



FBC News

**Love isn't a feeling.
It's an action.**

FEBRUARY 2021

Widening the Welcome!

On Wednesday night I joined 99 other people across our nation to mark the 25th anniversary of the disfellowshipping of five American Baptist churches from our American Baptist life. "What are you talking about?" you might be asking. On January 6, 1996, First Baptist Church of Berkeley (CA), Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church (CA), San Leandro Community Church (CA), New Community of Faith Baptist Church (CA) and First Baptist Church, Granville, Ohio were all *voted out of their American Baptist regions* (which is how our local churches connect to the denomination) because they believed and practiced the full inclusion of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. It was a traumatic day in the life of our denomination, and those of us who were witnesses to this rupture would spend the next days and months reaching out to those congregations, reuniting them through other regions who would welcome them, even as we continued to push for our denomination to become welcoming and affirming too.

That has not yet happened. Our denomination still doesn't officially offer this kind of inclusion although many of its officers and leaders do. Many of our churches don't either. But I am proud to be serving a church that does; **FBC Pottstown's welcoming and affirming posture extends God's welcoming and including Spirit to ALL people!** Sadly, that is still a rare gift.

It was fun to see "old faces" (we are now all 25 years older!), to sing together the songs of the past that brought hope and strength to our spirits, to remember our years standing for justice together, to celebrate God's call to us all to continue to make God's love and grace available to all.



February is the month we receive our offering for The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB). Last fall, AWAB gave FBC a gift of \$500.00 to support paying my salary (because we expected me to be in Italy last summer). Now it's our turn to give to this important witness.

FBC is a part of this loving, tried and tested group who continue to push back the walls of exclusion and welcome all. **FBC** is a part of a witness that reaches across the years and our nation: every time zone, hue, gender, age group. **FBC** is a part of this continuing story, being lights to the world, bringers of justice, repairers of the breach. Give generously!

Gratefully,
Marcia



Bored at Home? Here are some things to do:

Check out these upcoming events and mark your calendar! You can find links to join most activities directly on our website at www.FBCPottstown.org so visit us online often.

- Saturday, Jan 30th at 9am - Anti-Racism Working Group
- Sunday, Jan 31st after worship - Congregational Meeting
- Tuesday, Feb 9th at 6:30pm - Philadelphia Baptist Association Discussion with Health Commissioner Dr. Fairly
- Thursday, Feb 11th at 7pm - Ministry Coordination Team
- Saturday, Feb 13th at 7pm - FBC Zoom Game Night (details below)
- Sunday, Feb 14th after worship - Board of Technology and Communication Meeting
- Thursdays, Feb 18th and March 4th at 7pm - Book Study Group

Do you have an event for next month's newsletter? Email the details to the office at office@FBCPottstown.org!

Party Time!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your FBC friends on Zoom at 7pm! We're having a Game Night! Our Board of Community Care and Connection has a whole list of games and fun for us to share virtually. Come check out what else we can do on Zoom! It's BYOB: bring your own beverage (and snack!) while we talk, laugh and play together. Lots of opportunity for laughs, talking with friends, seeing how creative and playful you can be! It's also the perfect opportunity to invite a friend. (It's not like they'll be going to the movies or anything!) Join us! You'll find the link on our website at www.FBCPottstown.org!



Financial Info

Our thanks to all who support the life and ministry of FBC. Even while we are not together physically, we have continued to come together in other ways to do the work of ministry in our neighborhood and in the world. Your gifts make this happen!

Offering Income in Dec	\$ 6,727.33
Rental Income in Dec	\$ 7,599.47
Other Income in Dec	\$ 1,278.42
<hr/> Total income in Dec	<hr/> \$15,605.22
Expenses in Dec	\$13,978.35
Net Income for Dec	\$ 1,626.87

