

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

Stewardship Team (7)

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

Worship Team (5)

OPEN
Christine Cobin
Brian Heintzelman
Connie Clark-Chair
Lou Panichelli

Pastoral Care Team (5)

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

Children & Youth Discipleship Team (5)

Jaclyn Minguez-chair
JoAnne Taylor
JoAnn Mulligan
Gary Minguez
Chrissy Cox

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.

April
2020

CONTENTS:

Pastor's Message

Page 1

**Contact
Information**

Page 3

Worship Team

Page 4

**Women's
Conference**

Page 5

Business Meeting

Page 5

Prayer List

Page 6

Cedars of Lebanon

Page 7

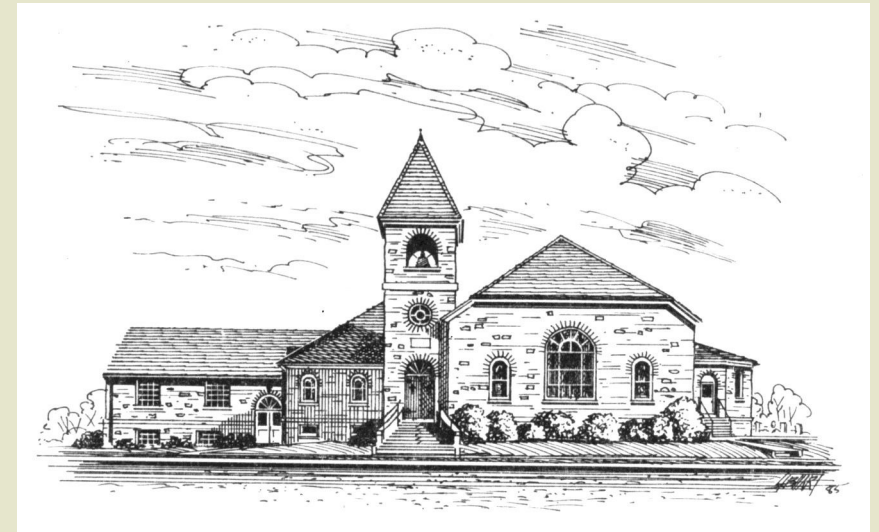


INSERT:

Birthday Calendar

FBC Community

The First Baptist Church at Pedricktown



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

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ... (1 Peter 3:15).

There I was, minding my own business eating my lunch at the Swedesboro Diner on Ash Wednesday. I was seated in the back next to the small lunch counter reading the newspaper and I couldn't help hearing a conversation between a man in his 30s and a

waitress. “It’s Ash Wednesday, did you go to church to get ashes?” he asked. The question launched them into a discussion on whether God really exists.

While they were both extremely skeptical the man expressed an openness to believe if someone could offer sufficient proof. He seemed conflicted, stating his disbelief but then saying, “I’d really like to believe.” He declared himself an agnostic—one who believes God may exist but is unknowable. This caught my attention since he did not say he was an atheist. This man was a seeker! He was hoping to find hope.

Finishing my dessert I knew I had to give him some hope, not because I’m a pastor, but simply because I’m a disciple of Jesus, “prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks me to give a reason for the hope I have” (technically, he didn’t ask me but the Spirit nudged me). So I walked over to speak to him. “Excuse me, I hope I’m not being too nosy, but I overheard your conversation and it seems you’re open to know if there is a God.” Thankfully, he received me warmly. I then suggested the man consider reading two books that would address his questions about God: *The Reason for God*, by Tim Keller and *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel. He immediately searched both books on his iPad, proving he was indeed open to consider the existence of God. He then thanked me for my suggestions. I told him the books would answer most of his questions, wished him well, and went on my way.

It’s funny because I really wanted to be seated in a larger booth to be able to read the newspaper more comfortably, but God had a reason for seating me where He did! It was another unexpected opportunity to point someone to the Living God, and when the opportunities arise we need to be ready. I planted the seed and now I’ll pray for this man whose name I don’t know. No problem, God knows him and knows exactly what he needs—and I believe God will steer others into his path to help him find his way home to Jesus.

Well, this is my last newsletter message to you, my dear friends in Christ, and it’s fitting that it’s a story of reaching out to share the Good News of Christ because that has been the focus of my ministry for many years. God called me as your pastor to help you begin to live into your mission statement: *To birth and develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ characterized by faith, hope and love*. By God’s grace we have moved closer to that goal but much of the necessary work remains unfinished.

In the future I pray that all of you will make a commitment to *always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have* in Christ Jesus

CEDARS OF LEBANON

There has been \$11,630.00 pledged as of 03/29/2020

Total received as of 03/29/2020 is \$16,645.00

A special thanks for not forgetting the Cedars campaign during our “stay at home” period. We really appreciate your help.

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

Stay safe, God Bless you!

An Encouraging Word

The Bible repeatedly “encourages” Christians to “encourage one another.” How can you tell when someone needs encouragement? The answer is easy, said Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy: if they’re breathing! He quipped, “I get a lot of encouragement, but I never got an overdose.”

Offering encouragement is an easy way to have a big impact. In fact, two esteemed Christian writers call encouragers angelic and godly. George MacDonald said, “If, instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give.” And G.K. Chesterton said, “If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God.”

Who in your life might need an encouraging word today?



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,
Kyle Frankenfield, Frank Servais V, Matthew Suiters, Arturo Hernandez-Cruz
Lois Nipe-Merion Gardens 1021, Frieda Bennett, Lindsay Place, Rm. 133
Missionary for the Month—Ricardo Mayol (Guatemala)

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| K.C. Biermann | Angela Gattuso | Cancer: |
| Jessie Kite | Brian McFarland & Family | Jack Mulligan |
| Bill Goss—MS | Nikki-Addiction | Kevin Jordan |
| Mary Ann Culletto | Bill Doughten | Carol McFarland |
| Helen & Bill Keating | Mike Seders-MS | Dawn Asher |
| Jonathan Rizzo | Kathie Garofolo | Karl Biermann |
| Charles Jackson | Eric Jacobson | Donald Shiffer |
| Meghan Cox-migraines | Jay Ehrlich | Ed Ryan |
| David Warren | Michele Unger | Joe Curiale |
| Jo Pedrick | Bill Dennis | Linda Stearley |
| Pat Heppel | Carol Blithe | Tom Freeman |
| Matt Westcott –addiction | Katie Ferrell | Jesse Barreras |
| Helen Tunstill | Danny Whiteman | Deanna Sakaguchi |
| Christopher Sandone | Dick Dennis | Gina Grasso |
| Patty Jitima | Barbara Baber | David Smith |
| Ruth Jordan | Alma Lawson | Bernie Lodge |
| Jim Ludlam | Susan Walker | Anita Delvechio |
| Luis Santiago | Joseph-speech | Barbara McBride |
| Brian Smith—missionary | Nancy Hocknell | Patty Kosky |
| Jacelyn Rudderow | Kelly McIlvaine | James Boyer—Leukemia |
| Gretchen Biermann | Maribeth Glynn | Maggie |
| Tom Strong | Family of Dolly Newhart | Matt Schaeffer |
| Brent Hathaway | Vic Pritchett-heart | John Harvey |
| Martha Dennis | Borelli Family | Barb Snyder |
| Bishoff Family-grief | Patty Suiters | Len |
| Greyson Peck | Family of Anthony Labriola | Rev. Kevin Lowe |
| Naomi Trostel | Family of Jean Alderton | Duff Wheeler |
| Family of Nicki Nolan | Family of Willard Titus | Matthew Bunsa |
| Kathy McDonald | Bill Huber | Andy Cook |
| Joel Musselman-fall | Wayne Niebauer | Bo Griever |
| Family of Chris O’Dell | Medical Personnel | Sarah Scala |
| Boys injured in NY crash | First Responders | Marie Adams |
| Mr. & Mrs. Payon | People with COVID-19 | Randy Tyler |
| Teagan Rudderow | | Debbie Tomaso |

and that you will have an uncontrollable urgency to share your hope with others. I will continue to pray for you and thank God for the time we had together as a church family. You have touched and blessed my life in profound ways and for that I will always be so grateful. May the Lord continue to bless and guide you all into the bright future He has planned for you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Merrit

Contact Information for Leadership Community

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Missions | | |
| Nancy Kohler | 856-299-2041 | nancy.kohler@verizon.net |
| Children/Youth | | |
| Jaclyn Minguez | 609-202-8491 | jaclyminguez@yahoo.com |
| Worship | | |
| Connie Clark | 856-678-6586, 609-202-0704 | 885nurse@gmail.com |
| Pastoral Care | | |
| Tina Nipe | 856-299-7015, 609-202-0104 | tnipe@comcast.net |
| Stewardship | | |
| John Egan | 856-467-5540, 856-981-7384 | jegan@comcast.net |
| Adult Discipleship | | |
| Esther Jackson | 609-221-9400 | esjack48@gmail.com |
| Pastor | | |
| Merrit Marsango | 609-364-3690 | merritm@verizon.net |

If You Can't Sing You Can Ring

At this unsettling time in our world one of the things we all do is look at the gifts that God has given us everyday with gratitude. For the two folks in our family music is certainly on that list. We miss the time to worship with all of you and sing with you. We do sing here at home just for fun but it surely is not the same (no YouTube will not be happening). The worship team is blessed to be able to work with a small dedicated group of people who add to the worship service every week with the gift of music. We love the Lord and we love singing to tell people about that but we are very aware that there are many of you who love the Lord and do not feel singing is a gift.



The church is the proud possessors of a fine set of chimes, music for them and a leader who is ready, willing and able to lead us in using them. You do not have to read music and except for the ability to ring when Brian points at you no special skills are needed. As our senior choir advances in life and the team looks at ways we can use music differently for praise and worship this possibility gives us a new way of celebrating God's love. Think about what joy it is going to be when we can meet again together in our sanctuary! Think and pray about trying this new skill set that will add to our worship. Look for announcements about practices in the future.

PS The Worship Team had such a good time "helping me" with other suggestions for this article based on rhymes including becoming a ding a ling all reminding me of what fun music (and this fine team of people) can be...come join us!
Connie Clark

Women's Annual Conference

If you would like to attend New Jersey American Baptist Women's Conference at Harvey Cedars from Thursday, May 28th to Saturday, May 30th and are in need of some financial assistant please let Nancy Kohler know by April 10th.

Please call or email Nancy at (856)299-2041 or nancy.kohler@verizon.net.

Thank You!



Announcement: The Special Business Meeting scheduled for March 15th was obviously not held. At that meeting we were to bring for a vote the By-laws changes announced over a month ago, and we were to elect a Pastoral Search Team to begin the process of securing a candidate to become our next full-time pastor. In light of the suspended worship and activities and the hiring of Rev. Paul Melson as an Interim Pastor after Pastor Marsango retires April 30th, the business meeting will not be held until we resume regular activities. The Leadership Community will then schedule another special meeting to bring those items of business before the church. We ask your prayerful understanding of the need to postpone both actions at this time. Should you have any questions, please reach out to anyone on the Leadership Community.