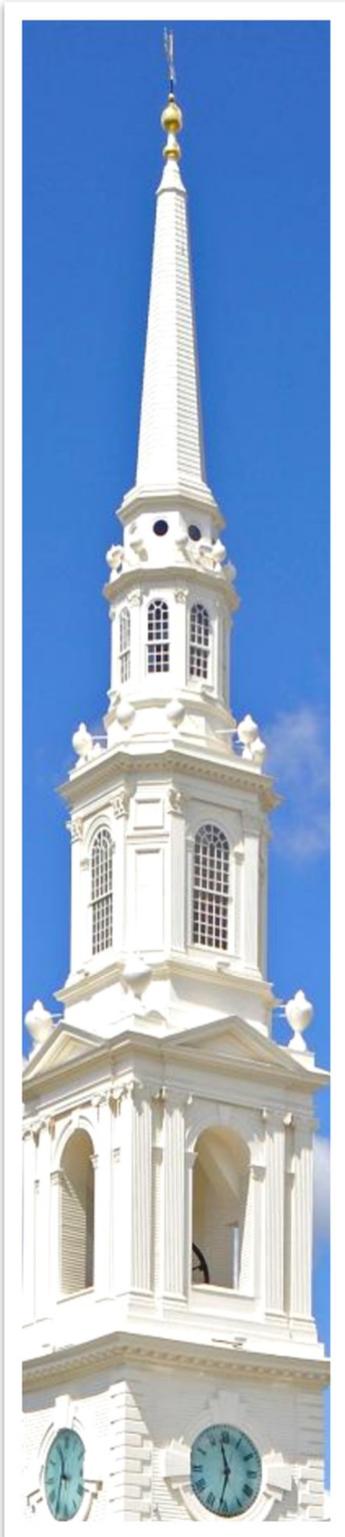


THE SPIRE

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

September 2020, Volume 23, Issue 09

FROM THE PASTOR



Greetings, Church!

As we head into autumn the parallel pandemics of COVID-19 and racism continue to plague us. We will continue to seek ways to live into our call to be Christ's disciples in our daily lives. To that end, our aim is to equip ourselves to better serve the world.

During the month of August, we've enjoyed a number of different voices in worship. We offered a service of music and song, as well as hearing from Lawrence Wilson III, Lizette Pearl Tapia, a theologian at Union Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines, and Jeffrey Haggray, the Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

This month, we will hold a memorial service for Pat Billings. The service will be online on Saturday, September 19 at 11, followed by a virtual coffee hour. Pat's service will be our first virtual funeral.

For the time being, we will continue our online worship services. Given current COVID related conditions, the reopening committee determined this to be the most prudent path forward. We will offer occasional outdoor prayer services on the grounds of the Meeting House, weather permitting, into the autumn.

In imagining our collective life as we move forward during the pandemic, we hope to use our education, missions and outreach in outward looking ways. Ideally, we would be able to work together on a common projects like a neighborhood clean up, or service in partnership with an organization we already support like Better Lives RI, Camp Canonicus, Crossroads, John Clarke. Making first responder training available is part of this effort. There is more information on this effort elsewhere in this newsletter. The ongoing book groups that Linda Bausserman facilitates are also working towards this end. If you have suggestions, please share them with me. I look forward to opportunities to be church in reimagined ways in these days.

Peace,

Pastor Jamie



ELDER CARE MINISTRIES TO SPONSOR RED CROSS TRAINING THIS FALL

Is anyone in your congregation trained to respond to a first aid, breathing, or cardiac emergency when you are gathered for worship, meetings, or other purposes? Even if your congregation currently gathers virtually, preparing now to respond to emergencies in the future is important.

Our region's Elder Care Ministries is sponsoring Red Cross first aid, CPR, and AED training this fall. It will be free of cost to members/friends of congregations in our region.

The blended course will include an online portion that features award-winning simulation learning—an interactive experience where participants will respond to real-world emergencies in a virtual setting—and an instructor-led classroom skill session. Upon successful completion of both portions of the training, participants will receive Red Cross certification that will be valid for two years.

Amanda Ogilvie, the region's director of camping and a Red Cross-certified first aid/CPR/AED instructor, will lead the skill sessions.

A participant must complete the online portion of the training prior to taking part in the in-person skill session. The online portion can be completed in segments over the course of a week. Participants then will need to complete a single in-person skill session.

Each skill session will be limited to four participants in order to ensure necessary physical distancing. Participants will be required to wear masks.

Skill sessions are scheduled in the regional office's conference room on:

Saturday, September 26	9:00 a.m.-noon
Saturday, September 26	2:00-5:00 p.m.
Monday, September 28	6:00-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 29	6:00-9:00 p.m.

If a congregation has three to four people interested in the training, a skill session can be arranged at the church's facility.

Reservations for the skills sessions will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The information needed to do the online portion of the training will be sent as a reservation is made.

To make a reservation and/or ask for additional information, contact Rev. Kathryn Palen at kpalen@abcori.org or (401) 522-9731.

Opportunities to Serve

World Mission Offering

During September our church participates in the World Mission Offering, one of four American Baptist offerings. We are able to participate in God's work around the world in partnership with International Ministries (IM), a cross-cultural mission agency with a long heritage in the American Baptist mission movement.

Your gifts support 125 global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff and 250+ international partners who serve around the world supporting health and wellness, education, peace and justice, economic development, discipleship and theological education. You can learn more by watching the video below.



Your gifts can be made by check, made out to FBCIA with WMO in the memo line or by giving online and indicating in the notes that the gift is for WMO.

HOPE'S HARVEST RI

Hope's Harvest RI mobilizes volunteers to rescue food from local farms that would otherwise go to waste and distributes it to local hunger relief agencies. Farm-based food recovery, also known as "Gleaning", is the ancient practice of collecting unharvested produce from farmer's fields and distributing it to people in need. There are over 250 gleaning projects across the United States, which makes gleaning a proven and well documented model for improving food security and minimizing food waste.

Hope's Harvest RI is Rhode Island's first gleaning project. Hope's Harvest RI started gleaning in the 2018 growing season and is fiscally sponsored by [Farm Fresh Rhode Island](#), a registered 501c3 organization.

Volunteers sign up for specific farm trips where they spend 2 - 3 hours harvesting food that is donated to local food banks. After you register as a volunteer, you will be informed of when trips are available and given the opportunity to register. Visit

[<https://hopesharvest.org/bringing-local-bounty-to-people-in-need/volunteers-glean-food/volunteer-information/>] to learn how to register.

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Ann-Marie Bausserman, Office Relief Secretary
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker
Haley Jamroz Baccaire, ASL Interpreter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video Link for Sunday Service: If you would like to watch the Sunday worship services Jamie and Stephen create, go to Stephen's YouTube Page 3pigsfly. There you will find both the current weekly offering, as well as past services from prior weeks. Susan Lepore will also be posting them to Facebook and our website at www.fbcia.org.
Page link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLinI4s_X9s3mWz9phDdOliag7egRshvGF

Zoom Coffee Hour: Please don't forget to join us on the First Sunday of each month at 11:00 am for a Zoom Coffee Hour. We begin in a Zoom room with all participants then we divide into random small groups to meet and chat. Some groups may have members and friends we may not know because they sat on the opposite side of the church from us. It's a great way to meet and greet new members and new friends. The link will be sent out along with the service info. That keeps the zoom link from going online where anyone could find it.