

THE SPIRE

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

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FROM THE PASTOR

A (commanding, demanding) Love poem from God for You ~

1 John 4:16-21 (First Egalitarian Translation)

“We have come to know and to believe
in the love that God has for us.

God is love,
and those who abide in love
abide in God,
and God in them.

Love will come to perfection in us
when we can face the day of judgment without fear –
because our relation to this world is just like Christ’s.
There is no fear in love,
for perfect love drives out fear.
To fear is to expect punishment,
and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love.

We love because God first loved us.
If you say you love God
but hate your sister or brother,
you are a liar.

For you cannot love God,
whom you have not seen,
if you hate your neighbor,
whom you have seen.

If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well;
we have this commandment from God.”



February is the month to
Blanket the World
with Love



For more than 70 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with communities in distress to identify needs and access the resources they require to build the foundation for a more viable future. These resources include blankets, tents and food. CWS aid has been invaluable to individuals suffering during disasters.

In 2021, congregational gifts provided over 183,000 blankets and kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). Our church is one of 8,000 congregations across the United States that will sponsor a Blanket Month, providing funds to help people in need around the world. \$50 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster. \$110 can provide an emergency food package for a family of five for one month. \$250 can stock shelves with blankets in a shelter as wintry lows hit. Please join us by contributing generously to support this important outreach sponsored by the Missions Committee. You can write a check to FBCIA with "Blankets" on the memo line or give online by writing "Blankets" in the notes area.

Worship



Douglas Harris, the interim executive minister of ABCORI, was the guest preacher on January 23. Since a new executive minister has been chosen by ABCORI, Rev. Harris will close out his service in Rhode Island and return to his home in Chicago.

The First Baptist Church in America
75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-454-3418
E-Mail: fbcia1638@gmail.com
Website: www.fbcia.org

Jamie Washam, Pastor
Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music
Holly Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
Tony Zambarano, Sexton
Ann-Marie Bausserman, Office Relief Secretary
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker
Victoria Pfansthal, ASL Interpreter

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covid Protocols for Sunday Worship:

*All must enter the building and auditorium with a mask on, regardless of vaccination status. Please keep your mask on until you exit the building. Masks are available from an usher if you do not have one. Thank you for doing your part to protect those most vulnerable in our midst.

*We will not be singing because The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends people be 12 feet apart when there are unvaccinated people singing in attendance. Not everyone in attendance is vaccinated, and we do not want to deny their presence as we praise God.

*In an effort to keep everyone safe, the family/children's pew is not accessible at this time for mixed household use. The children must sit in the pew with the caregiver that brought them to church. Children are welcome to pick crayons and Sunday School lessons for use during the service.

*In lieu of "passing the plate" offerings will be received by the sanctuary doors at the end of the service.

Announcements

*When there is a parking ban in the City of Providence due to inclement weather, church services and other activities held at the church will be cancelled until the parking ban is lifted. Please tune into your local television and radio stations