



FBC First Baptist Church

Family By Choice all are welcome...really!

VISIONS August 2019

Embracing Our Community August 11th at 1:00pm



As we write to you, the days are scorching, and the urge to have fun in the sun is irresistible. It's the perfect time to invite friends and family to our **Community Summer Fest on August 11th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm** in front of the church on King St.

The hard work behind the scenes is bearing fruit. Check out the easel in Echo Hall for the organizations and businesses in our community who donated goods, food, and prizes for our event. Please support those who support us!

Getting the word out is key, so look for our listing on PCTV, PottstownLocal.com, and FM 107.5 Alive. We encourage you to spread the word in our community as well. We have extra flyers in the office that can be posted on community bulletin boards or at your office. You can invite a neighbor or co-worker, and you can promote and share our event on Facebook. It's easy, just:

- (1) visit the First Baptist Church of Pottstown page on Facebook,
- (2) click Events on the left-hand side
- (3) select "Interested" or "Going" on our Community Summer Fest event, and
- (4) click "Share" and "Share as Post" to add this event to your own page.

Looking for ways to get involved? We'll need lots of volunteers before, during, and after the festival. Reach out to Nancy Unruh or Dennis Landon to ask how you can help.

This is a free event for everyone! We have activities and prizes for all ages, so bring the whole family to meet your neighbors and community groups as well as see the firetruck. We hope to see you, rain or shine!

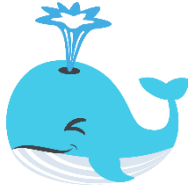


610-326-2273

www.FBCPottstown.org

301 King St | Pottstown PA 19464

It's A Whale of a Tale! August 4th at 11:00am

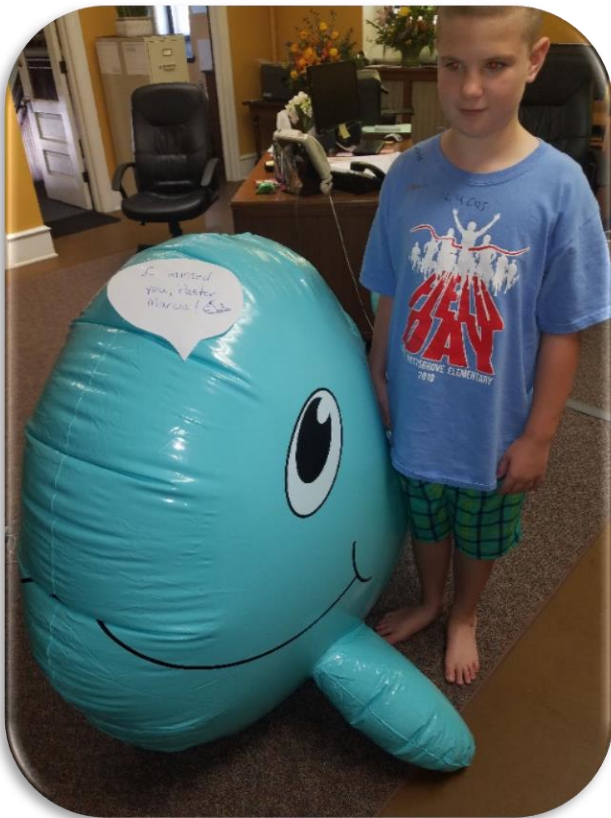


It is a whale of a tale that we will be telling as we worship **August 4th at 11:00am.** at the home of John and Myra Forrest! Come for a fun and creative worship experience near the pool and stay for a potluck picnic and pool party! Bring something to share if you are able; if not, just come! There will be shade for those who want/need it, food and fun for all, and a whale of a good time for everyone!

The address is:

2475 Rosenberry Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Join us for a fun day of fellowship and meet the whale.



Expressing Gratitude

One good turn inspires another...that's what happened when our friend Randy Kurtz donated mulch for the front garden beds at the church. Volunteers who came to spread it were blessed by the gift of energy and spirit of our neighbor, George, who lives across the street. George, a former landscaper, spent several hours helping us mulch! Both Randy and George's, along with Deb Brauner and Jeanne Petrosky and Jane Gruen's, efforts are greatly appreciated!



Additionally, we give thanks to Nancy and Rick Unruh who spent long hours cleaning up the water in New Fellowship Hall and outside the CCLU office after a recent storm. We give thanks for your ready willingness to help!

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Churches



FBC has applied to the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, a national organization of a variety of kinds of Baptists who share their welcome and inclusion of sexual minority persons.

To support our application, we took a special offering in July and collected \$340! Keep an eye out for updates on our application.

Looking Ahead

- **Labor Day Worship at Shenkel UCC**

This Labor Day weekend, Sunday, Sept 1st, we will once again join other churches in our community to worship at Shenkel UCC. Worship will begin at 10:00am. This is a wonderful time of sharing with others; please plan to join us!

- **Fall Schedule**

We are making some changes in our Sunday schedule this fall! **Worship will continue to begin at 10:00am, and it will be followed by Learning Communities (aka Sunday School) for both kids and adults from 11:15am-12:00pm. This schedule will begin Sunday, Sept 8th.**

Our Adult Learning Community will be a study of a book called *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries*. This book provokes a dynamic conversation about the possibilities of blessing and abundance in the midst of a mindset of scarcity and limits. You are encouraged to purchase the book to read along; if you would like to order a copy, please let the church office know, and we can order them together.

Let's Connect – with Kristi



For the first article in this series about the PASSIONS of our congregation, I was privileged to interview our new Administrative Assistant Kristi Pless.

Those who have met Kristi will not be surprised to learn that she is passionate about helping others. Here is her interview (edited for space):

Q. What are you passionate about? What is it that energizes you?

A. Helping others has been my passion for a long time, but...I prefer to work behind the scenes or in a small group. I am energized when I get to build the lights that let others shine.

Q. When did this become a passion for you?

A. I have wanted to be a 'helper' since I was a child. My career path has wandered, but I consistently found joy in volunteering or helping others succeed. This job at FBC gives me the opportunity to use all my skills to help. It feels amazing to come to work each day.

Q. What is a special memory you have of being a helper?

A. Ask me about my Grandpa's band saw and the wooden reindeer sometime!

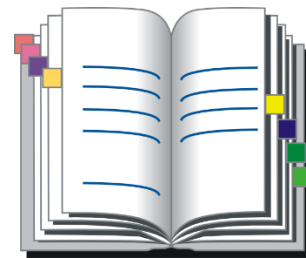
Q. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your passion?

A. When I say 'I am happy to help', it is more than just words to me. Knowing that I was able to complete a task that helps you in some way brings me joy. I appreciate each opportunity because it leaves me feeling useful and successful.

And we thank you Kristi for the help you are to us!

-Jane Gruen
For the Diaconate Board

Are you up to date?



The Diaconate is updating our church directory. If you know of changes/additions to your phone number, address, email, or cell phone numbers, please help us get a head start by calling or emailing the church office with your updated information! Send information to office@fbcpottstown.org

– from the Diaconate Board
Debra Brauner, Chairperson
Board members – Jane Gruen, Ruth Chonka

\$\$\$The Amazing Raise\$\$\$



The Amazing Raise Day of Giving in Pottstown is **Tuesday, October 15, 2019.**

Pledges to the Amazing Raise for First Baptist Church can be given **now**, or **any time through October 15th**. The pledge money will not be billed to your credit card until October 15th, even though you pledge ahead of time. *The money given to First Baptist and all other non-profits will be **matched at a 75% rate** if it is given through a pledge or on Tuesday, October 15th.* This is an opportunity for First Baptist to grow our bank account with very little effort! **We have already received \$1,600 in matching funds!**

The money needs to be given online. FBC will have a help desk on Tuesday, October 15th at the church for anyone who needs assistance with online giving.

Respectfully,
Dr. Myra Forrest

The Big Event



Although Sunday School is not meeting for the Summer, the CE Board is still busy. On **August 11th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Community Summer Fest** will be a day filled with fun activities for all. Time to get to know our neighbors, partner with community groups, learn fire safety and EMS safety, enjoy food, and much more! Plan to attend and help where you can. If you have any ideas for

activities, please share them with Nancy Unruh or Dennis Landon.

The Fall will bring new curriculum to Youth Sunday School.

Don't forget to keep collecting those Redner's Save-A-Tapes. Please place your tapes in the box on the shelves or in the CE mailbox.

-from the Board of Christian Education
Chairperson of the Board: Nancy Unruh
Sunday School Superintendent: Susan Heinz
Board members: Lauren Emmell, Dennis Landon,
Kathy Purington, Joel Dugan

Silver Lining for Our Community

The Cluster wants to **Bring the Basics** to their personal care pantry to help local friends and neighbors in need! They will announce **a new item and goal every month.**

The Cluster has set an August goal to collect 31 sets of silverware with 8 place settings per set!



The Cluster still has the following current needs:

- One-gallon Food Storage Bags
- Half-gallon Food Storage Bags
- Sandwich Bags
- Plastic Bags
- One-inch brown Masking Tape

All donations can be placed on the shelves in Echo Hall.

Cluster Fundraisers: Professional Pharmacy register tapes (includes prescriptions). Place in Ruth Chonka's mailbox.

Pamphlets are available on the tables in Echo Hall and the Sanctuary to help explain the services available at the Cluster in Pottstown.

FBC's Tuning Up



As the choir takes a break over the summer, thank you to everyone who performed special music for worship services. We're looking for additional special music to include in our worship services in August. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to perform the special music during a service this summer, please contact Teri Hoffman.

- from the Board of Worship & Music
Chairperson: Corinne Griffiths
Board members: Kathy Ballein, Tim Raub
& Dr. Myra Forrest

Tending to Our Building



The Trustees are grateful for the work of those who helped make our church look more beautiful, including Rick and Nancy who cleaned up water, Jeanne, Jane, and Deb who mulched and planted, Randy Kurtz who donated mulch, and our neighbor across the street, George, who spent several hours helping with the mulch.

Our relationship with the YWCA is expanding, and we are having a **workday on Saturday, August 3rd starting at 9:00am** to prepare our building for this growing partnership.

If you notice any repairs needed around the building, please contact John Forrest or Rick Unruh.

- from the Trustees
Co-Chairpersons: Richard Unruh & John Forrest

Our Offerings

In June and July, \$286 was collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing.

We also received a letter of gratitude from American Home Mission Societies for our donation of \$235 in support of the America for Christ Offering 2019.

- Our Missions
Chairperson: Kathy Purington
Committee members: Jane Gruen & Ruth Chonka



Looking Ahead for FBC

A committee comprised of John Forrest, Kathy Purington, and Barry Sawtelle have met twice with further meetings planned in the future. Their task is to make recommendations for revisions to the FBC Constitution to bring the procedural aspects of the Constitution into better alignment with the current size of the congregation and its' capabilities.

- from the Constitution Committee
John Forrest, Kathy Purington,
& Barry Sawtelle



Have you tried E-giving?

Do you pay your electric or phone bill online? Does the money get automatically removed from your account, so you don't have to think about it? You can now pay your pledge or make a donation to FBC using the same technology!

Getting involved with this method of payment is literally three easy steps! The process is very intuitive, but for those of us who need to see it written out, instructions are located on the website under the "DONATE" category and a hard copy is on the desk in the Church Office.

1. Go to our website www.FBCPottstown.org and click on the far-right category "DONATE".
2. Create your own profile so you can keep track of all of your giving.
3. Add your donations, frequency and method of payment.

Additional Special Donations and/or changes can be made at any time along the year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jeanne 610-405-8574 artgal32@gmail.com



SIMPLE.
CONVENIENT.
SECURE.

August Birthdays

- 6 Seth Bowers
Anna Mohan
- 7 Athena Grace
Speciose Ziherambere
- 16 Lauren Emmell
Charlotte Rose Mohan
- 17 Yun Washington
- 20 David Endy
Emmanuel Bangura
- 23 Teri Hoffman
- 24 Keegan Bowers
- 25 Tyler Trexler
- 28 Laura Alden-Sawtelle
- 30 Ethan Sawtelle

August Anniversaries

- 7 Ronald & Lynn Ranieri
- 22 David & Ruth Endy
- 28 Bob & Kathy Walk

Are we missing your name? Send us your birthday so we can invite others to celebrate with you!



FAMILY BY CHOICE