



The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

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for

Miracles

PASTOR'S COMMENTARY

The season is upon us to begin considering our own gratefulness for that which is and those who are a part of our lives. I want to take a moment to tell you about what I am grateful for here at First Baptist. I am most grateful for the people who are a part of my life by virtue of our various connections to this church. I hope it is obvious that I am grateful to and for all who are a part of the worshipping community here, you who I get to see frequently whether formally a member or less formally connected. There are others too, though, for whom I am thankful. As pastor here I get to spend time with other clergy in the area and even from around the country at ABC USA gatherings, region events, conferences, etc. I also have the joy of meeting people who reach out to us for assistance with financial needs or looking for someone to assist with pastoral celebrations who may never become formally a part of the church, but I get to spend a bit of time with them and send them on their way with a blessing from FBCR. More people pass into and out of my life and the life of FBCR at community events like the Pride Parade or even in the halls of our beautiful building during an event or program hosted by one of our user groups. The point is, I get to know a LOT of people and I'm grateful for the presence of each of them in my life, BUT there is simply no way I could mention the unique ways each shape the mission and vision of the church let alone my life. So forgive me for mentioning no names and for spending a few moments expressing my gratitude for something else.

I am grateful for the miracles I have encountered within the FBCR community. Let me tell you about the miracles:

Each and every Sunday morning I arrive at church with a full heart and a full mind. I probably make the final preparations for worship more chaotic than necessary sometimes by double and triple checking all the details of the service. I try to make sure all the *things* we need for worship like the chalice and paten, props for a children's sermon, etc. are in place; that all people involved in the service know their

roles in the service; that I am prepared for my own roles; and that we begin more or less on time – and yes – conclude on time. I often have my head down before the service and don't have much attention to be paid to things like making sure the coffee is on, the lights are up, people are being welcomed at the front door and all the little details that make FBC a warm congregation with whom to worship. Somehow though, despite my inattention in those moments, the things get done, the people arrive, and I consistently hear from first time worshipers how wonderful it feels to be with us. It's a miracle.

Well, it's not a miracle (lower case "m"), it's a Miracle (capitol "M"). You see, "Miracle" at FBCR is usually a proper noun, it's a name, a person, or people. I don't always know who the people are or even have the opportunity in the moment to express my gratitude, but I do notice the Miracles. There are more Miracles after the service. Our collective financial offerings are always collected, calculated and prepared for deposit without most of us ever knowing a thing about it. It's a Miracle!

One time, in the midst of a hectic week, I headed to one of the area hospitals to visit a person loosely connected to FBCR who had fallen ill. I was beginning to be concerned that they would feel unnoticed by our congregation as I was delayed in getting there. When I arrived they told me how loved they felt, that not only I, but also another member of FBCR came by for a visit. It was a Miracle!

Another day brought several back-to-back difficult conversations. I was tired and maybe a bit grouchy when I walked down the hall. One of our own caught my attention in the hall, smiled and offered a hug. I don't think they even knew I was having a bad day, but somehow their loving gesture arrived at the right moment. It was a Miracle!

The Miracles abound with this community! They're in worship on Sundays, they're in committee meetings every weeknight, they're out in the community changing the world, they're here on campus changing light bulbs and making repairs, they're in our office tending to church business with care, they're positively everywhere!

To each of you who have been one of the many **Miracles of FBCR**, I want to thank you. What's more, I give thanks to God for you.

Deeply Grateful,

Rev. Brent Bowden,
Pastor

World Mission Offering



In September, we normally provide an opportunity to give to the World Mission Offering but had not yet received the special envelopes we often do for everyone to use. Without them, we collected less than we generally do. These envelopes have now arrived, so we will again receive your gifts to help the men and women who serve in the various International Ministries. The missionaries we support work all over the world, but we have special interest for those in Southeast Asia, Haiti, and India. Your gifts help each of these continue their work as missionaries bringing the love of God to all.

WILD WINGS



**Thursday,
November 16th
12 noon lunch
1 PM program**

Wild Wings Bird Sanctuary

Pat Rose at "Wild Wings", a bird sanctuary in Mendon Ponds Park, will tell us about the services they provide for injured birds. Pat is a volunteer for this non-profit organization. They house and care for permanently injured birds brought to them. She may bring a couple of her bird friends with her. Come and learn about this interesting bird hospital and sanctuary in our own backyard.

Sign up on the Vitality Table if you can attend. Soup, dessert, and beverage is provided.

Eldergarten is a senior group of precocious elders eager to learn and socialize in Christian fellowship.



In the Baptist tradition we do not venerate individuals as saints, but that doesn't mean we don't have people who have had extraordinary impact on our faith.

On Sunday, **November 5**, we will remember those who have died whose lives have been a guiding light to our own. You are invited to participate by bringing a small photo or a memento to worship and placing it on the remembrance table during the service.



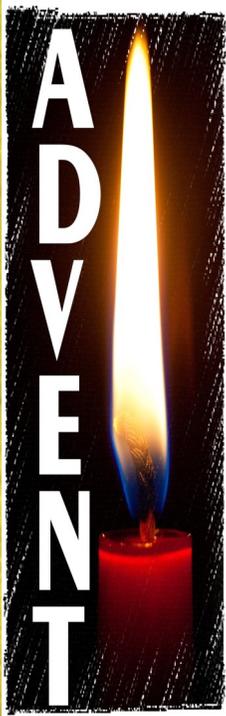
Once per month during our bicentennial year a musical selection, church instruments, or guest musicians will be highlighted during Sunday worship to honor the rich history of our music program. The Jubilee Music series has already featured David Labman's commissioned anniversary anthem "Home with You" and our special guest musicians, The Bob Sneider Trio, for the recent Jazz 'n Jeans service. There will be more special guests and music in the months to come! We are very thankful to have guest musicians for the Jubilee Music series funded by a donation given in memory of Susan Boulay and her love for the music at First Baptist Church of Rochester.

November 12	Katie Worley, solo handbells
December 10	Children's Choir
January 14	The Labman Family
February 11	Jimmie Highsmith Jr. Band (Jazz 'n Jeans)
March 11	Duo for Piano and Organ, Doleen Hood & Julian Petrallia
April 22	The Rita Collective (Jazz 'n Jeans)



It is with great appreciation that I thank all of you for your well wishes, your cards and notes, your flowers, and the gifts that were given in celebration of my 20 years at First Baptist Church of Rochester. I can truly say that my job is a labor of love. Love for the variety of work that I am able to do, love for the opportunity to serve, love for the creativity I can pursue, and most of all - love for the people. I feel I was called to work at First Baptist Church of Rochester and that call is a constant reminder to me that God is good! Thank you for your astounding generosity and I pray that each of you feels the love and joy I have for you in my heart.

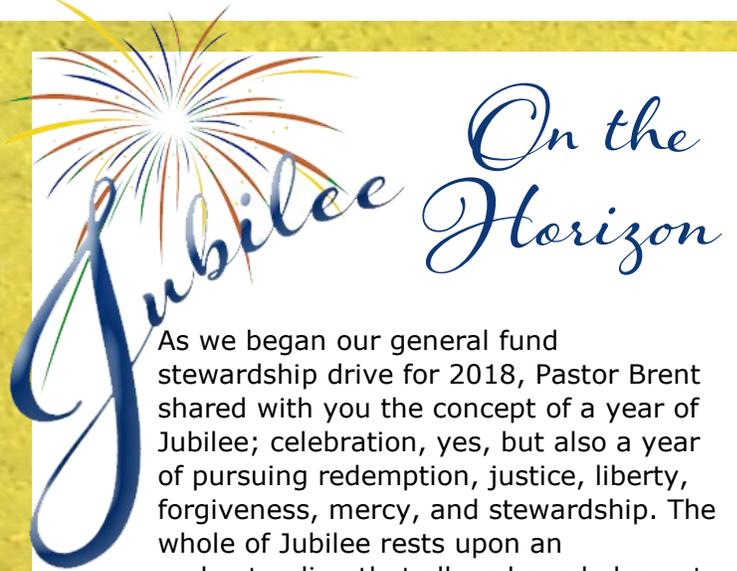
Blessings, Janet



BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHRISTIANITY STUDY

Our life together in worship will carry us, in just a few short weeks, into and through the season of Advent. It is true that Advent comes before and leads up to Christmas, but there is much more to be experienced than a countdown to festivities.

In our upcoming installment of "Building Blocks of Christianity," we will explore the Christian thinking that has shaped the season and will shape our experience of Advent. Join us on Wednesday, November 8th for this one night study, as we explore the "already and not yet" nature of God's **inbreaking** hopes for the world.



As we began our general fund stewardship drive for 2018, Pastor Brent shared with you the concept of a year of Jubilee; celebration, yes, but also a year of pursuing redemption, justice, liberty, forgiveness, mercy, and stewardship. The whole of Jubilee rests upon an understanding that all we have belongs to God; we are merely stewards. True justice is not attainable if we do not know this to be true. Redemption is impossible if we are unaware.

We will consider our place as individuals and as a congregation in the stewardship of what God has given us. While this role entails far more than supporting your community of faith, we will be reminded in this season that First Baptist Church is a product of our collective stewardship. You were invited to pledge your contribution toward the presence and work of the congregation in the months ahead.

If you have not yet been able to submit your pledge card, please do so today. Your pledge enables the trustees to better estimate during their budget planning for 2018.

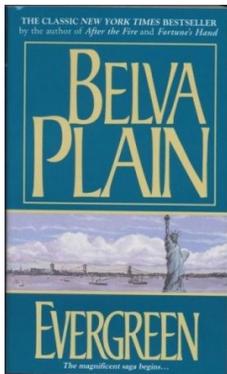
Is Your Pledge Up to Date?

The Trustees ask that you double check to make sure that your pledge for 2017 is up-to-date. There are two months left in the current year to do so.

Thank you for continued support of the mission and ministry of First Baptist - Rochester!

FBCR BOOK CLUB

**EVERGREEN
BY BELVA PLAIN**



The FBC Book Club will meet on the fourth Tuesday, November 28, at 11:30 AM. The book for discussion will be *Evergreen* by Belva Plain. It is historical fiction which relates the life of Anna, a young Polish immigrant, who works in a sweatshop in

New York City during the early years of the 20th century. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Sunday, November 26

Following worship

Help us decorate for the Advent Season

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

YOUTH AND CHILDREN LED

Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 10th with song, scripture, and story, our youth and children will lead the congregation in a musical program.

They will share the story of our coming Savior in a very interactive way. The congregation will participate as we sing favorite carols which we all love. We will share history and stories and assist in the journey through Advent and the spirit of the season.

The program will begin at 5:00 PM. Plan to support the youth and children of the church, even if you can not stay for the dinner.

Following the Christmas Program, at 6:00 PM, we will gather together in Hubbell Hall to share in a festive time of fellowship, food prepared by the Pensgens, and Christmas fun.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

CHURCH FAMILY EVENT

This is an event for old friends and our church family to come and join in with those new friends and family with joy in Advent. It is a time to feel the warmth and the spirit of the season with good food and special fun for all ages.

A special mystery guest from far away in the north is sure to make an appearance and give gifts of love to our youngest among us. The favorite poem of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* will be shared as wide-eyes gather around.

The menu is yet to be determined but we know with the Pensgens in the kitchen it will be delicious.

The hall will be transformed into an evening of elegance. **We hope you will bring to share a favorite dessert for our dessert bar.** Seating may be purchased in advance. We anticipate that the seats will remain: Adults and Teens at \$6, Children, ages 5-11 at \$3, and Children 4 and under are free. Seat sales will begin soon.

UNION THANKSGIVING

INTERFAITH WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Worship



143rd Annual Union Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 23, 2017
10:00 AM

First Unitarian Church ☞ 220 Winton Road
☞ Rochester, NY 14610 ☞

THANKSGIVING PIES

IN SUPPORT OF HABITAT HOUSE BUILD

Order your pies on by November 5th at the Vitality Table for a future Habitat for Humanity build. The Brighton Coalition of Churches is responsible for building a Habitat House once every three years. The next scheduled year for this build is 2018. Since its founding in 1984, Flower City Habitat for Humanity has built or rehabilitated over 200 homes, most of which were built in Rochester's "Crescent of Poverty". Flower City Habitat partners with low-income families to make home ownership possible. Partner families agree to Habitat's three foundational principles: a demonstrated need for adequate shelter, an ability to pay a no-profit mortgage or loan, and a willingness to partner with Habitat = sweat equity. This year, several churches in the Brighton Coalition of Churches are participating in raising funds for the next build by selling Thanksgiving pies.



Each pie is made from scratch without preservatives and with fresh fruit grown on their Kelly's farm. The pies are deep, ten-inch pies, weighing 4.5 pounds each. They freeze nicely and can be served for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Delivery will be made to the church on Tuesday, November 21st for pick-up in time for Thanksgiving.

The pies are each \$17.00 and the varieties from which to choose are:

- Apple Crumb
- Apple Raspberry
- Pumpkin
- Holiday Crumb

Apple Crisp is available for \$12.75

Place your orders on the clipboard at the Vitality Table or contact the church office at (585) 244-2468. Payment should be made out to the church with "H4H pies" in the memo line. See Rose Welch 11/5 with any questions.

Holiday Happenings

GIVING TREE

FOR CAMERON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



We are again doing a Mitten & Hat Giving Tree, in the Garden Room for Cameron Community Ministries.

We will set up the tree and string the lights but the decorations will be brought by you... not with ornaments and tinsel but with the gifts of hats, scarves, mittens and other needed winter

items for the children of CCM. At their Christmas Party, they hope to give each child at least one winter item. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it could be more? Our Cameron Giving Tree will help with this effort. Help us decorate the tree with colorful varieties of boys' and girls' hats, scarves, and mittens.

Your donations may make it possible for a child in need to be able to stay warm on their walk to school this winter, so please be generous and hang your unwrapped gift right on the tree. We will need these gifts by December 10th to get them to CCM in time for their holiday parties.

YOUTH+ GATHERING

HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, POST-COLLEGE

Calling all college, post-college, and high school youth and young adults (15 to 20 somethings).

During the semester break between fall and spring semesters, we hope to gather together. If you will be in town sometime after Christmas into the beginning of the new year, please let us know your schedule so we can see if we can get a significant group together for food, fun, and fellowship.

Ideas on what to do? We will accept your suggestions as well. Things we have done in the past include game playing, bowling, sledding, and more.

Text or email your ideas to any of the leaders and we will see what suggestions we get.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



LABYRINTH WALK

A CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER-FILLED WALK

During Advent, we will be laying out a pattern of a labyrinth in Hubbell Hall for anyone who wishes to use this form of prayer, mediation, and time of reflection to draw nearer to God. The labyrinth will be available to use whenever the Hall is not in use and will be laid out soon after the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 10, 2017. You may use the labyrinth any time the church is open.

Scripture references will be available for those who wish to reflect, either before, during, or after their walk. Special lighting and soft contemplative music will be available beginning at 6:00 PM and ending soon after the conclusion of choir rehearsal each Wednesday. Come walk as you journey toward Bethlehem with other Advent travelers and anticipate the birth of Christ.

Thanksgiving & Advent Taizé Services

TIME OF REFLECTION



On Wednesdays, November 15th and December 13th in the Chapel, we will have a candle-lit, prayer-filled, reflective service that will add some peace and calm in the busy Holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Join us at 6:00 PM for a time of reflection. The service itself will start at 6:30 PM. A Brown Bag Fellowship will begin at 5:30 PM in the Garden Room.

OUR COMMUNITY

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS



Brighton Food Depot November needs: **Entrées**

A complete main dish in a can or Entrée, packs a meal punch! With a can opener and a stove or microwave, someone who is hungry will receive protein and starch anytime it is needed. Popular items include Ravioli, Canned Spaghetti, Beef Stew, and Chili to name just a few. It is a great way to extend that food budget just a little farther each month for families who are food insecure (lacking food for proper nutrition and health). Thank you!

Women's Remington-Hubbell Circle **PECAN SALE**

Now is the time to pick-up your PECANS !

There are a few extras still available for purchase. See Flora Holt.

PECANS are \$11.00 per pound and they will be available after November 1st.

All proceeds will go toward missions.



YOUTH BELL RINGING

FOR SALVATION ARMY

On December 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, the youth, their leaders, and any children or young adults who would like to join them are

welcome to come Eastview Macy's. We will be located at Macy's (Rt. 96 entrance) and ring bells, dance, open doors, and wish shoppers a very merry holiday season. We will do this all while collecting donations for the Salvation Army.

If you are interested in participating, need a ride, or would like more information you may contact Jake Richardson, youth leader, at youth@fbcrochester.net after November 15th or you may contact the church office at (585) 244-2468.



Fairport Baptist Homes Stocking Stuffers

Each Christmas, we ask for small (under \$5) unwrapped items for stocking stuffers for the stockings each resident will receive at their "household" Christmas parties.

Suggested gifts are knee socks, knee-high stockings, jewelry, comb & brush set, deodorant, after shave, shaving lotion, shaving cream, creams or lotions (lightly scented), cards for all occasions, stamps, lightly-scented bath powder or baby powder, nail care, hair decorations, word puzzles, cologne, etc. No men's socks are needed.

Stocking stuffers gifts are needed by November 26 in the box on the Vitality Table.

Many thanks for these gifts to help brighten their Christmas.

MISSION MINUTE

NAMI Rochester

On behalf of our Board of Directors please accept our sincere thanks for your generous contribution of \$500.00.

Your donation will support our mission that has guided us for the past four decades: to provide support, education, and advocacy to individuals and families living with mental illness. It will allow us to continue providing our programs of *Family to Family*, *Peer to Peer*, and *Our Own Voice*. We can continue to offer referrals to community resources including *providers, treatment, housing, and benefits counseling*. We work to create community awareness and educate the public about mental illness.

We are grateful for your support of the people we serve at NAMI Rochester.

Warm regards,

Pamela Sine,
Executive Director

GOINGS ON

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - All Saints Day

Brown Bag, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Study, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM - *Poverty & Inequality*
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Sunday, November 5, 2017 - All Saints Sunday

Daylight-Saving Time Ends - Fall Back
Sunday Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship, after worship-*Section Leader Meet & Greet*
Forum, *Sermon Discussion*, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 - Election Day

Remington Hubbell, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Brown Bag, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Study, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM - *Building Blocks*
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Saturday, November 11, 2017 - Veteran's Day

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Sunday Worship, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Forum, *Connected Communities*, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Monday, November 13, 2017

Trustees Meeting, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Welcome & Affirm Mtg., 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Mission Mtg., 4:30 PM
Brown Bag, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Study, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM - *Taizé of Thanks*
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Eldergarten, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Friday, November 17, 2017

Sibley Chamber Players - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM - *First of our Concert Series*

Sunday, November 19, 2017 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday Worship, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Forum, Council Update, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Monday, November 20, 2017

Library Meeting, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

No Study
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM

Thursday, November 23, 2017 - Thanksgiving Day

**Union Interfaith Service at First Unitarian Church,
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Sunday Worship, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Fellowship, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Forum, *Hanging of the Greens*, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
continued next column

GOINGS ON CONTINUED...

Monday, November 27, 2017

Jubilee Planning Team Mtg., 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

FBC Book Club, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Brown Bag, 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Study, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM - *A Christmas Carol*
Adult Choir, 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Community Concert

SIBLEY CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYERS START SEASON



Sibley Chamber Music Players begin our season of concerts

Concert Series Community

We are excited to announce that the Community Concert Series is back up and running this year! In celebration of our 200th anniversary, the series will highlight First Baptist's long history of connecting with Rochester's excellent music community as well as our new path as a welcoming and affirming congregation. All concerts are free and open to the public.

November 17, 2017 at 7:30 PM - Sibley Chamber Players
March 2, 2018 at 7:30 PM - Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
May 4, 2018 at 7:30 PM - Eastman Organ Department

See you there!

Upcoming Jazz 'n Jeans

2018 DATES

Jazz 'n Jeans in 2018

Mark your calendars for our next Jazz 'n Jeans services:

February 11, 2018 - Jimmie Highsmith Jr. Band

April 22, 2018 - The Rita Collective