

Return Service Requested:

First Baptist Church at Pedricktown
89 West Mill Street
P.O. Box 117
Pedricktown, NJ 08067

- 2020 Church Leaders -

Moderator	Esther Jackson
Church Clerk	Eleanor Clemente
Treasurer	Bruce Lindle
Missionary Treasurer	Ruthann Moore

Adult Discipleship Team (5)

Esther Jackson – Chair
Bill Keating
Joy Suiters
Loraine Young
OPEN (1)

Mission Team (9)

Nancy Kohler – Chair
Gretchen Bierman
Eleanor Clemente
Betty Egan
Claire Kohler
Ruthann Moore

Pastoral Care Team (5)

Tina Nipe – Chair
Marion Crawford
Patty Ferrell
Melby Hite
Kathie Panichelli

Children & Youth Discipleship Team (5)

Jaclyn Minguez – Chair
Chrissy Cox
Gary Minguez
JoAnn Mulligan
JoAnne Taylor

Stewardship Team (7)

Josephine Pedrick
Warren Shiffer
OPEN (1)
Don Perry
Lisa Rudderow – Secretary
OPEN (2)

Worship Team (5)

Connie Clark – Chair
Christine Cobin
Brian Heintzelman
Lou Panichelli
John Jordan

Please submit information to the office (299-2123) or email (fbcop@comcast.net) by the 20th of each month, to be considered for publication in this newsletter.

**December
2020**

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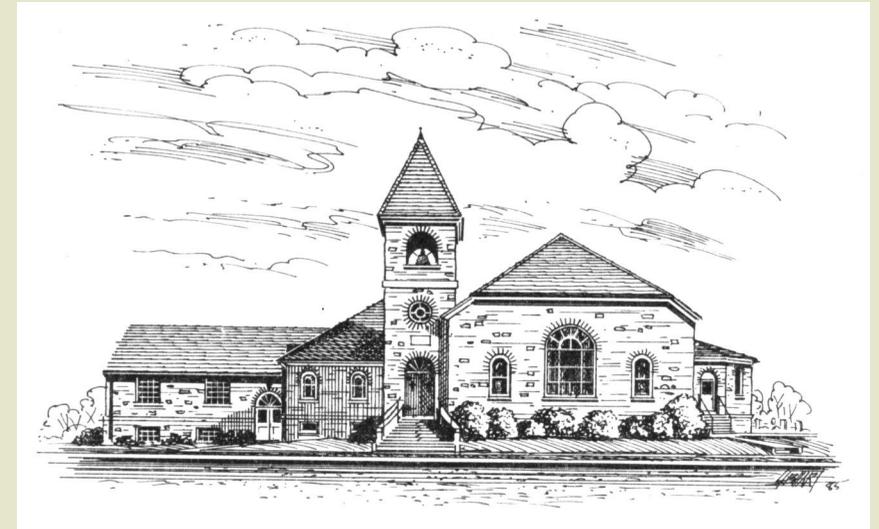
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FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117
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www.fbcpedricktown.org

Pastor:
Paul Melson
Editor:
Eleanor Clemente

Our Mission... "to birth and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ who are characterized by faith, hope and love."

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

What a difference ONE person can make. Edison created the lightbulb. Bill Gates began Apple. Walt Disney created the "Happiest Place on Earth." Oh, they had people around them, but their efforts, vision, dreams brought about great things for humanity.

For us, in this season of Advent and Christmas, we focus on ONE who made a difference for us all. Jesus, that little baby in a manger, yet he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. One person, especially when He is God’s son, makes an eternal difference for those who encounter him.

There the story about a man throwing one starfish after another back into the ocean after they have been washed to shore. There were thousands of starfish... more than he could ever throw back by himself. One bystander watched him for a little while and finally said to him, "you won't be able to save them all." The man agreed, but as he picked up the next starfish he said, "I can help this one." And as he picked up the next one, he said, "And this one." And the bystander began to understand while the man wouldn't help them all, he made a huge difference for the ones he picked up and threw back into the ocean. The bystander began to throw other starfish back into the ocean one by one as well.

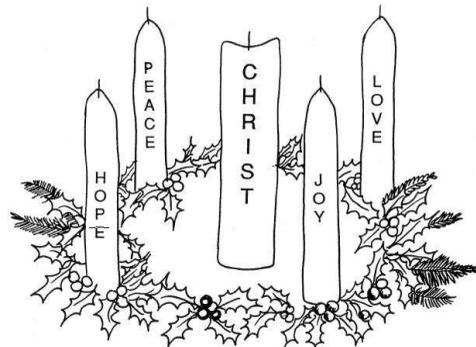
As you hopefully focus on the ONE... Jesus Christ, this advent season, I ask you also to focus on one (or two) around you that you can help. While we can't help everyone, we can help one or some. Andy Stanley said, "Do for one, what you wish you could do for all."

Who can you help... physically by doing a task for them. Or who can you help... relationally by being a friend to them. Or even better, who can you help eternally... by helping them to see that ONE who will make an eternal difference in their lives. Could you invite them to a church event or to watch church online? Sometimes people just need someone to reach out to them and grab them by the hand... just like the man who reached down and grabbed the starfish from the sand.

Who in your circle of friends or acquaintances might be the one that you can help make a big difference for this Advent/Christmas season and even eternally. We can sit back and say, we can't help everyone. Or we can make a big difference in one person's life. You will never know the impact you might have... unless you reach out!

God reached out to us in Jesus Christ... may we, in this Advent and Christmas season... reach out to one or two others, with His love and grace!!

Blessings in Christ!!
- Paul



OUR PRAYER CONCERNS:

Emergency Prayer Chain: Josephine Pedrick (299-3229) & Evelyn Shiffer (299-4874)

Service Personnel: Isaac Hernandez, Sue Springsteen, Kyle Hennessey, Michael Kacer, Melissa Smith, Brad Hyatt, Mark Lindle, Tammy Hunt, Micah Warren, Sam Baker, Frank Servais V, Matthew Suiters, Arturo Hernandez-Cruz

Lois Nipe-Merion Gardens, Rm 1021; Frieda Bennett, Lindsay Place, Rm. 133

Missionary for the Month: Lisa Fish (Uganda)



K.C. Biermann
Jessie Kite
Bill Goss—MS
Mary Ann Culletto
Helen & Bill Keating
Jonathan Rizzo
Charles Jackson
Meghan Cox-migraines
David Warren
Jo Pedrick
Pat Heppel
Helen Tunstill
Christopher Sandone
Patty Jitima
Ruth Jordan
Jim Ludlam
Luis Santiago
Brian Smith—missionary
Gretchen Biermann
Tom Strong
Brent Hathaway
Martha Dennis
Greyson Peck
Kathy McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Payon
Kathy Kane & family
Holly Eckert
Jeff Perry
Family of Donald Shiffer
Family of Willard Bond
Family of Bruce Johnston
Family of Jane & Richard Tighe
Family of Hank Holtz
Family of Bill Huber

Brian McFarland & Family
Nikki-Addiction
Mike Seders-MS
Eric Jacobson
Carol Blithe
Dick Dennis
Barbara Baber
Alma Lawson
Joseph-speech
Nancy Hocknell
Kelly McIlvaine
Maribeth Glynn
Vic Pritchett-heart
Borelli Family
Patty Suiters
Bill Huber
Wayne Niebauer
Medical Personnel
First Responders
People with COVID-19
Linda Eller
Debbie Booker
Carrie Cunningham
John Taylor
John
Melissa Sparks
Karen Venello
Jerry Suiters
Anne Melson
Richard Bond
Family of Geraldine Rothmiller
Family of Joni Cogan
Family of Dee Griffin
Family of Bill Goss (Pastor Merrit's Brother-in-Law)

Cancer:
Jack Mulligan
Kevin Jordan
Carol McFarland
Dawn Asher
Karl Biermann
Ed Ryan
Tom Freeman
Jesse Barreras
Deanna Sakaguchi
Gina Grasso
David Smith
Bernie Lodge
Anita Delvechio
Barbara McBride
Patty Kosky
James Boyer—Leukemia
Maggie
Matt Schaeffer
John Harvey
Barb Snyder
Len
Rev. Kevin Lowe
Duff Wheeler
Matthew Bunsu
Andy Cook
Sarah Scala
Marie Adams
Debbie Tomaso
Warren Shiffer
Mike Dunn
Alan Hastings



YOUTH NEWS AND REMINDERS

- ◆ December 10, 7:00 pm – Youth Group Zoom Meeting
- ◆ No YG— Christmas Eve to the New Year

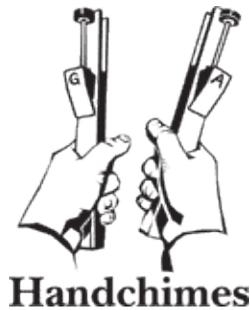
Sunday School Events

- December 13 – Youth Fun Event following worship
- December 27 – Youth Outreach Event following worship

We Can't Sing We Can Ring

The Worship Team is looking forward to Christmas and thinking about ways we can use our musical gifts to make Christmas special this year. We had mentioned earlier our wish to use our chimes and form a team of “ringers” to make some joyful sounds. We have begun forming a bell/chime group to practice with the thought that we could do some music for the celebration of Christ’s birth?! We know that with God’s help we can expand our music repertoire. Please pray about this and we would love to hear from you if you are even the least curious about this....no musical expertise required just willing hearts and open ears. Let’s ring this 2020 out and Christ in!

Connie Clark, Worship Chair (678-6586)



BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Beginning in the 1960’s, for many years at Christmas the front of our sanctuary has been filled with a beautiful poinsettia tree. This special gift has been created by several dedicated congregants. Among them have been Eleanor Pedrick, her husband Ted (the go-for just like today guys) and her sister Florence. The last dedicated team included Charlotte Carty, Nancy Kohler, Warren Shiffer and Bruce Lindle among others. **The question for the month is: who was the dedicated lead person before the Carty "team"?**

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT

The Leadership Community would like to propose a change to the FBC Bylaws that will enable some church business to continue moving forward, should the church need to close down again for the pandemic as earlier in the year. You may recall, we were scheduled to hold a special business meeting in early March to elect the Pastoral Search Committee and two ministry team members who wanted to serve. The church had to close before that meeting could happen, and the pastoral search team was delayed by five months. Please read the proposed amendment below. This amendment change is also posted on the hallway bulletin board. Pray and consider this change. The Leadership Community developed this amendment in consultation with John Jordan and ABCNJ. It is hoped not to have to use this method of decision making in the future. We will always prefer a constituted quorum of members making voting choices that are needed. We seek only to avoid the times when important work cannot move forward due to lack of a quorum.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Article VII shall be amended to add the following paragraph, which shall be designated as Paragraph "F."

"F. If a quorum of the membership cannot be obtained as a result of a publicly declared emergency or for any other reason, the Leadership Community is authorized to take such actions as shall be required to continue the operation, work and mission of the church. The authority granted to the Leadership Community pursuant to this provision shall not include calling or removing a pastor, the sale or purchase of real estate or incurring debt on behalf of the church."

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	<u>Last Week (11/22/20)</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Mission Fund as of 11/22/20</u>	
Tithes Received:	\$1,895.00	\$121,297.16	Revenue:	\$50,426.00
Budget Needed:	\$3,010.00	\$141,470.00	Expenditures:	\$46,146.00
Difference +/-:	\$-1,115.00	- \$20,172.84		\$4,280.00

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM

During the month of November the C&Y team invited our church family to make crafts and cards for Nursing Home Residents. Crafts and cards should be returned by Sunday December 6th. Our plan is to send JOY to South Gate and Merion Garden residents. Your support is greatly appreciated!



The C&Y Team made a donation to the Woodstown School District to "adopt" students/ families this Christmas season.

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 11/22/2020.

Total received as of 11/22/2020 is \$16,910.00. You have been so faithful with your giving; we appreciate your generosity. Another reminder that the Cedars of Lebanon campaign will be ending December 31st. We are asking that all contributions be given by December 13th. This is to insure ABCNJ receives all contributions by the end of this year. We appreciate your help in surpassing our goal for the Cedars campaign. Don't forget to earmark the contribution for CEDARS OF LEBANON to make sure that it is applied to the right account. Thanks again!!

God Bless!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the church is scheduled for Sunday, February 14th, following worship. In the event the church is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic resurgence, please know that the Leadership Community will reschedule the meeting at the earliest possible date that it can be held safely and in compliance with the NJ Health guidelines in force. The meeting will be announced and members will be notified in advance of the date and time.

HELP WANTED

Church Secretary—job consists of answering phones, creating bulletin & newsletter, filing, and using Quickbooks to pay bills and ordering supplies. See John Egan for more info.

Sexton—Job consists of cleaning, opening up church for functions and making sure the church is ready for Sunday worship. See John Egan for more info.

SOUND BOARD HELPERS

The Worship Team is looking for some additional people to help with the sound/video controls on Sundays especially. With the expanded use of videos and changes in music we are in need of willing hands to help especially when one of our regulars is needed for another part of the worship service or is absent. A big thank you to Brian Heintzelman, Christine Cobin and Pastor Paul for the "outdoor" music and sound and to Lou Panichelli for the drums now that we are inside. As we think about the fall season, please think about what you might be able to do to help with the operation of the controls for Sunday services so important for our "indoor" services. Please join us in prayer about this need.

Thank you,
Connie Clark



BAPTIST BLAST FROM THE PAST ANSWER: Phyllis Jenkins