



FBC News

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43:19 NRSV

MAY 2022

Saying Goodbye and Looking Forward

Selling our church building stimulates both grief and excitement. It is difficult to leave the place where you were raised, where perhaps you, your children, your grandchildren worshipped, were baptized, married or end of life celebration took place. It’s hard to let go of familiar spaces, whether it’s the home we grew up in or the one we’ve lived in for the last 30 years. We celebrate all the wonderful, transformative experiences we have had in this space; that’s why it’s difficult to let go.

While letting go brings grief that needs to be recognized it also brings a sense of expectation and hope. We are more than this building, more than a place: we are a people God has woven together to share a journey of faith and ministry. We have made a commitment to serve this community and live out the love and mercy of God in this place. And without a doubt, God is directing us to new life and new ministry as we trust in God for the way ahead.

My thanks to you as you accompany one another on this journey. We will cry and laugh together, pack and remember, discard and give thanks for the lightening of our load and look forward with anticipation to God’s new day within us!

-- Marcia



A fun day of getting old papers shredded at Staples!



Jeanne and Kathy P working on their safe cracking skills.



A lot of boxes!!!

A Long-Awaited Celebration for Joel Dugan May 1st at 2pm in the FBC Sanctuary

Some of you may know Joel's story. While participating in ABCOPAD's lay pastor training, Joel was also on his journey of transition. When he had successfully completed the program, Pastor Marcia accompanied him to his final "review" which turned out to be a horrific assault on his personhood as a transgender person. The recognition of his accomplishment was flatly denied. FBC and AWAB wrote letters to the Central Region and ACOPAD leadership to protest. There was no mercy. Subsequently, FBC left ABCOPAD and joined PBA.

Joel remained faithful and patient. Pandemic came next, and now, as FBC joins the LGBT Center of Greater Reading in partnership to bring services and build community in Pottstown, we are delighted to celebrate Joel, whose leadership in pursuing this vision has encouraged us to make it possible.



Please join us in the sanctuary on May 1st at 2pm. Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, National Coordinator of AWAB and pastor of First Baptist Church of Denver, CO, will be our preacher. We will celebrate communion together and celebrate our friendships afterwards with a reception. We will invite you to mask for your protection and others'. There will be plenty of space to make yourself comfortable.

A New Beginning: Partnering with the LGBT Center of Greater Reading



From left to right: Kristi Pless, Joel Dugan, Michelle Dech, Aaron Rineer, Sage Angelisanti, James Wilkie, and Tasha Santiago (not pictured Ryan Griffin-Silveri)

FBC is excited to welcome and partner with the LGBT Center of Greater Reading as we expand our service to the Pottstown community in all its diversity! On April 13th we held an open house to begin welcoming the LGBTQ+ community in the Pottstown area to the new location, and on April 20th we spent a delightful afternoon sharing popcorn and ideas with the LGBT group from the Tri-County Active Adult Center (on Moser St in Pottstown).

We plan to keep hosting weekly gatherings at FBC until we can determine what programming and services will be needed for our community. You can volunteer or just come by and welcome folks to our space!

Our next event will be a community meeting in the FBC Office on Thursday, April 28th at 4:30pm when we'll ask people to share ideas for how we can best serve the LGBTQ+ community in Pottstown.

What's Happening at FBC!

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

- April 24th at 10:30am Last Sunday Worship with Seminary Intern Natalie Massaglia
- April 26th at 7pm Guided Meditation
- April 28th at 4:30pm LGBTQ+ Community Meeting at FBC
- April 29th at 10am-12pm Marcia will be at FBC for those wanting to look at items to repurpose
- April 30th at 9am Clean Up & Clean Out Day
- May 1st at 10:30am Online Announcements and Prayer
- May 1st at 2pm Special Afternoon Service for Licensing of Joel Dugan
- May 3rd at 7pm Book Group - *The Sum of Us*
- May 4th at 8pm AWAB Online Panel - "Welcoming the Transgender Community."
- May 7th at 9-11am PBA Annual Meeting Online – [Register here!](#)
- May 8th at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- May 8th at 10:30am Worship with guest pastor Sarah Hoffstetter of God's Precious Children
- May 9th at 7pm Open-Mic Poetry with guest Rebecca Lauren
- May 14th at 9am Clean Up & Clean Out Day
- May 15th at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- May 16th at 4:30pm Board of Spiritual Life Meeting
- May 17th at 7pm Book Group - *The Sum of Us*
- May 19th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team
- May 22nd at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- May 22nd at 11:30am Congregational Meeting (immediately following worship online)
- May 28th at 4:30pm Community Meeting with LGBT Center of Greater Reading
- May 29th at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- May 31st at 7pm Book Group - *The Sum of Us*
- June 5th at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- June 12th at 9:15pm Podcast Study - "Understanding Jesus"
- June 15th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team

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!

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| Offering Income in March | \$ 5,515.48 |
| Rental Income in March | \$13,328.51 |
| Other Income in March | \$ 56.80 |
| Total income in March | \$18,900.79 |
| | |
| Expenses in March | \$20,484.63 |
| | |
| Net Loss for March | \$ 1,583.84 |



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 May 13th!