



**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)

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# November Visions

## Living into the Questions: Envisioning Our Future

As we move into November, I invite the members and friends of First Baptist to join us as we work with intentionality to discern our church's future. Throughout the month we will be "Living into the Questions" that define who we are and shape who we hear God calling us to be in this next season of our life together.

The reality is that most churches, like the individuals in them, don't usually ask the "vision question" unless they have to; that is, unless there is a crisis of some sort—a decline in attendance, financial support, interest or worse. But in reality, we should always be attentive to what we understand God calling us to do and be in order to be affective stewards of the gifts and graces we enjoy. At First, it is no surprise that we need to think seriously about what's next but rather than finding this prospect daunting or fear-producing, what we are discovering is the freedom and openness that comes when "all bets are off" and trusting God is the only way to go. There is a high degree of energy and a sense of excitement as we discern together! Who and what can we become? Who will partner with us in what endeavor? In what ways can we reflect the mercy and justice of God's reign in the days to come?

In worship over the next few weeks we will be "Living into the Questions":

10/28 What Matters Most? What *wouldn't* we give up even if we were offered \$1 million?!

11/4 Needs or Assets? What is our net worth that *isn't* based

on financials?

11/11 Success or Faithfulness? What does each look like and what is our call?

11/18 Love It or Leave It? Do we stay or go? How do we live with a sense of solidarity with, not charity for, our neighbors?

11/25 The Future is Now!

I am deeply grateful for the strong, energized core of folks who have decided that the life and ministry of First Baptist is not over yet! We have learned much about each other and ourselves over these last several months, and have worked with diligence to hear one another and understand the meaning of our recent past. Meeting with Rev Dwight Lundgren, we have identified our learnings and what we choose to carry forward as well as what we can now leave behind. It's has been a powerful season of self-reflection which we will continue to reflect on as we move ahead.

But move ahead we will, and I want to invite any and all to join us! It doesn't matter where you've been in the last few months or years; we need and want anyone who wants to be a part of God's empowering spirit in this place to get involved! The prophet Habakkuk records God's words: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time....If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come...." (Habakkuk 2: 2,3). We are setting out to "write the vision" for the next season of life and ministry at First Baptist! Come be a part of this exciting time in the life of our church!

---Marcia

# 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 9:30 am in the library. To use our volunteers more efficiently, we are teaching Sunday School for the children during the worship service only.

### **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, November 11<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).

## *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 12 hymnals have been purchased in honor or recognition of loved ones.

We are busy planning a Christmas Concert to be held December 9th at 2 Pm.

**Trustees Notes October 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:**

2. Get the windows replaced.
3. Add security flanges to the furnace doors.
4. Add security grates to the insides of the furnace room windows.

**Insurance adjuster:**

1. Will recommend an antiseptic treatment of the furnace room floor to prevent mold.
2. Will recommend replacing the door that was pried open.
3. Will suggest that the new keys we had made be covered as well.
4. Will recommend some of the cost of the condensate pump (which we were going to replace anyway) be covered.

**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:**

1. Heater for old building and Sanctuary is working as of 11/24/18.
2. Heater for the Education Building needs a new part and there is no time table as yet.

**For the future:**

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

**Water Issues**

Concern about landscaping directing water into the building.

**Parking Lot Sign**

1. Jeanne Petrosky worked with a committee to choose a new design for the sign.

**Use of New Fellowship Hall**

1. YWCA – See article from Dr. Myra Forrest.

## *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.

## *Diaconale*

**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.

## *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.

The YWCA is renting our facility from 3:00-6:00, Monday through Friday during the school year. On days when school is closed for professional development for teachers, for parent-teacher conferences, or holidays when the YWCA is open but school is closed, the YWCA will be using our facility for the entire day, and their rent will reflect the additional time in our building. As part of our mission, FBC is paying the utilities for the YWCA.

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



# 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

## *November Birthdays*

- 3 James Grace, IV
- 5 Marvin Marsh
- 6 Mary Alice Beutler
- 16 Pam Wolfgang
- 17 Terryl Marsh  
Kyle Smith
- 18 John Rand Yeager
- 24 Horace Smith
- 28 Allyson Kemmerer

## *November Anniversaries*

- 19 Tayo & Bola Ogundipe

## *We Get Letters*

Thank you to everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy when Pat died. The beautiful cards, phone calls and visits were most appreciated. Pat's "Celebration of Life " Service was perfect, thanks to so many of our dear friends – Ruth, Nancy, Rick & Doris, thanks for your organizational skills. Myra, your music was just the way Pat wanted it! I covet continued prayers in the coming months.

Kathy Ballein and Pat's Family

## What to Look for in November

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, Nov. 4, 10:45 am      | Worship & Communion Service              |
|                               | Worship & Music Board meeting            |
| Monday Nov.4, 11:45 am        | Community meal at Christ Episcopal       |
| Thursday, Nov 8, 7 pm         | Ministry Coordination Team               |
| Sunday, Nov 11, 10:45 am      | Worship Service                          |
|                               | Board of C.E. & Trustee meetings         |
| Monday, Nov. 12, noon         | Elderberries Luncheon at Coventry Parlor |
| Sunday, Nov 18, 10:45 am      | Worship Service                          |
| Monday, Nov. 19, 7pm          | Budget Committee meeting                 |
| Saturday, Nov. 24, 12 to 8 pm | NA to use kitchen                        |
| Sunday, Nov. 25, 10:45 am     | Worship Service                          |
|                               | Diaconate meeting                        |

