

Return Service Requested:

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

-2020 Church Leaders-

Moderator	OPEN
Church Clerk	Eleanor Clemente
Treasurer	Bruce Lindle
Missionary Treasurer	Ruthann Moore
Financial Secretary	OPEN

Adult Discipleship Team (5)

Esther Jackson– chair
Joy Suiters
Loraine Young
Bill Keating
OPEN

Pastoral Care Team (5)

Tina Nipe– chair
Marion Crawford
Melby Hite
Patty Ferrell
Kathy Panichelli

Stewardship Team (7)

John Egan-chair
Lisa Rudderow-Secretary
Harry Moore
OPEN
Don Perry
John Cobin
OPEN

Children & Youth Discipleship Team (5)

Jaelyn Minguez-chair
JoAnne Taylor
OPEN
Gary Minguez
Chrissy Cox

Worship Team (5)

OPEN
Christine Cobin
Brian Heintzelman
Connie Clark-Chair
OPEN

Mission Team (9)

Nancy Kohler-chair	Josephine Pedrick
Eleanor Clemente	OPEN
Betty Egan	Claire Kohler
Ruthann Moore	Gretchen Biermann
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.

February
2020

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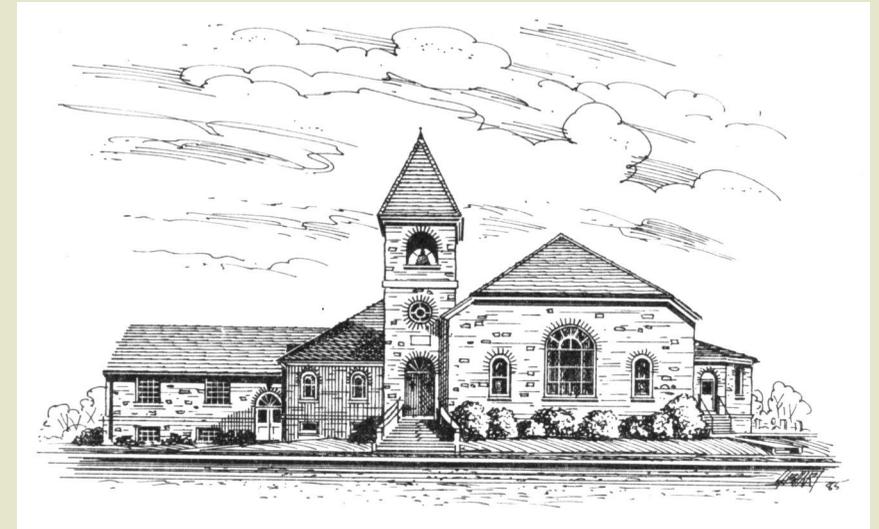


INSERT:

Calendars &
Mission News

FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



P.O. Box 117
89 West Mill Street
Pedricktown, NJ 08067
(856) 299-2123
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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

You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven ... If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:43-48).

The words of the newscast hit me like a shot! The President of the United States called a member of the House of Representatives a

“sleazebag.” He said, “I’ve known him a long time. He’s a sleazebag. Everyone knows that.” Why was I so shocked? Maybe it was the word—sleazebag. It’s not because this behavior and rhetoric are new. It’s been escalating over the past few years. Maybe I’ve just reached my limit with tolerating it all.

The “new normal” goes something like this: If someone questions your behavior or disagrees with you—consider them your enemy and strike back! Insult them. Give them a derogatory nick name. Assassinate their character and lie about them if necessary.

Sadly this kind of behavior is spreading throughout our country and it can be difficult to resist adopting it. The more we see it, the more we’re tempted to repeat it. We can rationalize that everybody’s doing it, and then join in the mud slinging.

But Jesus has much higher standards and expectations for those who claim to be His disciples. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus said His disciples should never reflect the prevailing behavior of the culture—but instead reflect the holiness and character of their heavenly Father.

Regarding those we consider our “enemies,” we are to love and pray for them. Essentially, Jesus says His disciples are not permitted to have any enemies! We are to pray fervently for the salvation and well-being of our persecutors because God loves them just as much as He loves us, and Jesus died to pay for their sins as He died to pay for ours. In short, disciples will never go around thinking they are better than anyone else—and that means *anyone* else!

Unlike human love, Jesus teaches that God’s love is totally indiscriminating! God loves every single human being He creates—every one! He does not love their sinful behavior and can never endorse or affirm it. But God’s desire is that every sinner will turn from their sin toward God and receive the forgiveness and salvation He offers. God loves every sinner! That “sleazebag” who’s despised by one person is a beloved, precious creation of the living God. That’s why Jesus says, *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.***

As Jesus’ disciples we have a very high calling. We are to swim against the cultural tide of self-righteousness, bullying, and demeaning those who disagree with us or hold us accountable. We’re called to live above the mud slinging, eye for an eye, “I’m better than you” environment that’s now pervasive in our country. We’re called to be sons and daughters of our heavenly Father—who loves and prays for every single human being’s redemption through Christ.

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 01/26/2020

Total received as of 01/26/2020 is \$16,550.00



We are already a month into our final year for The Cedars of Lebanon campaign, may we continue on, being generous and help the children who would like to go to Camp Lebanon. Through this project, they will be able to attend and enjoy the fellowship with other children, the counselors and leaders, plus be exposed to God in a new way or even for the first time. Many children come to Christ through their experience at Camp Lebanon. Thank you for all you have given and all that you will give in the coming year for the children.

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

The Prayer at Valley Forge

When Washington was leading his troops in the struggle for independence, he was greatly discouraged during the harsh winter the army was gathered at Valley Forge. A resident of Valley Forge, Isaac Potts, was walking through the woods when he heard a man praying aloud. He peeked through some trees to see that it was General Washington himself!

Isaac Potts later told his pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, that the prayer he heard was “a plaintive sound” coming from a man in need of divine help. Mr. Potts went on to say that he saw Washington on his knees, his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He heard Washington beseeching God for aid and direction. “Such a prayer,” Isaac said, “I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying.”

The Very Best Valentine

Almost everyone — at least of the female persuasion — knows the romantic meaning of the phrase “hearts and flowers.” Valentine’s Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I’m hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn’t come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring — always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best “hearts and flowers” I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine’s Day and throughout eternity.

—Sandy Hyland

Looking For Love

Though not a fan of making New Year’s resolutions, Jen Kramer decided to add meaning to 2018 by declaring it #theyearoflove. Each day she wrote a “love note” to a different person, expressing gratitude and offering encouragement. Recipients ranged from waiters and custodians to relatives and a terminally ill friend.

The experiment may have stemmed from the sudden, unexpected death of Kramer’s father while she was away at college. “Why don’t we say those things to people while they’re here?” she tells the Chicago Tribune. “It’s easy to be kind, and it’s easy to tell people how you feel.”

Kramer’s campaign didn’t cost a cent, yet it changed her life and touched hundreds of people in the process. Wherever she went, she discovered that “love showed up.” It’s simple, Kramer says: “You just have to look.”

Personally, I have to discipline myself to pursue this path through prayer every single day. I’m a sinner tempted by the thought that maybe I’m better than others and have some kind of special status with God (read the Book of Jonah). But Jesus says it’s only when I embrace and reflect the indiscriminating love of God (no enemies, no sleazebags) that I begin to glorify God and identify myself as a child of God. That is our true calling as disciples of Jesus—to reflect and offer the indiscriminating love of God TO ALL by the way we live our lives. May the Lord give us the power to do so!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

GOD’S SERVANTS February

Greeters:

2nd Bonnie & Daniel Heintzelmann
9th Loraine Young
16th JoAnne Taylor
23rd OPEN

If you would like to serve as a greeter, please contact Connie Clark at (856) 678-6586.

Junior Church Volunteers:

2nd Laura Brickner
9th Pam Golt
16th Patty Ferrell
23rd Nancy Kohler

If you feel led to help with Junior Church or the nursery, please contact Jaclyn Minguez at (609) 202-8491.

Scheduled Scripture Readers:

2nd Marion Crawford
9th OPEN
16th Joel Rudderow
23rd Johnny Cobin

If you wish to have your name added to our reader’s list, please contact Michele Wallin at (856) 299-2123.



Moderator Needs

As John Jordan has completed his tenure as our Church Moderator, and he and Lois will begin retirement in earnest, we find ourselves with no nominee willing to serve in that capacity at this time. The Church Bylaws allow for such a situation and name the Chair of the Adult Discipleship Team to become Acting Moderator until such a time that a nominee for election can be brought forward for a congregational vote. For all Moderator business and concerns, please contact Esther Jackson at this time. She will serve with the Leadership Community to move forward with all church business in this time of transition, and all reports and concerns for the Leadership Community can be directed to the LC members and to Esther. Her phone for calls and texts is 609-221-9400 and email is esjack48@gmail.com. Pray for our church leadership and the fellowship of our church family as we move forward in continued worship and service to the Lord.

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.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Saturday February 15th at 9 AM

Talk of the Towne Restaurant
With the Women's Group Included

Join Us, with hearts full of Christian Love

ATTENTION!

The front door of the church that leads to the foyer with the church bell will remain locked at all times. Please use the front door that is nearest the Pastor's office to enter at the front of the church.



Please mark your calendars for the Business Meeting on Sunday, February 9th after worship

Mark Your Calendars—Prayer Vigil Saturday, February 29th 6 AM to 6 PM

Please be sure to sign up for this opportunity to pray for the upcoming changes in the church and the surrounding community

Lenten Suppers will once again be held on Wednesday evenings beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26th at Union Presbyterian Church in Carneys Point. We begin with a meal at 6pm and meet for a lesson from 7-7:30pm. The series concludes on April 1st.