



THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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VOLUME 65

April 2021

NUMBER 04

Dear Congregation,

This month Christians all over the world will celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. As we strive to look ahead in our Christian faith to the new life we have through Christ, most of the world seems focused on when things will get back to our normal daily lives after such a very long and tumultuous year.

There are some things that may never go back to the way they were, as people have found better ways to navigate their time and talents through necessity, however, many things, like a smile or a hug, are timeless things that no pandemic or publicity will ever be able to eliminate from our routine practices. These and many other timeless treasures are part of our makeup as human beings, being human.

I can understand and appreciate the desire, even the need for people to return to normalcy, yet I cannot help but think that as Christians, as we remember the sacrifice of our Saviour and how our lives have been completely altered by God's presence in our lives, through His divine healing, encouragement, and reconciliation of our former selves, we are not supposed to go back to normal, are we?

Long ago, for the children of Israel, normal once meant bondage and oppression in the land of Egypt. They had a tremendous time of upheaval as everything in their lives changed within a very short period of time, which is, to this day, referred to as the time of the Passover. After the people walked free, with great wealth, health and joy into the new life that God had planned for them long before their births, God spoke to the people, we can read in *Exodus 20*, giving them first the Ten Commandments and then in verse 23 He said, "You shall not make gods of silver to be with Me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold" (*Exodus 20:23*).

Those instructions seemed about as clear as "wash your hands for 20 seconds", and "don't touch everything". Things every person can and have been taught to do since the time of their youth, yet in application prove to be just as difficult for us to remember as it seems to have been for the Israelites to follow God's directions.

We know that God clearly instructed the people, and Aaron in particular, because in verse 24:3 the Bible says all, yes all with one voice agreed that all the words that the Lord has spoken they would do (*Exodus 24:3*). Even so, by chapter 32, when Moses took longer than they had thought he would take to come back down the mountain, the people put aside all they had promised to do for the God of Israel and called on Aaron to make for them that which God had specifically told them not to make, a golden calf; an image that had been familiar in their old days back in Egypt.

Israelites tried to turn back to Egyptian ways in the desert while Moses was speaking with God on the mountain, and God's response was, "*I have seen these people,*" *the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff necked-people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation"* (*Exodus 32:9-10*). God was leading them into a new life and yet it seemed that some of them had a hard time letting go and letting God.

Many times, the Lord warns us in His Word not to turn back to our previous life of bondage as the Hebrews did, to our wicked situations as Lot's wife did (*Genesis 19:26*), to our old filthy ways (*Proverbs 26:11*, *2 Peter 2:22*). Once we have put on Christ, we are not to return to the things we have left behind. Having walked away from sin, and been washed clean, through the precious blood of Jesus, we are to push forward into new life and the new ways of the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "*No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God*" (*Luke 9:62*). Let us not seek to return to the way things were, but holding fast to what good things we have experienced. May we forge ahead with vigor and excited expectation.

Another thing we can learn from this is that we are no more able to pull ourselves out of our current situation than those Israelites were long ago. Just like them, if we have patience in trusting the plan of God in our situations, not looking to make something happen on our own, He will help us to move forward and provide a way out in such a way as to make us stronger for having undergone the journey, even if at times we would have rathered not taken the trip.

But what to do when we are full of energy and unsure of what lay ahead? While we wait, we can chose not to return to what is comfortable and instead choose to prepare ourselves to be ready to trust God's next move. Should we not be forging ahead with new love, vigor, and energy? Should we not be, "setting aside those things that were behind us and forging ahead in faith? As the Apostle Paul once shared, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended it, but this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*" (*Philippians 3:13-14*).

May you not look back at what has been lost without reminding yourself that many wonderful things still lay ahead for you. I pray that you press on with joy, into what God has planned for you in this next era and season and may you trust in the Lord to bless and keep you in all ways, and may you never turn back.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.
2. The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.
4. My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.
5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021: Guest Musician, Dan Kirouac

Sunday, April 11, 2021: Guest Preacher, Pastor William Woosul Seo

William Woosuk Seo is a dynamic preacher with a heart for missions in Afghanistan, William serves in the U.S. Army, and is currently completing an advanced degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary as he continues to quietly serve the Lord through underground missions HEME Fund, a Non-Governmental Organization. HEME Fund Worldwide is dedicated to transforming lives among Afghan widows and orphans through the power of education and economic sustainability.

HEME Fund is dedicated to the establishment and support of unique vocational schools that:

- (1) are low cost to establish via rented space and with other limited overhead;
- (2) teach students basic literacy and numeration, basic hygiene, and peacebuilding;
- (3) provide a marketable skill, sewing and embroidery, and
- (4) graduate students in six months with a gift of a Tailor's Business Startup Kit (TBSK) to start a business.

HEME Fund Worldwide (formally known as Project Help Afghanistan)

Address: Terre Haute, IN, USA

Contact William at william.seo@hemefund.org

Official website: www.hemefund.org

Sunday, May 16, 2021: Teen Challenge

Spring Business Meeting after church service

Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021: Guest Preacher, Pastor Marquis Lockhart

Marquis Divine Lockhart is a dynamic pastor with a particular anointing for urban and youth ministry, who has shown a passion and gift for sharing the love of God across multiple generations for over 9 years. He was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. As a Monsignor Scanlan High School and Gordon College graduate, he first found ministry service as camp counselor at Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center. Marquis then became Youth Director of Washington Street Baptist Church before going on to train as an Ablaze Intern at Cross Bridge Community Church. Marquis then led multiple Awakenings and summer camp programs through as a Ministry Program Developer before taking a position as a Youth Pastor at Washington Street Baptist church some year ago. He currently resides with his Christ filled, anointed wife of 4 years, Analy, and their 1 ½ year-old son named Landon.

Sunday, May 30, 2021: Guest Preacher, Rev. Phil Goff

Sunday, June 13, 2021: Melinda Parry on behalf of CYC will be giving the message

Grotonwood

Buy a Grotonwood Brick and help us get some campers to camp this summer!

The cost of a brick is \$100, and covers the brick, a two line personalization and a small contribution goes towards our Campership Fund.

Our Campership Fund helps over 200 campers make summer camp a reality each year. So whilst you get to honor a loved one, a camper past

or present, or even a beloved pet in our memorial Garden, know that your giving is doing real good in our ministry.

For more details and to order a brick contact Grotonwood fundraising coordinator Ed at Ed48@verizon.net



Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Peanut Butter Poke Cake



Ingredients for 9 servings

- ½ box chocolate cake mix, prepared according to instructions
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 14 oz sweetened condensed milk, 1 can
- 1 cup milk
- 8 oz whipped topping
- peanut butter cup, for garnish

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175C).

Spray a 9x9 inch (23x23cm) baking pan with cooking spray.

Prepare and pour the chocolate cake batter into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

In a large bowl, mix together cream cheese and peanut butter until smooth.

Add condensed milk, whisking until there are no large lumps.

Gradually whisk in the milk, until smooth.

Using the back of a wooden spoon, poke 4 rows of 4 holes in the cake, making 16 holes total.

Pour the peanut butter mixture over the cake and set until the cake has absorbed as much of the mixture as it can. Some of the mixture will still stay on top, which is okay.

Freeze cake for 30 minutes, to slightly solidify the topping.

Spread the whipped topping evenly over the chilled cake.

Chill the cake anywhere from 3 hours to overnight.

Slice, and garnish with peanut butter cups.

Local News

Volunteers Needed

Hi, please pass this notice around to family, church members, friends and whoever may be interested.

Thanks, David.

Our Father's Table feeding ministry, located at Faith Christian Church, 40 Boutelle St. in Fitchburg, is looking for a volunteer lead cook and a cook's helper for our Thursday suppers. Hours on Thursdays are from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM.

Cooking experience is helpful but not required, training will be provided. All food items to be prepared are on site and menus are pre-arranged by our food coordinator. Food safety regulations are required to be followed.

If you are interested or know someone who may want to help to feed the hungry, please call David Sciabarrasi and leave a message at 978-874-5270 or send email to: david.sciabarrasi@comcast.net. Thank you and have a blessed day, David



**April 1, 2021- Maundy Thursday,
Worship service 6:30pm**

April 2, 2021- Good Friday

**April 4, 2021- Resurrection Sunday!
With guest musician Dan Kirouac**

**April 11, 2021- Guest preacher and
missionary William Woosuk Seo**

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

Dear Congregation,

The Executive Committee of the Central Massachusetts Baptist Association has decided that there will not be a Spring Annual Meeting this year due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Blessings,

Mark S. Bigelow

Mark S. Bigelow, Treasurer
Central Massachusetts Baptist Association
42 Chestnut St.
Fitchburg, MA 01420-2259



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



April Birthdays

- 01. Kayleigh Force
- 05. Marilyn Carter
- 05. Neville Yangsi
- 05. Susan Force
- 10. Cedric Labah
- 15. Zachary Rooney
- 18. Eric Mbunwe
- 19. Mildred Labah
- 21. Joe Weeks
- 25. Donna Auger



April Anniversaries

- 
- 04. Carl & Betty Rousell
 - 28. Ed & Portia Perkins



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
Annie De Martino
Bette Adams
Claire Budroe
Cindy Beck
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
Karen Simpson
Elaine Corzine
Diane Hope
Roger Abel
Steward family
Renee Brideau (Mark & Diane Bigelow Friend)
Danial Kirouac

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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