



FBC News

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

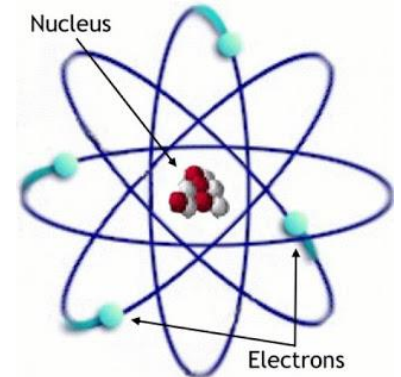
Psalms 25:4

JULY 2021

Exploring New Paths

Electrons are the negatively charged particles of an atom. The electrons of an atom create a negative charge that balances the positive charge of the protons in the atomic nucleus. Electrons are extremely small compared to the other parts of the atom, so why are we even talking about them? What do they have to do with FBC? (Who let Kristi and Mike write the newsletter?!!!!)

Electricity is the energy you get when electrons flow from atom to atom in a material like a copper wire. As Covid-19 forced us out of the building at 301 King St and into the digital world of Zoom and email, we're all now interacting through electrons (electricity) on our computers, tablets, and phone screens.



Our Electronic Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

The Board of Technology & Communication arose last summer in response to FBC's evolving needs in our new digital world. With information and guidance from our 2020 Technology Interns, Samuel Loriot and Thomas Bailey, we looked at new paths for ministry, ones paved by electrons instead of concrete. Moving forward, we're exploring new ways to continue to use digital tools to reach out to our members and community, whether through Zoom services and meetings, social networks like Facebook and Instagram, or elsewhere.

As we worship and meet online, the Tech & Comm Board supports the efforts and creativity of our pastor, our boards and our learning community. We're exploring possibilities for maintaining our online worship connection as in-person worship becomes possible again, and we look forward to supporting new paths as they open up.

Old Ideas in a New Way

What happened to the Bulletin and Visions?! Check your email each week for information on worship, FBC events, and group activities. Visions has been streamlined into the FBC News you're reading right now, so look for a new edition each month in your email and on the website. You can also find updates and info on our [Facebook page](#) and our [Instagram account](#). You can view the social media posts in your internet browser even if you don't have any social media accounts!

Did you know that FBC used to post the audio recording of Pastor Marcia's sermon to the website each week? When we left the church building, we left our audio equipment behind! Now we post a video of the Sunday worship service each week. If you miss a service or want to revisit one, check out the [Worship page on our website](#) or the ["Sunday Worship at FBC" playlist on Facebook!](#)

Walk the paths paved by electrons with us! Find links at www.FBCPottstown.org!

REMINDER: Rev. Mary Etta Mest is on call for any pastoral needs through July 3rd while Pastor Marcia is out of the office. If you need to reach Rev. Mest, call 610-659-2775.

What's going on at FBC?

Check out these upcoming events! Find links for at www.FBCPottstown.org so visit us online often.

- June 14th at 4:15pm Board of Spiritual Formation Meeting
- June 14th at 7:15pm Book Study Group
- June 16th at 7pm Board of Community Care & Connection Meeting
- June 17th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team Meeting
- June 21st at 12pm POWER Interfaith rally for fair funding at Pottstown Middle School
- June 21st at 7pm Monday Meet-Up: "Capturing Family Stories II" with Kathy Ballein
- June 23rd to 26th ABCUSA's virtual 2021 Biennial Mission Summit
- July 5th at 7pm Monday Meet-Up: Display Your Collection with Dennis Landon
- July 15th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team Meeting
- July 19th at 7pm Monday Meet-Up: "Do you own things or do things own you?" with Jeanne Petrosky
- July 20th at 7pm Guided Meditation Group
- Aug 2nd at 7pm Monday Meet-Up: Open-Mic Poetry Night with Dennis Landon

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

Save the Date to Support Fair School Funding in PA

Please join FBC's Dr. Myra Forrest and other community leaders at the Pottstown rally for Fair School Funding in PA on Monday, June 21st at 12:30pm at the Pottstown Middle School.



Sponsored by POWER and Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding, this event will highlight how unfair school funding affects our community. Add your voice to the call for fair funding in PA because every child deserves a fully funded education.



You can register to make your voice heard at tinyurl.com/FairFundingNow!

Releasing Rev. Mary Etta Mest as Associate Pastor at FBC with a Heartfelt Thank-You for Her Dedication and Service

Dear Friends,

Visiting members and friends of First Baptist has been an honor and privilege for me. Thank you for the opportunity. I began doing this ministry in April of 2008 with a short break between then and now. You rejoiced and supported me for my ordination in November of 2008. You have encouraged me tremendously.

Now, because the members I was asked to visit have died except for Arline Gohen and Charles Rivenburg, it seems the right time to once again be a "friend" instead of "staff" with FBC. I will continue to care for Charles, as a friend, and Ruth Chonka will care for Arline Gohean. My admiration, respect,

love, and prayers are with you, and will remain with you, as you continue to do the Lord's work in admirable ways!

Our associations encourage us to have a "releasing liturgy." Because I am the pastor of Zion United Church of Christ in Womelsdorf now, I am not free to be here on a Sunday morning. Pastor Marcia and I think we can exchange our pledges via the FBC newsletter.

I thank First Baptist Congregation, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these approximately 12 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here and all the generous love I have received.

I forgive you (I am not sure for what) and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I thank you for your encouragement for my ministry with Zion United Church of Christ in Womelsdorf.

With the help of God, I release First Baptist from relating to me as Visiting Pastor.

My prayers and gratefulness are with you for the deep servanthood you display with words and actions.

Respectfully,
Rev. Mary Etta Mest

Dear Rev. Mary Etta Mest,

Twelve years ago you accepted God's call to serve the people of First Baptist Church by calling on them when they were homebound, hospitalized, and in need of pastoral care. With the tenderness of God's love and the assurance of God's grace, you visited, comforted, encouraged and blessed many among us with the power of the genuineness of your prayer ministry. We give thanks to God for your ministry in our midst.

We understand that those you have ministered to the longest have passed on, and your current congregation continues to need your leadership and presence. Your work at FBC is accomplished and with thanksgiving for your ministry among us, we release you from responsibility to offer professional ministerial care to us.

We ask your forgiveness for anything we have said or done to injure you and we accept your forgiveness of us. We celebrate your ministry and pray God's blessing upon you and your congregation as you continue in faithfulness. We are grateful for all you have taught us and will continue to grow in God's grace as you have demonstrated to us.

Finally, we pray that our mutual friendships will continue as together we serve God's people in love and grace.

Thank you, Rev. Mest, for your ministry to us!

In thanksgiving and love,
The Members and Friends of First Baptist Church, Pottstown
Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey, Pastor
Dr. Myra Forrest, Ms. Debra Brauner, Ms. Laura Alden, Moderators



Financial Info

Our thanks to all who support the life and ministry of FBC. We continue to come together to do the work of ministry in our neighborhood and in the world. Your gifts make this happen!

Offering Income in May	\$ 5,232.99
Rental Income in May	\$ 7,930.60
Other Income in May	\$ 268.94
<hr/> Total income in May	<hr/> \$13,432.53
 Expenses in May	 \$ 7,433.02
 Net Gain for May	 \$ 5,999.51

