

THE SPIRE

First Baptist Church in America Newsletter
May 2024

If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world, but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self?
Matthew 16:25-26

What follows below is an excerpt from Annie Dillard's classic, *The Writing Life*, laid out as a poem for your reading pleasure.

One of the few things I know
about writing is this:
spend it all, shoot it, play it, lose it,
all, right away, every time.

Do not hoard what seems good
for a later place in the book,
or for another book;
give it, give it all, give it now.

The impulse to save
something good
for a better place later
is the signal to spend it now.

Something more will arise
for later, something better.
These things fill from behind,
from beneath, like well water.

Similarly, the impulse to keep
to yourself what you have learned
is not only shameful, it is destructive.

Anything you do not give
freely and abundantly
becomes lost to you.

You open your safe
and find ashes.



75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401.454.3418
Website: fbcia.org
Email: fbcia1638@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

◇ Sunday Forums in May

Sunday May 11th

Close Reading the Lord's Prayer

Presentation and discussion led by **Ruth Marris Macaulay**.

Sunday May 18th

Listening as an Act of Radical Hospitality

Presentation and discussion led by **Ruth Marris Macaulay**.

Sunday May 25th

Brown Commencement - no church

THE SUNDAY FORUM WILL RESUME AFTER LABOR DAY

MISSIONS



“Let me tell you why you are here...You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world...Keep open house; be generous with your lives.” (Matthew 5:13-16, The Message)

During the month of May, please consider making a donation for One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners.

This year’s theme is *Share the Light*. We share our light when we contribute to the OGHS offering because our gifts help families find safety in shelters instead of on the streets, allow women to sell locally sourced produce and other food items, allow other women to create co-operatives so that they can do more together than they could do separately, support those who are differently-abled and much more.

ABCORI

◇ Elder Care Ministries

Registration is open for *Called to Care*, a workshop on congregational care. Elder Care Ministries is offering this opportunity for individuals and/or teams from ABCORI congregations.

We will explore how to recognize losses/needs; things to do (and not do) when offering care; and ideas and resources for making visits. Participants will receive a variety of resources to take back to their congregations.

We are grateful to Phillips Memorial Baptist Church for hosting the workshop, which will take place from 9:00 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 1. The building is accessible.

The workshop is free, but participants need to register by May 25. To register, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/jCMMFZvZHH> or call (401) 522-9731.

◇ American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island

Offering opportunities for women and girls to develop their God-given gifts for leadership in their churches and communities as we learn how to live as Christ's disciples.

Rev. Courtney Davis-Olds, PhD., ABCORI Executive Minister, will lay a Biblical foundation of God's call to leadership, qualities of good leaders, and how we can answer our call.

Alicia Johnson, a non-profit professional experienced in leadership, volunteer management, planning and fundraising, currently working at the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement, will share insights on embracing your personal mission statement, keeping on track with your goals and empowering others.

Grow Groups – A Time to Share, Learn and Be Empowered

Bible Studies: Ways to do group studies, how to start a group, resources *** Conference Choir
 *** Developing a personal mission statement and techniques to strengthen your leader skills ***
 Welcoming the Stranger/ Who Is the Stranger? *** Leader Tips--Helps for leading meetings
 and groups *** Getting to Know You – Ways to welcome people and get acquainted.

Fellowship with Christian sisters ** Singing ** Bible Study ** Inspiration **
 Lunch ** Developing Skills ** Welcoming New Officers ** Mission Offering

We will collect items for Women's Refugee Care including kitchen & cleaning supplies, laundry products, bar soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products.

◆ Garden of Earthy Delights

On May 18th we will meet at 9:30 to do our major spring planting. We have two more beds to build and fill, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and herbs to plant and lots of seeds. We will also need to do a little weeding so everything will be in shape for graduation the following weekend.

In April we added some native pollinators, potatoes, greens and root crops. The peas we planted in March are looking good and the strawberry plants have flowers on them. Delicious things will be arriving soon.

◆ Memorial Service for Barry Bainton



Cricket Young played "Gabriel's Oboe," accompanied by Stephen Martorella on the organ while Barbara Youmans-Nosko, who had earlier played the flute for "Sicilienne."

Pastor Jamie Washam offered the invocation at the service.



During the reception in the Fellowship Hall David and Karin Coon chatted with Jeanne Kolb. In the background were Elsa Grieder and Barbara Youmans-Nosko.



On April 8th the back garden of the church was the perfect spot for Viewing the Eclipse



My name is Keilla Mercy Keza. I was born Monday April 8th, at 6:10pm by C section to Mama Georgette Munyampirwa... I weigh 7.8lb and I measure 20.1/4 inches. Mom and I are doing well and are back at home. My big sister Ella is taking her sisterly duties very seriously... Thank you so much for keeping us in your prayers .



Rev. Delphain Demosthenes, Pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Seekonk and Protestant Chaplain at Brown University, was the guest preacher for April 14.

And

Pete Schoonmaker provided the special music for the worship service



First outdoor Service of the Season



The first outdoor service of the year was held on April 21, and goodly number of people braved the chill to enjoy the service.



The Little Free Library Dedication



The Free Little Library, created by Grace Guiney, was dedicated at the service on April 21. It became a part of a nation-wide system of little libraries where one can give and take books for free. Grace had help from her grandfather who supplied the wood for the library.

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

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washam, Pastor
Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music
Holly Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
Tony Zambarano, Sexton
Ary Peralta, Sunday Sexton
Victoria Pfanstiehl, ASL Interpreter

Statement of Welcome

Roger Williams gathered the First Baptist Church in America in 1638 on the bedrock of religious liberty, with its principles of soul freedom and the separation of church and state. Together, we continue our ministry of welcome and liberation.

This congregation honors its Baptist heritage. Many of our members are lifelong Baptists and others come from varied denominational and religious backgrounds. We welcome all people of every age, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, cultural background, socio-economic status, mental or physical ability, marital status, and any other distinctions of society. We are diverse people united in Christ. We remain a safe harbor.

MAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 26th is Brown University Commencement, there will be no Church services that Sunday at First Baptist Church in America.

◇ Potluck Picnic

You are invited to the Home of Richard and Susan Lepore for a picnic on Sunday, May 26 at 1:00. Bring something delicious to share and a lawn chair.