

BAPTIST BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 2020



Pastor's Word

*"On the road again
Goin' places that I've never been
Seein' things that I may never see again,
And I can't wait to get on the road again."
(Willie Nelson)*

In the very near future – by the beginning of October – you, West Acton Baptist Church, and I will be singing our own version of Willie Nelson's well-known song. It was a musical tribute to his passion of touring and singing. For us it will describe our reality of moving, again, to new things.

You will soon be calling a new pastor who, if all works out, will start in November. And you will be "on the road again" to a new relationship with a new spiritual leader/partner and who knows where that road will lead you. And I will be "on the road again" perhaps to another interim position, perhaps to a period of waiting to see what God has in store for me.

And these roads we are on must be paved with prayer. And so...as we begin to transition to new things and set out "on the road again," let us be committed to supporting each other in prayer as things unfold before us, knowing that our ultimate Partner, our Lord Jesus Christ, is leading us forward. May the power of that hope truly become a reality for all of us in all things all the time.

Faithfully & hopefully,

Rev. Dr. Richard Haley
Interim Pastor

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Preaching Schedule

October 4th

Rev. Leah G. Goodwin will preach & Rev. Dr. Richard Haley will lead the worship

The rest of October's preaching schedule is TBD
Zoom link for October 11th, 18th & 25th available upon request

Search Team

We are please to announce that we have chosen a candidate for our settled pastor! Special thanks to our Team members: Ruth Thatcher & Phil MacPhee, co-chairs, Lori & Olivia Bruneau, Nancy & Stephanie Dodge, Ingrid Eppelsheimer, Kathi Gellar, Val Nolen, Violet Nyangoma.



Rev. Leah Grace Goodwin is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches USA. She is the daughter, granddaughter, great-niece, and great-granddaughter of ministers and the wives and families who made those ministries possible—

a heritage that has endowed her with a deep love for Christian hymnody and religious music, as well as worship styles of all sorts.

A graduate of the University of Chicago, she received her Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2007. Leah has pastored congregations in several denominations, including the American Baptist Church, the Swedenborgian Church, and the Presbyterian Church, and has served as a preacher and worship officiant in diverse contexts. She enjoys singing, playing the piano, weight training, dance, quilting, interior design, gardening, flower arranging, reading, writing, and the acquiring of “bric-a-brac knowledge” in general. She has owned her own editing and copywriting firm and enjoys working with people to shepherd them through the fine-tuning of their writing projects. Rev. Goodwin and her husband, Kevin (also an ordained minister), have three children, Ephraim (13), Magdalen (9), and Zebulon (9 months).

Reopening

The leadership of the church voted for limited return to the sanctuary for worship. We will continue to Zoom simultaneously so both options are available. You must **follow the guidelines** if you do:

- You **MUST** wear a mask at all times
- If you are sick or think you are coming down with something, **STAY HOME**
- If you have a temperature, **STAY HOME**
- Please sanitize your hands once you enter the church, sanitizer is in the coatroom
- Please sign the sheet in the coatroom that states you were in the church
- You may only use the handicapped bathroom
- Do not enter fellowship hall or the kitchen
- No food or drink
- No hugging
- No singing
- Keep 6 Ft. apart
- Only sit in pews that are not taped off
- Any socialization should be done outside
- Do not touch any of the bible or hymnals
- If you test positive for Covid-19, notify the church ASAP
- **NO** Playground use

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

You have 2 opportunities to meet our candidate!

October 3rd at 10am with a Face to Face meet & greet at WABC and/or 3pm on Zoom, available upon request

Then come hear her preach followed by a **Special Called Business meeting** following worship to vote on October 4th. We need a quorum to have the meeting, so please RSVP to the church office prior to October 4th, Zoom link available upon request

Once we vote her in, she will begin as our settled pastor on November 1st.

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.

WABC Women

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

Facilities Team

This summer the Facilities Team has been busy with building and grounds up keep:

- There was a clean-up of the grounds in preparation for the re-opening of the Co-op preschool. The grounds in the lower parking lot were made ready for the new shed the school provided to house trikes. This area is roped off during the day to allow more room for the children to have outdoor time with distancing.
- Inside of the building painting and a major cleaning was done of the social/fellowship hall and the coat room. The kitchen and children's bathrooms were given a major clean up. Much dust and debris were left behind after electrical work and painting.
- Now the process of putting everything back in preparation for the opening of the Church for Sunday worship. We are also looking ahead to the Christmas holidays!
- Linda O'Neil is looking for a "parlor chair" for the coatroom. Something with arms and an upholstered seat back. Something comfortable and welcoming for visitor who enter thru the coatroom. Please let Linda know if you have such a chair. She will be happy to drop by and look and take it away!

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.

Celebrations

October Birthdays

Alyx Aime	October 2	Valerie Nolen	October 10	Seth Erikson	October 18
Mildred Walters	October 21	Connie Ingram	October 27	Genetrix Lamb	October 30

October Anniversaries

Wendy Maxfield & Tom Howes	October 3	Rev. Rob & Judy Branch	October 6
Val Nolen & Andrew Bougas	October 14	Linda & Dick O'Neil	October 14
Joan & Jim Richards	October 18	Jessie & Thom Gaulin-Mainville	October 30

Mission Team

God has been our constant hope through faith and as we face challenges of proportions we have never experienced in our life time, let us be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We on the Mission Team (Val Nolen, Linda O'Neil, Joan Richards, and Ruth Thatcher) at WABC know that meeting on Zoom meetings is very different from face to face. We have still been able to stay in contact through the pandemic through Zoom. We strive to meet the needs of serving our neighbors as ourselves in times such as these.

Local Needs:

- The Acton Food Pantry is serving more clients where needs of food and supplies can be provided. Such help is a blessing to those who are looking for help during these times when jobs are hard to find, companies are laying off employees, and those who are struggling to provide meals even once a day for their children. Please continue to provide gift cards to the grocery stores in the surrounding area or drop off staples and dry goods at the church parking lot entrance marked to Ruth Thatcher's attention. Continue to pray for those seeking help and if you can give a donation to the "Loving Hearts" fund at WABC in honor or in memory of someone.
- The Community Supper at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church is serving meals to go on Wednesdays. Our church will host another supper on December 2nd, more details will be coming. Ruth Thatcher is our coordinator for this outreach and she is more than willing to talk with you if you have extra time to help on a weekly basis at the meal site where they package up meals to go. Also remember our sister church, First Baptist Littleton (FBCL) does home cooked meals to go most Mondays, if you want to help you can contact them throughout church office.

Telephone Outreach: Val Nolen continues to keep in phone contact with those members of our church not able to keep up with happenings and events on line. She brings messages of love, care and hope which all so appreciate during these times.

Elizabeth Babbitt has been moved to Life Care of Acton, 1 Great Road, Acton, MA 01720 for hands on care as she deals with her health challenges. Please send her a card or note and keep her in your prayers. Contact the church office and leave a message for Val Nolen if you need a call.

School of Ministry:

Val Nolen is completing her fall Zoom class work (there are 22 participants in this qualification course work). Val has successfully completed her required project which has established an official partnership between West Acton Baptist church and First Baptist Church of Littleton. The two Churches now host joint services on the 4th Sunday of each month, share book study, and share other communications and activities whenever possible. Valerie wishes to thank both churches for their dedicated support in making her vision a reality.

Virtual Missionworks 2020: October 17, 2020, check out the TABCOM website for details. You will want to plan the tune into to the on-line sessions. You can check www.TABCOM.org for more details. This is a chance to meet those in the service of the Lord through Missions and those who as our Mission Team serve in our local churches and on the TABCOM staff. Do not miss this chance to participate, sign up as soon as possible.

World Mission Offering (WMO)

- Our church is receiving the WMO the month of October. If you could like an offering envelope please let Nancy Dodge know in the office. Otherwise, just make your check payable to WABC with the memo section filled in with WMO and include it with your pledge mailed into the church, or in a separate envelope, whichever is more convenient for you.
- Please pray for those who commit to serve God's as global servants where they respond to the needs of those seeking love and salvation in their lives during these troubling times. With the Covid and mail service being impacted by a new Postmaster General AB USA is having us download information. Please take time to check out what is happening in World Missions and how we can pray and help serve the Lord through IM.

- “This year’s World Mission Offering theme is “I once was blind, but now I see.” We are seeing God at work in so many hopeful and encouraging ways through our global servants and global partners.” We will be highlighting some of the Missionaries via email and attachments as the impact of the U.S. Postal Service changes are challenging to deliver the paperwork to us.
- A message from ABC-USA from their recent email: “When confronted with uncertainty, we as Christians have the opportunity to respond with faith in Jesus. I urge you to consider prayerfully how your faithful giving and prayers could be used by God at this moment to impact the lives of many in need of him around the world today... until it is on earth as it is in heaven.”
- Rev. Sharon Koh’s letter to our church included the statement “For the 2020 World Mission Offering, we are highlighting the Ministry Priorities of Discipleship, Theological Education, Peace and Justice, Education, Health and Wellness, and Economic Development. While these represent only a fraction of IM’s ministries, they provide a window into what God is doing worldwide through our 125 global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners.

Other Mission News:

- “OPERATION PLANTING HOPE - For many years through an initiative known as White Cross, faithful American Baptist women have acted as the hands and feet of Christ, providing much-needed gifts and volunteer services to American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ mission projects.”
- Be watching for more news as we work toward helping “passionaries” to volunteer and share gifts of support with a wide range of ABHMS-related partners who are working to heal and transform communities in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- Check the Judson Press judsonpress.com for publications pertaining to faith in action for those interested in keeping abreast with news at ABC-USA. You can always ask questions at ABHMS.org for American Baptist Home Mission Society, Dr. Jeffrey Haggray is the Executive Director.
- Here is a video link to Missionary Rovaughna Richardson in Ghana who has been working with young women who escaped human sex slave captivity and are now learning trades to support themselves. Rovaughna has held there because of Covid19 and will come back to the States she hopes next year. Please pray for her leadership with these children of God. WABC has donated gifts from the Spaulding Interest Income and encourages those who are able to prayer for her. Online - Click “Give” at: <https://www.internationalministries.org/author/r-richardson/> or click “Donate” at: www.RovaughnaRichardson.com. Here is the link on YouTube. Hello! A short video from Missionary Rovaughna Richardson!!! <https://youtu.be/NYgw1riM2oc>

MISSION HISTORY AT WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

- As chair of the team, I thought it timely that we remember the mission groundwork accomplished by our church in the time since I have been a member of WABC. When Rev. Ronald Nobel a Canadian native, our pastor from 1952 – 1956, the church established a Refugee Settlement Committee and in 1956 when money was raised to sponsor the German family of Miodrag Antic and his wife and daughter, they came to Acton and lived in an apartment in one of our members homes and a job for him was found as a garage mechanic. Then in 1961 when Rev. William Keech was pastor, we sponsored a Yugoslavian couple Maria and Milan Fenjac. When Rev. David Hirano was our pastor under his leadership the church formed a Social Action Committee and a “sister church” with Eliot Congregation Church in Roxbury formed which included a tutoring program and exchange of pulpits and choirs. When Rev. Jeffrey Long Middleton was pastor, our church reached out to help Precious Isibor and her two sons and her mother establish themselves in Acton.
- The strength of the Lord moves members of West Acton Baptist to be about the work of Jesus “where we are planted.” Let us continue to meet the needs of those in our midst in faith and hope for the future of Jesus’ mission at WABC.

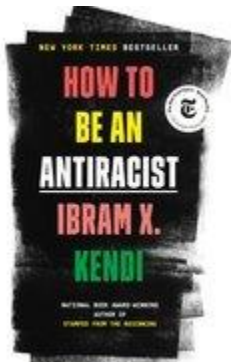
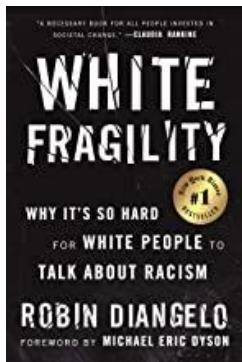
Submitted by Joan Richards

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



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 is leading one meeting on Thursdays at 7:15 pm using the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. He is leading one on Monday nights at 7:00 pm using the book *How to be An Anti-racist* by Ibram X Kendi. Zoom connections and further information available from the church office. Both studies are open to anyone from our two churches.

FBC Littleton

Fall **Common Thursdays** meet at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom with **Spiritual Practices: Rest, Naps, Sleep and Other Biblically Authorized Self-care Practices**, 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, September 28th & October 26th**.

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.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>