

Return Service Requested:

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

-2019 Church Leaders-

Moderator	John Jordan
Church Clerk	Eleanor Clemente
Treasurer	Bruce Lindle
Missionary Treasurer	Ruthann Moore
Financial Secretary	Patty Ferrell

Adult Discipleship Team (5)

Esther Jackson— chair
Lois Jordan
Loraine Young
Bill Keating
OPEN

Stewardship Team (7)

John Egan—chair
Lisa Rudderow—Secretary
Harry Moore
OPEN
Kelley Piel
John Cobin
Don Brickner—Vice Chair

Worship Team (5)

Dede Marsango
Christine Cobin
Brian Heintzelman
Connie Clark—Chair
OPEN

Pastoral Care Team (5)

Tina Nipe— chair
Marion Crawford
Melby Hite
Patty Ferrell
Charlotte Carty

Children & Youth Discipleship Team (5)

Jaclyn Minguez—chair
JoAnne Taylor
Laura Brickner
Gary Minguez
Chrissy Cox

Mission Team (9)

Nancy Kohler—chair	Josephine Pedrick
Eleanor Clemente	OPEN
Betty Egan	Claire Kohler
Ruthann Moore	OPEN
Warren Shiffer	

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.

March
2019

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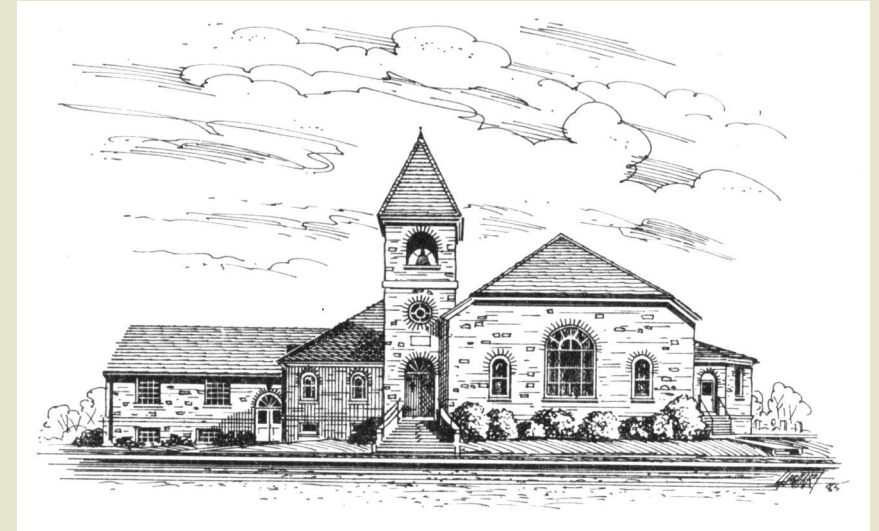


INSERT:

Calendars &
Mission News

FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117
89 West Mill Street
Pedricktown, NJ 08067
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www.fbcpedricktown.org

Pastor:
Merrit Marsango
Editor:
Michele Wallin

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th and ends on Easter Sunday, lasting for 46 days (40 days excluding Sundays). Lent is a solemn period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by Christians. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial.

During Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain practices in order to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. Some Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar.

Lent began as a way for Christians to remind themselves of the value of repentance. However, over the centuries many Christians started to believe that giving up something for Lent was a way to attain God's blessing. This is contrary to biblical teaching, which tells us that grace is the gift of God, which cannot be earned.

As we focus on repentance of our sins, how far we fall short, and self-denial, Lent is not often described as a time of joy. But recently I came across a book offering a new perspective on Lent, which I'll use for a Lenten sermon series. The book, by Max O. Vincent, is *Because of This I Rejoice: Reading Philippians During Lent*. Vincent writes: "Is Lent meant to be depressing? Are spiritual disciplines supposed to sound like the drudgery of chores? Is confession nothing more than taking out our spiritual trash, praying akin to writing out the grocery list? Am I wrong to look forward to Ash Wednesday? Am I sacrilegious in finding joy in Lent?"

Vincent points to Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, where the apostle uses the word "joy" more in this letter than in any of his others. Paul shares how he practices certain spiritual disciplines with great joy! What is the source of Paul's joy? The practice of these spiritual disciplines brings him closer to Christ and deepens their relationship.

Following Paul's example, our spiritual disciplines practiced during Lent are not meant to earn us "brownie points" with God, or make us spiritual giants in our church. They are meant to bring us closer to our Lord and Savior and transform us into His likeness. Shouldn't the thought of being more like Jesus bring us great joy? With this fresh perspective Lent becomes less about what we give up—and much more about what we gain!

I will be starting this sermon series the Sunday before Lent because we have a guest missionary preacher on March 24 (Jim Hill of Trans World Radio). Here is the schedule of messages based on this book:

- March 3: Joyful Prayer (Philippians 1:1-11)
- March 10: Joyful Witness (Philippians 1:12-26)
- March 17: Joyful Humility (Philippians 1:27-2:18)
- March 31: Joyful Hospitality (Philippians 2:19-30)
- April 7: Joyful Asceticism (Philippians 3)
- April 14: Joyful Giving (Philippians 4)

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 2/17/2019

Those with pledges have given \$11,005.00

Others (no pledges) have given \$4,715.00

Total received as of 2/17/2019 is \$15,720.00

Thanks for your help with the Cedars of Lebanon campaign to help more children attend and be blessed.

Don't forget to earmark the contribution for CEDARS OF LEBANON to make sure that it is applied to the right account.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, March 16th at 9 am
Talk of the Towne Restaurant
Bring a Friend

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

You may know that St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach about the Trinity, but did you know these other facts about him?

- St. Patrick wasn't Irish. (His parents were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales.)
- He was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age 16. After escaping six years later, he joined a monastery in England.
- March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, not his birth. He died in 461 A.D.
- The color originally associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green.
- The harp, not the shamrock, is the national symbol of Ireland.



Faith Journey

A family was heading on vacation: two little ones were nestled in car seats; the van was packed. As Dad locked the house and Mom secured the garage, an adult neighbor the kids knew walked up and spoke through an open window. "Where are you going?" The kids shrugged. "Well, what road are you taking?" the friend asked with a knowing smile. Of course, they had no idea. "Do you know where you'll eat today, or where you'll spend the night?" Blank stares. Then the friend asked, "Who are you traveling with?" The children broke into grins and shouted, "Mommy and Daddy!"

On the journey of faith, we don't know precisely where we're headed or how all our needs will be met. But we know who we're traveling with: our loving God who is fully aware of the twists and turns ahead; the loving Parent who promises to care for us wherever we go.

To God You Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always safe in God's love.

As Lent approaches I look forward to us growing deeper in our faith, closer to Christ—and doing so joyfully!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

GOD'S SERVANTS March

Greeters:

- 3rd Chrissy & Meghan Cox
 - 10th Bill & Patty Ferrell
 - 17th Evelyn Shiffer
 - 24th OPEN
 - 31st OPEN
- If you would like to serve as a greeter, please contact Charlotte Carty at (856) 299-3815.

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

- 3rd Chrissy Cox
 - 10th Meghan Cox
 - 17th Ginny Messick
 - 24th Erik Biermann
 - 31st Beth Biermann
- If you wish to have your name added to our reader's list, please contact Michele Wallin at (856) 299-2123.

Nursery/Toddler Room Volunteers:

- 3rd Jaclyn & Gary Minguez
 - 10th Connie Clark & Esther Jackson
 - 17th Barbara Jo Perry & Melby Hite
 - 24th JoAnn Taylor & Nancy Kohler
 - 31st Vicki Justice & Valerie Rinnier
- Please report to the nursery/toddler rooms by 9:30 a.m. If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled week, please arrange for a substitute and let the church office know by Thursday morning of that week.

Junior Church Volunteers:

- 3rd Pam Golt
 - 10th Nancy Kohler
 - 17th Connie Clark & Patty Ferrell
 - 24th Lisa & Joel Rudderow
 - 31st Jaclyn Minguez
- If you feel led to help with Junior Church or the nursery, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.





Church Cancellation due to Weather

If the National Weather Service has issued a weather warning, such as a winter storm warning, that is in effect during a scheduled service, that service may be cancelled. Notice of cancellation will be posted on the church website

(www.fbcpedricktown.org) and the FBC Pedricktown Facebook page by 8:00 AM or as soon as possible. In addition, a recorded message concerning the cancellation of a service may be accessed by telephoning the church at (856)299-2123. If you would like to be notified by phone concerning the cancellation of a service, please contact the church office at (856)299-2123 and your name will be added to the "Please Call" list.

Sermon Series



Sermon Series: During Lent Pastor Merrit will be preaching a series of messages based on the book: Because of This I Rejoice: Reading Philippians During Lent. The author hopes we will find joy practicing spiritual disciplines as we journey through Lent.

Lenten Supper Series: The Penns Grove-Carneys Point-Pedricktown Ministerium sponsors this series of gatherings. We meet at Union Presbyterian Church in Carneys Point on Wednesdays, beginning Ash Wednesday (March 6) and ending on April 10th. A soup supper begins at 6pm and a lesson follows from 7-7:30pm. All are invited to attend.



The Stewardship Team is exploring online giving options and has found a way to allow congregants to give their tithes by using a bill pay method through their own banks. If this is something you or your family would be interested in participating in please send an email to lisarudderow@verizon.net by the middle of March. If you have any questions please ask Lisa Rudderow either by email or in person.

From Bob Marino of the Divorce Care Program: I am looking for two people to help facilitate the Divorce Care Program. One man and one woman are required who have personally gone through divorce and who are not a couple. If you are interested in being part of this ministry please contact me - e-mail – robertfmarino@yahoo.com. DC meets every Tuesday evening (flexible) 7 – 9 PM at Woodstown Presbyterian Church and training will begin as candidates become available.



What: A Youth Summit event is being coordinated by Tim Joyce (Youth Pastor at Woodstown FBC) and other Youth Pastors in the Woodstown area and they are inviting other communities to participate in this event. The theme for the night is Identity in Christ, Freedom from Fear.

When: Saturday, March 30th from 4:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Camp Edge (26 Camp Edge Road, Alloway, NJ 08001)

Who: Youth Grades 6-12

Event Details: There will be games, activities, worship, food and a message. Students will also have an opportunity to share a devotional/reflection if they desire. The cost is \$5 per student.

Please RSVP to Jaclyn Minguez by Sunday, March 24th if you are interested in attending. We would also have adult representation from our church at the event.