



BAPTIST BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
MARCH 2020

Pastor's Word

March – it's an "in-between" month. As winter ends it can be dreary and cold and wet, with an occasional snow storm. Yet...spring shows up toward the end teasing us with a few warm days. March is neither winter nor spring – it just is.

March is the time when election primaries and caucuses take place – the "in-between" time of campaigns and the election.

March is also when Lent begins, another kind of "in-between" time. The excitement of Advent and Christmas is but a memory (except where lingering piles of snow have prevented some outdoor Christmas decorations from being taken down!). The curious story of Epiphany is over and Easter is still over 40 days away. And with its serious emphasis on repentance, Lent is a bit of a dark time theologically.

But here's a thought – maybe we need "in-between" times on occasion simply to take stock of our lives. So I challenge us to think deeply and theologically about our personal lives – where and how do we need to draw closer to God, the family of faith, our own families, ourselves? For that's really what repentance is all about – a turning and re-shifting of priorities, goals, and yes even behaviors so that our relationships are strong and meaningful.

I challenge us to think deeply and theologically about the coming elections. Issues are important and where candidates stand on issues should inform our decision making and we can all differ on those priorities. But other things besides issues should matter too - like personal integrity, truthfulness, empathy, civility, and yes, even spirituality need to be of importance in the lives of the leaders we hope to choose. Just sayin'!

(Pastor's Word continued on p.2)

Inside this Issue

- 1 Pastor's Word
- 2 Preaching Schedule
- 2 Lent Study
- 2 Worship Team
- 2 Finance Team
- 3 Discipleship Team
- 3 Missions Team
- 4 WABC Women
- 4 FBC Littleton
- 5 Provocative Proposals
- 5 Hymnals
- 5 Celebrations
- 5 Fundraising
- 6 Valentine's Blankets
- 6 Easter Flowers

West Acton Baptist Church
592 Massachusetts Ave.
Acton, MA 017
978-263-5902
wabadmin@verizon.net
www.westactonbaptistchurch.org

Preaching Schedule

March 1

Communion

Matthew 6:24-34

“It’s not about the money...really!”

March 8

John 3:14-31

“Whoever Believes”

March 15

Psalms 121

“Rick Steeves’ Theology”

March 22

1 Samuel 16:1, 4-13

“We hold these truths to be self-evident”

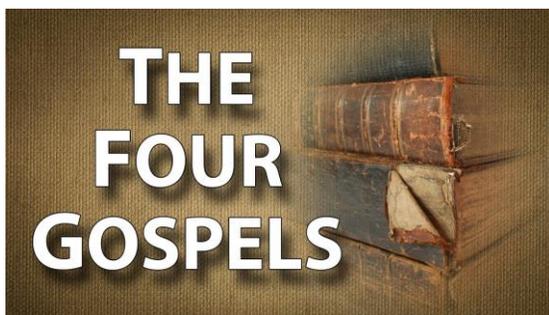
March 29

Romans 8:1-11

“The Law of the Spirit”

Lent Study

On Tuesday, March 10th & 17th at 6pm and Sunday, March 29th & April 5th at 11:30am, all are invited to explore the 4 Gospels and how they view Holy Week.



Finance Team

We launched online giving on January 1, 2020, you can access it on our **Online Giving** link on our website. There are directions on that page of our website. There are also online giving envelopes in the pew pockets for you to place in the offering plate.

(Pastor’s Word continued from p. 1)

March – a time to exist “in-between.” And when we get to the end of March, April arrives, Easter comes quickly and we soon revisit the great promise of eternal hope for the now of life and for the forever of life. May our thinking deeply and theologically during this “in-between” time help us discover where and how God is at work in all things – all things.

Faithfully and hopefully,
Rev. Dr. Richard Haley
Interim Pastor



Worship Team

Communion Servers: Jim Richards, Joan Richards, Nancy Emerson Lombardo, Val Nolen

Scripture Readers:

March 1	Linda O’Neil
March 8	Ruth Thatcher
March 15	Val Nolen
March 22	Bob Williams
March 29	Zelda Williams

Flowers:

March 1	Linda O’Neil
March 8	OPEN
March 15	Nancy Dodge
March 22	OPEN
March 29	Ingrid Eppelsheimer

Discipleship Team

Nursery Care for children ages 0-4 is available in the lower level during worship, providers Olivia Bruneau & Stephanie Dodge.

Sunday School for children in grades K-6 meets following the Interactive Moment in the DEN.

March 1 Communion – NO Sunday School
March 8, 15 & 22 TBA (will be on our website soon)
March 29 Craft Project for Hope Unlimited

Discipleship Team & Worship Team will be meeting on Sunday March 15th after worship in the DEN.

Coffee Fellowship

An email will be sent as a reminder & it is up to those 2 teams to decide who will do/bring what. You do not have to do what we always do; it is the decision of the 2 teams.

March 1 Worship & Discipleship Teams
March 8 Pastoral Relations & Facilities Teams
March 15 Officers & Mission Team
March 22 Finance & Nominating Teams
March 29 Worship & Discipleship Teams

On Sunday, February 23rd the kids had a lesson & activity based on this scripture:

Deborah would sit under the palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites would line up for her to rule on a matter. Deborah, upon receiving instructions from God, called Barak, an Israelite warrior, to bring 10,000 troops up Mount Tabor to attack Sisera, Jabin's commander of troops. Barak responded by saying "If you will go with me, I will go; if not I will not go" ([Judges 4:8](#)).



Mission Team

- **Loving Hearts** - Prayers of thanksgiving as we move forward through our Loving Hearts ministry. We hold all in prayer and are amazed at God's grace during times of significant needs of individuals within our church family. We continue to pray for these individuals as they live in strong faith and seek to follow Jesus in their daily lives. Anyone wishing to donate gifts to Loving Hearts is encouraged to do so.
- **Community Supper** - Wednesday March 11th at 4:30 p.m. anyone who is willing and able to help serve the Community Supper that WABC is hosting at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, please speak to Ruth Thatcher.
- **Acton Food Pantry** - Thank you to all who continue to remember to bring in food staples for the food pantry each week. 40 cans of soup were brought over to the pantry by Ruth Thatcher from our "Souper" Bowl Sunday drive!
- We continue to receive **Love Gift** offering. Check with Nancy Dodge in the office if you want a silver box to use for change and a way to provide a gift for this special offering, which American Baptist Home Society started in 1932 to help where urgent and unexpected needs through the U.S. and world could rise serve where needed.
- We will be receiving the **American for Christ Offering** in March and information will be coming soon on this opportunity to help the many who are struggling with natural disasters from fires, floods and homelessness in U.S. Please continue to pray for all who are needing a helping hand in times of unforeseen happenings in their environment. We can make a difference in letting them know we care by supporting efforts through this offering.
- There are grant monies available for American Baptist youth and young adults who are interested in **Mission Service**. Please speak to Joan Richards if you are interested in pursuing a mission service in 2020.

WABC Women

- **Valentine's Day** cards were made & sent to shut-ins at our Valentine's party on February 7th, thank you to all who participated.
- Thank you to all who contributed to the **Love Gift** during the month of February, boxes are available if you'd like to collect your change & bring it in any Sunday during the year.
- Many have purchased "**The Women of Easter**" by Liz Curtis Higgs to read during Lent. If you are reading the book & need the reading list, please contact the church office. We will also meet on Friday, March 20th for a discussion on our readings. Time will be determined depending on who would like to participate in the discussion; please let the office know.

St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale

You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to mix. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to cut. You do NOT have to wrap. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You do NOT have to deliver the baked product. You do NOT have to stand in the heat/cold/rain to sell the baked product.

You can write a check to The West Acton Baptist Church - Memo: **Bakeless Bake Sale** and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself or with your family! This Fundraiser is sponsored by the Fundraising Team with proceeds going toward the church budget. A Cake Box located in fellowship hall will be available for your donation on **March 15th**!



FBC Littleton

Common Thursdays - Soup and bread at 5:45 pm, discussion or activity follows until 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church of Littleton, 461 King St. If you want to join the pastor in making soup or bread, and for conversation, kitchen office hours are 12-2 on the following Thursdays:

March: Transitions—Tests and Trials

March 12, 5:45 p.m. **Spiritual Practices for helping Depression and Anxiety**

Depression and anxiety are not new conditions or tests of the human spirit today. We'll explore some of the time proven spiritual practices that can help deal with depression and anxiety, such as self-care, spiritual connections, mindfulness, gratitude, appreciation, breathing, prayer and meditation.

March 26, 5:45 p.m. **Asking the Hard Questions: Are we ready to die?**

Many of us are reluctant to talk about the questions that make the transitions around death easier for everyone. How do we want to die? What do we hope our life and death will mean? How can we share that information with our loved ones?

Memory Café – All caregivers & their charges are invited to attend on Saturday, March 21st from 10am-noon.



Provocative Proposals

Prayer Garden Team – The team will be meeting soon to discuss spring clean-up and steps to move forward.

A/V Team – The team met on February 23rd to go over the proposal for a new improved projector for the sanctuary; it was recommended to us to install a tv quality projector instead of the tv screens which take away from the aesthetics of the older sanctuary. We are looking into cost of a larger screen & new speakers. The A/V guy will meet with the team sometime during the second week of March.



Hymnal & Bible Campaign

We are still taking orders for new Hymnals & Bibles. The forms for your donations are available in fellowship hall and on the Worship page of our website. Two shipments have been received, dedicated & placed in the pews.

Celebrations

March Birthdays

Bob Williams	March 9
Nancy Hoover	March 23
Alicia Mainville	March 29

March Anniversaries

NONE



Fundraising

Coffee - We place an order for coffee the first Monday of every month. You may fill out an order form from the back of the sanctuary or fill out the form on our [website](#). The cost is \$11/lb for Regular – Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark and \$12/lb for Decaf Whole/Ground/Medium/Dark. The coffee is Fair Trade & Organic and is roasted & shipped within 24 hours. Our church gets \$3/lb for every pound we sell. Once you taste this coffee, you'll never want anything else. NEXT orders going in at 9am on **Monday, March 2**

RADA Cutlery - We have a continuous internet Fundraiser through RADA Cutlery. Please use this link to purchase items directly from RADA. Share the link with your friends, family & Facebook!! Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made – raw materials and construction and has made & sold over 150,000,000 knives since 1948, earning the reputation for remarkable cutlery, service, and value.

https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=837262.422f8&utm_source=refersion&utm_medium=influencers&utm_campaign=837262.422f8

Terri Lynn Fundraising is our newest fundraiser! This company ships directly to you so there is no middleman at WABC. We earn 30% of your order. They offer a variety of Nuts, Dried Fruit & Chocolate! The link to begin your shopping is: <https://wabaptistchurch.terri Lynn.com/>

Amazon changed their rules & regulations so we no longer qualify to use the link. Please link your purchases with AmazonSmile for us to earn a %.

Do you have any fundraising ideas?
Please speak to Ruth Thatcher if you do.

Lent IS A TIME TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS

BLANKETS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

The following donations have been made to date for a blanket or kit to Church World Service in honor or memory of their loved ones:

Jim and Joan Richards

In honor of our friends and family
In memory of Joan's sister, Linda Hansen Buehner
In memory of Gloria Hicks Hansen

Val Nolen

In honor of WABC & FBCL partnership

Nancy Emerson Lombardo

In honor of Elizabeth Babbitt

Cheryl MacPhee

In honor of Phil MacPhee

Kathi Gellar

In honor of Ruthanne Gellar, my mother

Bev Thatcher

In honor of WABC Women

✂-----

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be taking orders for tulips to decorate the church this year. We are taking orders for Lilies for those who wish them for home, but they will not be placed around the church due to allergies so please pick them up in the coatroom on Easter.

I wish to honor: _____

I wish to remember: _____

# of Yellow Tulips	_____ X \$ 7.00 =	\$ _____
# of Lavender Tulips	_____ X \$ 7.00 =	\$ _____
Donation to Decorate		\$ _____
# of Lilies	_____ X \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Total Amount enclosed		\$ _____



Please enclose Cash or Check (made out to WABC, memo: Easter Flowers) & return **no later than March 15th!**

Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

Thank You!