



# BAPTIST BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 2020

## Pastor's Word

*"And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is..."*  
(I Corinthians 13:13)

So ends the great "love poem" of St. Paul in the New Testament letter we call First Corinthians. And of course I have left out the last word which properly identifies what the greatest theological imperative or category or "law" is, particularly as Jesus identified it in the gospels - "A new commandment I leave you that you..." Oh...there I go again - I left out the greatest commandment. I leave it to you to fill in the blanks because I'm pretty sure most of you who read this know what the word is.

But I call your attention to another very important theological concept in I Corinthians 13 that is less action oriented than the greatest commandment, but no less significant and that is **hope**. Hope is not an action verb like love can and should be. I mean how does one "do" hope? One dictionary definition of hope goes like this: **to cherish a desire with anticipation; to want something to happen or be true**. And when hope linked to faith and love, as hope is in I Corinthians, it becomes more than just a desire or a wish for something - it becomes a way to approach life.

Therefore, with hope, rooted in faith and love as a guiding principle:

- The coronavirus does not define our lives or lead us to despair. Instead, we see it as an opportunity to reflect the grace of Christ in our lives for we know life is more than a disease.
- Racism does not seem insurmountable because we understand the power of God's grace and love in Christ to break down barriers and change hearts.
- The search for a new pastor is not a tedious task or an exercise in frustration but rather an opportunity to see God at work in our faith community.
- The secular election process is not a time for hand-wringing or fear of what could happen but rather a time for God's grace to accompany us to the election booth (or the mail-in ballot!).

Hope is the crucial partner for faith and love to be put into action. As our lives as individuals and as a faith community continue to unfold may the theological "trinity" of I Corinthians keep us focused on Christ's powerful presence with us:

*"And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love."*

With you in all three,  
Rev. Dick Haley

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# Preaching Schedule

All of these services will be on Zoom

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**

Romans 13:8-14  
"Holy indebtedness"

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Exodus 14:19-31  
"What about that 14-year-old boy soldier?"

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Philippians 1:20-30  
"To die is gain"

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Philippians 2:1-13  
"The mind of Christ"

**Shared service with Littleton**

WABC is the host church

# Finance Team

We encourage you to use our **Online Giving** link on our website. There are directions on that page of our website during this time of social distancing. You may also mail your pledges to the church. It is very important to keep up with your pledge, especially since we are only receiving limited Building Use fees.

Thank you to those who have been keeping up their pledges, it is great appreciated. Statements will be sent out sometime during the first week of September.

# Search Team

We continue to interview. TABCOM continues to send new candidates for us. Please continue your prayers.



# Clerk

Special Business meetings were held on August 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss funds needed for projects around the church. Both projects were approved, Painting of fellowship hall & coatroom (see pictures with Facilities Team report) and additional electric work needed.

# Reopening

The leadership of the church will revisit returning to the sanctuary for worship at our next Church Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to give us your input in our online survey.

We will continue with our Tuesday night Conversation & Prayer on Zoom so that we have interaction with each other.

When we do finally return, we will all have to wear masks, sit 6ft apart and disinfect all surfaces before & after worship among a bunch of other stipulations the state & Town of Acton have put in place. We MUST comply prior to opening.

The Coop School will be returning to their schooling beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>. Once they return, please refrain from entering the church building during school hours. They have strict guidelines to follow and outsiders are forbidden to enter; not even the students' parents are allowed in the building. If you need us, we can meet you outside, just call us.

The Brazilian congregation will also be returning to worship beginning September 6<sup>th</sup> as long as they comply with all the state & Town of Acton guidelines.

Both of these groups are mandated to report if any of their students/members come down with Covid-19 so that we can report it to the Town of Acton and let the other group & our congregation know.

# Discipleship Team

**Child Care** Due to the State of MA Guidelines, we will be unable to offer childcare during worship until further notice.

**Sunday School** is on hold at the moment, but we may launch an online Zoom class. Please download & print the children's bulletins that are included each week with the Sunday worship information.

## Coffee Fellowship

Once the MA State of Emergency is lifted & we can meet for worship again, we will not have refreshments for quite a while. The Acton Board of Health has issued guidelines for returning to worship so we must follow them.

# Mission Team

- September 2, 2020 WABC is hosting the **Community Supper** at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. Thanks to the grant we received from the Stillman Association, a \$300.00 donation pays to supply for the food. Ruth Thatcher is coordinating our participation and please let her know if you can help serve. The staff there is currently packing up dinners and delivering them to cars waiting outside.
- **Acton Food Pantry** – If you are not able to bring staple supplies to the church, we would like to recommend that when you are at the grocery stores you purchase gift cards in any amount (\$5.00 or whatever you can share) to be given to Ruth Thatcher for the food pantry. That way the staff at the pantry can purchase items they need in the bags that they distribute, or they can give a card to someone who comes in and can get to a store. Keep this ministry outreach in prayer. Feeding the hungry is scriptural and means so much to those needing this kindness to fill empty stomachs and know someone cares.
- We are accepting contributions for **CWS kits**. Make check out to WABC, under memo section of your check put OGHS. This is a great way to supply school kits to help those kids who will need supplies for whatever way their lessons come this fall.
- Thanks to all who contribute to the **Loving Hearts Fund**.
- **Prayers** for all who serve our God through Jesus Christ during these challenging times.
- Visit the ABC-USA website for in depth information on current **mission needs**.

# WABC Women

- All in person activities have been suspended until we feel it is safe to meet.
- We will highlight Women's Ministries during worship on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- There are ongoing webinars through AB Women's Ministries, information on their website: <https://abwomensministries.org/>.

# Celebrations

## September Birthdays

|                         |              |                     |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Bob Ingram              | September 1  | Jeff Long-Middleton | September 4  |
| Sam Long-Middleton      | September 5  | Lynne Sallet        | September 8  |
| Jessie Gaulin-Mainville | September 10 | Jim Richards        | September 12 |
| Joan Richards           | September 19 | Nancy Dodge         | September 21 |
| Abigail Sallet          | September 21 | Ingrid Eppelsheimer | September 22 |

## September Anniversaries

|                               |             |                        |              |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Ellen and Jeff Long-Middleton | September 5 | Lori and Scott Bruneau | September 25 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|

# Facilities Team

- As fall approaches and the Co-op school is preparing for the start of their school year there are many chores around the grounds of the Church that have been done in preparation for the return of children and teachers to our property.
  - Director Kim Davis has asked if the school could expand their play area to include the lower end of the parking lot closest to the dumpster. They will rope off this area to be used for a tricycle riding area for the children to give them more room to spread out.
  - The area behind the dumpster has been a "no man's land" for many years. All leaves, branches and other debris from clean ups having been dumped there. So, this area was the first of the grounds clean up tackled by our ever-faithful volunteers!
  - Dick O'Neil volunteered his back hoe and time to do this clean up. He was able to lift the dumpster to enable the removal of all debris. Left over mulch was spread in this area to give it a neater appearance.
- While working in this area, Dick moved the "Wilson" memorial bench to an area closer to the Memorial Garden. The bench had been placed at the end of the garden path as part of the initial Master Plan for the garden, but after many years the bench no longer was actually in the garden. Dick poured a new concrete foundation and moved the bench onto its new location. The Co-op school will place a picnic bench and small shed for the storage of tricycles in this reclaimed area.
- As part of the welcome back to the school, volunteers have been working on our vast areas of weeds! On Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>, Violet, Timothy, Marlyn, Paul Karamagi and Ruth Thatcher and this writer spent the morning weeding and cutting back the day lilies and tall weeds along the playground fence. It was a very successful morning! The area looks great! Thank you to all who gave time to this effort!
- Then of August 17<sup>th</sup> this writer and a visitor, Genetriz Lamb, working another two hours weeding along the area of the Betty Doherty garden, near the elevator.
- Ruth Thatcher, weeder extraordinaire, continues to work away when she can, and has the front of the church and along Central street looking so much better!
- Thank you to all who have given time here and there to make the grounds around the church look like someone cares, because we do!
- The week of August 18<sup>th</sup> ARCH primed, patched and painted the Social/Fellowship hall and the coatroom. It will be clean and inviting to all when we are able to return to the building for worship!
- The monies to do the painting came from the Story Bequeath. We will forever be in debt to Larry & Edna Story for their generous donation to WABC!

Linda O'Neil  
for the Facilities Team



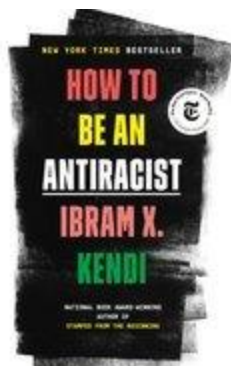
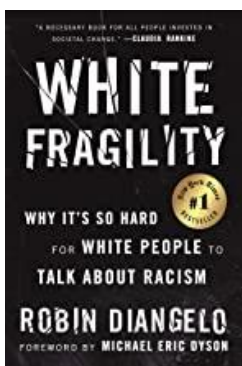
# Provocative Proposals

The **Prayer Garden Team** is waiting for an estimate for the pathway. Please help with the weeding of the area. Sometimes it is hard to tell what are weeds & what are planted. Please speak to Ruth Thatcher or Linda O'Neil for assistance.

The **A/V Team** has the video camera up and running. At the moment we are just using it for Zoom, but we hope to live-stream soon. The Projector has been ordered; we will let you know when it is in & ready to be installed.

## Church Chatter

We have extra **signs** just like this one. If you would like one, they are \$12. Please speak to Ruth Thatcher if you are interested.



In cooperation with our sister church, First Baptist of Littleton, and the anti-racism efforts in our communities, Pastor Nancy from FBCL and Pastor Dick from WABC are offering two **book studies** on this issue. She will be leading one beginning Thursday, September 10 at 7:15 pm using the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo (please read thru ch. 2 if you are participating). He will be leading one on Monday nights beginning September 14 at 7:00 pm using the book *How to be and Anti-racist* by Ibram X Kendi. Zoom connections and further information will follow in Sunday bulletins. Both studies are open to anyone from our two churches.

## FBC Littleton

They're having a **Yard Sale**, outdoors, with distancing, masks, on Sep. 12, 9 am-3 pm.

Fall **Common Thursdays** begin on Sep. 17, at 5:45 p.m. with **Spiritual Practices: Rest, Naps, Sleep and Other Biblically Authorized Self-care Practices**, and will continue on Oct. 1, and Oct. 15, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19.

## Fundraising

**Coffee** - We place an order for coffee 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 are going in at 9am on **Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> & September 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**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](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.terrilynn.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 %. Here is the ink: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819>