

The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

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Resurrection Gratitude

Thanks

Grace

RESURRECTION

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Do you know what would be terrifying?

Winning an Academy Award. Thankfully it is not a terror I will ever know. Think about it though, you're there in front an audience of highly influential, super talented people and on television before millions and you're given just about twenty seconds to remember and thank every person who had a role in getting you to that moment. Ready, Go....!

I couldn't do it. Way too much pressure! I would almost certainly forget someone. I'm terrified of forgetting someone. That's why I write with trepidation now. I need to thank some people - so many people I'm afraid I'll forget someone. Ok, time to face my fear.

First, I want to thank the Worship Committee. Back in February we sat down and started talking about Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. My hopes for the season asked them to give more hours, and show more flexibility, and trust me more than they already were - which is considerable. They did all three and did so with smiles on their faces.

The music committee did the same thing except they had the added chore of trying to translate my language of theology and emotion into the language of music. They did so and their translation was better than the original.

The choir helped in that. My plans for Holy Week required not only a LOT of work on their part, but also a shift in rehearsal schedule that added to the



A Journey in Faith, Fellowship, and Service

hectic pace of things. They didn't even complain (to me anyway) – and OH MY did their work show through the season! Bolstered by Hugo, Sara, Tyler, and Anna how could they not be!? And David Labman – let me tell you about this guy! At one point before the Maundy Thursday service when he was already dashing between rehearsals I mentioned a piece in the service. I saw his eyes widen and knew we had miscommunicated. There was no music ready for that part of the service. "Hold on a second," he said. One minute later he reappeared, music in hand, and played a beautiful, reflective piece. He's amazing! Julian willingly played along with our setting aside of postludes during Lent and evidently spent the entire 40 days rehearsing the socks-knocking piece he played on Easter Sunday. Doleen Hood played several times through the season as well. That's a little like having LeBron on the bench. The handbell choir failed at recruiting me to play with them and excelled in every other aspect (the one led to the other). Together our music program mused, "Were You There?" Yes, we *were there* because you carried us into the shadow of the cross, through the depths of the grave, and up to the heights of resurrection!

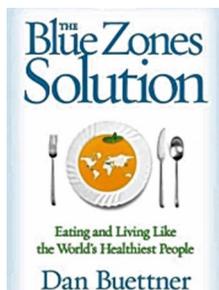
Our reflection-writing participants enhanced our daily lives as did our worship readers, ushers, candle-bearers, and other service participants; all had to endure changes to the norm through the season and that always comes with a serial over-explainer of a pastor. They all endured both with grace and poise and performed their roles with excellence. I think particularly of Bill Sturdevant who narrated our passion reading, Chuck Sparnecht who read the role of Jesus a week after reading one of the longest gospel lessons of the liturgical year, and Rose Welch who read nearly the entire passion herself on Maundy Thursday. They are but three examples among a host of excellent worship leaders, the cutest of whom were surely Behr, Alice, Brendan, and Oliver who set the table for us Easter morning. The Fellowship Committee did a fair amount of table setting too with a beautiful spread for fellowship hour that Sunday (as on all Sundays) too.

Finally, I must thank the best church staff I have ever worked with. Do you know what it's like to draft, correct, and re-correct an order of worship only to have the pastor change his mind requiring a last-minute change that shifts the spacing of the entire document!? Bonnie does. Mary Lou stays mostly out of the bulletin these days, but she tends the phones and door while Bonnie scrambles to keep up with my latest whim. And then there's Janet without whom we would be nowhere. Morgan Freeman's Character, Red, in *The Shawshank Redemption*, is known as "the one who can get you things." He learned from Janet. She is the keeper of all our things, the backbone of the office, the one who says, "Did you think of ____?" at the most important times. She gets us through every day including the Holy Days.

This Holy season has demanded much of all of us logistically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The result has been an Easter I will never forget. Yes, the liturgy was nice and the music was wonderful, but by next year I'll need to pull out the bulletins to remember what we did. In fact, I am quite certain that I have already forgotten to mention someone who played an important role. What I won't forget though, is the way our FBC family came together in celebration of resurrection. I am deeply grateful. Thank you. All of you.

Pastor Brent

*PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
FAIRPORT BAPTIST HOMES FOUNDATION
FIRST ANNUAL BREAKFAST
FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER, TONY BUETTNER.*



Tony Buettner, New York Times Best Selling Author, is promoting his new book, *The Blue Zones Solution: Eating and Living Like the World's Healthiest People*. The Breakfast featuring the author will be held at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford on Wednesday May 10, 2017 from 8:00 to 9:15 AM with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30 AM.

There is no charge to attend but guests will be asked to make a donation to the Foundation at the conclusion. Please contact Kathleen Zastrow (585) 388-2322 or KZastrow@fbhcm.org with any questions.

 **Fairport Baptist Homes**
caring.vibrant.vital.

Thanks!

Thank you to the FBCR family for the warm welcome and gift on Sunday as we were officially brought into membership. We found it meaningful to meet with members in leadership positions prior to worship, hearing about their faith journeys and experiences with FBCR. We also enjoyed meeting many of you following the worship service, and look forward to forming strong friendships while working and worshipping together in the future.

Special thanks to Pastor Brent, Marilyn McClellan, and Doug Trolley for helping to coordinate the logistics for bringing us into the FBCR fold.

Alan and Gail Newton

OUR COMMUNITY

Reaching out to Others



Brighton Food Depot:

May Needs are:

Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce

Last month, volunteers with the Brighton Food Depot gathered in the Garden Room for a light lunch and fellowship. Following the meal, Richard Wien, BFD Director, shared with the group changes happening within Quad A which might have some impact on the future backpack program of the Depot. The final donation for this school year will most likely be in May. Recent food drives have provided large amounts of donations (not all foods needed for the backpack program). Exploration on the best ways to distribute these donations to those in need were discussed. Some foods will be shared with our partners at Pittsford Food Cupboard and large container donations will be shared with Cameron Community for their summer meals.

Women's Circle Remington-Hubbell

**Blanket Sunday
On Mothers Day - May 14th**

Blankets help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement. Because of the generosity of our congregation, CWS responded quickly in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in 2016. We helped provide blankets to North Carolina, Virginia, and other areas on the East Coast.

Church World Service (CWS) provided blankets to homeless shelters and street programs around the country.

Envelopes for your gifts will be available in the pews on Mother's Day. Let's be the hands of Christ through our donations to CWS - Blanket Sunday.

Thank you for your generosity!

Remington-Hubbell Circle is a mission-based women's circle.



**May 18, 2017
Eldergarten**

Peter DuPre, "The Harmonica Guy", is coming to entertain us with his songs and stories for our May Eldergarten luncheon.

Come at 12 noon on Thursday, May 18th in the Garden Room. Bring a sandwich. Salad, beverage, and dessert will be provided. Guests are welcome. Bring a friend and join us for fun and fellowship.

Eldergarten is a social group for anyone over age 55. We enjoy Christian fellowship with programs to instruct and entertain.

LET'S SUPPORT MUSIC AND ARTS AT EAST HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursday, May 25 East High School Students will present their Spring Choral and Instrumental Concert and Arts Celebration.

The Concert begins at 6:00 PM with the Arts Celebration following. We have been invited to attend and seats will be reserved for us. Please let Lynn McClellan know if you will be attending.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

MAY BOOK CLUB



The FBC Book Club will meet on the fourth Tuesday, May 23, in the church library at 11:30 AM. The book for discussion will be *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. It is a biography about a young woman living in Kabul, Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban. After the men in the family leave for war, she establishes a business creating dresses to support the family. Please feel free to join us.

GOINGS ON

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

Wednesday, May 3

Worship Committee Meeting, 5:00 PM
Brown Bag Fellowship, 5:30 PM
Study - Biblical Perspectives Study with Anna Bowden, 6:00 PM
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM

Thursday, May 4

National Day of Prayer



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday, May 6, 2017

Susan Boulay Memorial Service, 10:00 AM

Sunday, May 7, 2017 - Communion Sunday

Communion Sunday
Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:30 AM
Forum 11:30 AM

Monday, May 8, 2017

Welcome & Affirm Meeting, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Trustees Meeting 5:30 PM
Final Wednesday Evening Programs for Season
Study Recap & Planning, 5:30 PM
Choir Potluck, 6:15 PM
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM

Sunday, May 14, 2017 - Mother's Day

Youth-led Service
Blanket Sunday
Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM
Forum, 11:30 AM

Monday, May 15, 2017

Library Meeting, 9:30 AM
Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

No Wednesday Programs

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Eldergarten, 12:00 PM

Thursday, May 19, 2017

Banner Making Party, 9:30 AM

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM
Forum, 11:30 AM

Monday, May 22, 2017

Jubilee Team Meeting, 6:00 PM

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

FBC Book Club, 11:30 AM

Thursday, May 25, 2017

East High Music & Arts Celebration 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 28, 2017 - Memorial Sunday

Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM
Forum, 11:30 AM

Monday, May 29, 2017 - Memorial Day

Office Closed

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

FUNDING FOR HAITIAN ORPHANS

Toby and Kim Mansfield, lay missionaries from Wilson, NY, 70 miles northwest of Rochester, spoke at Eldergarden on Thursday, February 16, 2017. They travel to Haiti to help Haitian children at the HELO Orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti.



Kim and Toby pay their own expenses and take as many supplies as possible. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and has dealt with the effects of an earthquake, a hurricane, and a cholera epidemic. A request was made to our Missions Committee for funding and they have agreed to support the schooling of two children for one year. It is hoped Toby and Kim will share news with us following their next trip to Haiti.

Thank you to the Missions Committee. To see the work being done at this orphanage, please see link. Just scroll down on the first page.

[ORPHANAGE OF LES CAYES IN HAITI](http://www.stpaulslutheranwilsonny.com/St.Pauls_Church/OUR_HAITI_MINISTRY_26_Page_1.html)

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MID-SUMMER EVENT

PLANNING MEETING AND MEAL

During our upcoming year of Jubilee, from the fall of 2017 to the fall of 2018, we will celebrate our Bicentennial. In effort to maximize the various events which will fill our calendar, we are planning a calendar preparation gathering. All ministry teams, missional communities, or small group leaders, members, and friends are asked to save the date of Wednesday, July 12 at 6:00 PM for a meal and date-adding time together. More details to follow.

OUR BANNERS

OUR JUBILEE CELEBRATION BANNERS - 200 YEARS

We will have new banners that will **represent us** as part of our Jubilee 200th Celebration. Please donate old items from home. Old clothing and material will be used to create "something new out of something old, one-of-a-kind banners." There will be a collection box for your (clean) items in the Garden Room. We are seeking those things that you have used, touched, or outgrown with many patterns, colors, and textures (except stretchy or woven). Please contribute and be a part of our history and our celebration.

Anyone wishing to help at our first cutting party, please bring your scissors and join us on Friday, May 19 in Hubbell Hall from 9:30 AM to Noon.