith away at Center for Career and Development for Ministry
- January 6            Communion Sunday (Visiting Pastor Rev., Dr. Robert Killefer)
- Annual Reports Due
- January 13           Deacon's and Pastoral Search Committee Meeting with Rev. Jim Hinds
- January 14 - 18     Pastor Meredith away at school this week
- January 20           Pot Lunch and Annual Business Meeting after church in the West Room

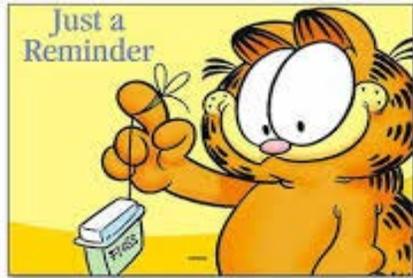
New Office Hours Starting after Sunday, January 20:

Tuesday's:            1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Thursday's:           9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

**Bible Study Every Tuesday Afternoon at 2:00 P.M except on January 1 & 15, 2019**

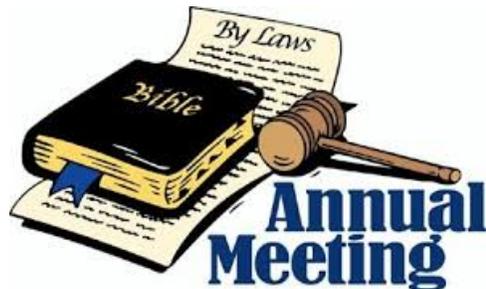
AI-Anon Every Monday Night at 7:00 P.M., Adams Fellowship Hall



To All Deacons,

Annual Reports for 2018 are due on Sunday, January 6, 2019 to allow enough preparation time.

Please send or give your report to Mark Bigelow Email Address:  
[msb080456@aol.com](mailto:msb080456@aol.com)



Sunday, January 20, 2019 After Church Service In West Room

To act on Annual Reports for 2018 -

To act on Proposed Budget for 2019

Any other business matters

Please try to attend

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

December 10, 2018

Dear Sisters in Christ:

We are indeed blessed to be a sisterhood connected in our love for Christ, in our experiences of becoming the girl or the woman that God is calling us to be, acknowledging that we are stronger together and that is our diversity we find wisdom, hope, shared journeys and new possibilities. We are connected and each of us plays a role in our sister's story; *her story for generations*. Please consider the importance and the impact American Baptist Women's Ministries has in your life. Think of your leadership opportunities, personal transformation, the friendships you treasure, the women that you have met and will meet and know that our work is not finished. There are churches without AB GIRLS; churches that have not experienced the fellowship and support of ABWM; consider the voices that are missing in your circles. Our intergenerational ministry allows space and voice for all girls and women. Our 2019 Ministry Focus, Domestic Violence and our persistent ministry, education and advocacy around issues of immigration, human trafficking, equity, leadership development, and beloved community tells us our work is not finished and that our ministry is relevant and essential to our denomination; moreover, our futures are interconnected and interdependent.

We appreciate your financial commitment and pray that you will continue to give your best gift to American Baptist Women's Ministries enabling our ministry, our sisterhood to do the work that God is calling us to do. Together we can do all things through Christ and collectively we are still inspiring each other to develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.



ABWM National Women's Event, 2018

*"We create safe spaces for women-for the woman who weeps with the pain of life's disappointments, the woman who ventures to pray aloud in a group for the first time, and the woman who undeniably hears God's call to pastoral ministry. I believe that when AB women welcome the uniqueness of one another-marveling at the differences we each bring to these ministries-our beloved community will reverberate with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, and the whole world will move a bit closer toward peace."* Virginia Holmstrom, Past Executive Director, 2001-2018

Please give your best gift to American Baptist Women's Ministries today.

May the peace of Christ dwell in our hearts,

Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain  
Executive Director

"... to bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives... let the oppressed go free..."

(Luke 4:18-19)



***In Concert  
The Beatles for Sale***

***First Baptist Church of Fitchburg***

1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA  
Adams Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, March 23, 2019,  
3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Doors open at 2:30 P.M.**

To Benefit Kitchen Restoration Fund  
Light Refreshments will be served

Suggested Donation:  
\$10.00 per person

\$ 7.00 per person for seniors **(65 and over)**

For more information call: 978-345-5622

***Snow Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019 same time***



Extending Our Hands  
to Our Neighbors

January

Mission

Offering

As we celebrate over 40 years of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, I invite you to reflect with me on how this Offering touches the lives of so many families. This long-standing tradition established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA. This year's theme, Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors illustrates the importance of being there for one another and remembering that we are stronger together than on our own is central to the Christian faith. We are called to remember our Christian character as mentioned in the scripture Philippians 2:3-4 which teaches "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." We are grateful for the generous giving to RMMO that raised \$1,024,706 in 2017 and helped to provide 3,457 Thank You checks. This is a tangible expression of our faith and character as we collectively embody being "the hands and feet of Christ." Our goal in the 2018 RMMO Campaign is to reach \$1,200,000 in contributions. This year's RMMO marketing materials are created to support and help your congregation organize a successful campaign. We hope you will partner with us and encourage participation within your congregation. Remember, helping those who have walked and prayed with you over the years is an example of Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors. Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper Associate Executive Director MMBB Financial Services

Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper

Associate Executive Director

MMBB Financial Services

# Local News

*Dear church friends & members*

*Just a note to you all in thanks for your generous gift of money and the hanging for my tree*

*which has printed in gold & Sparkle...*

*"His Presents is our Present".*

*As well as the coffee mug scripized*

*"For God So Loved the World".*

*Thanks so much for letting me serve the Lord and you through my gift of music.*

*Praise God from all blessings flow.*

*Marilyn Carter*

*Have a blessed New Year*



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

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

**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

**Congratulations**

to

Pastor

Timothy Robinson,  
as he will be installed  
as the settled pastor to  
Sheppard Highland  
Baptist Church in  
Fitchburg  
on January 6<sup>th</sup>  
by his congregation!

**Please consider signing up for...**

**Worship Leader  
Usher**

**Door Greeter  
or Coffee Hour**

**We all enjoy these services!**



637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) - Leominster, MA 01453 - Phone: 978-227-5556

Email: [restore@ncmhabitat.org](mailto:restore@ncmhabitat.org)

# ***What's Next?***

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

From “the beginning” (John 1:1), he existed with the Father and the Spirit. The theologians call that relationship “perichoresis”—the delightful dance of love in which the Son honors the Father, the Father honors the Son, the Son does the will of his Father, the Father delights in the Son, the Spirit magnifies the Son and on and on.

Then he came to earth, born of a virgin in Galilee of the Gentiles (Matt 4:15). You know the story—out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe. He went about doing good. He taught, healed and prayed. They trumped up charges against him. He died a shameful death. But he rose and ascended to the right hand of the Father Almighty, as the Apostles’ Creed states.

What’s next? The Creed continues: “from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.” The Second Advent is next. The Lord will return like a thief in the night (v. 2), but we are not in darkness that this will take us unawares (v. 4). We who walk in the light know that the Lord’s return is “imminent.” That doesn’t necessarily mean that Christ’s return is going to happen *soon*, only that it will happen *next*. For now, all creation groans as in childbirth (Rom 8:22), but as C. S. Lewis said, “All the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so” (*The Weight of Glory*).

by Jeffrey Arthurs, Ph.D.  
GCTS Advent Devotional

# Recipe of the Month

## Hot Chocolate Monkey Bread



### *Ingredients:*

Baking Spray  
5 envelopes (0.73 oz each) Swiss Miss® Milk Chocolate Hot Cocoa Mix, divided  
1/2 cup granulated sugar, divided  
1/2 cup Parkay® Original Spread-tub, melted  
1/4 cup reduced fat (2%) milk  
2 cans (16 oz each) refrigerated jumbo buttermilk biscuits (8 count), quartered  
Reddi-wip® Original Dairy Whipped Topping

- ***Preparation:***

- ***Step one***

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 10-cup Bundt or fluted tube pan with baking spray; set aside. Combine 2 envelopes hot cocoa mix and 1/4 cup sugar in large resealable food storage bag. Prepare glaze by combining remaining hot cocoa mix and sugar in small bowl; whisk in Parkay and milk until blended.

- ***Step two***

- Place half of biscuit pieces in cocoa mixture in bag; seal and shake to coat. Arrange coated biscuit pieces in bottom of pan; pour half of glaze over biscuits. Repeat with remaining biscuit pieces and glaze.

- ***Step three***

- Bake 30 minutes or until brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes. Invert onto serving tray. Pull apart and serve with Reddi-wip.



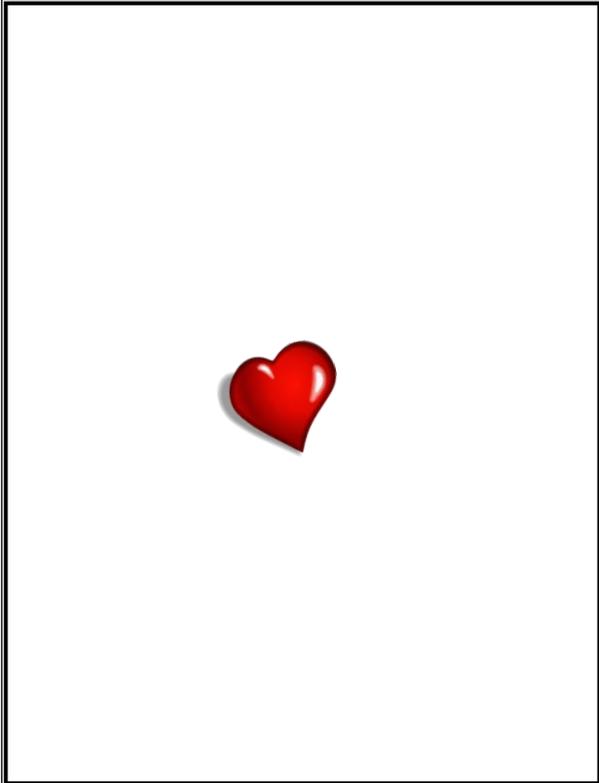
### January Birthdays

- 2. Elaine Corzine
- 3. Victoria Poole
- 7. Linda Gosselin
- 8. Jillian Grace Poole
- 9. Faith Labah
- 13. Ed Perkins
- 16. Nancy Peters
- 17. Mike DeMartino, Sr.
- 20. Jackie Mora
- 23. Anna Poole
- 30. Dick Auger



### *Happy Anniversary*

### January Anniversaries



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](mailto:FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET)

# PRAYER LIST

*Anoura Rose Angelini*

*Atera Ngange*

*Bette Adams*

*Cindy Beck*

*Connie & Will Gariepy*

*Daniel Bascomb*

*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*

*Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)*

*Tom and Karen Adams*

*Karen Simpson*

*Marilyn Carter*

*Roger Steward*

*Karen Knowles*

*James Hope*

*Roberta Steward*

*Roger Abell*

*Pastor Becky*

*John Mim*

*Elaine Corzine*

*Martha Quinn*

*Brady, Amy Giordano / Weeks*

*Pastor Garcia & his ministry*

## **First Baptist of Wakefield**

### **Our Missionaries**

*Rovaungha Richardson*

*Marilyn Raatz*

*Daniel Auguste and the Haitian*

*Missionary Team*



**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

978-345-5622

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