



THE SPIRE

First Baptist Church in America Newsletter
January, 2023

Occupy our Calendars

Our times are in your hands;
But we count our times for us;
we count our days and fill them with us;
we count our weeks and fill them with our busyness;
we count our years and we fill them with our fears.
And then caught up short with your claim,
Our times are in your hands!
Take our times, times of love and times of weariness,
Take them all, bless them, break them,
give them to us again,
slow paced and eager,
fixed in our readiness for neighbor.
Occupy our calendars,
Flood us with itsy-bitsy, daily *kairoi*,
In the name of your fleshed *kairos*. Amen.

~ Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

Blessed New Year, church! What a time to be alive. Theologian Walter Brueggemann writes about our human sense of time, measured out in calendars and clocks alongside God's place beyond time, in *kairos*, marked by Divine moments and movement in our lives. Brueggemann acknowledges that we busy ourselves too often with ourselves. He offers a prayerful antidote for our daily lives to be suffused with *kairoi*, 'the times.' Another way of thinking of *kairoi* is time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action; the opportune and decisive moment. May this be a year where your time is in rhythm with God's own, where your hours are suffused with an awareness of the presence of God, and your actions are in alignment with God's gifts to you and the needs of your neighbors.

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Peace,
Pastor Jamie

◇ FBCIA News

Warm up mid winter with an interfaith open mic night! Join with Temple Beth Shalom and other east side congregations on **Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 pm at Wildflour Bakery in Providence.**

We are looking for poets, writers, musicians, slammers--anyone who would like to share their creative wisdom with the wider Providence community in the heart of the winter. If you are interested in participating--or just simply interested in showing up--we would love to have our community present!



On the Second Sunday of Advent, December 4th,
The children sang *Joy to the World*.
From Left to Right: Kitugano Walenga
Malemba Walenga, Matendo Walenga, David
Shealy, Jideobi Washam Unaka, Eleanor Shealy,
Olivia Jarbadan.

You are invited to take part in a short term Discovery mission trip.

Here there are:

Be part of the team heading to The Netherlands April 17 – 25, 2023 <https://portal.internationalministries.org/global-service-opportunities/record/a073m00000sikH9AAI> Only 6 spots left.

Be part of the team traveling to Japan April 27 – May 8, 2023 <https://portal.internationalministries.org/global-service-opportunities/record/a073m00000siKOWAA2>

Be part of the team heading to Liberia May 24 – June 2, 2023 <https://portal.internationalministries.org/global-service-opportunities/record/a073m00000qxCcNAAU> Only 6 spots left.

Be part of the team heading to Stavanger in Norway July 2 – 9, 2023 to attend the Mission Summit sponsored by the European Baptist Federation. Be part of the Body of Christ sharing testimonies of what God is doing through Baptist churches and unions to spread the good news and transform lives. <https://portal.internationalministries.org/global-service-opportunities/record/a073m00000tklAKAAAY>

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Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
Tony Zambarano, Sexton
Ary Peralta, Sunday Sexton
Mauwa Bilobi, Childcare Worker

◆ **Around FBCIA**



Rob and Olivia Jarbadan lit the candle on the second Sunday of Advent.



Pastor Jamie delivers the Christmas Eve Message.



Delphain Demosthenes, Protestant chaplain at Brown University and member of the pastoral team of Memorial Baptist Church in Seekonk, was the guest preacher on December 11. Haley Jamroz Baccari was the ASL interpreter.



Sarah Dunn and Esperanza Tannehill sang the duet "Maria Wiegenlied" by Max Reger in the Christmas Eve service.