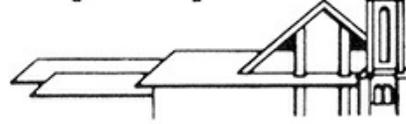


THE BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

Ministers:

[Rev. Julie R. Flowers](#)

[Rev. Kent D. Harrop](#)

[Rev. Richard Harris](#), Interim Ministry Consultant

Director of Music: [Dr. Esther Chang](#)

Office Manager: [Pat Haight](#)

HNS Director: [Jennifer Baez](#)

HCP Director: [Andrew DeFranza](#)

Treasurer: [John Thomson](#)

Facilities Manager: [Jeremy Weir](#)

Communications Associate: [Mary Powers](#)

Visit our Website

Join Us for Sundays at First Baptist Church in Beverly

*Sunday, April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday!*

REMINDER: For more information and to stay informed about all COVID-19 related changes and announcements, please go to www.fbcbeverly.org/covid-19-and-temporary-closure-at-first-baptist-in-beverly/

10:00am: Virtual Easter Sunday Worship! Join on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistBeverly) or website (www.fbcbeverly.org/sermons/) for reflections from your ministerial team of Julie Flowers and Kent Harrop with special music by Esther Chang with Jenn Bobzin as soloist. Please note that the components for this Sunday's worship will be pre-recorded from the Sanctuary and be posted at 10:00 a.m. on Easter morning, that we might all watch and sing together!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

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

Being Easter People

Rev. Kent Harrop

Scripture: John 20: 1 - 18



Journeying Through Holy Week in Changing Times

To our Beloved Church Family,

This week, together with our siblings in Christ all around the world, we are moving through that most sacred time of the Christian year: Holy Week.

And, this week, together with our siblings in Christ all around the world, we are doing so in the midst of a global pandemic; in the midst of changing and uncertain times unlike any of us have seen in our lifetime. It would be tempting, perhaps, to fall into despair at the events of our times. To become mired in the sorrow of what can feel like an unending Good Friday of grief and loss, or to become stuck in the tomb-quiet silence of our streets and world – a perpetual Holy Saturday.

There is grief in these days, to be sure. There is fear, and there is uncertainty. All of these emotions were present, too, in that first Holy Week, as Jesus and his disciples lived out the final days of his earthly life and ministry. The story of God's people was being written then, and it continues to be written now, in and with us. As we move through our Holy Week this year, perhaps it is an invitation for us to enter into and explore the moments of that Holy Week story – to feel, alongside the disciples, the confusion and uncertainty, coupled and mixed with their love and their hopeful expectation that things would yet be ok; their trust in their friend and teacher, Jesus, that love *would* conquer in the end – even when things felt dark and they felt lost. There is an invitation for us, too, to examine and to reclaim, in these coming days, the fullness of the *season* of Eastertide – the time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost.

In modern Christian tradition, so much of the celebration of Easter has become focused on the *day* of Easter – and it is right and good to celebrate the triumph of God's unending love on that day. *However*, we have, in some ways, lost our focus on the reality that, in early Christian tradition, Easter was a *season* of life – it was an unfolding of days, an unfolding of revelation and understanding about the fullness of Jesus' life and story. All was *not* revealed on that first Easter Day. Indeed, on that day, we find Mary Magdalene alone and weeping in the garden; we see her confusion when she first encounters the Risen Christ; we find the disciples locked away in fear in a hidden room; we find other followers of Jesus walking in sorrow along the road to Emmaus, believe all is lost; and through it all, *in an unfolding of days*, the Risen Jesus keeps showing up in their midst, saying "Peace be with you."

Peace be with you. In the moments of grief: *peace be with you.* In the moments of fear: *peace be with you.* In the moments of loneliness: *peace be with you.* In the moments of uncertainty: *peace be with you.* In this unfolding Holy Week and into our Eastertide season: *peace be with you.*

This Holy Week, we will have opportunities to come together, in virtual ways, as a church family. It is our hope that these will be ways of helping to bring that reminder of God's peace and love to and for us all. We will have a Live Kids' Time on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. We will have virtual coffee breaks on both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. We will have a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening. We will have a Good Friday time of contemplation and reflection at 1:00 p.m. AND we will have Easter worship, posted to our webpage and our Facebook page at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday. (You can find links or more information/invitations to these events in this Bulletin.) Though we cannot be together in person this Holy Week, we can and we will continue to be together at heart – reminding one another of the ever-present message of Jesus: *peace be with you.*

However, this Holy Week, we are inviting you to two other ways of being connected in and at heart with our church family. First, we are inviting each person to pull out your church directory and look to the person's name listed below yours and just give that person a call – an old-fashioned phone call, just to check in and say hello. If you don't have a directory handy at home and would like to participate in this Holy Week Phone Tree, please email Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org and she can give you a name of a fellow church family member to call. Second, we are inviting you to look for the places and spaces and ways in which God is breaking through in your life this week, offering that message of reassurance: *peace be with you.* Take or draw or paint a picture of that space or place or thing or person that gives you that feeling of connectedness, and send it to us – we will share as many as we receive with our church family, as another way of being connected with one another.

We *also* would *love* to see your Easter Day pictures – so on Easter, take a picture of your Risen Christ moment or your celebratory moment – because Easter Day will dawn, no matter what our temporary circumstance – the Risen Christ *will be* loose in the world! Love will conquer! The stone will be rolled away! Whatever captures the essence of that message on Easter Day, for you, please send us a picture and let us share in your Resurrection moment.

This Holy Week and beyond, may the message of the Risen One break through, again and again and again: *peace be with you.*

Shalom and much love,

Julie and Kent

Opportunities to Connect Virtually Via Zoom

We may not be able to have a coffee time all together in person, but we can still drop-in and see one another in this way! You can join in a Zoom gathering EVEN WITHOUT a Zoom account. You will do so by clicking the link for the given event you wish to join, and then allowing it to run on your computer or smartphone/device. You will then need to click to allow use of your audio and again to allow use of your video. You may be prompted to enter a Password, which is included with the posted event information, as needed. You can also use the phone numbers include below to CALL IN, even without access to internet or a computer/smartphone. We hope that you will join us!

Wednesday Evening Virtual Drop-In Coffee Time with Kent:

Topic: First Baptist Church in Beverly Virtual Coffee Time

Time: Apr 8, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961803909?pwd=VFavaW5meGlvL1FzU1pSSEpzSDNUUTo9>

Meeting ID: 961 803 909

Password: 756034

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,961803909# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 961 803 909

Thursday Morning Virtual Coffee Break:

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!

Open to any FBC friends who would like to drop by!

NOTE: Zoom has made some changes to enhance and improve security of gatherings and meetings. For all Zoom sessions, participants will now need to enter the meeting id and/or password provided. This information is included with the meeting invitation link and info.

Topic: Virtual Coffee Break

Time: Apr 9, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/587493462?pwd=K3dGZohxOWdzboNrVm9nSWZLQmFBZz09>

Meeting ID: 587 493 462

Password: 779015

One tap mobile

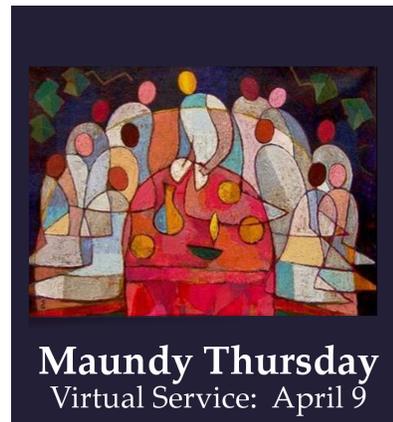
+13126266799,,587493462# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,587493462# US (New York)

Virtual Tenebrae Service for Maundy Thursday

All church members and friends are invited to join together in a virtual service of worship at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 9th, as we observe Maundy Thursday and remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

The service will be a BYOC (Bring Your Own Communion) experience – all who log in are invited to come prepared with your own elements – something for the bread and something for the cup. If you have bread and grape juice, that will work, but so, too, will *any other elements* that you have handy in your home. As Baptists, it is the *symbolism* of the bread and the cup that is most central – the elements are not themselves the ritual; instead, they are symbols that *point to* something larger and deeper than themselves. For example, you could use bread and juice... or crackers and water...or animal crackers and milk... whatever is handy in your home. We will have the opportunity to share in the



Communion meal together during our service of worship.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this beautiful and meaningful service of worship, this time for us to be connected and to hear the story of the Passion and to share in a meal and to share a sense of community and love.

You can access this service for any computer or smartphone/tablet device by clicking on the link provided in the information below – or by calling in via phone if you do not have internet access. You will need to enter the meeting id and password provided below, as well.

We look forward to this opportunity to gather together for this special service of worship.

Login/Call-In Info is Below:

Topic: Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Time: Apr 9, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/567420266?pwd=aURtUUVIS3lmVnJqSoRlalZEd1Z4UT09>

Meeting ID: 567 420 266

Password: 004458

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,567420266# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,567420266# US (New York)

How are you observing Holy Week and Eastertide? Share your photos!

This beautiful Easter Tree was created by Beverly, Ellen, and Alison Powers! (Thank you, Powers family, for sharing your joyful tree with us!)

In these days when we cannot be together in person, we love hearing from folks and seeing the ways that they are marking and observing this Holy Week and Eastertide time. We love to be connected in heart in this way!

Have you been marking this week in any special way? Send us pictures (you can email them to jflowers@fbcbeverly.org) to share with the FBC Community! We'd all love to hear from you!



Giving to FBC during the shutdown

The next several weeks appear to be crucial in controlling the spread of the Coronavirus outbreak, and our most important priority is to maintain social distancing and stay as safe as we can. Since the church building has been closed and worship services have been moved online, some people have asked how they may continue to make donations to the church. We realize that many people are out of work, retired folks have seen their income dwindle, and others are facing financial concerns, but for those who would like to make a pledge payment, a special offering or a general donation during these difficult times, here are some suggestions:

- 1) You can mail your check to First Baptist Church , 221 Cabot Street, Beverly MA 01915. Please note on the memo line whether your check is a pledge or donation. Enclosing a single “pledge envelope”, if you have one, would be helpful but not necessary.
- 2) Another way to make a donation but without going outside is to contact your bank about setting up an online bank payment. These can be regular (monthly, for instance) or one-time, and this is usually a free service where the bank sends a physical check directly to the church on your behalf. People who have already taken advantage of this arrangement have found it very easy and convenient.
- 3) In mid-March the church mailed out a letter with an envelope titled “I’ve seen the Lord” for our traditional Easter offering. This is not part of the pledge but is an additional offering collected on Easter Sunday in the past. If you wish to make this offering, please note on your check that it’s an Easter offering.
- 4) The church also has a “Donate” button on its website at www.fbcbeverly.org/donate

This way of donating is a little more difficult to record (please be sure to indicate what the donation is for) and there is a modest processing charge deducted. However, during this time, it may be the easiest way for folks to give - and we welcome, with gratitude, your generous gifts!

The church appreciates those who are able to contribute at this time but certainly understands that many people in the congregation are facing difficult times financially and on many other levels. We’re grateful to our staff who have continued to provide so many creative ways for us to worship and remain in contact with each other. We pray that all will be safe in the days ahead and look forward with great anticipation to welcoming everyone back into our beloved sanctuary to worship together once again.

Kitchen Ministry at FBC

Each Saturday at 12:30 pm and Monday at 6 pm tasty and nutritious meals are served at FBC for our neighbors. Each week more people are being served (takeout meals for social distancing). To volunteer email John Hadley at jh254@msn.com.



Kitchen Ministry Coordinators
and chief cooks
Eileen and John Hadley



Gail Anderson cooking with love



Takeout FBC Style

AMOS Health and Hope and COVID-19

FBC is a partner congregation of AMOS, a public health ministry in Nicaragua. Last week Kent Harrop attended a virtual board meeting for AMOS and learned the following about the emerging COVID-19 crisis in Nicaragua. He learned: The Nicaraguan government has taken few steps to control or mitigate the effects of the virus. While initial numbers are low for those with the virus, it is expected that numbers will surge in the months to come. The government health system is limited and it will fall to groups like AMOS to make up the difference. Resources are limited with approximately 32 ventilators for a country of 6 million people. AMOS serves 74,000 people in two urban clinics and 23 rural clinics. The staff are being trained and resourced to respond. Please keep our AMOS leaders Dr. David and Dr. Laura Parajon, our American Baptist medical missionaries and Dr. Gabriella Woo, Country Director, in your prayers. The AMOS staff is putting themselves at risk because there is no one else to serve. They take to heart the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40 'Whatever you do unto the most vulnerable among you, you do unto me'. To learn more go to AMOSHealth.org



Pictured are members of a support group for neighbors with chronic health issues, served by the AMOS clinic in Managua. Your support for AMOS ensures such programs continue.

Calling All Artists

Our theme for Lent and Holy Week is "*There is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.*" This line from the poet and musician Leonard Cohen, reminds us that during the difficult times in life, there is *always* a way in which the light gets in. This truth is found in our faith where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world," and then, when he is speaking about the church, he says, "let your light shine into the darkness." We are inviting all the artists of the church of all ages (and, we are all artists), over these next several weeks while we are physically apart, to create works of art that reflect how your hopes and experience of light, are illuminating the world. Feel free to use any medium that works for you: paints, crayons, clay, photography, collage, etc. When we are able to return to being physically together in our church building, we will host an *FBC Art Show* that will celebrate the theme of the light getting in!

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](tel:617-692-0477)

Kent: kharrop@fbcbeverly.org or [971-237-0583](tel:971-237-0583)

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/>

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/>

Coming Up at FBC



Wednesday, April 8

7:00-7:45pm: Virtual Drop-In Coffee Time for Church Family via Zoom

Thursday, April 9 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

10:00-11:00am: Virtual Drop-In Coffee Time for Church Family via Zoom
7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Worship Service via Zoom

Friday, April 10 - GOOD FRIDAY

1:00pm: Facebook Live: Contemplative Practice with Kent

Saturday, April 11 - HOLY SATURDAY

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

Sunday, April 12 - EASTER SUNDAY

10:00am: Easter Worship posted to both the Church Facebook and FBC website

Monday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 14

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, April 5th

Let the Rocks and Stones Sing!

Rev. Julie Flowers, preaching

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Video editing by Pam Constantine



First Baptist Church in Beverly | 978-922-3295 | bulletin@fbcbeverly.org | www.fbcbeverly.org

STAY CONNECTED

