



**First Baptist Church**  
all are welcome...really!

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**FBC · FAMILY BY CHOICE**

**610-326-2273 [www.FBCPottstown.org](http://www.FBCPottstown.org)**

A Fully Inclusive, Community Friendly  
and Mission Based Church

301 King Street | Pottstown PA 19464  
[www.GoFundMe.com/FBCPottstown](http://www.GoFundMe.com/FBCPottstown)

First Baptist Church is a 501c3 organization.  
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

# December Visions

## Waiting with A Purpose

Lots of the waiting we do seems purposeless, like standing in line at the checkout or sitting in traffic or in the doctor's office. Waiting can feel like a huge waste of time or waiting can be the opportunity to prepare yourself for what's to come!

Advent, a season of waiting and expectation, is here again. What can we do to make the waiting more meaningful? How can we change how we think about all that begs to be done so that in the end, it gives us life? Rather than being exhausted, how can we find energy and purpose renewed?

This Advent season I invite you to create some moment of each day to move beyond the exterior "work" of Christmas (shopping, baking, decorating) to discover the *interior work*; that is, to discover what is waiting to be born in you! Carve out a few minutes every day—before your feet even hit the floor in the morning or as you lie down at night, to be mindful of God's presence and to ask God to be born anew in you. Perhaps it's on your commute to work or while you are waiting in that endless line at the store: replace frustration with prayer, for yourself, the people around you, the world.

Expect God to "show up" in the people and circumstances around you. *Notice* where you experience God's presence and consider how that informs your own life and the life of our congregation together. As God reveals Godself to us in these days, we can find deeper meaning in our celebrations, and deeper compassion for a world in need.

While we are waiting for God's coming again to our lives, there are many ways that **we** can show up for God in the days ahead! Here are some of the ways we'll anticipate Christ's birth this year:

Dec 2 The First Sunday in Advent: communion and the lighting of candles during our shared time of prayer; the preliminary budget will be available for your consideration.

Dec 9 The Second Sunday in Advent: our “thank you” Christmas concert to our community for all their support with our Tower Project featuring guest musicians and artwork. Doors open at 1; concert begins at 2. (see more detailed announcement)

Dec 16 The Third Sunday in Advent: join us during and after worship as we celebrate God’s generous gift to us in Jesus and learn about the culture and traditions of Rwanda with the leadership of the Ziherambere family. There will be drumming and special food; don’t miss this! We will also have a congregational meeting after worship to vote on the proposed budget.

Dec 23 The Fourth Sunday in Advent: the waiting is almost over! Join us for a cookie swap and refreshments after worship.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve: a 7 pm service of lessons, carols and candlelight.

There is much happening here at Frist Baptist as we await the coming of Christ! Join us as we anticipate God’s Gift to us!

---Marcia

## Announcements

Marcia’s new address: Rev Dr. Marcia B. Bailey  
119 Revere Court  
Collegville, Pa 19426  
610-585-4322

"There will be a **congregational meeting on Sunday, Dec 16** immediately after worship for the purpose of adopting the 2019 budget and electing a Chair of the Board of Christian Education. We will also briefly talk about our next steps in terms of our long range planning and envisioning. Please plan to attend the

meeting and join us for lunch afterwards, hosted by the Ziherambere's.

**On Sunday, Dec 16 during and after worship**, Rev. Dr. Eleazar and Speciose Ziherambere will offer a message focusing on the blessings the world has received from God through the gift of Jesus. For the Children's Message, Eleazar and Speciose will share stories of our brothers and sisters in Africa, their daily life, school, and worship. **At the conclusion of the worship service and after our congregational meeting, we invite all to join us in Echo Hall.** Eleazar and Speciose will continue to demonstrate African cultural ways and share some of the special customs important to the celebration of Christmas to Christians in Africa. **Eleazar and Speciose will prepare and share a “ugali” lunch with us.** If you don't know what “ugali” is, join us and experience it first-hand! How blessed we are to be able to experience a different culture and its customs through Eleazar and Speciose, part of our FBC family who we love and know so well!

## Christian Education

**Chairperson of the Board, TBD**  
**Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Heinz**

*Mission Statement for the Board of Christian Education:  
Our mission is to support each other by providing tools and opportunities for continual growth, regardless of who we are and where we are on our journey to know God. (Revised 1/17/2015)*

### Sunday School

The adult class will meet at 9:15am in the library. For the month of December the children will have visits from Chris Mouse during the Children's Message. The children will hear some of the Christmas story each week and make a themed ornament to hang on the tree in the Sanctuary.

## **Cards**

If you know someone who needs cheering up, the children love making cards to be sent to the shut-ins and long distance friends. If you know someone that would appreciate a card, please let Kathy, Sue, or Lauren know.

## **Redner's Save a Tape Receipts**

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education. We receive 1% of the total receipts which helps us purchase supplies for Sunday School. Please continue to use your Redner's Rewards Card whenever you shop.

## **The Secret Place**

The Secret Place is available on the table in Echo Hall for your personal devotions. Please consider a contribution to help defray the cost of making this material available. Feel free to pick one up for a friend.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CE Board will be on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining the CE Board or would simply like to share some of your ideas, please feel free to join us.

## **Cluster Notes**

**Ruth Chonka**

The Cluster is looking for volunteers in the warehouse and pantry, stocking shelves. Call 610-970-5995 and ask for Samantha.

The pantry has run low on gallon size closable plastic bags. Any donations would be appreciated.

They are always looking for volunteers to help in the warehouse, pantry, dry goods or administration.

Pots and Pans and cleaning supplies are needed for people going into housing. Thank you for your donations! Especially needed: Low-Fat, Low-Sugar, or Low-Salt items; canned or boxed food such as soup, meat, stew, pasta, vegetables, fruit, cereal, oatmeal, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, baby food, real

juice; laundry and cleaning supplies and equipment, toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items, diapers (size 3,4,5), wipes, sheets and blankets (all sizes). Plastic and paper grocery-size bags. Egg cartons are not needed right now. Thank you!

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

**Bi-lingual Persons Needed:** The Cluster is seeking persons who can help Spanish-speaking clients who shop at the Cluster. Please contact Victoria Bumstead (610-970-5995) or [vbumstead@pottstowncluster.org](mailto:vbumstead@pottstowncluster.org).

## Diaconate

**Joel Dugan, Chairperson**

**Community Meal:** The Cluster Luncheon is at Christ Episcopal Church on the first Monday of the month. The meal begins at 11:45 am and anyone who can help serve is welcome. We thank all those that have committed to this ministry in Pottstown.

## **Communion Offering Reminder**

The Communion envelope found in your box for the first Sunday of the month is used for the Fellowship Fund on the even months. The Fellowship Fund is to help our members in financial need. On the odd numbered months the Fellowship Fund is used for missions.

## Board of Worship & Music

**Teri Hoffman, Chairperson**

In September the Worship and Music Committee presented our new hymnal RENEW! In an effort to introduce some new music to our congregation this hymnal does just that and also includes traditional hymns. Hymnals may be sponsored with your gift of \$10 with a dedication label placed inside the front cover in honor of or in memory of a loved one. To date 42 hymnals have been purchased in honor or recognition of loved ones. We are still accepting dedications and donations for our new hymnal Renew.

The Worship and Music Committee would like you to spread the word about our free Christmas concert on December 9th at 2pm. Sweet Streets Desserts will be served following the concert. Come get into the holiday spirit and bring a friend!!!



# SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS

Concert & Fine Art

**Sunday December 9, 2018 2:00 pm**

**First Baptist Church of Pottstown**

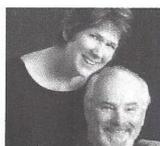


performers  
Joe Ceresi  
David Heffner  
Lisa Heffner  
Teri Hoffman  
Myra Forrest  
Tim Raub  
Maggie Riker



artists

Jeanne Petrosky  
Dennis Guzenski



**First Baptist Church**

corner of King & Charlotte Street  
[www.FBCPottstown.org](http://www.FBCPottstown.org)



Access available. Call in advance  
**610-326-2273**

Adults \$20  
Children **FREE**  
(12 and under)

to purchase  
**TICKETS**  
610-326-2273  
[office@FBCPottstown.org](mailto:office@FBCPottstown.org)

Refreshments  
following the concert

**SWEET STREET**

# Trustees

Michael Heinz, Chairperson

## Trustees Notes December 2018

### **Kitchen Windows**

John has an estimate to replace the kitchen windows for \$2771.

Rick is working on getting a second estimate.

### **Furnace break-in**

1. Most recent evidence suggests thief used prying tools to enter the furnace room and one of the kitchen windows to enter the church.

### **Short term security recommendations:**

Get the windows replaced.

### **Security items done:**

Added security flanges to the furnace doors.

Added security grates to the insides of the furnace room windows.

### **Total estimated cost:**

1. \$10k for furnace room damage to date. May go higher.
2. One pipe leaking below floor level.
3. Unknown damage to internals of furnace.
4. \$3k for the windows.
5. \$1k for the doors (?)
6. \$1k for the grates (?)
7. \$1k for unexpected expenses.

The Ministry Coordination Team voted to withdraw \$10,000 from our investments to pay for the repairs, to be reimbursed from the insurance settlement.

### **Status of Heaters:**

Both furnaces are now working

### **For the future:**

1. The Trustees are considering the use of wireless security cameras.
2. Other issues are securing doors and equipment.

## **Parking Lot Sign**

1. Jeanne Petrosky worked with a committee to choose a new design for the sign which is now on the wall in the parking lot.

## **We've Got Mice!**

No, not the four-legged rodent kind, but "Church Mice", the two-legged helpful kind as folks pick up small but essential tasks that need to get done around our church. Each of these jobs takes only a brief amount of time and effort; they can be done alone or with a friend, some by someone as young as an elementary school student or as "experienced" as an elder! They include things like picking up bulletins in the pews to recycle after worship each week, picking up trash in the parking lot, making sure the building is secured after worship, straightening up after using a space, keeping the book shelves neat, polishing brass on an occasional basis, etc. Jeanne Petrosky has put together a list and a sign-up sheet for your convenience; it's in Echo Hall.

## **Missions**

**Kathy Purington**

### **Giving Opportunities for December**

FBC will once again be collecting gravy for the Cluster Holiday Food Baskets. We have committed to collecting 200 **cans** of gravy by December 9<sup>th</sup> for the Cluster. **No glass jars will be accepted.** The cans of gravy can be placed by the baptistery.

Toys will also be collected for the **Cluster Toy Drive**. These must be in before December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Cluster will distribute them on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

# FBC and Tri-County YWCA

**Dr. Myra Forrest**

First Baptist Church and the Tri-County YWCA, our next door neighbor, have entered into a partnership. The YWCA has been renting some of our space for their after school program for their older elementary children and middle school students, since Tuesday, September 4.

Providing space for worthwhile organizations is part of our mission at First Baptist Church. We are happy to have our facility used for such a wonderful purpose, and happy to be a partner of the Tri-County YMCA!

## Announcements

There are many exciting things happening at First Baptist Church. People are stepping up to the plate and accepting positions of leadership. The Steering Committee has been re-vamped and is now more appropriately called the Ministry Coordination Team. The following people have accepted positions that are one year in length, June 2018-July 30, 2019.

Co-Moderators:

Laura Alden

Deb Brauner

Myra Forrest

Financial Secretary: Jeanne Petrosky

Church Clerk: Nancy Unruh

Treasurer: Suzanne Grace

Board Chairpersons:

Christian Education: TBD

Diaconate: Joel Dugan

Trustees: Michael Heinz

Worship and Music: Teri Hoffman

## December Birthdays

- 1 Nandi Bangura  
Samantha Lynn Gould
- 2 Isaiah Oberg
- 3 Joyce Nichols
- 4 Charles Golden
- 6 Joan Breidenbach
- 11 Kyra Gauger  
Shirley Holloway
- 12 Gift D. S. Bender  
Bill Jackson  
Tanner Jolley
- 14 Susan Heinz
- 15 Michelline Bender
- 20 Amy Shenk  
Mary Lou Sarni
- 21 Joyce Bagiraneza
- 23 Elisabeth Ziherambere  
Samuel Ziherambere
- 26 Joyce Morris  
Jon Batten
- 28 Will Bagiraneza
- 30 Joe Alden-Sawtelle
- 31 Terry Gauger  
Keith Grohoski

## December Anniversaries

- 13 Bruce & Becky Gould  
Bob & Susan Kelly
- 14 Tim & Athena (Grace) Bair
- 16 Drew & Maggie Kurtz

# What to Look for in December

Sunday, Dec.2,10:45am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship & Communion Service
Monday, Dec. 3, 11:45 am	Worship & Music Board meeting
Sunday, Dec. 9, 10:45 am	Community meal at Christ Episcopal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service
2:00 pm	Board of C.E. & Trustee meetings
Monday, Dec. 10, noon	Sing a Song of Christmas Concert Elderberries Luncheon at Coventry Parlor
Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 pm	Ministry Coordination Team
Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:45 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service Eleazar & Speciose Ziherambere Presentation
Sunday, Dec. 23, 10:45 am	Congregational Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Service
Monday, Dec. 24, 7 pm	Diaconate meeting
Sunday, Dec. 30, 10:45 am	Christmas Eve service Worship Service

