



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

VOLUME 65

July / Aug 2021

NUMBER 7,8

Dear Congregation,

Happy Summer! So far, it looks like it will be a rather warm season, and so I first and foremost pray that you are able to stay cool, stay connected to the Lord and to each other. As things slow down, I will leave you a tried and true passage that is always worth pondering; the Commandments of God:

*“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
“You shall have no other gods before Me.*

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant or your female servant, or your cattle, or your resident who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor”
(Exodus 20:2-17).*

Now, you may be wondering what these regulations, which you more than likely already know, have to do with Summer, but I assure you that these ten rules fit perfectly with this season, and month in particular. It is nearly July 4th, Independence Day, and I am astounded at just how many of my neighbors are displaying the symbol of our country, the American flag, this year; far more than in any other year I can recall. I can also not recall a time when this country has been in such tension since my youth, when this country was recovering from a war in Viet Nam, a gas crisis and a crisis of morals that was only lifted by the celebration of our bi-centennial in 1976.

It is my observation that there are as many people who think little of God as those who think little of this country of late, however I ask you, is there a better option? Is there a better system of government that allows itself room to grow? Perhaps there is, but I have not heard of it.

And here is where the above Scripture fits. Our loving God set aside a particular people, having heard their cries of suffering, for the sake of creating a more perfect nation, one dedicated to the proposition that all His people were equally created, equally loved and equally called to live with respect for one another.

In order to see these people live free and prosperous, the Lord gave them a set of laws, which was His right as their Founding Father, that they should abide in order to live peaceably and prosperously together as much as would be possible. There are guidelines to good living in these commandments, many of which are inherent in nearly every nation on earth. Nearly every nation to date has laws prohibiting murder, theft, and attempts to set standards for moral living, yet none are so perfect as God's. Perhaps that is why so many of the founding fathers of this country saw fit to follow God's standard in the construction of this nation's laws.

One of those founders was a man named Noah Webster; also the founder of the Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language. He constructed the famous volume after coming to faith with the thought that he might encourage a national usage of words that would distinguish the American language as distinct from the mother land of England. He expressed what he saw as that which distinguished this new country from other nations in a letter that examined the primary principles of the forming Constitution:

“The origin of the American Republic is distinguished by peculiar circumstances. Other nations have been driven together by fear and necessity-the governments have generally been the result of a single man's observations; or the offspring of particular interests. In the formation of our constitution, the wisdom of all ages is collected-the legislators of antiquity are consulted-as well as the opinions and interests of the millions who are concerned. In short, it is *an empire of reason*.

In the formation of such a government, it is not only *right*, but the indispensable *duty* of every citizen to examine the principles of it, to compare them with the principles of other governments, with a constant eye to our particular situation and circumstances, and thus endeavor to foresee the future operations of our own system, and its effects upon human happiness” (*Noah Webster*).

Whereas our Eternal God once and for all delivered to all of humanity, through the writings of the Hebrew nation, the Law that stands at the root of all societies, so too the Declaration of Independence, and subsequent Constitution of the United States of America were written with a mind to maintain power. “of the people, by the people and for the people” (*John Wycliffe*), and insured that freedom and civil liberties would be retained through a body of people that comprise a snapshot of the whole of our diverse nation.

As the diversity in our nation grew, so did the language and voices within our government that we might reflect the ever changing challenges, and changing opinions of our society through those who have served for a time within our governmental system. Our government was also designed to remain small enough to avoid monarchy, lest the desires of a select few overpower the masses for their own selfish purposes. The American government is not perfect, but it is designed to work toward perfectly reflecting the times in which we live.

Most importantly, as my mother always reminds me, if we don't like something, we can change it. Arguments and controversies will always abound as people try to interpret the law, or even sadly manipulate it. Some things never change. God too never changes, and so may He have mercy on any nation that desires to move against His primary statutes to honor the life, property and boundaries of individuals, even if some reject the first five commandments due to lack of faith, which in this country they are free to do and express.

This Summer I pray that you find a reason to be thankful for the country in which we dwell, for the sake of those who fought so hard for you to enjoy it. I pray that you remember God's Law, for the sake of those with whom you live and dwell, that they may enjoy your company, and that you actively explore your faith and freedoms in safe and loving ways, for your own sake, and as a blessing to others.

May the Lord bless and keep you all ways.

Regards,
Pastor Meredith

Webster, Noah. October 17, 1787. *An Examination Into Leading Principles Of The Federal Constitution*. Philadelphia PA.

(John Wycliffe first wrote, "The Bible is for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people" in the introduction of his Bible translation, long before Abraham Lincoln included the phrase in address at Gettysburg.)



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

Stewardship



Reminder to get your Camp Information In

Register for both camps on line:

Grotonwood: www.grotonwood.org

Oceanwood: www.oceanwood.org

All camp week information is available on their web site

Once registered for camp.....

Each camper is eligible for a \$100 scholarship from Central Massachusetts Baptist Association..... Plus, a scholarship from the church

Please give the following information to Mark Bigelow (call at 978-342-5337 or email at: msb080456@aol.com camp scholarship coordinator for our church:

Campers Name

Which camp (Grotonwood or Oceanwood)

Camp Program Attending

Dates of Camp Program Attending

Dear Members,

At the Annual Business Meeting in January, 2022 all the Deacon Board is up for election with the exception of Church Clerk and Church Treasurer. This month newsletter we are featuring two Deacons that need a new individual to serve.

Deacon of Caring:

We recognize that following Christ calls us to actively care for one another and for the larger community around us. The Deacon of Caring and his/her committee shall be responsible for the caring and nurturance of those within our church, as well as selected outreach efforts to the larger community.

A. The Deacon of Caring and his/her committee shall be responsible for administering the Communion Fund with the assistance and discretion of the Pastor and/or this committee. This fund shall be used to assist those in need of help, as determined by the Pastor, the Moderator, and/or the Caring Deacon and his/her committee.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the Deacon of Caring and his/her committee to

1. Maintain an awareness of the overall health of the church so that those in need may be duly identified and assisted.

2. Encourage Christian caring throughout the congregation by its activities and outreach.

Deacon of Missions:

It is every Christian's divine calling to bear witness to Jesus Christ. The Deacon of Missions and his/her committee shall encourage the support of both denominational and local missions and social outreach efforts as an avenue for Christian witness.

A. The Deacon of Missions and his/her committee shall plan and supervise all evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide information, encouragement, and challenge in the areas of social outreach.

B. The Deacon of Missions and his/her committee shall encourage and supervise the publicity of all church events.

C. The Deacon of Missions and his/her committee shall encourage interest and participation in the mission's programs of American Baptist Churches/USA and the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, local missions, and foster the education of the congregation in missions, in active cooperation with the Christian Education and Worship Committees.

If you are interested in either of these two positions, please contact anyone on the Deacons.

We will be featuring other Deacon position descriptions in September's Beaconlight.

This year we will also be balancing the election of the Deacon Board to half of the board elected on even numbered years and half on odd numbered years with the exception of the Moderator who term is four years.

Blessings,

Mark S. Bigelow

Nominating Committee Chairman, Deacon of Stewardship

Local News

Please consider signing up for...

*Worship Leader
Usher
Door Greeter
or Coffee Hour*

We all enjoy these services!

July 4, 2021 - Communion Sunday / Independence Day

July 11, 2021 - Guest Preacher: Rev. Philip D. Goff

July 18, 2021 - Guest Musician Daniel Kirouac

August 22, 2021 - Guest Musician Daniel Kirouac

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

COMING THIS FALL

Fall Church Business Meeting

Sunday, September 19, 2021

After Fellowship Time

C.M.B.A. Fall Meeting

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Location and Times to Follow

Mission Works

Friday, October 8 and
Saturday, October 9

Double Tree Hotel, Leominster

More Details Coming



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

*Please consider submitting
to the Beaconlight to Help keep
it going.*

Women's Circle News

The Covid-19 pandemic made it necessary to suspend our meetings until it became safe to meet as a group again. Finally, things are looking up now that places are open again and people can go without masks or social distancing. We will start holding our monthly meetings again beginning in September.

I will begin to get our booklet of members with the schedule of dates and who is providing refreshments and a devotional for each meeting over the summer and pass out by the end of August. We have usually met the second Saturday of the month, so our first meeting will be September 11, 2021.

We gather at 9:30am for coffee and refreshments and start the meeting at 10:00am. All women of the church are considered members of the Women's Circle, so you all are welcome to attend the meetings.

We hope to have new members to invigorate the group and take part in our projects to support women's ministries in the area and overseas. Please join us!

Linda Gosselin,

President of the Women's Circle

Recipe of the Month

1-2-3 Cake



I've literally never heard of this before.....

You need two boxes of cake mix. One can be any flavor you prefer, but the other **MUST** be Angel Food cake mix. Mix them together (shake them in a big bowl).

Then simply store the mixture in an airtight container until you get the urge for dessert.

Then just put three Tbsp. of the dry mixture in a big coffee mug and stir in 2 Tbsp of water.

Microwave it for one minute and you will have a single serving of cake!

Top with fruit, ice cream, whipped cream or whatever! Awesome for those of us who want something sweet every now without making an entire cake



Dear Parent,

You have received this letter because your child attended camp at Oceanwood and is now old enough to attend Christian Youth Conference (CYC). We are excited to invite your child to this two-week experience that is held at our beloved Oceanwood

Camp and Conference Center.

CYC offers a unique camp experience that combines the fun of summer camp- campfires, beach time, sports, games, field trips, and life-long friendships- with Christian faith and leadership development, through daily chapel services, classes, cabin devotions, faith-based evening programs, community service, free time, and inspiring communion and commitment night services.

Our campers are challenged to grow in their walk with Christ and become confident Christian leaders throughout our two-week program and beyond. Our program is designed to extend over three years, culminating in a graduation ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of our third-year campers. We provide a loving, supportive, and safe environment for teens to ask questions, engage in conversation, and enjoy new experiences with a diverse group of peers. CYC is structured to appeal specifically to senior-high youth, providing them with the tools they need to face the challenges of high school and young adulthood.

The dates for CYC this year are August 8-21, 2021. Our theme is FOCUS and our theme verse is Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." You can find out more about CYC at www.cycop.org or on our Facebook page: [Christian Youth Conference](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope you will consider sending your teen to Christian Youth Conference!

Sincerely,

Erica Miller

Planning Committee Co-Chair Christian Youth Conference



July Birthdays

- 5. Caitlin Blake
- 7. Mason Ruschioni
- 11. Emily Christian
- 13. Tom Adams, Jr.
- 18. Pastor Jean Wright
- 18. Colin Ruschioni
- 20. Jean Osgood
- 21. Pastor Meredith Christian
- 27. Courage Yangsi
- 27. Irfan Rafiq



Happy Anniversary

July Anniversaries

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

Aug Birthdays

- 03. Holly Primeau
- 04. Mark Bigelow
- 06. Phil Goff
- 08. Kim Rooney
- 13. Megan Force
- 13. Anne Ndunda
- 19. Kaitlin Rooney
- 29. Phoebe Mbunwe

Aug Anniversaries

- 19. Kevin & Vicki Snow
 - 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
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
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.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

978-345-5622

F-MAIL · FRCBEACONLIGHT@COMCAST.NET