



FBC • First Baptist Church

FAMILY BY CHOICE all are welcome...really!

Fully Inclusive
Community Friendly
Mission Based

610-326-2273

www.FBCPottstown.org

301 King Street | Pottstown PA 19464

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March - Visions

Lenten Worship: “What Would It Take To...”

During Epiphany, worship at FBC focused on the work we are called to together in light of the incarnation of God in Jesus. We considered what it was that God was calling us to as a community of faith in this time and place as we endeavor to make real the life and ministry Jesus lived in the world. This year during Lent we will reflect on God’s incarnation turned *inward*, as each of us considers what it means to personally embody our faith. My thanks to Rev. Dennis Landon, Keith Grohoski and Tim Raub, our Lenten Worship planning committee.

2019 Lenten Worship Theme: “What Would It Take....”

Contemplating what it means to embody our faith

3/10 What Would It Take to Be Humble? Mark 5:24b-34

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus’ robe. What does true humility look like and how might we embody it?

3/17 What Would It Take to Live in Grace? Luke 17:11-19

The lepers who are healed but didn't return. What does grace look like and what does it mean to live in it?

3/24 What Would It Take to Forgive Yourself? John 8:1-11
The woman caught in adultery. Why is it so difficult to forgive ourselves?

3/31 What Would It Take to Forgive Others? Matt 18:21-22
Peter asks, "How many times do I forgive?" How does holding onto the past--regrets, embarrassments, mistakes, "sins" keep us from moving ahead? What is the cost of not forgiving? What is the blessing of forgiving others?

4/7 What Would It Take to Trust God? Luke 21:1-4
The widow who gives all. How do we learn to believe in that which we can't explain?

4/14 What Would Take to Sit at the Table and Stand at the Cross? Matt 20:20-22, Jn 19:25-29.
Palm Sunday: Jesus asks the Sons of Zebedee, "Can you drink this cup?" Jesus says to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." What would it take to be a follower of Jesus all the way to the end? What would it take to live a life like his and to share a death like his?

4/18 Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion in Echo Hall at 7:30 pm.

4/21 What Would It Take to Live Resurrection? Jn 20:1-18
Easter: What would it take for you to rise above fear and to claim life?

Join us in this sacred season as we continue to listen to God's call to us, as individual's and as a community of faith. "What would it take for you to.....?"

--Marcia

Ash Wednesday, March 6 Praying Together 6:30 pm

You are invited to begin the Lenten season in a time of reflection and prayer led by Jane Gruen and Joel Dugan at their home,

299 Diamond Street, Pottstown, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Join others as we reflect and pray together, strengthening our relationships with each other and with God.

E-Giving Coming to First Baptist Church

For many of us, online payments are a convenient way to transact our monthly commitments, paying loans, insurance, healthcare and other responsibilities. E-Giving, through the electronic transfer of funds to First Baptist Church, will give members and friends an option that will help them stay current with their pledges whether or not they are able to attend services. It will give members, near or far away, an online option to make one-time or recurring gifts and allows them to make additional contributions when they're inspired to do so.

After some comparison shopping for electronic fund transfer companies by some of our leadership, the Ministry Coordination Team voted to hire Vanco Payment Solutions to handle electronic fund transfers for our members. Vanco has been working with churches of all denominations for the past 20 years. This company is highly integrated with our church's bookkeeping software, Church Windows. Based on the experience of other churches, e-giving has typically resulted in an over-all donation growth of 13-20%.

Please look for more specific information on how you may choose to participate in electronic giving in the next edition of "Visions". All gifts to First Baptist Church, whether cash or check, in an envelope, simply placed in the offering plate, or transferred online, are gratefully received and used to fulfill the mission of Christ's church.

Staff Changes

At their February meeting, Doris Stutzman, our Administrative Assistant informed the Ministry Coordination Team that she would be retiring as of April 30. Moderators Laura Alden, Deb Brauner and Myra Forrest, along with Pastor Bailey, were tasked with advertising, interviewing and bringing a new Assistant to the MCT and congregation for hire. We anticipate an overlap as Doris shares some of her years of wisdom with our new

Assistant. A celebration of Doris' faithful contribution to our congregation will take place on Sunday, April 28. Please plan to attend!

Another staff change was affected when Ruth Endy, our Building Coordinator, resigned her position as of January 31. Ruth has been very helpful to us over the years and we are deeply grateful for her service. The Ministry Coordination Team has asked Jeanne Petrosky to step into this position, continuing Ruth's work two hours a week with our partner organizations and those who rent our space. Jeanne is serving in that capacity as our Interim until she is confirmed at our March 31st congregational meeting.

Congregational Meeting: March 31 after worship

The Ministry Coordination Team has determined the need for a congregational meeting and has chosen March 31st as the date. At this meeting we will vote on new staff hires (see article "Staff Changes"), and Biennial Delegates, hear a report from the Ministry Coordination Team's recent meeting with an architect about making our building ADA compliant, discuss E-giving, receive annual reports and updates. Please plan to attend.

Attention parents: Please contact Tim Raub if your children are taking instrumental music lessons and would be interested in playing some songs with other students during Lent. You can text Tim at 610-858-9933 or send an email to TimDoubleBass@aol.com this week. Thank you.

Christian Education

Chairperson of the Board, Nancy Unruh

Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Heinz

Board members: Debra Brauner, Lauren Emmell, Dennis Landon, Kathy Purington –

*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)*

As you can see, the Nursery/SS Room is under a transformation. Although I was unable to be at church on the 17th, I want to thank all those who moved everything upstairs. Deb Brauner, Lauren & Hannah Emmell, Ruth & Brittany Endy, Charles Golden, Mike & Sue Heinz, Dennis Landen, Laura & Barry Sawtelle, Maricarmen & Tyler Trexler. Please forgive me if I left out anyone. The “muscle power” was greatly appreciated. We are anxiously anticipating sharing our space with the YWCA. They will be an asset to our church. Also, the equipment they move in will make the room very inviting to our children as well as visitors who come into our church. Thanks again and keep watching.

Our Youth are having fun and learning bible stories as well as acting the stories out with their “Candy CM” Curriculum. Best part, at the end of the Lesson is a piece of candy! Youth SS meets during the Church Service.

Adult SS under the supervision of Joel Dugan meets in the library @ 9:30.

Our Youth participated in a game night with the CCLU families. It was a fun event and if you remember that was one of the Youth goals that came out of our Reboot seminar. Great Start!

Mark your calendar for April 20th from 10 AM – 11:30 AM for our annual Easter Egg Hunt with snacks, crafts and fun hunting!

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.

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 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.

The next meeting of the CE Board will be on Sunday, March 10th. If you are interested sharing some of your ideas, please feel free to join us.

Cluster Notes

Ruth Chonka

In order to serve our community, **the Cluster has need of the following things:**

- **Volunteers** in the warehouse and pantry, stocking shelves. Call 610-970-5995 and ask for Samantha.
- Gallon size closable plastic bags
- Pots, Pans and cleaning supplies
- 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, cleaning supplies in small containers and cleaning 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

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.

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

Diaconate

Joel Dugan, Chairperson

Board members: Ruth Chonka & Jane Gruen

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

Board members: Corinne Griffiths, Kathy Ballein, Tim Raub & Dr. Myra Forrest

Worship and Music Committee Report by Dr. Myra Forrest

On Sunday, February 17, our new hymnal, RENEW, was dedicated during the worship service. This hymnal is perfect for use in a blended worship service, which means it contains many old and familiar hymns and choruses, as well as well as new and contemporary songs and choruses.

The hymnals were available for members and friends of FBC to donate the cost for the purpose of either honoring someone or memorializing them. 80 hymnals were purchased by the church in total, and 67 of them were purchased in honor or memory of someone, in addition to the two large spiral bound copies for the piano and organ.

The Worship Service totally revolved around music; music was played, sung, as well as spoken about during the readings. It was a lovely service and the hymnals were needed and very much appreciated.

We have some talented young musicians in our congregation. Some of them performed during the Advent and Christmas services through vocal solos or group singing, or solo instruments. We are planning to use their talents more often with some group work with Tim Raub, and some solo work with Myra Forrest accompanying them. If anyone is interested in using their talents during worship, please contact Tim or Myra.

Trustees

Michael Heinz, Chairperson

Board members: Richard Unruh & John Forrest

Trustees Updates

1. Water was found in the upstairs hallway, which dripped down into the first floor hallway. We have not identified any source for this water.
2. Now that we have tenants using the upstairs classrooms, locks have been added to the doors to those classrooms.
3. Trustees will need two new members come the summer of 2019. Anyone interested should contact Michael Heinz.

Please Note: The church is no longer collecting for a building fund. The Church budget and the Building Fund are now considered one fund. Since we ordered the envelopes for 2019 early in 2018, this is not reflected on the giving envelopes. Thank you for making this change.

Missions

Kathy Purington

Committee members: Jane Gruen & Ruth Chonka

Thanks:

We collected 250 cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. A big THANK YOU to Sue Heinz for matching the amount given. The

soup has been taken to the Cluster for distribution. Thanks also for giving \$140.00 for RMMO - the Retired Minister and Missionaries Offering.

Two Giving Opportunities:

Easter Baskets and Candy for FBC's Easter Hunt

After our April 7th worship service, we will assemble Easter baskets which the Cluster will distribute to area children. We have the baskets, but could use small toys for the Easter baskets. At the same time, we will fill Easter eggs with candy for FBC's Easter Egg Hunt and could use plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy. These donations can be placed on the Missions Steps in Echo Hall. If you can stay to help fill the baskets/eggs or have any questions, please see any member of the Mission Committee or Christian Education.

America for Christ Offering collection March 17th and 24th

The America for Christ Offering is a means of supporting the missions which take place in the USA and Puerto Rico. This offering supports ministries of "discipleship, community and justice." It equips and networks "followers of Jesus to transform persons, congregations, neighborhoods and cultures throughout the United States and Puerto Rico." Our support for this offering allows us to show compassion for those in need in our own country. Our giving goal is \$200.00 and giving envelopes can be found in the pew racks.

Change of address:

My new address effective April 1, 2019

Horace Fox

57 Fairfield Road, Havertown Pa 19083

Cell: 484-363-9217

If your address, phone number, or email has changed since our last directory, please let the church office know so we can update our records.

Worship In Action, March 17 at 10:45 am

We will once again combine our worship with action on March 17 as we worship in Echo Hall, move to action group meetings and then return, offering ourselves for service in the community and world. February's Worship in Action experienced yielded three strong group conversations that generated next steps in drafting a Welcoming and Affirming statement for the congregation to consider, as well as plans for inviting our partnering organizations to share their work with us. Much more is in the works and we need you to come and be a part! No need to chose one group; participate in all! No need to come another time; the action begins on Sunday morning. No need for you to make a long term commitment; we welcome anyone who would like to contribute to our outreach in any way they can. "Evodah," the Hebrew word, means "worship, work and service." Join us as we work our worship into the world!

March Birthdays

- 4 Kathryn Ballein
- 6 Rick Unruh
- 9 Dave Heffner
Kristin Jolley
Jennifer
Schankweiler
- 11 Joel Dugan
- 14 Rita Paez
- 15 Ronda Keiser
Myra Forrest
- 16 Darrel Rivenburg
- 19 Pearl Fazekas
- 20 Cherie Hessler
- 21 Juniper Kurtz
Barry Sawtelle
- 22 Brittany Endy
- 26 David Zihrambere
- 29 Jon Purington
Kayla Bowers
- 31 Alyssa Creswell Mohan

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

We Get Letters

Dear FBC Members and
Friends,

It is with regret and some
pleasure that I am going to
retire from the Administrative
Assistant position at FBC on
April 30th. Since we are setting
out on a new adventure for our
church, I feel it is the time for
me to retire. I will be here and
help the new person to
acclimate to the position.
Thank you all,
Doris Stutzman



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Daylight Savings Time

What to Look for in March

Sunday March. 3, 10:45 am	Worship & Communion Service Worship & Music Board meeting
Monday, March 4, 11:45 am	Community meal at Christ Episcopal
Wednesday March 6, 6:30 pm	Prayer meeting at Joel & Jane's
Saturday March 9	All Church work day
Sunday, March 10, 10:45 am	Daylight Savings Time begins Worship Service Board of C.E. & Trustee meetings By-laws Committee meeting
Monday, March 11, 12 noon	Elderberry Luncheon
Thursday, March 14, 7 pm	Ministry Coordination Team
Sunday, March 17, 10:45 am	Worship in Action Service
Sunday, March 24, 10:45 am	Worship Service Diaconate meeting
Sunday, March 31	Worship Service Congregational meeting