



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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VOLUME 63

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NUMBER 11

Dear Congregation,

Today in class, one of my fellow students said, "Hey guys, guess what! Halloween is over, so you know what that means!" and then he began to play Christmas music with all of the excitement of one in line to see Santa at the mall. I instantly rebuked him and said, "Oh no, first we have to be thankful, then we can celebrate what we have been given", and that is how we have always entered into the holiday season in my house. After the turkey is put away, then by all means bring out the tree and lights and rejoice for the birth of Jesus.

Sometimes it is difficult to take the time to say thank you, now that we have received what we have struggled and sometimes suffered through, our eyes look out to the next hill to be conquered. I find myself thinking, "As soon as this happens" or "Now that that is finally over", and the like. It takes a conscious act of will, and I am sorry to admit, sometimes a reminder from God, to not be so distracted by my blessing that I fail to acknowledge the One who has bestowed them upon me.

I am reminded of the 10 who were healed from leprosy in *Luke*. They all called out for Jesus to have pity on them, and so He did. Jesus encouraged them to go by faith and show themselves to the High Priests, and as they went, each were healed, yet one of them caught himself, and turned back, giving thanks and praise to Jesus for the gift of healing that he, this Samaritan, had received. Then Jesus asked:

"Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

(Luke 17:11-19)

Jesus showed mercy on each of the 10 that cried out that day, but to the one who remembered to show gratitude received not only a healing from the disease, but also full restoration of the damage that his illness had inflicted on his body over the years.

So here is my point, the Lord has shown All mercy by giving us His beloved Son, Jesus, as a perfect atonement for our sins, that we may be made right and healed before Him as we proclaim salvation through His Son. Even so, there is a special blessing upon those who thank Him and live in a place of mindful gratitude for all that the Lord has provided. That kind of gratitude and praise restores our relationship with our abundant, Merciful God.

How kind it is to be thankful. Let us not be so excited for the coming of our celebration of Jesus that we fail to stop and give Thanksgiving and prayer and praise to the Restorer of our souls, and Giver of eternal life. The shopping can wait. I encourage you to thank God for His mercies and the harvest He is gathering.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith



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- November 4 Communion Sunday with Guest Preacher Pat Neville
- November 10 Ladies Circle Meeting 9:30 A.M. (*Ladies of all ages welcome*)
- November 11 Deacon's Meeting
- Veteran's Day
- November 12 Veteran's Day Celebrated
- November 18 Stewardship Sunday
- November 22 Thanksgiving Day
- November 30   Winter Youth Retreat at Grotonwood, through December 2

Bible Study Every Tuesday Afternoon at 2:00 P.M.

Today we talked

Today we talked.
I said, "I'm confused." You asked about my devotions.
I said, "I get angry." You quoted a verse.
I said, "I hurt." You said "Believe."
I said, "I'm depressed." You said, "Rejoice."

You said I could call. I said I would try.
You said you would pray. I suppressed my doubts.
You said things would get better. I wondered, When?
As we parted, you waved with a smile.

Today we talked. Neither of us listened.
And though we talked, there was silence.
Nobody said, "I care."

Today we talked.
I said, "I'm confused." You asked, "About what?"
I said, "I get angry." You asked, "When?"
I said, "I hurt." You asked, "Why?"
I said, "I'm depressed." You said, "I care."

You said you would call. I said, "Please do!"
You said you would pray. I knew you would.
You said things will get better. I tried to believe.
You said there is hope, and you wrapped it in a hug.

Today we talked. You listened for both of us.
And as we talked, there was a third voice.
He said, "I care" with your lips.

by Ted Heatherington, 1991

First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

November 1, 2018

Greetings,

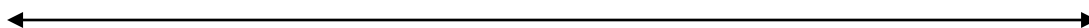
The time of the year is upon us to plan our financial goals for the upcoming year (2019). Each one of us gives to help support the church's mission on the home front (to run the day to day operation) and our A.B.C. Mission Programs.

We as members and friends of First Baptist Church must reevaluate our financial pledge to the church. Even though most of us are on a fixed income, please pray for guidance in your giving for 2019.

Please fill out your pledge card completely and return it by Stewardship Sunday, November 18, 2018 so that all pledges can be tabulated for 2019. When the total of all pledges is completed, a proposed Operating Budget for 2019 will be made and presented at the Annual Meeting in January, 2019.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee,
Linda Gosselin, Treasurer
Mark Bigelow, Deacon of Stewardship
Bette Adams
Phil Goff



2019 Pledge Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please Circle One

Pledge to Operation of the Church: _____ Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Please Circle One

Pledge to Missions of the Church: _____ Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Please Circle One

Pledge to Loan Repayment _____ Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Please Circle One

Pledge to Snow & Oil Fund: _____ Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Local News

*Thank you for your
prayers
while I was in the
hospital / nursing home
M. Carter*



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

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

Starting November 5, 2018

Please consider signing up for...



**Worship Leader
Usher
Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour**

We all enjoy these services!



MIHN

Montachusett Interfaith
Hospitality Network

The MIHN is in need of bed sheets
Twin size only as guest get to take them with
them when they leave.
Maybe you could purchase some, when you
see a sale.

First Baptist Church of Wakefield Destroyed by Fire

The First Baptist Church of Wakefield was totally destroyed by fire this evening, following a lightning strike to the steeple. There were no injuries, praise God. Please be in prayer for the church family as they grieve the loss of their beautiful and historic building, and make decisions about their next steps. Their interim pastor is Norm Bendroth.

Donations to help in the rebuilding process for First Baptist Church of Wakefield can be made at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/rebuilding-first-baptist-church>

or may be put in an envelope marked FBC Wakefield and put in the offering plate.



MATTHEW 5:3-11

Cultivate is our annual Winter Youth Retreat hosted Nov. 30 to Dec 2 at Camp Grotonwood. Encourage your youth group to register at www.grotonwood.org.

An early registration really helps camp to prepare and to staff the event better. So, the first 40 youth to register will receive a FREE custom t-shirt to commemorate the event. These shirts will be limited edition and only available in the Grotonwood Country Store during the weekend of Cultivate.

It is Grotonwood's policy to ensure that every child gets to enjoy the benefits of participating in camp, money should never be the barrier preventing kids from attending. Grotonwood is able to provide financial assistance to those who require it in order to attend. To be considered, a Campership Request Form must be completed and return it to breezee@grotonwood.org.

Forms are available on www.grotonwood.org under Forms & Downloads. If you wish to discuss this avenue in confidence, or require a hard copy, do not hesitate to contact the camp office on (978) 448-5763."



"Christmas at Grotonwood is once again making an appearance on our calendars. Join us for this Winter Wonderland event hosted for our church family and the local community. It is promising to be festively fabulous! Enjoy a wonderful time of Christmas inspired food, last minute impulse-buys at the craft market, children's activities, stop by the live animal nativity scene for some serious petting, feeding and selfie taking, be enthralled by the live entertainment and best of all, TABCOM's very own Pastor Ken Whitson will be guesting as Santa Claus for all God's children to enjoy a trip to Santa's Workshop!

The planning Committee are still looking for:

- Choirs/bands/dancers/performers to perform in the 6:30pm concert
- Vendors and artisans to exhibit in the craft market - tables are free to all exhibitors.
- Volunteers to assist with set-up/pack-down and overseeing of activities.

Please contact Breeze Everitt: breezee@grotonwood.org or (978) 448 5763 to register interest and for more information."

The Greatest Thanksgiving

"Are you going grocery shopping today?" my husband, Roy asked when I picked up the telephone.

"I plan to," I answered.

Thanksgiving was only a couple days away. Everyone in our family would be coming to our house. My funds were limited, therefore my box of coupons awaited me in the car. I knew I had to be creative in my shopping that day. I had to stretch every dollar.

For a few seconds, Roy sat silently on the other end of the line. "Why do you ask?" I uttered, fearing what he might say.

"Nancy, there's a family with a half dozen kids that will not have anything to eat for Thanksgiving. The little one is only five-years-old."

"So what are you saying?" I whispered.

"While you're at the store could you possibly buy something for them?" Roy's words echoed in my heart. Groceries a five-year-old eight in the family, My head began to spin thinking about the fifty dollars I had reserved for our family's Thanksgiving dinner.

In the back of my mind I counted the hungry guests who would be coming to our house for dinner. I put my head down on my desk, already feeling defeated.

There's no way possible, I thought. But the compassion I heard in my husband's voice struck a nerve inside me.

"Sure," I replied. "But only if God helps."

"Thanks, sweetheart," Roy whispered. "Just do what you can." He then hung up the telephone. I finished my work and prayed all the way to the nearest grocery store.

I entered the parking lot. I noticed a big sign in the grocery store window: Turkeys - 29 cents a pound.

"This is the place, Lord" I whispered. I grabbed my box of coupons, went inside, secured two buggies, and headed to the frozen foods. The turkeys were indeed on sale, but I discovered



one big problem. When I read the sign posted on the freezer door my heart sank. "Limit one."

"But I need two," I uttered to myself. I decided to find the manager. I explained the problem. He made an exception.

After tossing a turkey in each buggy, I began my shopping fury. It was amazing how many buy-one, get-one free items were being featured that day. The first item went into one buggy. The free item went in the other. In addition, I had all the right coupons to get exactly what both families needed for a hearty Thanksgiving dinner. I proceeded to the register and held my breath while the cashier rang up my groceries.

To my surprise, I had enough money. I was even able to purchase a package of cookies for the five-year-old who had stolen my heart, even though I had never met her.

Later that afternoon, Roy and I made a special delivery to a home filled with children of all ages. I will never forget the smiles on the six kids' faces, as they made several trips from my car carrying numerous bags of groceries inside.

This event reminded me of a story. Even though He only had a few loaves and fishes, Jesus multiplied them and fed five thousand people. And to top it off, there was food left over. I wondered if God was doing the same thing that day.

By far, that was the greatest Thanksgiving Day of my life. My entire family shared a hearty meal with us. We had plenty to eat. We even had enough food left over for the evening meal.

That afternoon, when I had time to think about what had happened, I imagined a home, not far from where I lived. There was a mother and a father and six children sitting around the kitchen table, laughing and rejoicing. They enjoyed the same meal that our family had shared together that day.

Then I realized that miracles happen when we step out in faith and in steps God. For with us, some things are impossible. But with God, all things are possible.

~ Nancy B. Gibbs ~

Recipe of the Month

Hash Brown Casserole

Ingredients:



No-Stick Cooking Spray
1 pound Odom's Tennessee Pride Mild Country Sausage
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
1 can (10-3/4 oz each) condensed cream of chicken soup
2 cups sour cream
1 cup chopped onion
1 cup chopped red or green bell pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 package (30 oz each) frozen hash brown potatoes, shredded style

Preparation:

Step one

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 13x9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausage; cook 6 to 7 minutes until crumbled and browned, stirring occasionally. Remove sausage and drain well.

Step two

Stir together 1-1/2 cups cheese, soup, sour cream, cooked sausage, onion, bell pepper, salt and pepper in large bowl. Fold in hash brown potatoes until well combined. Spread the hash brown mixture over bottom of baking dish. Bake 50 minutes. Top with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake another 10 minutes or until casserole is golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes.



MATTHEW 5:3-11



CULTIVATE

EST.2017

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT 2018



CAN'T WAIT TILL NEXT SUMMER TO SEE ALL YOUR CAMP BUDDIES AND EXPERIENCE MORE OF WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU? JOIN US, AS TOGETHER WE EXPLORE THE BIBLE'S BEATITUDES AND LEARN HOW WE CAN ACTUALLY 'BE THE ATTITUDE' THAT TRANSFORMS THE WORLD AROUND US.

WHO:	GRADES 6-12
WHERE:	GROTONWOOD CAMP, GROTON MA
CHECK IN:	FRIDAY NOV. 30TH - 6-7PM
CHECK OUT:	SUNDAY DEC. 2ND - 1-1:30PM
COST:	\$145

INCLUDES ALL MEALS, ACCOMMODATION, ACTIVITIES, 24-HR ON-SITE NURSE, TEAM GAMES, GUEST SPEAKERS, ARTS & CRAFT TAKE AWAY, CAMP FIRE AND COCOA, STORE-TIME, SEMINARS, LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

REGISTER AT WWW.GROTONWOOD.ORG -
CLICK ON SIGN UP FOR CAMP, CHOOSE CULTIVATE YOUTH RETREAT

CAMPERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
GROTONWOOD COMPLIES WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
(105 CMR 430.000), AND IS LICENSED BY THE GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH.
COPIES OF CAMP POLICIES ON BACKGROUND CHECKS, HEALTH CARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.




November Birthdays

- 05. Michael Christian
- 09. Portia Perkins
- 15. Conference Mbunwe



Happy Anniversary

November Anniversaries

- 
- 26. Eric & Nicole Yangsi



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

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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