



BAPTIST BULLETIN

Pastor's Word

Back in 2004, I attended an interdenominational conference of women entitled "A Gathering of Leaves." The centerpiece quote for our three days of talks, activities, and music was from the end of the book of Revelation, in chapter 22: "On either side of the river [of the water of life, which flows from the throne of God] is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

The Gathering Leaves retreat was a creative, thoughtful, gracious time. At that retreat, we saw one another as leaves on the tree of life, channels of divine nourishment and healing for the people and creation around us. The imagery focused our hearts on the Christ in one another and the world outside our safe little retreat bubble. I bring this up because might surprise some people that the book of Revelation could offer the imagery for such a border-crossing experience.

This summer we are worshipping with the First Baptist Church of Littleton, our theme being "What We're Wrestling With." For this project, Rev. Nancy Willbanks and I opted to focus on the book of Revelation, a book often avoided by mainline and progressive Christian preachers and congregations. Why? Perhaps because Revelation seems to have nothing to say to our current situation, or to be scary or distasteful with its violent imagery, or to be the "property" of Christian traditions that focus on the so-called "end times" and a kind of us-versus-them judgment that isn't part of our congregations' identities.

The book of Revelation is written in language and imagery unfamiliar to us today, and to mine it for confirmation of our fears and prejudices is to misread the text perilously. The book of Revelation is a product of both trauma and vision: it comes from the mind and heart one who had paid greatly for his religious commitments, and who is watching his community suffer at the hands of worldly powers. It is a piquant book, spicy reading. Revelation, as part of our biblical tradition, is a book we must wrestle with.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WEST ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
JULY-AUGUST 2021

Inside this Edition

- 1 Pastor's Word
- 2 Preaching Schedule
- 2 Missions Team
- 3 Discipleship Team
- 3 Father's Day Donations
- 4 WABC Women
- 4 Church Chatter
- 4 FBC Littleton
- 4 Celebrations
- 5 Fundraising
- 5 Revelation Word Search

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Preaching Schedule

We will be worshipping with FBC Littleton this summer.

The theme for the summer is
"What We're Wrestling With".

July 4th

WABC Host

Genesis 32 – "Jacob Wrestles"

July 11th

FBCL Host

Rev 1:9–2:7 – "John, the Risen Christ, and the Churches"

July 18th

WABC Host

Rev 4:1-11 – "God the Creator"

July 25th

WABC Host

Rev 5:1-13 – "Christ the Lamb"

August 1st

FBCL Host

Rev 6:1-8, 7:9-17 – "The Four Horsemen"

August 8th

WABC Host

Rev 13:1-18 – "The Two Beasts"

August 15th

FBCL Host

Rev 17:1-6, 19:11-16 – "The Harlot and the Great Battle"

August 22nd

FBCL Host

Rev 21:1-6, 22:1-5 – "New Jerusalem"

August 29th

WABC Host

Psalm 13 – "What We're Wrestling With"

Mission Team

Val Nolen, Pastor Leah and Bob & Zelda Williams attended the **Biennial** virtual meeting conference June 24 -26 on Zoom. A very exciting conference focused on Reimagining, Hope and Trust in God. Workshops: Storytelling, Antiracism, Planning ahead Continuous Learnings. Keeping Hope and Trust Alive in our God." Pray for our church as we headed into the summer days and are able to travel more and look forward to the time the church building can get back to a more normal schedule.

Thanks to all who have given gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Please continue to reach out when you can as there are many struggling with natural and man-made disaster around the U.S.

Food pantry donations are always welcome.

Pray for global servants who bring the love of Jesus to those seeking salvation love.

Val Nolen, Linda O'Neil, Joan Richards and Ruth Thatcher

(Continued from p. 1)

Likewise, we find ourselves wrestling with our personal and corporate lives these days. Life is intense, full stop. The peace that passeth all understanding doesn't always feel within easy grasp, faithful and prayerful though we may be. And that's precisely why Revelation matters so much. There is Good News at the heart of John of Patmos's story.

Don't get me wrong—it's not an unproblematic text. Hence the wrestling.

But at its heart, Revelation is a story about God pitching a tent among us, about the sloughing off of lies—even well-intentioned deceit, the kind that involves our proving our worth to others—and the violence those lies beget. It is a story that leaves off as Creation mythically began—in a garden, the New Jerusalem, where no one battles for ownership, where no light nor lamp nor sun is required, because everyone beholds God's face. Everyone who is thirsty, and who wishes, is invited to take the water of life as a gift. All are welcome at the resurrection feast in the garden of the Lord.

Please join us, July and August Sundays at 10, as we discover the book of Revelation together!

Pastor Leah

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**Links for all Sunday services & Tuesday's  
Conversation & Prayer are available from the  
WABC church office**



## Discipleship Team

**Child Care** – We are offering childcare in the lower-level nursery. Any child over the age of 2 should be masked. We will sanitize the nursery before & after each use and try to maintain a safe environment.

**Positions Needed** - We are looking to fill the position of nursery care provider and helper. Both are paid positions starting ASAP. Contact Lori Bruneau if interested. All candidates need to be vaccinated and will have a CORI check, and hours are 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

**Summer Reading Challenge** – On Celebration Sunday, we kicked off a Summer Reading Challenge for children, youth & adults. A printout can be mailed or emailed to you if you did not receive one. Bible Reading Plans based on the theme **Running the Race**. Use them to travel through scripture this summer and to challenge yourself spiritually as you run the good race in your daily life. There are 27 scriptures, 1 for each mile of a marathon (26 + 1 for the .2). If you would like to receive yours via email or snail mail, please contact the church office. Prizes will be awarded on Rally Sunday in September.



**Family Fun Day** – Join us at the Bath House Pavilion, **NARA Park**, Acton, MA, following worship to 3pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, please bring your own picnic lunch & beverages.

Swim passes available, please let us know in advance if you would like any, Boat rentals available, Playground & Volleyball Court on premises, Scenic Walking Trail & Pond Trail

### Scripture Readers:

- July 4<sup>th</sup>** - Genesis 32 – Filled
- July 18<sup>th</sup>** - Rev 4:1-11 – Filled
- July 25<sup>th</sup>** - Rev 5:1-13 – Linda O’Neil
- August 8<sup>th</sup>** - Rev 13:1-18 – Val Nolen
- August 29<sup>th</sup>** - Psalm 13 – Bev Thatcher

## Father’s Day Donations

Donations were made to Church World Service for Father’s Day:

### **Ruth Thatcher**

In honor of Doug Taylor  
In memory of my dad, Fred Harris  
In memory of my brothers Phil and Dave

### **Jim and Joan Richards**

In honor of our sons, Joel and Jared  
In honor of Jim Richards  
In memory of our fathers, Walter Richards and  
Arthur Hansen

### **Scott and Lori Bruneau**

In honor of Scott Bruneau  
In honor of William Cochrane  
In memory of Lawrence Bruneau

### **Robert and Zelda Williams**

In honor of Robert C. Williams  
In honor of Peter Sallet  
In honor of David Cabral  
In memory of our fathers, S.F. Williams and Odel Bate

## WABC Women

- There are ongoing webinars through [AB Women's Ministries](https://abwomensministries.org/), information on their website: <https://abwomensministries.org/>.
- Our summer lunches out will not happen this year due to COVID precautions.

## Church Chatter

**Volunteers Needed** – Are you interested in learning how to run the A/V equipment during worship? Please let the church office know if you are interested. This way we can rotate A/V operators each week. We look forward to expanding our online presence!

## FBC Littleton

**Continuing Joint Services FBC Littleton and West Acton Baptist Church!** See summer preaching schedule.

### Common Thursdays

**July 8, 5:45 p.m. Asking the Hard Questions: What Are We Wrestling With?** What hidden or not-so-hidden emotions, losses, stresses, traumas, or conditions are we discovering, confronting, ignoring, or denying as we begin to navigate beyond the pandemic?

**August 12, 5:45 p.m. Spiritual Practices for Traumatic Transitions** - As we move through this liminal time and space, what might we need to do for ourselves, and with or for others, to bolster our collective and individual spiritual and emotional health and well-being?

Zoom Link available from the WABC church office

### Greater Littleton Interfaith Council Summer Vigils for Justice

In front of FBC Littleton, 461 King St. and extending to Littleton Common as needed

Sunday, July 25, 2-3 p.m.

Sunday, August 22, 2-3 p.m

## Fundraising

**Coffee** –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. NEXT orders are going in at 9am on **Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> & August 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.terri Lynn.com/>

**Amazon** - Please link your purchases with AmazonSmile for us to earn a %. Here is the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6067819>

**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)