



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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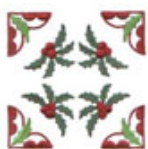
Dear Congregation,

Last month began a teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is at this time of year when some find it easiest to see the Holy Spirit manifest in their lives in tangible ways that can be experienced through the behaviors of others. In truth, the Holy Spirit dwells with those that are in Christ all the year, however I will say that is my experience that the fruit of His Spirit is a bit sweeter as they fully ripen in these weeks that mark the end of the harvest. What are these fruits of which I speak? They are neither apples nor berries:

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 22-23a).*

How fitting at this time of Advent, when the Church remembers most the Spirit of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that we should also be reminded we each have the ability to bear fruit in our individual situations. Even as the weather grows dark and gray we can share the warmth of love, offer hope and spread joy and peace with all.

What better time to focus on things that warm the heart and draw us closer together as a family and fellowship than to share the fruit of the Spirit of God with others? In the spirit of sharing and spreading joy, I'd like to share another holiday Hanging of the Greens habit, this one about holly fruit from Emerald Isle.



## Christmas Holly as a Christian symbol

“The prickly green leaves of the holly are a reminder to early Celtic Christians of the crown of thorns Jesus wore on the day of the Crucifixion. The bright red berries symbolized the blood of Christ spilled for the sins of mankind.

Some say that holly is more than a reminder of the Crucifixion, that it was actually a part of that historical day...

Some say that holly was the type of branch used to make the crown of thorns.

Some say the holly berries were white before that day, but that Christ's blood eternally stained them red.

Some even say that Christ was crucified on a holly tree.

Another Christian legend claims that holly miraculously grew to hide the Holy Family from Herod's soldiers.

As a sign of gratitude, holly has remained evergreen ever since.

This last one provides a direct connection to Christ's birth, rather than his death. So it is more closely related to holly's place as a Christmas symbol” (Tucker).

It is my hope that as you decorate this season, whether anyone else gets to see those decorations in person or not, that you not forget to decorate yourselves with the fruit of the Spirit of God this season for all those around you to enjoy.

May you remember our Blessed Hope, the One who suffered so that you may find peace in your situation, who wept that you may experience the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ, because of His eternal love for you. Amen.

Regards, Pastor Meredith



PLEDGES  
FOR  
2021  
ARE NOW DUE

**HELP OUR CHURCH GROW WITH YOUR TREASURERS**

**First Baptist Church of Fitchburg**

1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

**2021 Pledge Card**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge to Operation of the Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Pledge to Missions of the Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Pledge to Loan Repayment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

Pledge to Snow & Oil Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle One: Per Wk. Per Mo. Per Yr.

# Christmas Poinsettia Price list & Order form



6 ½" Pots	Single Plants	(Approx. 5-7 Flowers)	\$8.50 ea.
7" Pots	Double Plants	(Approx. 10-12 Flowers)	\$14.95 ea.
8" Pots	Triple Plants	(Approx. 15-18 Flowers)	\$19.50 ea.
10" Pots	Four Plants	(Approx. 20-24 Flowers)	\$29.95 ea.
5" Pots	Single Plants	(Approx. 3-4 Flowers)	\$5.50 ea.

<u>Color</u>	<u>5" Pots</u>	<u>6 ½" Pots</u>	<u>7" Pots</u>	<u>8" Pots</u>	<u>10" Pots</u>
Red	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pink		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marble		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Red/White			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Red/White/Pink				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to First Baptist church

*No Later than DECEMBER 13, 2020*

# Local News

Offering Envelopes 2021

Will be Ready

For Pick-Up

On Christmas Sunday, December 20, 2020



## Advent Events & Activates

Sunday, December 6th	Communion Sunday
Sunday, December 13th	Teen Challenge Presentation Deacon's Meeting after church
Sunday, December 20th	9:30 Classic Christmas Carols Sing-along
Thursday, December 24th	6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 27th	New Year's Sunday

## Secret Santa Local Mission

The special offering to help  
Provide Christmas for children  
and their families this Christmas,  
Has raised \$815.

*Thank You to all*

### *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](mailto:restore@ncmhabitat.org)

## **All Preachers Here We Go**

We had a substitute preacher preaching at our church and he told this story. He said, when he was younger, he thought that the doxology went: “Praise God from whom all blessings go, Praise him all preachers here we go (instead of creatures here below), then praise him above the heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” He said he thought that because, when everyone sang that, often the preacher leaves the pulpit and walks out!

## **Red Wagon**

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside to look and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. He walked up to the boy and said, “Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?”

The little boy replied, “I got him from the church.”

“And why did you take him?”

The boy said, “Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it.

## **Favorite bible stories**

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle’s picture, which showed four people on an airplane. So, she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

“The flight to Egypt,” said Kyle.

“I see... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus,” Ms. Terri said. “But who’s the fourth person?”

Kyle explained, “Oh, that’s Pontius the Pilot!”

# Recipe of the Month

## **Dutch Apple Pie**



### ***Ingredients:***

Adjust oven rack to lower-third of oven. Preheat oven to 375°F. Place pie crust in bottom of 9-inch pie plate and flute the edges. Pour pie filling into crust.

Beat butter, flour, brown sugar, salt and cinnamon in medium bowl with an electric mixer at low speed until blended and crumbly. Pour evenly over pie filling.

Place pie on baking sheet and bake 45 to 50 minutes, until Dutch apple pie topping is golden brown and crisp. Cool completely before slicing. Serve with Reddi-wip.

### ***Preparation:***

1 pie crust for 9-inch pie (refrigerated or homemade)

2 cans (21 oz each) Duncan Hines® Wilderness® More Fruit Apple Pie Filling & Topping

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

1 cup all-purpose flour

3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Reddi-wip Original Dairy Whipped Topping



### *December Birthdays*

- 07. Noel Njamnshi
- 09. Michael Ruschioni
- 13. Michael Bigelow
- 18. Wil Gariepy
- 19. Jim Ruschioni
- 24. Betty Giordano
- 30. Michael Demartino, II
- 30. Tom Cross
- 31. Chloe Ruschioni



### *December Anniversaries*



- 31. Peter & Kristen Sprigg



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 Angelin*  
*Annie De Martino*  
*Bette Adams*  
*Claire Budroe*  
*John Mim*  
*Cindy Beck*  
*Daniel Bascomb*  
*Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)*  
*Kathy Gosselin*  
*Kathy Young (coworker of Diane Bigelow)*  
*Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)*  
*Linda Gosselin*  
*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*  
*Roger Abel*  
*Family of John Kacmarcik*  
*Steward family*

## ***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*

*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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