

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

- Service Personnel– Isaac Hernandez, Jeff & Sue Springsteen, Kyle Hennessey, Michael Kacer, Melissa Smith, Brad Hyatt, Mark Lindle, Tammy Hunt ,Micah Warren, Sam Baker, Kyle Frankenfield, Frank Servais V, Matthew Suiters, Arturo Hernandez-Cruz
 - Lois Nipe-Merion Gardens 1021, Frieda Bennett, Lindsay Place, Rm. 133
- Missionary of the Week— 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
Jane Anderson Mauer
Pat Heppel
Matt Westcott –addiction
Helen Tunstill
Christopher Sandone
Patty Jitima
Ruth Jordan
Jim Ludlam
Luis Santiago
Brian Smith—missionary
David Wallin
Jacelyn Rudderow
Connie Clark
Family of MaryAnn Jones
Wilma Hyatt
Gretchen Biermann
Ruthann Moore
Family of Josh
Family of Bob Cassidy
Joseph David-newborn
Tom Strong
Chrissy Cox

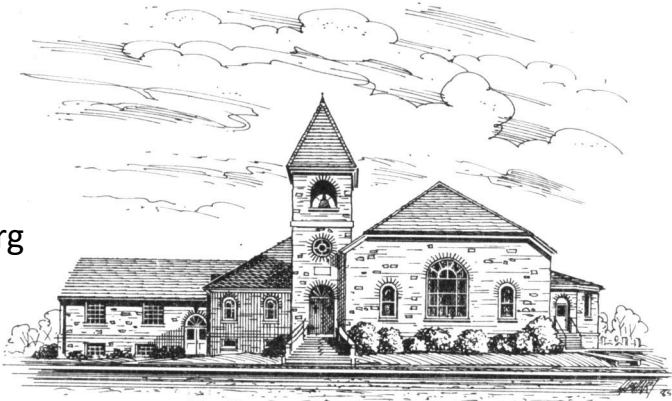
Angela Gattuso
Brian McFarland & Family
Elizabeth Darlington
Nikki-Addiction
Mid Doughten
Bill Doughten
Mike Seders-MS
Kathie Garofolo
Eric Jacobson
Jay Ehrlich
Michele Unger
David Lemke
Bill Dennis
Carol Blithe
Harry Moore
Katie Ferrell
Joseph Smathers
Dick Harbaugh
Sharon Storicks
Bernice Musselman
Joseph Clemente
Lee Hyatt
Family of Rev. Dorn
Family of Charlotte Robinson
Family of Tracey Griffin
Family of Joe Rando
Danny Whiteman
Dick Dennis
Barbara Baber
Sugar Huber
Alma Lawson
Robbin & Vicky Allen

Cancer:
Jack Mulligan
Kevin Jordan
Carol McFarland
Dawn Asher
Karl Biermann
Bill McIntyre
Donald Shiffer
Ed Ryan
Joe Curiale
Linda Stearley
Tom Freeman
Jesse Barreras
Deanna Sakaguchi
Gina Grasso
David Smith
Nancy Hicks
Bernie Lodge
Anita Delvechio
Warren Shiffer
Norm Engel
Barbara McBride
Patty Kosky
Maggie
Barb Snyder
Len
Rev. Kevin Lowe
Duff Wheeler
Matthew Buns
Andy Cook
Bo Griever
Marylou Rinnier



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 117
89 West Mill Street
Pedricktown, NJ 08067
(856) 299-2123
fbcop@comcast.net
www.fbcpedricktown.org



Church Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9 a.m.—12 noon

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

Our Sunday Schedule:
9:45 a.m.—Worship Service
11:15 a.m.—Sunday School

Pastor:
Merrit Marsango
(609) 364-3690

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2019

Prelude
Worship Leader Pastor Marsango
Welcome and Announcements
Prayer of Dedication
Call to Worship
***Hymn: “The First Noel” #205**
Invocation, Lord’s Prayer (sins), Gloria Patri #620
Prayers of the People

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2019
“INVITATION TO A MIRACLE”

By Joseph M. Martin
Presented by the First Baptist Church Senior Choir and featuring the Joyful Noise Choir
Invitation to a Miracle - Overture
A Processional of Hope
Joy Arising
Your Light Has Come
My Soul Rejoices in the Lord - Solo, Dede Marsango
A Celtic Cradle Carol - Solo, Ginny Messick
Alleluia! Christ is Born!
Would I Miss the Miracle? - Quartet, Christine Cobin, Dede Marsango, Brian Heintzelman, John Jordan
A Gloria Gathering - Solo, Christine Cobin
Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-18 Erik Biermann

Sermon: “Open Your Heart’s Door to Divine Encounters” Pastor Marsango
***Closing Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #191**
Benediction
Postlude

*CONGREGATION STANDS TO PRAISE GOD!
Please turn off all cell phones during worship. Thank you!

*If you need prayer or encouragement, please come down front
after the service and speak with a member of the Pastoral Care Team.*

Ministers: Every Member (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Staff:
Pastor.....Merrit Marsango
Minister of Music.....Brian Heintzelman
Custodian.....Warren Shiffer
Church Secretary.....Michele Wallin

TODAY AT CHURCH:
8:30 AM — Morning Prayer
9:45 AM — Worship
7:00 PM—Discipleship Group
Love Gift Sunday

THIS WEEK:
Tuesday 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

LOOKING AHEAD:
Sunday 12/29 - Discipleship Group 7:00 PM
Thursday 1/2 - Youth Group 6:00 PM
- Joyful Noise Choir 7:00 PM
- Senior Choir 7:30 PM

Vacation Notice: Pastor Merrit will be on vacation December 25th through January 1st. For any pastoral care needs please call Tina Nipe at 856-299-7015.

God’s Invitation: Are you still deciding whether to accept God’s invitation to know Him personally through His Son, Jesus. Is your heart’s door open to this divine encounter? I suggest you read the book, “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. You could also start praying a simple prayer: "Lord Jesus, if you are real please show yourself to me." If you have further questions see Pastor Merrit.

Stewardship Report:

<u>Last Week (12/15/19)</u>		<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Mission Fund as of 12/8/19:</u>	
Tithes Received:	\$5,594.00	\$141,038.20	Revenue:	\$52,640.00
Budget Needed:	\$3,013.00	\$153,663.00	Expenditures:	\$53,916.00
Difference +/-:	+\$2,581.00	-\$12,624.80		

Worship Attendance for 12/8/19: (67)
RMMO Offering as of 12/15/19: \$2521 Goal: \$4000



PULPIT COMMITTEE


At the business meeting held on November 10, 2019, the members of the Church approved an Amendment to the By-Laws concerning the composition of a Pulpit Committee. Under the Amendment, the Pulpit Committee is to consist of seven persons elected by the membership of the Church. Although there is a preference expressed in the amended By-Laws for each of the Teams to be represented on the Pulpit Committee, such representation is not required. The Leadership Community would like to present nominees for election to the Pulpit Committee in January of 2020. If you would like to serve on the Pulpit Committee — or know someone who would be a good member of the Pulpit Committee — please speak to John Jordan or any member of the Leadership Community: Esther Jackson, John Egan, Jacqueline Minguez, Nancy Kohler, Connie Clark or Tina Nipe. Please prayerfully consider who, perhaps you, can serve in this important capacity.


John Jordan, Moderator

Testimony Sunday: On January 12th we continue our tradition of sharing testimonies of God’s goodness and faithfulness in our lives. Come prepared to share how God has blessed you and/or our congregation in 2019. As we share these blessings we can be confident of God’s faithfulness in 2020!

Your Greeter This Morning: Betty Egan

WE WELCOME ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.
IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME WITH US, PLEASE FILL OUT A WELCOME CARD

 If, during the worship service, you have been touched by the Holy Spirit and would like to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please come forward after the service and speak to the Pastor or one of the Pastoral Care Team members.



CHILD CARE

Please consider using our childcare facility for those children who are nursery age. Your little ones will enjoy being there each week and will be well taken care of by our very capable volunteers. LOCATION: All Children (infant thru age 4) may go to the Toddler room at the bottom of the stairs and to the left, next to the bathrooms.

REMINDER: Pastor Merrit and Dede have moved. Their former home phone number (856-467-1405) is no longer in service. To reach Pastor Merrit call his cell at 609-364-3690. Their new address is:

100 Lindisfarne Avenue
Apartment 1305
Westmont, NJ 08108

SERMON SERIES: During Advent Pastor Merrit will present the sermon series, “A Season of Wonder: Opening the Door to Christmas and Beyond,” developed by Mainstay Ministries.

Dec. 1:	Open Your Heart’s Door to God’s Plans
Dec. 8:	Open Your Heart’s Door to Friends and Strangers
Dec. 15:	Open Your Heart’s Door to Silence and Song
Dec. 22:	Open Your Heart’s Door to Divine Encounters
Dec. 24:	Open Your Heart’s Door to God’s Love for You

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:
NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOM VOLUNTEERS:

Today: JoAnne Taylor & Nancy Kohler
December 29: Vicki Justice & Valerie Rinnier

JUNIOR CHURCH VOLUNTEERS:

Today: Laura Brickner
December 29: Pam Golt

Please report to the nursery/toddler rooms by 9:30am. If you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled week, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and inform the church office (299-2123) of the change by 9am Thursday morning of that week. Thank you so much for your time! If you are interested in spending some time with our little ones once every few months, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.

Sunday School News for 2020

Beginning **January 12** we will be going on a journey to look at Baptists in Pedricktown: Past, present and future. We will begin with some "Baptist basics on history of the denomination and then our little church. We will be having "guests" from each of our current boards. We will be looking at the past as I research documents from the archives in the catacombs and talk to our treasured "heritage" members. Also we will be doing a "field trip" through the church building to look at the physical facility including a trip through the catacombs (downstairs back hallway). I anticipate this fun journey will take us into the spring and I look forward to exploring who we as a body of believers were, are and will become. Please bring any memories, materials, questions and prayers and join me with the Angels class. Connie Clark

Our Christmas Eve Service begins at 7pm. This informal, one-hour service is perfect for inviting family and friends to experience the real meaning of Christmas. Be sure to include this time in your Christmas schedule!

Volunteers Needed on December 29 and 30. The Stewardship Team is in need of volunteers on December 29th after second hour to assist in moving furniture/clearing rooms in preparation of the floors to be waxed throughout the building. If you are available after second hour on the 29th for a half hour to an hour or in the afternoon on the 30th (time to be determined) please let Lisa Ruderow, John Egan or John Cobin know. The fellowship hall must be completely cleared, small tables in the foyer moved and tables and chairs in the kitchen picked up. Downstairs the classrooms need to have furniture consolidated either to one side of each room or into the hallway (to be determined). This is to assist the people coming to wax the floors and to help keep the cost down. Thank you in advance for your donation of time and service.

**The church office will be closed on
December 24th, 25th and 26th.**

Gift Idea!

Puzzled over what to purchase a family member or friend for Christmas? Consider this alternative gift idea by making a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one to the Retired Ministers and Missionary Offering. Once you make your donation, pick up an acknowledgement certificate (either an honorarium or memorial) on the table outside Pastor Merrit's Study. You need only to add the name of your recipient. Take the certificate and either mail or wrap it as a gift to present to your honoree.