



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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Dear Congregation,

Recently, an anointed reverend within ABC, a humble man of God has encouraged pastors to refrain from opening this week and wisely asked, "Should not we who follow Jesus, see this as a time in the wilderness with Jesus, a time to rethink our calling and commission, a time to recommit ourselves to the way of God which is the way of love?". He sent this in the spirit of love and concern for the people who might seek to rush back into their churches, without counting the cost, or respecting the still present danger for the weakest of us within and without the body of Christ.

I completely agree. This is a time when I should remember to follow the One who ministered to contagious lepers, to the blind and impoverished, those who were grieving, mired in sin, hungry, or lost.

I should use this time in the wilderness of my seclusion to recite the Word of God before the adversity set before me that seeks to offer me food, kingdoms, and salvation through means other than the daily provision of my loving, almighty, Father God.

And I am indeed rethinking my calling and commission, and have recommitted myself in prayer, "to the way of God, which is the way of love", and not the way of fear, routine, or self-preservation.

As I said, I completely agree with of this most respectable man of God and respect his concerns.

Barring any new concerns, or changes to the current health trends within our church, I will unlock the doors of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 10am.

We will not be resuming what are considered to be "regular services" for some time. As the disciple Peter came out of that upper room on the first day of Pentecost, being led by the Holy Spirit, to offer words of encouragement and the message of Christ to those nearest to him in the crowd below (*Act 2:14-21*), a message that would take his lifetime, and that of all others whom have followed Christ from that time until now, to fully share with the world in fulfillment of the Great Commission, so too do I feel led to come out of my room to be present, listen and speak words of encouragement to those who are able, nearest and most in need of support and solace at this time.

I am no Peter. I am a simple woman trying to follow the leading of the Spirit within me with fear and trembling. I am confident that each pastor of each individual church is seeking the will of God and the good of each of their congregants at this time and in so doing, many will be making vastly different choices, based on their particular ministry needs. I fully respect and support the decisions they make and ask that you do as well, without any comparisons to other churches. No two are the same, not even within denominations, and no two have the same people or concerns. Let us pray for and support them in their difficult tasks in the time ahead.

I will be in the sanctuary on May 31<sup>st</sup>, standing apart from every other person, and asking that any that do venture out on that day, or any other Sunday to follow, will strictly do the same, for their sake and the sake of their neighbor.

On this Pentecost Sunday there will be no traditional bulletins, or hymns. Many of the structures of fellowship that so many, including myself enjoy, will not be performed again for some time to come, and some may never return. Only God

knows. The deacon board will decide, based on results from this gathering, and latest health updates, when and how to proceed as a church after this time. You are most welcome to share your thoughts with members of the deacon board and have your feelings heard, respected and considered.

All who enter must wear a mask to fully cover their mouth and nose and must remain, at all times, as distant as possible, more than the required 6 feet wherever able, from others not part of their household. We have a limited amount of paper masks for those who do not have one. Purell dispensers can be found on the walls near the entrances.

There will be rows and indicators to direct the steps of those who enter, which must be respected, whether it feels frustrating, silly, unnecessary, or not. There will be no bibles other than the personal ones that are brought and kept with individuals at all times. Each household must wait to be dismissed in succession and may not tarry in the hallways or parking lot before, during worship time, or dismissal.

All children must remain with their household members at all times. There will be no Sunday school. All must remain seated, unless use of the facilities is necessary, at which point the direction of traffic must follow the markers. No person of any age will be allowed to walk up and down the aisles during the service. Offerings may be left in the secure box provided in the narthex.

These are the actions and things necessary for anyone who chooses to enter the building in Fitchburg. I pray that before entering, each of you pray earnestly that the Lord instruct you on whether or not you should go to or enter the church building.

Those of you who are elder, immuno-compromised, in any way ill, or not “feeling quite right”, or uncomfortable in Any way please, *please* stay home for as long as you are led too, for the sake of yourself and others. If you or a family member have tested positive for Covid-19 **you are required** to quarantine for 2-4 weeks as recommended by your doctor.

Please ask yourself if you are choosing to attend out of habit, ritual, curiosity, or boredom, and if so, *please stay home*. This is not a time to be flippant with our behaviors. The church will be there in a while, however long that is, awaiting our safe return.

We are being financially sustained, thanks to the will of God and all of you. The Lord is present with you and does hear your prayers from the safety of your homes, and they count for just as much. Services will still be emailed, mailed and if the Lord allows, recorded for you to read and view until further notice. You will not be “missing out” by remaining safe under the guidance of your God, doctors, and beloved family members.

The purpose of unlocking the doors and allowing a small portion of people to enter safely is so that those who are broken in spirit, or struggling with trauma may find a quiet place to reflect on their situation, share their grief, worship and pray in the presence of others, and perhaps share or receive a word of encouragement or hope.

This will be more of a memorial service and acknowledgement of the goodness and mercy that the Lord has shown even now, in our time of great need. This type of sharing can be done via phone, or in many other physically distant ways, but for those who require physical presence, it being a personal right to take the risk, I will be there, as unskilled as I am, to offer what I can to the Body of Christ in Fitchburg. I am confident that the Lord is already with you, and that I will see you soon, however long that takes. Our God is patient, and we that are in Christ are called to be patient as well.

I offer what I hope will be an encouraging song:

*“It Takes A Little Time”* by Amy Grant (Click on the link->) <https://youtu.be/reUc-YighZQ>

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Regards,  
Rev. Meredith H. Christian  
Pastor of The First Baptist Church of Fitchburg Ma.

**June's Special Offering:**

# **Camperships**



Help are young people to be able to go to camp this summer.....

All camps will be open with restrictions, please go to their websites to find out the details. (Grotonwood: [www.grotonwood.org](http://www.grotonwood.org) , Oceanwood: [www.oceanwood.org](http://www.oceanwood.org) , Christian Youth Conference: [www.cyop.org](http://www.cyop.org))

Along with money raised through this special offering this month, every registered camper will receive a one hundred campership from Central Massachusetts Baptist Association. Please see Mark Bigelow for all the information.

## **Reminder to get your Camp Information In**

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.....

Please give the following information to Mark Bigelow, camp scholarship coordinator for our church:

Campers Name

Which camp (Grotonwood or Oceanwood)

Camp Program Attending

Dates of Camp Program Attending



## First Baptist Church

Mark S. Bigelow, Deacon of Stewardship  
1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420-2035

June 1, 2020

Dear Friends and Members,

The Stewardship Committee (Linda Gosselin, Bette Adams, Phil Goff and I) would like to thank all who have made the extra effort to mail in their envelopes in. Each week and month bills still have to be paid to keep our church running even though we are not physically using the building.

If you are unable to get to church services we ask if you could do your best to send your envelope to:

Linda Gosselin  
10 Washington St.  
Fitchburg, MA 01420-5425

Please keep each other in your prayers

Blessings to all,

*Mark S. Bigelow*

Mark S. Bigelow

Deacon of Stewardship



The American Baptist Churches Of  
**MASSACHUSETTS**



## *Calling God*

Hello God, I called tonight  
To talk a little while.  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own.  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love You too,  
And I'll call again tomorrow!

# Recipe of the Month

## Pizza Mac and Cheese



- **Ingredients:**

- No-Stick Cooking Spray
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 4 ounces American cheese, cut into cubes
- 1 pkg (16 oz each) dry elbow macaroni, uncooked
- 1 can (14.5 oz each) Hunt's® Diced Tomatoes with Basil, Garlic and Oregano, drained
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/3 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 pkg (3.5 oz each) pepperoni

Preparation:

- **Step one**

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray 13x9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Melt butter in medium sauce pan over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth; cook 1 minute. Whisk in milk, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in Cheddar and American cheeses and uncooked noodles. Pour into baking dish . Top with drained tomatoes. Cover tightly with foil and bake 30 minutes.

- **Step two**

Remove foil and top with mozzarella cheese, onion, bell pepper and pepperoni. Bake an additional 15 minutes until bubbling. Let stand 5 minutes and serve.

# Local News

## *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



Pastor Meredith  
Will be in her office:

Tuesday 1 - 4

Thursday 9 - 12

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

### *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)



*June Birthdays*

1. Diane Hope
2. Jessie Njamnshi
5. Eric Primeau
6. More Chingor
12. Kedi-Nora Shei
14. Kevin Mutindwa
- 25..Steven Bigelow
28. Amy Weeks



*Happy Anniversary*

*June Anniversaries*

7. Phil and May Goff
21. Dick and Donna Auger



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  
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  
Primeau Family*

## ***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.*

*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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