



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

1400 John Fitch Highway - Fitchburg, MA 01420

Telephone: 978-345-5622 - E Mail: fbcbeaconlight@comcast.net

church email: office@firstbaptistfitchburg.org - www.firstbaptistfitchburg.org

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Dear Congregation,

Greetings from Camp Oceanwood! My friend Cookie is standing nearby a wonderful new ramp that is going to allow easier access with more security for adult campers with disabilities to ride horses. What a blessing. With that in mind, I thought I would share a few things that I have learned here at camp; things that I hope will bless you this summer.

There are many things that each of you are called to do, some may even seem overwhelming, yet you are not alone. You have a Christian family to support you and a Heavenly Father cheering you on. "With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). The same God who designed you has equipped you with the wisdom, heart and stamina to insure an amazing things to happen this summer camp that

neither you nor your campers will ever forget.

When the Apostle Paul was training a new church group he wrote, "Make my joy complete, by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind" (Philippians 2:2), because he knew that would lead to their success. When Christians became like-minded, with the same love for each other, by the guiding of the same Spirit, the results can be a joyful success.

And also that Jesus chose to work with 12 disciples (Luke 6:12-16), comprised of business people, laborers, financiers, accountants, fishers, politicians, educators, and more. He deliberately choose people with different skills who could be trusted to carry on Gods work, knowing that one person could not spread the Word of God to the masses alone. These 12 were gifted by God with differing abilities to reach out to others with love. As are each of us. No one person can fulfill the Great Commission on their own. Each of us are uniquely gifted and can work together in beautiful ways that lift each other up for the sake of those who need Jesus, and to the glory of God. Amen?

Well, here I leave you in true camp fashion, with a joke:

What kind of food did Moses serve the Israelites on the mountain: Stone soup.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

ARTICLE 10—VOTER QUALIFICATIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 1: Voters

Active members shall be entitled to vote at all business meetings of the church. Voting by proxy is not permitted, although absentee ballots, as stated in Article 6, shall be permissible when calling a pastor. Members under the age of eighteen, however, may not vote on church matters.

Section 2: Meetings

Circumstances permitting, the annual meeting of the church shall be held on the third Sunday of January. Other church business meetings shall take place on the third Sunday in May and on the third Sunday in September. The Church Clerk shall make a public announcement of the date of such meetings at least two weeks prior to each meeting.

Section 3: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Deacons, or upon written request to the Board of Deacons by at least five members of the church. One week's notice for such a meeting shall be given by the Church Clerk.

Section 4: Quorum

Except as otherwise stated, fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership shall constitute a quorum. When the sale or purchase of property is being considered, approval by at least fifty percent (50%) of the active members of the church shall be required for a decision.

Section 5: Parliamentary Guide and Covenant of Behavior

The latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide at all meetings of the church and the Board of Deacons. However, the Rules of Order may be suspended by majority vote of the active members present at a given meeting for that session only. The Behavioral Covenant shall be provided to each person at the start of congregational business meetings and read aloud in unison by all in attendance. [See Appendix]

ARTICLE 11—AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amending

These Bylaws may be amended by approval of at least a fifty percent (50%) vote of the active members to approve such amendments. Voting to amend the bylaws may take place at any meeting of the church, provided that notice of the amending vote shall be provided in writing by the Church Clerk at least two weeks prior to such a meeting.

Revised on June 9, 2019



Recently I watched a tiny sparrow fly back and forth attempting to escape from what must have felt very frightening as he found himself inside the screened porch of the house in which I've been staying Stateside in Charlotte, NC. His little buddy clung anxiously to the screen from the other side. I sneaked out and opened the screen door then stood back and waited for him to fly right out. But he didn't. He continued in the same back and forth pattern for nearly 20 minutes not noticing his escape route was just 5 feet away. I thought, Wow aren't we often like that as humans, we get comfortable in a pattern or frozen in fear and don't see what God is

attempting to do right around the corner.

I've imagined how Mary must have felt when she learned she was pregnant with Jesus before joining with her to-be husband. Her "Hello" to the world I believe began with a similar anxiety of that little sparrow. Further yet, Jesus' "First Hello" was just as uncertain as a young couple filled with fear searched for a safe place to rest and eventually deliver Jesus. "Hellos" open doors for opportunity and an end to life, moments or patterns that once existed. Often quite unsettling. After being Stateside since April 1st for medical follow-up, I'm now preparing to return to Ghana after having received an "all-clear" pending I keep an eye on staying healthy. I also learned that this ministry would change. Moving from direct service of providing counseling to the rescued girls at the Baptist Vocational Training Centre (BVTC) to education and advocacy. Granted, I didn't see this shift coming. Yet, HE did! This 2nd Phase of the ministry works around some of the challenges experienced in the field and builds upon the 2 ½ years of working up close and in-person with the rescued girls while learning and witnessing the detrimental effects of the human rights abuses prevalent within the Trokosi practice. Leveraging the collaborative efforts built since ministry start in 2016 with the Ghana Baptist Convention and other NGO's, including the US Embassy, the ministry will now look to address the components that have allowed the atrocities that occur within Trokosi to continue in this developing country of Ghana.

Saying "Goodbye" is rarely easy. Sometimes saying "Hello" is just as difficult. But staying in an ineffective flying pattern is even worse.

That sparrow finally made it out the screen door. I'm glad he decided to do something different. Hate to think of what could've happened if he hadn't.

Friends, we are doing something different. This 2nd Phase shifts the existing "flying pattern" and gives way to pursue longer standing change. The stopping of girls being abused, denied schooling and enslaved.

Thank you for continuing to fly with me and this ministry!

Sincere Thanks!

Rovaughna 😊

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn	There Shall be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's Hymn	There's a Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn	Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn	Open My Eyes That I Might See
IRS Agent's Hymn	I Surrender All
Gossip's Hymn	Pass it On
Electrician's	Send The Light
Shopper's Hymn	Sweet Bye and Bye
Realtor's Hymn	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over The Hill
Massage Therapist's Hymn	He Touched Me

And for those who speed on the highway - A few hymn's

55 mph	God Will Take Care of You.
75 mph	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	Precious Memories

***Give me a sense of humor Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke.
To get some humor out of life and pass it on to others***

Teach Me to Forgive

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job.

His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him. He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there, and with tears in his eyes, he prayed

"Lord - You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed.

Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don't know how. It is not fair Lord. I didn't deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn't have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don't know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do - Teach me To Forgive."

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt. He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them. He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head.

Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie, He asked?" The man answered, "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?" The man answered, "Yes, Lord." And the man sobbed more and more.

"Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours," Jesus asked? And the man answered, "Yes, Lord."

"Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain?" The man, crying now, answered, "Yes, Lord."

As Jesus asked many more times, "Have you ever"? The man's crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer, "Yes, Lord."

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before. Jesus said, "I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you."

It may be hard to see how you're going to get through something.
But, when you look back in life, you realize how true this statement is...

"If God brings you to it... He will bring you through it."



As a church family we approach the summer months.....
Vacation and Family time.....

Please remember to keep your current and mission pledge up to date, the operation of the church continues through the summer.....

We are also accepting donations for the plowing and oil fund, along with donations for the roofing loan repayment.

Mailing Address: First Baptist Church

1400 John Fitch Highway

Fitchburg, MA 01420-2033



Local News

FUNDRAISER

Mildred Labah is sponsoring a fundraiser for LAX to raise funds for equipment that team members has to pay for themselves. Some of this equipment is: mouth guards, extra sticks, goggles and water coolers to have at games. See Mildred for more details.



*Let May Goff know your favorite hymn
We will sing one a week as long as they last*



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



*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

Notice

*The Beaconlight is getting smaller
That's because the same few people
contribute to it.*

*Without input there may be no
Beaconlight in the near future!*

*Any suggestions?
fbcbeaconlight@comcast.net*

Recipe of the Month

Red, White and Blue Berry Pie



Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup plus 1-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
1-1/2 cups water
4 tablespoons plus 1-1/2 teaspoons raspberry gelatin
1 pint fresh or frozen unsweetened blueberries
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked
1 pint fresh or frozen unsweetened raspberries
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
1-3/4 cups whipped topping

Preparation:

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in gelatin until dissolved.

Divide mixture in half. Stir blueberries and lemon juice into one portion; spread over crust. Chill until set. Gently fold raspberries into remaining gelatin mixture; cool to room temperature and set aside.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in whipped topping; spread over blueberry layer. Chill until set, about 2 hours.

Carefully spread raspberry mixture over cream cheese layer. Chill for at least 4 hours.

Summer Events 2019

July 7, 2019 Communion Sunday

July 14, 2019 Deacon's Meeting

C.M.B.A. Executive Committee Meeting 2:00 P.M.

Beatles for Sale, Cogshall Park 2:00 P.M.

August 4, 2019 Communion Sunday

August 11, 2019 Deacon's Meeting

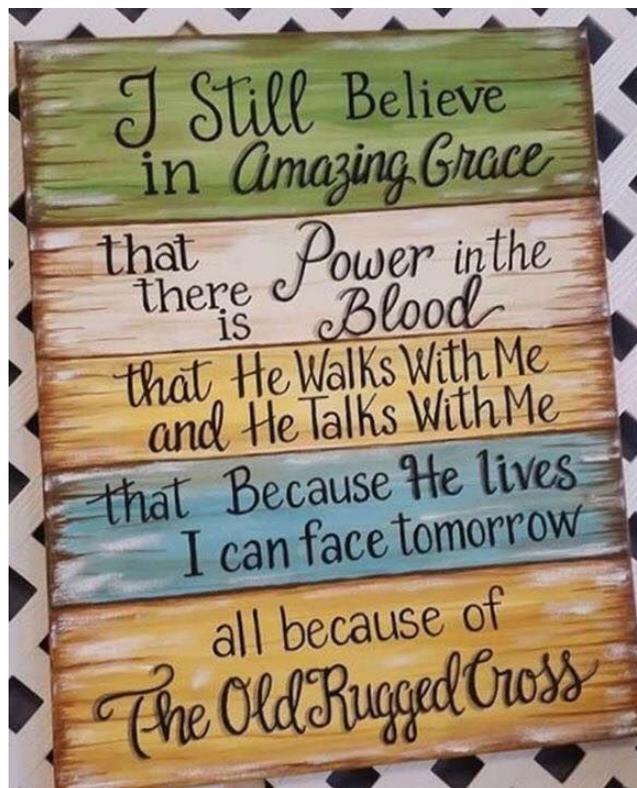
Bible Study Tuesday every week at 2:00 P.M.

Pastor Meredith Office Hours:

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

Thursday: 9:00 A.M. to Noon

Coming up on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 2:00 P.M., Ordination Council of all Central Massachusetts Baptist Association Churches for Pastor Meredith. The church will have to supply light refreshments.





July Birthdays

- 05. Caitlin Blake
- 07. Mason Ruschioni
- 11. Emily Christian
- 13. Tom Adams, Jr
- 16. Isabelle Luskin
- 18. Pastor Jean Wright
- 18. Colin Ruschioni
- 20. Jean Osgood
- 21. Pastor Meredith Christian
- 27. Courage Yangsi



Happy Anniversary

July Anniversaries



- 03. Humphrey & Anne Mutindwa
- 12. Jim & Lynne Ruschioni
- 29. Bob & Karen Simpson

Aug Birthdays

- 03. Holly Primeau
- 04. Mark Bigelow
- 8. Kim Rooney
- 13. Megan Force
- 13. Anne Ndunda
- 19. Kaitlin Rooney

Aug Anniversaries

- 24. Mark & Diane Bigelow
- 31. Tom & Debi Cross

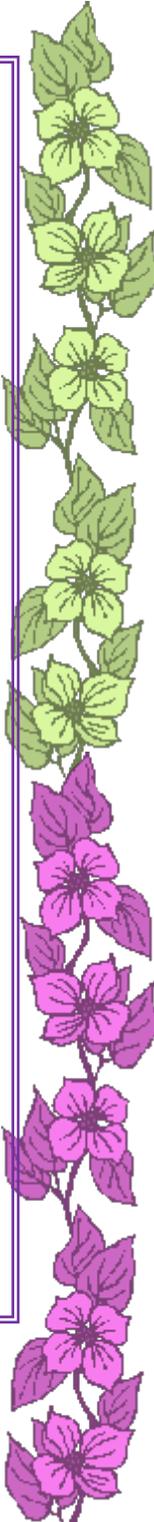


IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
 978-345-5622
 E-MAIL: FBCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET

PRAYER LIST



Anoura Rose Angelin
Bette Adams
John Mim
Cindy Beck
Connie & Will Gariepy
Daniel Bascomb
Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)
Kathy Gosselin
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
Renee Brideau - Crohn's Disease
The Steward Family
Roger Abell
Catherine De Barge
Mark & Diane Bigelow
Marsha – return of lung cancer
Marilyn Carter



Pastor Becky
Martha Quinn
Brady, Amy Giordano / Weeks
Pastor Garcia & his ministry

Our Missionaries

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.
For our civic leaders- local and national

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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