



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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**NUMBER 05**

Dear Congregation,

Good news. So far, the forecast looks like we may be able to fellowship again towards the end of this month or beginning of next, dependent on health and safety updates, but it will not be the same. Some things will take a while before we can get back to them, and others may never be quite the way they used to be. That is just the nature of adaption to our new environment, and I am confident that we will adapt and grow stronger for it.

I do not think that I have ever appreciated the recounting of the Ascension quite so much as I do at this time. Scripture tells us that Jesus gave His disciples a mighty charge before leaving to be with His Father. He, *“opened their minds to understand the scriptures”* (Luke 24:47), and then commissioned each of them to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem. He also said He was sending them all that His Father had promised (Luke 24:48-49), but then Jesus added one more thing:

*“So stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power on high”* (Luke 24:49).

The disciples were given a huge responsibility to care for and instruct the multitudes, beginning in Jerusalem and continuing on as far as they could reach. They were assured that they would be properly equipped and be given a signal as to when to start, and then their Leader left seemingly abruptly without any further conversation or questions.

I cannot imagine how confusing and frustrating that must have been for those people. There are all these peaceful pictures of the disciples walking back towards Jerusalem calmly or smiling serenely as they watch Jesus ascend, yet I have to say, I do not think that was how things looked at the time. The Bible says that generally they worshiped and praised God (Luke 24:52-53), however there had to be someone on the ground yelling, “Wait!” or “What about...?” for God to send the angels to assure them that they would be ok and Jesus would come back at some point in just the same way He had left (Acts 1:10-11).

And then they all went into lockdown. For how long? Until they were what? What kind of sign were they looking for before they could get started on all that work they had to do? The instructions seem so vague at first glance. It had to have taken a bunch of trust and faith for those men and women to sit quite for that long. I know I couldn't do it. Just like now, I would be trying to reach out to contacts, make a plan, draw up contingencies and guesstimate the next best moves. I am just not a “sit still” kind of gal. That is something that I am being forced to practice right now and honestly it is a bit painful for me *and* the people who are stuck with me.

So here we sit and wait. But I do not wait for the doctors, news casters and politicians alone. No. I wait upon the Lord, confident that once again, as He has so many times before in my life, God will renew my strength. I

will mount up once again with the might and sight of an eagle and that I will run again and not grow weary. I will be able to walk among you once again and not grow faint (*Isaiah 40:31*), and so will you.

Why am I so confident? Because God promised and He is faithful to complete the good works He has begun in each of us until Jesus returns (*Philippians 1:6*). Despite the signs that some recognize as precursors to His return, He is not back yet, so we all, as his disciples, have much work left to do.

As we await the time when we are free to proclaim the name of Jesus and all that He has done to the nations once more in person, let us continue to look up and wait patiently and expectantly for the time when we too will be clothed with the power of God to safely leave our homes and cities and rejoin society. We will not be going back to living the same way or fishing for the lost in the same way as we had in years past.

This will be a new day, with new promises, and the same Spirit will guide and empower you to spread, share and live out the Kingdom of God in new ways in the times to come, so perhaps it is a blessing that we all are restricted right now. We each have an opportunity to rest, and pray and remember what we have learned about and from God, just as the first disciples did, so that we can prepare for the wonderful journeys ahead. This too shall pass. Hope on and hold on to Jesus.

May the Lord bless and keep you, until we meet again.

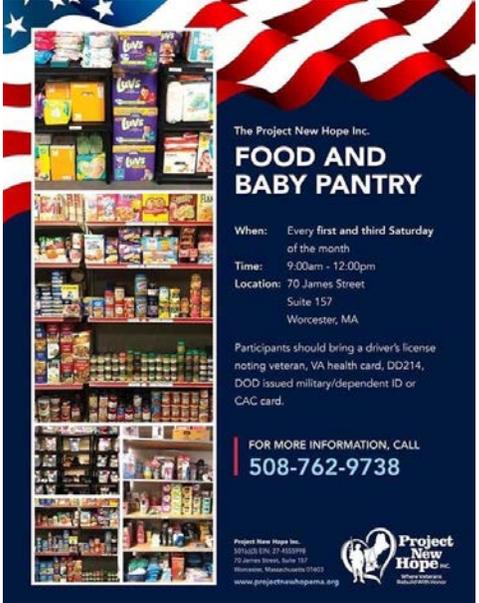
Regards,  
Pastor Meredith

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## ***Worcester Project New Hope***

We have Table Talk Pies, Toilet Paper, Yogurt and fresh tomatoes  
Our Sully's Food Pantry at 70 James St., Suite 157 is continuing to provide emergency food for Active-duty members, honorably discharged veterans including Reserves and National Guard.

Contact our Worcester Project New Hope office at 774-243-7859 to schedule an appointment or email Sue Wilder [smwilder@projectnewhopema.org](mailto:smwilder@projectnewhopema.org) to be scheduled for a pickup time, from 9 a.m. to noon. Only one client will be allowed in the food pantry at a time to reduce any threat of spreading coronavirus. If you are experiencing a fever, sore throat or other ailment do not enter the building.



The Project New Hope Inc.  
**FOOD AND BABY PANTRY**

When: Every first and third Saturday of the month  
Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Location: 70 James Street  
Suite 157  
Worcester, MA

Participants should bring a driver's license noting veteran, VA health card, DD214, DOD issued military/dependent ID or CAC card.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
**508-762-9738**

Project New Hope Inc.  
301423 ENL 27-403096  
23 James Street, Suite 157  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01602  
www.projectnewhopema.org



**Project New Hope**  
INC.



Today Love Gift continues to be a part of the basic budget of American Baptist Churches USA. These expressions of love and thanks to God support the full range of American Baptist mission in this country and around the world...

- ...evangelism and new churches...
- ...teaching and discipling new believers...
- ...ministries of healing...
- ...resourcing pastors and congregations...
- ...ministries with women and girls...
- ...training leaders.....
- ...caring ministries...

Love Gift supports the work of Regions, Educational Ministries (including American Baptist Women's Ministries), International Ministries, National Ministries, Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board and General Ministries

***Please mail your Love Gift Offering to  
Linda Gosselin, 10 Washington St., Fitchburg, MA, 01420***

## *A recipe for: Overcoming Peace*

*God Gives Peace to a Distressed Mind*

### ***Ingredients:***

Ephesians 6:15

and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Directions:

1. Come to God daily and let Him fit your feet with readiness.
2. Receive the peace of the gospel of Christ, letting it overcome your distressed mind.
3. Step out in the power of His overcoming peace, released from paralyzing fear.
4. Walk with God, in these gospel shoes; not bare foot and alone.

## *A recipe for: God Confidence*

*I am Blessed with a Lack of Self Confidence*

### ***Ingredients:***

Jeremiah 17:7

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.

Directions:

1. Give up your search for self-confidence and find your only source of confidence through the power and abilities of God.
2. Stop waiting for permission from people to do what God is asking you to do. Do it in full confidence that if He has asked you to do it, He will be there with you.
3. Don't wait for someone to ask you to the 'dance'. You've already been asked by God. Now dance!

# Local News

May 3, 2020 - Communion Sunday  
May 5, 2020 - Cinco de Mayo  
May 7, 2020 - National Day of Prayer  
May 10, 2020 - Mother's Day  
May 21, 2020 - Ascension Day  
May 25, 2020 - Memorial Day  
May 31, 2020 - Pentecost Sunday – Possible  
first day of services in the church sanctuary.

Please watch for updates and details.

## *Easter Flowers*

Sorry...

Due to the current situation.

Easter Flowers have not been ordered.

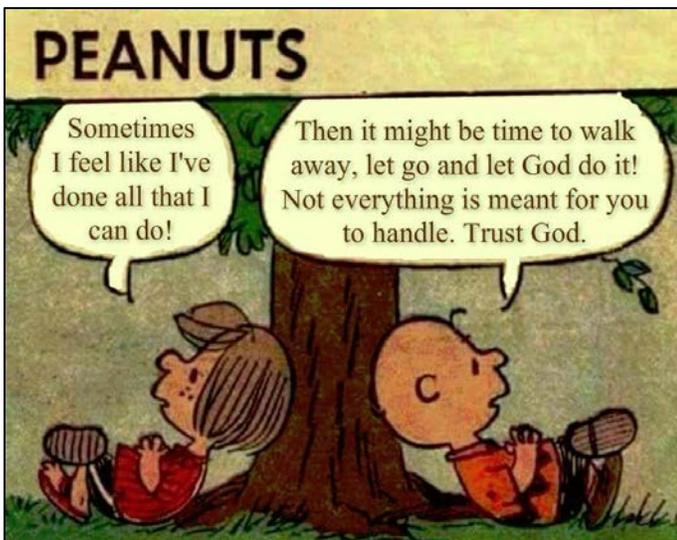
Checks will be returned.

Debi Cross

## *Faith of our Mothers*

Sung to the tune of Faith of our Fathers  
Lyric's by Marilyn Carter

1. Faith of our mothers,  
Faith and love,  
Reflections of our spiritual dove,  
Faith of our mothers,  
Her love knows no end  
Reflecting God's love,  
Will always depend.  
CHORUS:  
Faith of our mothers,  
Faith from above,  
They'll want to teach us,  
Our Father's love.
2. Faith of our mothers,  
Faith and prayer,  
Showing God's love,  
And will til the end,  
Faith of our mothers,  
Her faith shows through,  
May we always do what she wants to do.  
CHORUS (see above)



### *Careful Planning Makes a Difference*

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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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)

# Local News

## First Baptist Members Who Served

1914 -1918

Milton H. Abell, James W. Asquith, Alfred Bothner, Harlan K. Brooks, Marion R. Brooks, James S. Broome, John L. Broome, John R. Caldow, Gerald B. Coane, Raymond J. Cosseboom, Eugene G. Cote, Morton H. Cutler, George E. Daniels, John W. Davis, Henry R. Dean, William E. Dean, John M. Dow, Louis E. Dushutte, Ralph H. Fales, Frank M. Ferguson, H. Wesley Hall, Roger W. Forbes, Marsion C.M. Shanks, Ralph O. Hutchins, Charles A. Leach, William T. Logan, James W. Manning, L. Loyd Marshall, Robert M. McGregor, William McKay, Henry A.H. Osgood, Alexander M. Pollock, Arthur G. Proctor, Cecil S. Proctor, Frederick Proctor, Frederick G. Rice, Herman M. Rice, Alexander Robertson, Robert F. Sands, Thomas Sayers Jr., Clarence H. Sherrin, Guy E. Smith, Warren C. Wilder, Nelson Willis, J. Murray Wilcox, Robert Walker Jr. and Charles C. Wellington.

As a Congregation  
We Cannot physically meet  
Every week right now  
Our Love for each other  
Is still there !!!!

Please pray for each other, the doctors and nurses who are providing care for the Corona Virus

If you are able in these trying times could you please mail your offering envelopes to:  
Linda Gosselin  
10 Washington St.  
Fitchburg, MA 01420-5425

The church has regular monthly bills to pay even though we are not holding services.

## *Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Amen

# Recipe of the Month

## *Hot Chocolate Matcha Marble Cake*



### ***Ingredients:***

PAM Baking Spray  
1-2/3 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda  
4 eggs  
1/4 cup sour cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1-1/4 cups granulated sugar  
1/2 cup Swiss Miss® Chocolatier Series  
Dark Chocolate Hot Cocoa  
2 tablespoons matcha green tea powder  
powdered sugar

### **Preparation:**

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray a 9x5-inch loaf pan with baking spray. Stir together flour, salt and baking soda in small bowl; set aside. Whisk together eggs, sour cream and vanilla in another small bowl; set aside.

Beat the butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until smooth. Gradually add the sugar and beat until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes, scraping down bowl as needed.

Reduce the mixer speed to low. Gradually beat in the flour mixture until combined. Gradually beat in the egg mixture and mix until just combined.

Transfer half of the batter to a medium bowl and stir in the hot cocoa mix. Stir matcha powder into remaining white batter. Pour half of the chocolate batter into bottom of the pan. Dollop with half of the matcha batter followed by the remaining chocolate batter and then remaining matcha batter. Using a butter knife, draw a figure 8 pattern through the cake a few times to marble the batters.

Bake 1 hour 25 minutes to 1 hour 35 minutes, until top springs back and toothpick comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes and then invert onto a wire rack to cool completely. Dust lightly with powdered sugar, slice and serve.

# From The American Baptist Churches Of Massachusetts:

## ***Why the CHURCH is keeping me sane and hopeful right now***

Yesterday, I had the privilege of attending a webinar sponsored by the organization, Unite Boston. The team leader for the webinar was Kelly Fassett, my minister friend from River of Life Church in Jamaica Plain. Kelly had gathered a number of Boston church leaders to present on the topic of “Church Mission During COVID-19”. The presenters were all excellent, thoughtful and helpful, sharing about all of the ways that Boston churches are reaching out during this pandemic.

One of the presenters was Reverend David Wright, who is the Assistant Pastor at Peoples Baptist Church, which is located on Tremont Street in Boston. Pastor Wright talked about all of the folks that have been participating in the offerings that People’s is currently giving online. Not only are they streaming Sunday services, they are offering online classes and different ways to be connected, through Zoom and other avenues. Pastor Wright expressed EXACTLY the fear that I have had, mainly-; that once we get back “into our buildings” – we will go BACK to the way things were. But the way things were was not working for MOST of the people in our communities. Pastor Wright mentioned that many of these younger folks that are now tuning in to our church offerings online may never enter our buildings. Ever. And that we as the Church need to realize that it is extremely important to keep reaching out to the hundreds of NEW folks who have become involved in what our churches are doing. If we just go back to business as usual and hunker down in our buildings, we lose all of these new people who have become curious about what our churches have to offer.

This pandemic is offering the church an opportunity to seize on a new way of being and maybe, the way that we have been being up until now has not been God’s ideal for the Church. Not just in terms of taking advantage of the technology that has been available to us for a long time, but also in terms of partnering with organizations in the community that are already doing God’s work. All of the other presenters in the webinar shared about community partnerships and the way their churches have come along side of other community organizations to do things like feeding people and helping immigrants. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. Many of these organizations already exist in our communities and all the churches need to do is come along side and offer to work with them.

I was extremely encouraged by this webinar, as I have been every time I have gotten together in Zoom meetings with local church leaders. The innovations that are happening right now in the church are the most exciting that I have seen in my lifetime. Yes -they are happening as a result of a terrible plague, but, as one of the presenters mentioned, back in the days of the plague was when Christians FIRST became noticed as different, because they were the ones who were setting up hospitals and ministering to the dying whom nobody else was willing to touch. We follow and serve a Lord who touched the untouchable, who loved the unlovable, and who included the marginalized. Not only did Jesus include the marginalized, Jesus went one step further and said that those were the ones that God loved the most. The missional implications of this pandemic to spread the inclusive, radical and life-giving love of Jesus to the people around us is staggering. The Church is at a crossroads and can choose to take this opportunity and run with it into the future ...or we could go back to “business as usual” when our buildings open and miss the opportunity of a century. I pray that we will be up to the challenge. 🙏

Rev. Christine Keddy  
TABCOM Director of Missions



*May Birthdays*

- 10. Peter Sprigg
- 12. Eric Yangsi
- 12. Adeline Njamnshi
- 14. Jeriah Sarfrez
- 16. June Dawson
- 16/ Betty Rousell
- 25. Dan Christian
- 27. Connie Gariepy
- 29. Joshua Irfan



*Happy Anniversary*

*May Anniversaries*

- 7. Glenn & June Dawson
  - 7. Joe & Amy Weeks
  - 19. Wilfrid & Connie Gariepy
- 



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*  
*Connie & Will Gariepy*  
*Daniel Bascomb*  
*Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)*  
*Kathy Gosselin*  
*Kathy Young (coworker of Diane Bigelow)*  
*Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter & granddaughter)*  
*Linda Gosselin*  
*Lorraine (friend of Pam Chapman)*  
*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*  
*The Steward Family*  
*Roger Abell*  
*Pastor Becky*

## ***Our Missionaries***

*Light A Candle Ministries*  
*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.**

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

978-345-5622

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