



FBC News

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

MARCH 2022

To Boldly Go

My paternal grandfather was a mechanic and a farmer. He loved to talk (and talk) about the greatest invention of his era, the internal combustion engine. Born before the invention of the automobile in the U.S., Grandpa lived to see people walk on the moon. He would be dumbfounded by Zoom, although its name sounds kind of like a car.



Many of us are more than a little surprised by all of the changes of recent years as well, especially those in our church life. And now First Baptist Church faces another big change, albeit an exciting one. Who or what are we beyond our physical structure, our spot on the map?

I suggest that we have figured some of this out already. After all, we haven't been standing still in the last couple of years. Take a look at our website, all of it, at our active presence in the community (primarily online!). And we have remained involved in each other's lives – although we yearn for more “in person” experiences. Thank goodness those seem to be coming!



Like many of you, I enjoy history and tradition and value the past. But my subconscious is working on me. Recently, I had a dream about riding in a car up a snowy mountain with Jeanne Petrosky as the road disappeared behind us. I believe, and I know you do, too, that God will show us the way as we continue to be open to what is ahead.

We are honoring the commitment of the hundreds of members, friends, and leaders of FBC through many years who responded with faith and imagination to their moment in time. Now it's our turn.

With hope,
Laura Alden,
Moderator

A Problem in Pottstown



There is a problem in Pottstown; well, more than one, of course, but this one has to do with the Borough Council and people who are experiencing housing insecurity. Currently, Pottstown's only shelter for male residents of the Borough who have no place to live is Al's Heart Warming Center, open Nov-April. As this season comes to a close, the Borough has not approved the reopening of the Center for next year and has indicated that it does not wish to do so. That would leave approximately 40 Pottstown men without a place to go next season when the weather turns cold.

On Feb 17th, the Ministry Coordination Team voted unanimously to support a letter and action by the Pottstown Ministerium to advocate for the reopening of the shelter to accommodate those who are unhoused in Pottstown. We are asking any who are able to join us in-person (masked) at the Borough Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 15th at 7pm to support Al's Heart Warming Center's request to be allowed to continue their ministry.

If you are interested in more details, please contact Myra Forrest. If you have an FBC shirt, please wear it to show our elected officials that our church cares about the unhoused in Pottstown.

A Thank-You from Rev. Eleazar and Speciose Zihembere

"Dear Pastor, and my sister in Christ, with this text, I want to inform you that we have received today, the check for the total ticket cost for Speciose when she went back to Africa. We can't have enough words to express our appreciation for your generosity. May our good God bless you, and the entire FBC family."

What's Happening at FBC!

Check out these upcoming events! Visit us online to find links at www.FBCPottstown.org.

- Feb 20th at 3pm POWER Metro Revival Online
- Feb 22nd at 7pm Guided Meditation Group
- Feb 24th at 7pm Ministry and Money Team Meeting
- Feb 27th at 10:30am Worship with guest pastor Rev. Cheryl Clendinning
- Feb 27th at 2pm Community Projects Gathering (**in-person** in Echo Hall)
- March 1st at 7pm Book Study – *THICK: And Other Essays*
- March 2nd at 7:30pm Board of Community Care & Connection Meeting
- March 6th at 9:15am Podcast Study – "Understanding Easter: Part One"
- March 6th at 10:30am Worship with Natalie Massaglia preaching
- March 6th at 11:30am Save, Repurpose, Recycle Team Meeting
- March 13th Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 13th at 9:15am Podcast Study – "Understanding Easter: Part Two"
- March 13th at 10:30am Worship with Pastor Marcia
- March 14th at 4:30pm Board of Spiritual Life Meeting
- March 14th at 7pm Poetry Open-Mic with guest Aileen Cassinetto
- March 15th at 7pm Pottstown Borough Meeting about Unhoused in Community (**in-person**)

- March 17th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team Meeting
- March 20th at 9:15am Podcast Study – “Understanding Easter: Part Three”
- March 20th at 10:30am Worship with Pastor Marcia
- March 27th at 9:15am Podcast Study – “Understanding Easter: Part Four”
- March 27th at 10:30am Worship with guest pastor
- April 1st – 30th Crop Walk
- April 3rd at 9:15am Podcast Study – “Understanding Easter: Part Five”
- April 3rd at 10:30am Worship with Natalie Massaglia
- April 10th at 9:15am Podcast Study – “Understanding Easter: Part Six”
- April 10th at 10:30am Palm Sunday Worship
- April 14th at 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- April 17th at 9:15am Podcast Study – “Understanding Easter: Part Seven”
- April 17th at 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship
- April 21st at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team Meeting
- April 24th at 10:30am Last Sunday Worship with Seminary Intern Natalie Massaglia

Financial Info

We continue to come together to do the work of ministry in our neighborhood and in the world. Your gifts make this happen! Thank you!

Offering Income in Jan	\$ 4,483.83
Rental Income in Jan	\$ 7,429.74
Other Income in Jan	\$ 0.00
<hr/> Total income in Jan	<hr/> \$11,913.57
 Expenses in Jan	 \$ 8,594.57
 Net Gain for Jan	 \$ 3,319.00



Do you have anything you’d like to add to the next edition of FBC News?

Email details to the office at office@FBCPottstown.org by March 13th!