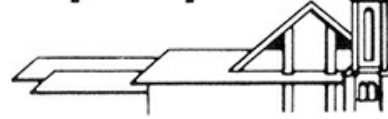


THE BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

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Visit our Website

Join Us for Sundays at First Baptist Church in Beverly

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

REMINDER: Our Sunday worship services have been moved to an online format for Sunday, March 29th. Please join us via our First Baptist Church Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistBeverly>) page on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. and watch for a live pastoral reflection and gift of music. We will also post an edited and more polished version of this same video for the weekly Bulletin and webpage. For more information on this topic and to stay informed about all COVID-19 related changes and announcements, please go to <http://www.fbcbeverly.org/covid-19-and-temporary-closure-at-first-baptist-in-beverly/>

10:00am: Join us LIVE on our Facebook page for reflections from our ministerial team and for a worship experience!

(This video will ALSO then be available to watch at any time following on our Facebook page and website.)

Lent as a Time to Serve

Rev. John DeNardo, preaching

Scripture: John 13:12-15, 33-35

Ring the bells
that still can ring

Forget your
perfect offering

There is a crack
in everything

that's how
the light
gets in.

- Leonard Cohen

A Note from Rev. John DeNardo

My church family, as you know I will be taking a position as pastor at FBC Winchester. This Sunday will be my last time with you. I'm really looking forward to sharing in the worship service and giving the message on my last Sunday. Given the restrictions from the state of Massachusetts, instead of the service being live streamed from Facebook Live from the sanctuary, this week it will be live streamed from my home! So I invite you all at 10:00 into my home, into our worship service and into the presence of God.

The past three years I have spent with you (as a member and more recently as an interim), are precious to me and have helped to shape and form me as a follower of Jesus and as a pastor. Thank you! I will continue to cherish in my heart the experiences I have had here and the relationships I have formed. See you this Sunday on Facebook Live!

Appreciation to John DeNardo: UPDATED INFO

We wish our Interim Minister John DeNardo well as he prepares to embark on the next steps of his journey, as minister of the First Baptist Church in Winchester, MA. John's last official day with First Baptist Beverly is Sunday, March 29th; however, we know that now, as we live in this uncertain time of the coronavirus crisis, we will not be able to physically gather together on that day to offer our thanks and appreciation to John or to celebrate his new call with him.

We encourage you, of course, to reach out to John by email (jdenardo@fbcbeverly.org) or by phone to express your thanks and to say goodbye; but we wanted to ALSO let our church family know that we will make plans, once we are on the other side of this experience with COVID-19, to bring John back for a time of thanks and celebration together - stay tuned for this to be scheduled in the future! You can trust, however, that there WILL BE a chance, when we are all together again, to celebrate and to say goodbye and to say thank-you to John for his good work and ministry in our midst!

Worship Updates in Light of the Stay-At-Home Advisory and COVID-19

Right now, in the midst of the evolving COVID-19 crisis in our wider community, Kent and Julie are working each day to make sure that the church is also learning and evolving with the changing needs and new information that keeps coming out about the virus and our community and state response to its spread.

That means that, for a time, we will continue to see evolution in the ways in which we connect and worship, as well. As you know, we announced that through March 29th, worship would not take place physically or in person and would move to virtual worship, shown live on our Facebook page and then posted in a more polished form, thanks to Dick Stone, to our website and Facebook page later in the week.

At that time, we had hoped to be able to be physically back together for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We now know that this will not be possible – so Julie and Kent are hard at work planning for Palm Sunday and Holy Week experiences and what those will look like in this wilderness time *as well as* suggested ways for you to participate and be part of it and observe these holy times at home. Those details will be forthcoming, but we do want to be sure that folks know that there will be **no physical gathering for worship on Sunday, April 5th. We WILL continue to air a virtual worship experience at 10:00 a.m., although with some changes. We are planning too for a meaningful Easter Worship (in the likely event that we will not be able to gather). Watch the web site and next week's Bulletin for updates.**

Because of the Stay-At-Home advisory, the church staff are no longer able to film all together in the sanctuary, so you can expect a reflection from the scheduled preacher for each day live at 10:00 a.m. There will also be prayer, scripture, and a small message for children from the preacher at that time. We are currently in the process of working on new and creative ways to then STILL release a video with a fuller worship experience, and that includes all clergy, as well as Esther Chang, early in the week.

We know that it can be very difficult to feel like things are so in flux right now. We want to cling to some certainty in the midst of changing times and events. We hope that what *will* and *does* remain for you as the certainty is that we remain the church, together. We remain a community of believers, dedicated to the love of God and one another. We remain a church family, strong in our conviction that love can travel across distance, and that we remain connected at heart, even when we are not able to be together in person. We remain strong in our faith that God is love, and whoever loves and shows love for others helps God to live in our midst. We can and will continue to do all these things. We can and will remain a family. We can and will worship God abundantly, together in these new ways, together in this wilderness place.

There may be a crack, right now, in the ways in which we *want* to do things; in the ways in which we are *longing* to do things...and yet, still, the light can find its way in. The light of God's love. The light of our community. The light of creativity. The light that will lead us forth, when the stone is rolled away, when we pour forth from our houses, and find our way back together. What a celebration that will be.

In the meantime, friends, we remain committed to you and to our community. Contact your pastoral team with any pastoral needs or questions via email or cell. We remain committed to new and creative ways of worship and of being together. We remain committed to our mutual love and care.

Shalom and love,
Julie and Kent

COVID-19 and Temporary Closure at First Baptist in Beverly

Due to public health concern, the First Baptist office will be closed for the until further notice. The pastoral staff: Julie Flowers, Kent Harrop will be working remotely. Any pastoral concerns, contact either Julie or Kent directly.

Julie: jflowers@fbcbeverly.org or cell: 617-692-0477 (call or text)

Kent: kharrop@fbcbeverly.org or 971-237-0583

Facebook Live Events:

Each week, we will post live opportunities for the church family to gather.

Sundays 10:00 am: Facebook Live Worship

Tuesdays 1:00 pm Facebook Live Kids' Time

Join minister Julie Flowers live on our Facebook page at 1:00pm on Tuesdays for a kids' connection time just for you! (You can bring your grownups, too!)

Join us live at 1:00pm or watch anytime when the video is saved on our Facebook page!

Thursday morning 10:00am -10:30am: First Baptist Drop-In Virtual Coffee Time:

Jump onto a Zoom call with your morning coffee or snack and spend a little time in a virtual coffee hour with our church family! See details below!

Fridays 1:00 pm: Facebook Live Contemplative Practice and Music Sessions (alternating)

A variety of inspiring programs (stories, reflections, music).

First Baptist Drop-In Virtual Coffee Time: Thursday, March 26th, at 10:00 a.m.

We may not be able to have a coffee time all together in person, but we can still drop-in and see one another this way! Grab your morning coffee or tea and pop in to Julie's virtual Zoom Coffee Break from 10-10:30 a.m. on Thursday! All are welcome, and you should be able to join from a smartphone or computer, just by clicking on the meeting link below!

Topic: First Baptist Drop-In Coffee Time

Time: Mar 26, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/758465883?pwd=U2VrWXJCaStpcHJNT1lDWXlJMnhYZz09>

Meeting ID: 758 465 883

Password: 186570

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,758465883# US (New York)

+13126266799,,758465883# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656

+1 312 626 6799

+1 301 715 8592

+1 346 248 7799

+1 669 900 9128

+1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 758 465 883

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/apQhSVKoz>

Youth Fellowship, Choirs, Small Groups and Committees

All church gatherings in our church building will be cancelled until further notice. This includes small groups, choirs, youth groups, committees. Some groups/committees may choose to stay connected via email, conference calls or ZOOM. For more information please visit : <http://www.fbcbeverly.org/covid-19-and-temporary-closure-at-first-baptist-in-beverly/>

Lenten Season and Holy Week 2020

Lent is a six-week season of reflection. A time to reflect on attitudes and behaviors that separate us from God and to try on new and life-giving ways of growing spiritually. Lent leads us to the promise of Easter.

Our Lenten Theme: "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." -Leonard Cohen, poet and musician.

Our Theme, Described: To be human is to be wounded, broken, or "cracked" in some way. Such moments can create space for the presence of God, the light of the Spirit, and the voice of Jesus to enter into our lives and to offer healing and hope, challenge and change.

As we walk together and live together in what is, surely, a time of a "literal Lent," a time with some wilderness moments and some moments of really separation and even loneliness, let us continue to strive, in all ways, to be the church, together. Check in on one another. Send love and prayer out into the world. Let your ministers know what your needs might be. We are walking through a wilderness time together, it is true. And yet, despite the cracks in everything, we know - we trust - that with God's love and with the gift and company of one another, even still, the light *will* get in.

Our Lent 2020 planning was done by the Spiritual Life Team (Bryan Vosseler, Karen Wood, Lisa LaPlante, Marty Lincoln, Barbara Brann-Weir, Cassie Bartolo, Shaina Stevens, and Rev. Kent Harrop).

Feeding Neighbors with Love

Each Monday evening at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., meals are prepared from the FBC Kitchen. Due to COVID-19 situation, meals are being served in to-go bags. Serving meals to neighbors in need is considered essential by the Governor and by Mayor Cahill, which allows our kitchen to remain open. These meals for neighbors in need is a practical way of sharing God's love during these challenging times. Thank you to the team of volunteers who make this all possible. Special thanks to John and Eileen Hadley for coordinating this ministry. John and Eileen are so generous with their time and have a passion for ensuring that our neighbors are well fed. If you'd like to volunteer, email John Hadley at: jh254@outlook.com Pictured below two of our volunteers: Cindy Shupp and John Hadley



A Weekly Blog of Hope

Kent Harrop invites you to check out his weekly blog 'Green Preacher'. In recent weeks, Kent's been writing on how faith can speak into the dislocation many of us feel during this public health crisis. To read, go to: <https://greenpreacherblog.com/>

A Challenge to all Wrapped in Love Prayer Shawl Committee members

Since we are doing Worship in place where we are, Let all of us spend at least 1-2 hours on what would be Prayer Shawl Sunday, knitting & crocheting in place, as we hold the prayers and intentions of our church family and of and for our world in our hearts. Thanks you to all our members for your craft and for your love and for your abundant prayers!

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, March 26

10:00-10:30am: Facebook Live: Zoom Coffee Hour for Church Family

Friday, March 27

1:00pm: Facebook Live: Contemplative Practice and Music Sessions

Saturday, March 28

12:30pm: Lunch Program (Boxed meals to-go meals will be provided from the gym)

Sunday, March 29

10:00am: Facebook Live: FBC's Pastoral Reflections

Monday, March 30

6:00pm: Monday Night Supper (Boxed meals to-go meals will be provided from the gym)

Tuesday, March 31

9:30am: Virtual Staff Meeting
1:00 pm: Facebook Live Kids' Time

Check out all of FBC Beverly's sermons at fbcbeverly.org/sermons

Virtual Worship Service
Sunday, March 22nd

***All Will Be Well, and All Will Be Well,
and All Manner of Things Shall Be
Well***

Rev. Julie Flowers, coordinating

*Dialogue sermon by Rev. Julie and Kent;
musical offering by Esther Chang.*



[First Baptist Church in Beverly](https://www.fbcbeverly.org) | 978-922-3295 | bulletin@fbcbeverly.org | www.fbcbeverly.org

STAY CONNECTED

