

BAPTIST BULLETIN



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2020

Pastor's Word

Our first Sunday worshipping together will take place on November 1, 2020. For us, that day is All Saints' Day, Commitment Sunday, Communion Sunday, the Sunday marking the restart of Standard Time (don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!), and two days before Election Day proper. Beyond our own borders, November 1 marks the anniversary of the Algerian Revolution, Independence Day for Antigua and Barbuda, Liberty Day in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bulgarian Revival Day, and Slovenian Remembrance Day.

For the record, it is also World Vegan Day, National Authors' Day, National Calzone Day, National Family Literacy Day, National Cook for Your Pets Day, National Vinegar Day, National Brush (what kind of brush, I wonder? Shrubbery? Hair? Brush with disaster?), and National Deep-Fried Clams Day.

Personally, I am grateful that I am not responsible for wrapping all of the above themes elegantly into a single liturgy and sermon, but I would be game to try.

Life is hard to make sense of these days, never mind elegantly so. We begin together as a pastor and congregation during—to put it bluntly—a deeply weird, gut-churningly upsetting time that has every possibility of becoming more so on both fronts in the next few months. My father, who has had a long career in the American Baptist ministry, confessed to me the other day that he feels out of his depth in advising me because he has never ministered to a congregation whom he mostly cannot be physically near. He is wrong about being out of his depth, but I understand his feelings. Distance is frustrating, scary. A pandemic is scary. Divisive politics and people making them so are scary. Natural disasters, ecological change, and people suffering massive economic insecurity are scary. Just being away from our regular routines is scary. And, for that matter, change and new opportunities can be scary, as well. You and I will get through this time apart together—bound up like a swaddled baby, in the Holy Spirit, on Zoom, via email, phone, and masked encounters. The grace of our Creator, Redeemer, and Rebirther will ease us forward.

In the Anglo-Celtic traditions, October 31 (Samhain, or All Hallows' Eve) through November 2 (All Souls' Day) have been understood as a hinge for the year, a moment when the spiritual and physical worlds fold more closely around each other, when change is afoot, when the door of what has been and is swings open a bit wider toward what will be, and also toward the Kingdom that has been put in place but is not yet fulfilled.

(cont'd on p. 2)

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Preaching Schedule

November 1st

Communion Sunday & All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon: "The Great Multitude"

November 8th

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "Wise, Foolish, and Waiting"

November 15th

Joint Worship with FBC Littleton, we are the host

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Sermon: "Awake or Asleep"

November 22nd

Commitment Sunday

Christ the King Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: "Christ in the Stranger's Guise"

November 29th

First Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: "When"

Contact church office for Link

Time: 10:00 AM EST - Every Sun, Nov 1- 29, 2020

Tuesday night **Conversation & Prayer** will continue but we are changing the time to **7pm**. All are welcome to join us, even past members who would like to catch-up.

Call church office for link

(cont'd from p. 1)

Sisters and brothers, if ever there was a time of turning, of shifting, and of the felt need thereof, this is it. The world feels very upside down right now. For many people around the world, however, the world has been upside down for a long time, and the miseries of 2020 are nothing new.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit...those who mourn...the meek...those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...the merciful...the pure in heart...the peacemakers...the persecuted for righteousness' sake...blessed are you, when people revile you for my sake," said Jesus (Matthew 5:1-12). We are blessed, "rightly placed," in the places of our weakness. In those places we sense that some things are coming to an end so that new and different things might begin. I pray that God will work the divine will all of us toward the work we are meant to do.

~ Rev. Leah Goodwin

Church Guidelines

You may attend in the sanctuary or on Zoom. You must **follow the guidelines** if you attend:

- 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.

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.

WABC Women

- All in person activities have been suspended until we feel it is safe to meet.
- We have packets of cards to assemble for the holidays, please contact the church office if you would like to do one.
- Since MBMM can't meet for their annual Christmas Party for new immigrants, they have asked us to contribute \$25 Gift Cards, you may purchase them or write a check made out to WABC, memo: MBMM and bring/mail them to the church office
- There are ongoing webinars through AB Women's Ministries, information on their website: <https://abwomensministries.org/>.

Facilities Team

- Dick O'Neil is working on radiator covers for the other two radiators in the social/fellowship hall. He will work on the handicapped bathroom floor ASAP. Same with cleaning and waxing the social/fellowship hall floors.
- A few more Hosta were planted at the front steps on either side.
- More weeding was done, more needed! Linda O'Neil is happy to work with anyone who is free before it gets too cold!
- We now have three Parlor chairs, He does provide!
- Do we want a clean-up of the Central St. side of the building? Some of the scrubs are very over grown and need pruning. Two of the redbud trees in that area have grown very large and are starting to rub against the side on the building. There are a few large dead branches that should be cut away. Will need to be done by a tree person.
- Electric work complete.

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

November Birthdays

Dolores Fromer	November 1	Max Howes	November 7
David Erikson	November 11	Olivia Williams-Cabral	November 16
Liam Thelemaque	November 21	Devon MacPhee	November 30

November Anniversaries

NONE

FBC Littleton

Common Thursdays

Call church office for link

Nov. 5., 5:45 p.m. Asking the Hard Questions: How do we respond as people of faith to this election?

As a purple congregation and community, we'll make space for people with various political views to consider how our faith calls us to respond to whatever the election brings. We will use break out rooms to create safe places for a time of venting, as necessary.

Resources for you to consider before the election: In Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address in 1861, with the nation on the brink of Civil War, he appealed to the "braver angels of our nature." How do we have conversations with people we care about who have differing political opinions? See: <https://braverangels.org/twentytwenty/>

Nov. 19, 5:45 p.m., Spiritual Practices: Cultivating Patience during Hard Times - After months of pandemic, our patience has worn thin. Just in time for the holidays, we'll look at spiritual practices and resources to nourish our patience with ourselves and with others: family, friends, colleagues.

Ham and Bean Supper Reimagined!

Nov. 7 and Dec. 5

A Curbside Pick-up Event

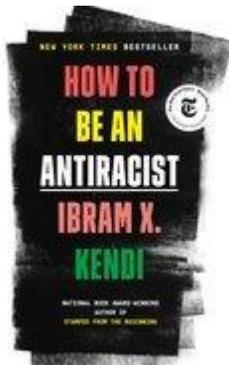
Pick Up Meals 4:30-5:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church Littleton Common, 461 King Street, Littleton

Meal must be ordered by November 4, for Nov. 7 pick-up!

Call the Church: 978-486-4660 or Email the Church: office@fbclittleton.org Leave your name and the number of meals desired. All meals will include: Ham, Beans, Mac & Cheese, Squash, Brown Bread, Salad and Cookies & Bars

Cost: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Families \$25 – CASH ONLY



Book Group: In cooperation between First Baptist of Littleton and West Acton Baptist Church and the anti-racism efforts in our communities, we've completed our read of the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Our Thursday book group will start the reading of *How to be an Anti-racist* by Ibram X Kendi on Oct. 29. **Order the book and join us on Oct. 29 at 7:15 p.m.**

Call church office for link



*In All Things,
Give Thanks*
I Thessalonians 5:18

Mission Team

As we prepare our hearts for the changes we encounter with the fall weather soon turning to winter, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving in November and the Advent of Christmas, let us continue to keep our hearts open to work God has placed before us presently to spread the love of Christ through Mission.

- **Missionworks:** We had a spirit filled experience on Zoom with Missionworks 2020. Rev. Kristine Keddy and her team put together a conference addressing where God is breaking through in this time of Pandemic. The sessions highlighted works of the hands & feet of mission workers of IM & ABHMS.
- Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil from American Baptist Church USA head of the Short-Term Missions I-M (International Ministries) introduced Pastor Nzung and his wife who are working from Arizona due to the pandemic with a mission in Haiti teaching and helping with an Eye Clinic and finding ways to help those jobless and in need of food, and especially find ways to build wells for water that is clean. They help individuals who seek ways to earn money by producing domestic animals that they can raise and sell. He learned of Jesus and missions from Haitian professors missionaries who served in the Republic of the Congo where he learned of the love of God and opened his life to service to Jesus through Mission. His wife has worked for 23 years helping women find their voice and talents and help them provide for their family's health, learning economic information through empowering women to seek the love of Jesus. Rev. Sandra said she would love for you to call her if there is an interest in Short-Term Ministries(I-M) and if you remember she was working at TABCOM as Mission Coordinator and Stewardship Coordinator.

Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil, Director Short-Term Mission
International Ministries
1003 West, 9th Avenue, Suite A
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-768-2164 (Office)

- We heard of the work locally for feeding the hungry and providing visual worship for those unable to attend services due to the pandemic and restrictions. We prayed together for patience, compassion, and comfort in these challenging times. There was much to celebrate in the presence of God. Things to ponder: Consistency, Courage, Creativity and Compassion "how can we invest in our community" and provide the love of God through our witness to Jesus Christ.". Let us pray for all who answer God's call to Mission and for the work we are called to do here at WABC.
- Mission Advocates Needed: If you are interested to meet others and hear of happenings in TABCOM churches, Rev. Christine Keddy, TABCOM Mission and Eldercare Director, is inviting you to join us the second Thursday of the month. Please call her or talk with one of our Mission Team. Her email is keddy@TABCOM.org

Other Missions:

- Acton Food Pantry: Remember to share staples that would be gratefully received for preparation Thanksgiving dinner, in addition to what you can share for daily food needs of those unable to find work to provide for their family or needing nourishment they cannot afford to provide at this time, contact Ruth Thatcher for donation or leave in basket in the coatroom.
- Loving Hearts: Remember those who are celebrating a life event with a gift to honor them. Just note on your check in the memo section: Loving Hearts.
- World Mission Offering has been received highlighted in October. Please continue to pray for those serving the Lord through Baptist Missions throughout the world and if you can donate a gift toward supporting their effort.
- School of Ministry: Val Nolen continues with her required work in preparation for graduation in 2021. Please continue to pray for her and also when she calls you to check how things are with you, take time to ask her how she is doing, I am sure she will be happy to tell you about what is happening in her journey.
- It is with a rejoicing and thankful hearts that the Mission Team welcomes our new pastor Rev. Leah Goodwin. Big thanks you to the work of the search team and especially for God to send her to WABC. Prayers of thanksgiving for this wonderful blessing.

Poinsettia's for Christmas

Orders will be taken through November 15th

_____ Red Poinsettia @ \$9.00 each = \$ _____

I wish to pick-up my flowers at WABC on December 12 between 10am-10:30am

I wish to leave my flowers on the WABC altar then donated to a shut-in

“In memory of” _____

“In honor of” _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Envelope # _____

Enclosed cash or check made payable to WABC with the memo “Poinsettia”

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Fundraising

This is the time of year we all begin to think about gifts we would like to give others. Here are some excellent opportunities to check off gifts for people on your list while helping your church with fundraising.

Coffee – Coffee makes a great gift!! We place an order for coffee every month. Go to our fundraising page on our [website](#) & fill out the form. 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, November 30th**.



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 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 - Please link your purchases with AmazonSmile for us to earn a %. Here is the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819>

