



First Baptist Church of Pawtucket Herald

April/May 2019

Inside this issue:

Celebrations	2
Ministry Matters	2
Spotlight: Brenda Alvarez	3
In Loving Memory: Evelyn Samardak	3
Happenings	4
Just for Kids	4

Give it Up for Jesus

It's Lent, the 40-day season that starts on Ash Wednesday and leads up to Easter. At this time Christians around the world are encouraged to reflect more deeply on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Toward that end, some Christians fast. This is a spiritual practice wherein you give up something you enjoy as a way of trying to identify on some level with Jesus' ultimate sacrifice - His own life for humanity's salvation. Fasting is also a declaration that the Lord is more important than what we're giving up.

People "give up" various things for Lent, whether one or more meals daily, over several days, or weekly. Some prefer to give up a food item or activity they enjoy, from sweets to meats or social media to television. What is important is that what we deny ourselves is truly a sacrifice for us. We also can use the time that we would have spent doing that activity to draw



closer to the Lord through prayer, Bible reading, meditation, or worship. Many who fast experience a heightened sense of spiritual awareness as they spend more quality time with God.

This Lent, our church is engaged in a sermon series called, "Give it Up!" inspired by the Christian pastor and writer Matthew Kelley. It encourages us to fast from things that God would most likely want Christians to refrain from like control, unforgiveness, seeking popularity and more - and not just for Lent, but forever!

How about you? Are there any negative emotions, habits, or behaviors

the Lord may want you to depart from? Or is the Lenten season a reminder to reduce your consumption of certain activities that take up so much of your time that they leave little room for devotional time with God. This Lent let's reflect on and pray the humble, yet powerful closing prayer in Psalm 139. It says, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."*

Whatever God may point out, let's willingly give it up for Jesus!

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Linda

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Services
10:45-11:45 am

Sunday School for Children
& Youth 11:00-11:45 am
(except 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer Gathering
& Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Pawtucket

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Email: fbc pawtri@verizon.net
Web: www.fbc pawtucket.org

Pastor: Rev. Linda Watkins

MISSION & VISION

We are a welcoming and loving Christian community that provides worship, outreach and fellowship to all. We envision a world in which all people experience the love of God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrations and Acknowledgments



Melanie Giglietti

Happy Birthday!

April

- 1 Tim Fortin
- 2 Brenda Alvarez
- 14 Jaden Walker-Aguilar
- 23 Natalie Danielson
- 25 Pastor Linda Watkins
- 26 Melanie Giglietti
- 29 DaRon Tucker

May

- 3 Alaina Fortin
- 4 Allen Ramos
- 17 Amy Thompson
- 31 Christine Baker

Happy Anniversary!

April

- 2 Joshua & Mel Giglietti

Thank you FBC ~

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Thank you for your sympathy and the lovely fruit basket.

Heather Mtaallah & Family

Thank you for your generous gifts to the America for Christ Offering 2018.

From the American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Thank you FBC Leaders



Bob Castle
Continuing
President

Carolyn Volmer, Outgoing Diaconate Chair after two years of faithful service

Brenda Alvarez and Ithran Tucker

New Diaconate Co-chairs

Rob Bobola, Continuing Christian Ed Chair

Cindy Downie
Continuing Food Pantry Chair

Jennifer Dyson
Continuing Trustees Chair

Pat Bobola
Continuing Church Clerk

Cindy Downie
Continuing Treasurer

We appreciate all of you and thank God for your leadership!

Did You Hear?
FBC's April 28th Sunday Worship Service will include baptisms and welcoming our newest members. Let's all plan to be there!



Ministry Matters



Ministry Matters

DEACONS

We look forward to the remainder of the Lenten Season and our church's upcoming **Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae** on April 18, 7-8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will remember the last 24 hours of Jesus' physical life by reading and hearing Christ's "Passion" Narrative, receiving the Lord's Supper, and partaking in ceremonial hand washing in a warm candle-lit setting. If you would like to volunteer to read one of the Bible passages that night or to be a greeter, call our main office at 401-725-7225. This

is sure to be a moving sacred event and all are welcome.

FOOD PANTRY MISSION

Volunteers are needed the 2nd through last Wednesday each month 4:00-5:00 pm to help stock our Food Pantry's shelves. Help is also needed Wednesday mornings to unload food from the Food Bank delivery truck. If able to assist, please contact Cindy Downie at 401-725-7225.

CHRISTIAN ED

Canonicus Camp & Conference Center will hold its annual Open House on **Saturday, April 27**. Visitors can come

anytime that day **2-4:00 pm** at 54 Exeter Rd. in Exeter, RI. Tour the camp grounds and meet staff while learning about the day, residential and leadership development camps offered there for children and youth. Camp Canonicus is run by the American Baptist Churches of RI. Learn more online at www.canonicus.org/. Know **scholarships are available** for FBC's young people who want to enjoy a camping experience. To learn more about our scholarships, call Rob Bobola at 401-725-7225 or send an email message to fbc pawtri@verizon.net.



Brenda Alvarez

This issue of the *Herald's* Spotlight section features First Baptist Church member Brenda Alvarez (B).

How long have you been a member of FBC and how did you hear about our church?

B: I've been a member 4 years and became involved at a time when I felt very lost. I was searching for a church that I could vibe with, and felt that when I went to a joint service of Bethany Baptist Church and First Baptist Church with my daughter. It was a warm place. Then when the pastor went to First Baptist full-time, I went and stayed there. It seems like whenever I go to a service and am feeling down, I hear an uplifting message that's meant for me.

What ministries have you been involved in at FBC?

B: I have been a Deacon for about 2 years and serve as Co-Chair of the Deacons now. It is also important to me to attend Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. I don't like to miss Bible Study. It's great to see so many faces and I want to learn more about the Bible and go deeper.

What do you like most about our church?

B: I like the fact that we are building for the future. I've seen more people coming here and it's like a community.

Would you please tell us about yourself?

B: I was born and raised in Pawtucket and had a kind of tough childhood, but always had a vision of wanting to be in a better place. I care about people and am blessed to go to a job that I really enjoy doing - helping people with disabilities.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

B: I was once that rebel who enjoyed a drug dealing kind of life. I went down the

wrong road. As I got older, my kids and going to church turned me around. I decided my former life was "not the kind of lifestyle that I wanted."

What is your hope for FBC and what do you think can help make that happen?

B: My hope is that we continue to build and move forward and be more contemporary. That's how we can grab onto the younger generations so they will enjoy coming to church.

If you could share a word of wisdom with our church members, what would it be?

B: Be kinder. Let's really want to work together and support one another. ♥



Brenda Alvarez

In Loving Memory

On February 21 First Baptist member Evelyn Samardak entered glory at the age of 97. We will miss her physical presence, but can find some consolation in knowing that she is enjoying eternal peace and life with the Lord.

To many, Evelyn will be remembered as the loving and faithful mother of her daughters Cindy Ledoux and Debbie Fortin. She also was a devoted wife, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Caring for her family and following God were

top priorities for Evelyn. She lived out her Christian faith day to day and prayed to God every night before bed. Evelyn also attended FBC's worship services regularly and enjoyed our Adult Sunday School when offered. While a serious person with strong convictions, she also enjoyed life, from coffee ice cream and bowling to western movies, musicals, and making doll clothes. Evelyn, may God bless you richly in this new stage of eternal life!



Evelyn Samardak

Happenings

FBC Midweek Lenten Bible Study "The Case for Easter: Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus"

Wednesdays through April 10, 7-8:00 pm

This fascinating DVD Study developed by Lee Strobel investigates the story surrounding Jesus' resurrection and how we can know it's true based on faith *and* facts. All are welcome!

Lakewood Baptist Church 17th Annual Community Food Bank Benefit Concert on April 14, 6:30pm

255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick

Enjoy Christian musicians from multiple churches at this wonderful evening of music and inspiration. The admission fee? At least one non-perishable food item. A free-will love offering also will be collected at the concert.

FBC Pawtucket Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Tenebrae April 18, 7:00-8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Join us for this special observance of Jesus' final day of physical life. Hear the Passion Narrative in different voices and partake in The Lord's Supper. All are welcome.

Good Friday Walk For Hunger RI April 19, 8:30 am

Walk to raise awareness and money to defeat hunger and homelessness. Leave from participating churches and organizations and meet at the RI State House. To learn more visit <http://goodfridaywalkforhungerrri.org/>.

FBC Palm Sunday and Easter Services Sundays, April 14 & 21, 10:45 am

Remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, including receiving palms. The following Sunday, join us in celebrating Christ's joyful Resurrection from death and what it means for us today!

Greenville Baptist Church 10-Day Tour of Israel June 30-July 9, 2020

This church will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary with various special events. One is a 10-day Inspirational Tour of Israel with Pilgrim Tours. To participate, call Greenville Baptist's office at 401-949-1134 and see info on FBC's bulletin board near our Chapel.

RAISED WITH HIM

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.
- COLOSSIANS 2:12 NIV

Just for Kids

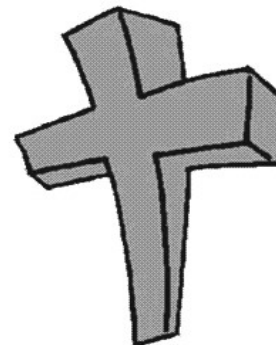


Easter Word Search

Find the words below related to the Easter Story and circle them. Hint: They may appear in different directions in the Word Puzzle (horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward, backward).

B	M	A	L	M	H	B	B	K	I	N	G	R	N	R
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	E	O	O
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	E	Y	S	C	D	I	O
S	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	H	J	E	T	S
N	S	N	A	M	O	R	O	O	R	R	E	M	A	T
R	C	D	S	G	T	T	R	I	I	K	S	P	V	E
O	Y	R	A	M	B	C	S	S	V	Z	U	T	L	R
H	L	O	V	E	L	T	E	M	M	A	S	I	A	Y
T	C	R	O	W	N	N	Y	L	O	H	S	O	S	Z
X	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	N	K	Q

APOSTLES
CHRIST
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
HOLY
JESUS
KING
LAMB
LOVE



MARY
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
ROMANS
ROOSTER
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SAVIOR
THORNS