

THE SPIRE

First Baptist Church in America Newsletter
July 2024



In June, we joined with several other Rhode Island American Baptist Churches from across the state in hosting a table at PrideFest. We were warmly received by festival goers, many of whom were pleasantly surprised to find affirming Baptists on the grounds. Congregations of many other faiths and denominations were also present with tables. We passed out cookies, dog treats, stickers, and information on welcoming RI Baptist congregations.



Free mom hugs were on offer for the duration of the festival. If you are interested in a “This Baptist Loves You” t-shirt, we have a few remaining. Please let Pastor Jamie know.

We look forward to continuing to partner with our Baptist kindred in welcoming all of God’s children into our churches.

On Sunday, June 30th, the Rev. Dr. Angela Yarber made a stop at the Meeting House on her New England book and preaching tour.

The sign for the Garden of Earthy Delights is in fabrication; we hope to have installed before the end of summer. We are in the process of assembling Adirondack chairs for the garden and will host a painting party later this month. If you haven’t stopped by the raised beds lately, do so! Sugar snap peas, strawberries, nasturtiums, mint, dill, and salad greens are all ready for the picking! Happy grazing!



Enjoy these beautiful summer days.

Pastor Jamie

75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401.454.3418
Website: fbcia.org
Email: fbcia1638@gmail.com



On April 25th Lena Gates turned 90 years young. The church had a cake and sang to her on Sunday, April 29th after the worship service.



In response to the idea of Karen Bell, on June 9th an assembly line prepared "Blessing Bags" with water, food, socks, and other items for folks to give to needy individuals, such as those standing on the corners of intersections begging for help.



On a bright and sunny Sunday, June 16, ("Father's Day,") Pastor Jamie engaged the children about honoring their parents.



She also urged the adults to model the kind of person that they wanted the children to become.



Rev. Dr. Angela Yarber was the guest preacher on June 30. She was on a book and sermon tour, and was the author of several books addressing the intersection of religion, gender/sexuality, and the arts.



Pastor Jamie Washam presided at the presentation of Keilla Mercy Keza to the church for dedication on June 30, accompanied by members of her family including her mother Georgette Munyampirwa, sister Ella Teta, her grandmother, Mukashema Francine and uncle, Georges visiting from California.

Missions Committee – July

Summer Camp Donations

We have 11 children attending Camp Wightman the week of August 11. Some of the campers need supplies to ensure that they have a great experience, and we are asking for donations to help cover the costs. If you are interested in assisting, please be sure to indicate “Camp” on your check or in the notes of your online donation.

Roger Williams Attic

We will be holding our Roger Williams Attic sale on Saturday, September 14. The proceeds will support the missions trip to Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana. Please begin gathering any items that you wish to donate. We will be providing more details regarding where and when to drop off your items (likely to begin around the 3rd week of August). As a reminder, we will not be accepting any clothing items for the sale.

The First Baptist Church in America
 75 North Main Street
 Providence, RI 02903
 Phone: 401-454-3418
 E-Mail: fbcia1638@gmail.com
 Website: www.fbcia.org

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washam, Pastor
 Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music
 Holly Edwards, Administrative Assistant
 Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
 Tony Zambarano, Sexton
 Ary Peralta, Sunday Sexton
 Victoria Pfanstiehl, ASL Interpreter

Statement of Welcome

Roger Williams gathered the First Baptist Church in America in 1638 on the bedrock of religious liberty, with its principles of soul freedom and the separation of church and state. Together, we continue our ministry of welcome and liberation.

This congregation honors its Baptist heritage. Many of our members are lifelong Baptists and others come from varied denominational and religious backgrounds. We welcome all people of every age, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, cultural background, socio-economic status, mental or physical ability, marital status, and any other distinctions of society. We are diverse people united in Christ. We remain a safe harbor.

JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Summer Fun Event

**Camp Canonicus Pavilion
 54 Exeter Road, Exeter**

Wednesday, July 24 from 11 - 2

For a Potluck Picnic Lunch



There is no agenda, just an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones around a table of delicious food provided by you. (It is a potluck!)
Spend a day in conversation, walking the grounds, playing games and to sense your belonging in all God has made
Bring a friend, women from you church, from your neighborhood and from your family.
If you care for children during the day, bring them along. Its all Free!

Hope to see you there.