

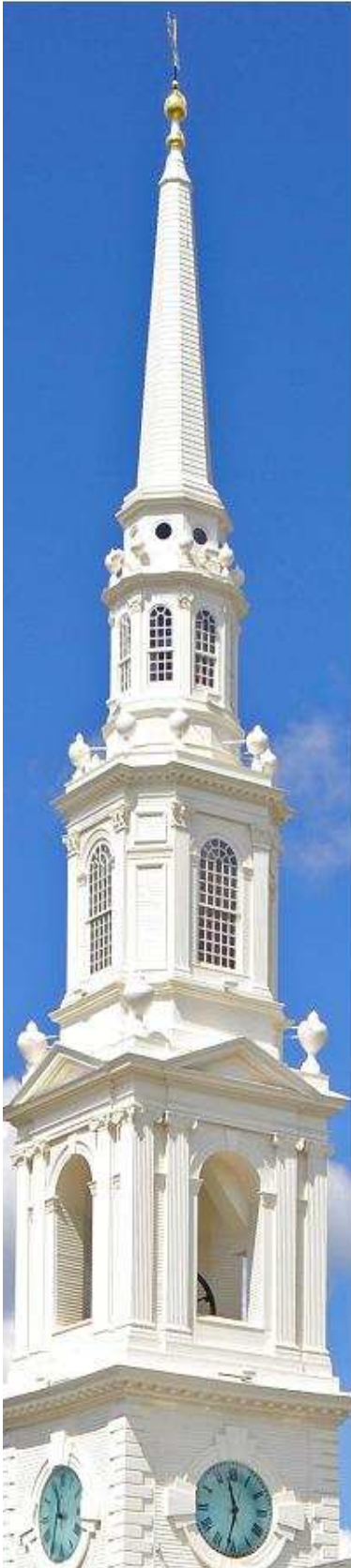
THE SPIRE

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 2019, Volume 22, Issue 4

FROM THE PASTOR

The first Sunday in March, the Reverend Kathryn Palen led us in a workshop regarding our wishes surrounding our deaths. She offered a number of resources to help order your thoughts and prompts to begin conversations with your loved ones. (One my favorite suggestions is to arrange for a “last supper” where you discuss your wishes with your family.) If you did not receive the materials, I have more copies in my office that I can give to you. We cannot control our deaths, but we can prepare as much as possible. Who will make decisions for you, if you are unable to do so for yourself? What kind of medical treatment do you want? What do you want your loved ones to know? In conjunction with this, our sermons leading up to Easter encouraged us to have meaningful conversations with loved ones before death. Perhaps you need to ask for or offer forgiveness, express gratitude or love. This is the time to do so. If you would like to discuss your wishes with me, I welcome the conversation. It is never too early to plan for your funeral. (I’m not rushing anyone, but ready or not, the day will come.) Additionally, we would like to keep contact information updated in the office, in the event of an emergency. Perhaps you live alone or far from family. You could let your neighbors know where you attend church, and if they were concerned about you, they would know to contact us on your behalf. Forms will be available in the church office. If you think talking about death is difficult, remember that not talking about it is even harder. You don’t need to do this by yourself. Give yourself and your loved ones the gift of peace of mind, and begin getting ready today.



FBCIA NEWS

Easter Breakfast

On April 21 at 9:30 AM the Board of Christian Education will hold their annual Easter Breakfast.

Please bring a breakfast casserole, cut up fresh fruit or rolls to share. Easter egg hunt for the children begins at 10:00.

Sunday Morning Forums

April 7: Rebecca Garland, Director of Strategic Partnership from Beautiful Day

April 14: Lenten study

April 21: Easter breakfast

April 28: Rene Payne from RISD, Art and Social Change (visual arts)

Good Night Lights

Here's the message that was sent down from the International Space Station. It was shown to kids and families at Hasbro Children's Hospital on Wednesday night and was followed by a great Good Night Lights display. It was a very spirit-lifting evening at the hospital all-around.

Steve B.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/8r3o71527i9nu95/20190304_Anne%20McClain_Hasbro_Good%20Night%20Lights.mp4?dl=0



Susan Lepore, chair of the Missions Committee, appealed to the congregation for donations to the "Blanket the World" campaign, and it raised \$825 which will buy 165 blankets for people in disasters and other calamities.



After the church service and luncheon on March 3, Rev. Kathryn Palen led a discussion entitled "Talking About Your Wishes," which dealt with end-of-life issues. She distributed materials which showed how to make plans and decisions regarding those end-of-life matters. The church office especially hoped that information about contacts and notifications could be provided that would aid the church in dealing with emergencies.



The FBCIA choir sang "Lights of the City" by Michael Martin Murphy at Barbara Staples Memorial Service on March 24th at two



On March 31st Susan Lepore reported to the Adult Forum on the mission trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic.

From the Board of Missions

[Puerto Rico Mission Trip](#)

38 Rhode Islanders from ABCORI including 5 from our church spent the week of March 17 repairing homes and churches in Puerto Rico. The emphasis by the American Baptist Home Mission Society for this second year of work in Puerto Rico is repairing homes damaged by the storm. Ask Tristan, Louise or Susan to share their experience with you. Learn more and see more pictures on our [website](#), or on the [Puerto Rico Mission Trip 2019 - Rhode Island](#) facebook page.

[Dinner at La Arepa](#)

Our next mission meal will be on Wednesday, April 10 at La Arepa, 582 Smithfield Ave., Pawtucket. at 5:30. This is a low-key Venezuelan eatery serving arepas, cachapas & pabellon criollo, plus classic sides. Check out the [menu](#).

[Spring at the Lepores](#)

The date of our spring event for the refugee youth and others has been changed to May 4. We will pick up the youth around 11:30 and hopefully be at the Lepores in Scituate at noon for lunch and outdoor games. We will need drivers and food (hotdogs, buns, chips, juice, dessert). All friends and members of the church are invited. Sign up to come, drive, and/or bring food on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Talk to Richard or Susan for directions.

[Books for Kenya](#)

You have until the end of April to bring in gently used children's books, preschool - grade 8, to send to a village in Kenya. If you'd like to make a donation to help ship the books, talk to Susan Lepore.

[Earth Day is coming](#)

This year we will be picking up trash in our neighborhood. The tentative date is Sunday, April 28 after the worship service. Look and listen for more details. We will begin work in the gardens in early May.

[2019 Interfaith Poverty Conference](#)

This annual conference will be held on May 8 from 8 - 12:30 at Donovan Dining Hall on the Rhode Island College campus. The keynote speaker will be **Rev. Aundreia Alexander is the Associate General Secretary for Joint Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace for the National Council of Churches (NCC). The NCC is a leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States focusing on issues of social justice, interreligious relationships and the bible and Christian life.**

There will also be workshops on affordable housing, fair wages, and the RI Works Program. Visit <https://www.endpovertyri.org/2019-interfaith-poverty-conference.html> for more information. There is a discount if we have 3 or more people attending from the church. Breakfast is included.

2019 EASTER MEMORIALS

If you would like to have a plant in Church on
Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Please fill out this form and return it to the church office
on or before, but **no later than Monday, April 15, 2019!**

(Please Print Clearly)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Number of **Daffodils**: _____ Cost: 11.00 each

Number of **Tulips**: _____ \$11.00 each

Number of **Lilies**: _____ \$11.50 each

Please make your check payable to:

The First Baptist Church in America

Payment **Must** Accompany Order Form!



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 Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker
 Haley Jamroz Baccaire, ASL Interpreter

2019 Sunday Calendar

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|----------------------|----------|---|
| Sun. April 7 | 10:00 AM | Sunday School: Peter Pretends (Matthew 26:69-75)
Sunday Forum: Rebecca Garland, Director of Strategic Partnership from Beautiful Day |
| | 11:00 AM | Worship: Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Michael Carver
Greeters: Susan and Richard Lepore
Ushers: Mark Hall and Donna Puckett |
| | 12:15 PM | Tour Guide: Stan Lemons |
| Sun. April 14 | 10:00 AM | Sunday School: Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)
Sunday Forum: Lenten Study |
| | 11:00 AM | Palm Sunday Worship: Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Ken Clauser |
| | 12:15 PM | Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider |
| Sun. April 21 | 9:30 AM | Easter Breakfast |
| | 11:00 AM | Easter Sunday Worship: Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Larry Wilson |
| | 12:15 PM | Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder |
| Sun. April 28 | 10:00 AM | Sunday School: Jesus Lives (John 20:1-18)
Sunday Forum: Rene Payne from RISD, Art and Social Change (visual arts) |
| | 11:00 AM | Worship: Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: TBA |
| | 12:15 PM | Tour Guide: Richard Aubin
Quarterly Meeting and Deli Luncheon |