

The Messenger

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Westfield



It has been a long summer at our church and now the Fall is upon us! We've suffered heartbreak at our brother and sisters who have passed. We have suffered heartbreak at others who have chosen to find another church family and spiritual home. Through it all God has been faithful and so has the church. God has been our rock and our fortress, we shall not be moved.

Now we look to the Fall and wonder what will it bring. Many of us have begun preparing our homes for the new season - the summer foliage, crops are done and new ones are being planted. Annuals are dying and some perennials are done blooming until next spring. With the colder weather, summer clothes are put away and warmer clothes come out. Changes are good! Everything has a season and there is a time for every purpose under heaven.

As we look to October, November and December we look forward to new initiatives: A Spanish Bible study; noon prayer time every Wednesday will now be Bible study with prayer.

Our October worship and preaching theme: *Fall Into Praise* as we need to help elevate our spirit in the worship of God. Sing praises unto God sing praises!

Our November worship and preaching theme: **Cultivating Grateful Hearts it does the spirit good.**

Our Advent and Christmas worship and preaching theme: **The Gift Goes On!**

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS:

Sunday, 10/14 - Hacklebarney Walk, meet at the entrance of the park at 2; bring a brown bag lunch!



Wednesday, 10/17 - Self Control and Spiritual Disciplines 5-week Mini-Course; 6 p.m. in the lounge

Sunday, 10/28 - Agape Potluck Lunch; bring a dish to share and enjoy meeting new friends.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS:

Sábado, 11/3 - Estudio Bíblico en español, 9 a.m.- *será este el mejor tiempo?*



Sunday, 11/11 - Church Scattered and Church Gathered; look for more details soon.

Wednesday, 11/14 - Thanksgiving Dinner with the Church Family, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, 11/25 - Agape Potluck Lunch!

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS:

Come and celebrate Advent and Christmas at FBC of Westfield!



Traditional lighting of Advent Candles - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Christmas Festival on 12/2 Special Music and singing; children's choir and children's pageant on 12/23.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on 12/24 at 7:30 p.m.

Get connected, get involved, put the activities on your calendar, and factor God in your life! Don't wait until another day or another month, or another year...life is fragile, handle with prayer.

- - Pastor Mayra

Come and sing a joyful song unto the Lord every Sunday!

Join the choir

Join the bell choir



There's always room for you!

**Speak to Michael Rosin if interested—
you'll be glad you did!**

CE

As the new school year begins it seems as though we all get a little bit busier. But we must not forget to always put God first and always enrich our lives with Christian education. As reported, the mission trip was a great success—full of hard work and helping those affected by the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. The Wednesday noon prayer group continues to meet on a consistent basis but the group will be transitioning into a formal Bible study in October that will begin with the book of Romans. Pastor Mayra is planning to start a Spanish-speaking bible study to meet the needs of our Spanish speaking church members as well as the community. The exact date and times are still being determined. A mini course will also be starting up soon on Wednesday evenings. This mini course will focus on spiritual disciplines.

Sunday school continues each Sunday with our FBC children. The Sunday school teachers along with Pastor Mayra have been discussing implementing a new interactive curriculum. The new curriculum is called Dig-in, which provides an creative, multisensory teaching that will immerse our FBC kids in deep bible learning, helping them to know Jesus personally and grow in relationship with him! Next Sunday, October 7th we will be having a fun “Welcome Fall” theme Sunday school with goodies and fun activities for our children!

Youth group continued throughout the summer months with many fun activities! As the fall has begun, the youth group met three times, with new youth attending each time. Praise God! In the summer, the youth group went down to Brick, NJ to continue mission work by those still affected by past hurricanes. The youth will be going to the County Fair at Hillside Park to volunteer for the NJ workshop that works closely with the youth group as they provide the entertainment for the Valentine’s Day dinner. The youth is also planning their variety show fundraiser that will be sometime in early winter! Youth group dinner is provided for our youth group every Sunday night. If you would like to donate money towards a meal and/or prepare a meal for our youth speak with Glen.

Looking ahead towards Christmas and the holiday season, which will be here before you know it, the Christian Education Committee will be hosting a Christmas Festival on December 2nd following worship. Also, the children will once again be putting on their Christmas Pageant during the worship service on December 23rd!

The Christian Education Committee’s mission is to ensure that our youngest to our oldest continue to learn and grow in their faith. I am so pleased with the many happenings to increase Christian education here at FBC and I look forward to what God has planned for us.

--Allison Johnson , Christian Education Chair

Deacons...

With fall comes beautiful changes to the colors of the scenery around us and a change to our calendar too! Agape lunch has moved to the *last* Sunday of each month following worship and remains a potluck. So, bring in something delicious; perhaps something representing your ethnic background that can be something new for our taste buds!

Many blessings to Jeff Morris, Olivia Morris and Olivia Rosario who were baptized in September (pics on pg 5). If you have been thinking about baptism, please speak to Pastor Mayra.

We continue to receive prayer requests and provide support to all those who have suffered loss, hospitalization and any other needs we can meet as a loving family in Christ. Because of the great command to support and love one another, we hope to establish a CARE Team. This team will be the core responders for the needs that arise within our congregation – hospitalizations, loss, assistance with appointments, documents, household obligations. At first glance, this can seem like a lot, but there will be training where you will gain a better understanding of how we can manage these things and more as a team. If you are interested in joining and learning more about this team, please contact Rev. Suleima Rosario-Diaz at 201.424.2802 or suleima929@yahoo.com. Know that being part of this team does not mean you are "on call" at a moments notice. I encourage you to take a leap of faith and join this team!

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. – Galatians 6:2

~Rev. Suleima Rosario-Diaz, Deacon Chair



From our Mission Committee Chair

Thanks to all who participated in the back to school drive for the Salvation Army! Your generous donations made the start of the school year much easier for children and families in need.

ESL is back in session! Classes began on Tuesday September 25 and continue through November 27, from 6:30-8:30pm. This fall we have 18 students and 17 tutors signed up. If you are interested in participating as a tutor please contact Rintu Matthew.

Please continue to support our efforts to feed the hungry. Cereal is still a much needed item.

Nancy Martin is our new Family Promise coordinator. We continue to need helpers for this program. Please contact Nancy if you are able to help cook or deliver meals.

Stay tuned for upcoming information on our fall and winter programs - Church Gathered, Church Scattered and our annual fall Blood Drive. In addition, our Thanksgiving baskets and Angel Tree Program are traditions of FBC that have always been a congregation favorite.

May God bless all. The Mission Committee looks forward to engaging you in giving back to our community.

Cheryl Rosario, Mission Chair

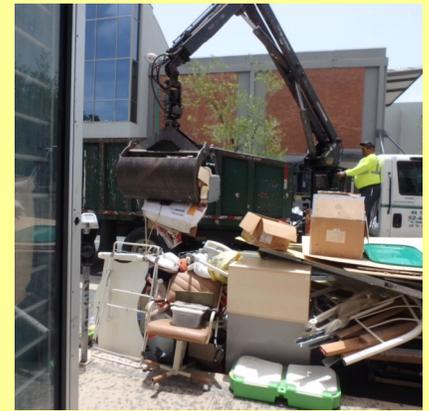
Hacklebarney Walk!!

Sunday, October 14 - meet at the park at 2pm.



Bring a bag lunch and join us at this beautiful State Park for fellowship and reflection.

Church-Wide Mission Trip to Puerto Rico Rebuilding, Renewing August 5-11, 2018



- Oct 2** Cherie Parker
Arianna Martinez
- Oct 5** Talia Neiman
- Oct 6** Randy Hansen
- Oct 7** Coleman Scott
- Oct 10** Julie Morris
- Oct 13** Alexandra Lambros
- Oct 20** Natasha Klochkova
- Oct 21** Dot Waugh
- Oct 23** Isaac Castañeda
- Oct 27** Zephaniah Odogbili
Cheryl Rosario
- Oct 31** Janet Gabriel

And a **Happy Anniversary** to

- Oct 2** Charles & Casandra Lerant
- Oct 14** Bill & Michele Hopkins
- Oct 24** Mayra & Isaac Castañeda



- Nov. 1 Christopher Spinner
- Nov. 5 Wendell Scott
- Nov. 8 Sneha Kakileti
- Nov. 13 Lil Wheeler
- Nov. 15 Don Turlington
- Nov. 20 Sue Hecht
- Nov. 24 Paul Clark
Mallisa Odogbili
- Nov. 29 Lalitha Kakileti
- Nov. 30 Mary Dobos

And a **Happy Anniversary** to...

- Nov. 6 Glen & Jessy Brown
- Nov. 18 Chick & Marj Miller



- 12/4 Atossa Cicchino
- 12/6 Hilary Araujo
Warren Hanscom
- 12/8 Eliana Aristizabal
Iris Rosario
- 12/11 Trevor Morris
- 12/17 Alicia Lambros
- 12/20 Gillian Clark
- 12/23 Jaime Barton

And a **Happy Anniversary** to....

- 12/18 Jay & Lalitha Kakileti

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group has been meeting downstairs in Harvey Hall every Sunday from 9 am to 10am for 40 years! If you are little bit curious about what we do every Sunday, come downstairs, get a cup of coffee and join in the fun You can audit a meeting if you would like to know more about this First Baptist Church of Westfield outreach to the community.

Here is an example of questions discussed at meetings held in September.

- 09/02/18 - *What defines a classy person?* Bob Laudati
- 09/09/18 - *How would you get a job in today's market?* Fred Berkhardt
- 09/16/18 - *What document should you know by heart?* Casey Borchers
- 09/23/18 - *What motives you?* Burt Lubin
- 09/30/18 - *What words define you? What wisdom can you share?* Maryann Friscia

I hope to see you,
Sincerely,
Maryann Friscia

Baptisms of Olivia Morris,
Jeffrey Morris, Olivia Rosario,
September 16, 2018



FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD FUND THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH....

There is no other way around it and that is the way it has always been established throughout the ages. The Old Testaments and New Testament speak of giving cheerfully and of tithing as a obedient response to God's blessings in material possessions, monetary well-being and overall goodness. Tithing and offerings would open the window of heaven and allow God's overflow of blessing unto the giver (See Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

As we put together numbers for next year's budget, annual pledges from faithful people of God, members and friends of the congregation, are the basis. Your tithes and offerings carefully and prayerfully considered will fund the ministries of the congregation and of the church building were most of our activities happen.

Everyone who calls FBC of Westfield its spiritual home can and must pledge: youngest to oldest! A pledge is always done in faith, you can always adjust it if unforeseen circumstances happen.

- - Finance Committee

Stewardship Campaign begins Jan 6, 2019; Pledge Sunday is Feb 3, 2019.

Congratulations to:
Alexandra Lambros and Ary Mega on the birth of Arro,
born on May 4;



Mallisa Odogbili and Seth Neiman on the birth of Micah,
born on June 20.

Thank you to...



Elena Kruglyak (pictured to left, one of our ESL tutors, for weeding along the driveway;

Linda Johnson's help to set up for coffee and Agape Lunch;

Natasha for flower arrangements for ESL dinner;

Members of all of our rotations that keep our church flowing and glowing;

Judy Rust (pictured on right) for keeping the sanctuary up to date and organized.



Monday, October 29, 2-7pm, Fellowship Hall.
Call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword: WestfieldBaptist



Dudley Painter
1931—
2018

Caroline Siess
1932—
2018

Donna Lind
1952—
2018





FIRST BAPTIST WESTFIELD

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Michael Rosin

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Glen Brown

glen@wholestep.org

Nancy Lambros

firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net



ONGOING CALENDAR

Weekly, unless otherwise noted.

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Singles Fellowship

9:15 Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: Nursery, Sunday School and Children's choir following a brief Children's Moments during worship service.

11:30a.m. Prayer Team meets (*2nd Sunday ea month*)

5 p.m. Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

Wednesdays:

12Noon Prayer time in the sanctuary

Thursdays:

10:30 a.m. The Hearing Society Speech Reading Class

7:15/8pm Choir/Bell Rehearsals

Saturdays:

Women's Book Club (*monthly*)

Men's Breakfast (*monthly, 3rd Saturday, 9am*)



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mayra Castañeda, *Senior Pastor*

Michael Rosin, *Director of Music Ministries*

Glen Brown, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Nancy Lambros, *Church Administrator*

Monica Cano, *Custodian*

Devin Araujo, *Sound/Tech Aide*



OUR PURPOSE

Coming together in joyful worship,
we're here...

- To share the reality of God's love,
- To connect our lifestyles to Christian truth,
- And to put our faith into action through responding to needs in our community, nation, and world.