

607-273-5800; www.firstbaptistithaca.org; email: fbithaca@gmail.com



First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' Teachings, we strive for Social & Ecological Justice; and embrace the Baptist tradition of Bible, Soul, Church and Religious Freedoms.

## In Memoriam Franklin Fitch Butler (1930 - 2020)



Frank, a devoted and beloved member of First Baptist Church, passed away on July 29th at Cayuga Medical Center after an extended decline. As a musician, one of his many joys was showing his recorder collection to students and children. In the above picture Frank demonstrated playing his rare, handmade, seven and one-half-foot-long contrabass recorder — “as tall as a bear” — to the youth and congregation during an August 2014 worship service.

## Reopening Guidelines Accepted at July 19th Congregational Meeting

At a Zoom Congregational Meeting held after worship on July 19th the following proposals developed by an *ad hoc* COVID-19 Guidelines Committee and presented by the Cabinet were ratified with alacrity. The proposals stipulated that the congregation vote:

1. To accept the Guidelines for Reopening the Church compiled by the *ad hoc* Guideline Committee.
2. That up to 20 congregants could attend church in person beginning on July 26 if logistics could be organized and numbers are within the Harvard metric (1 or under) used to determine reopening. Because the number who could be in the sanctuary is limited, those who want to attend the in-person service would have to sign up through the office via email or telephone each week in advance. Anyone “just showing up” may not be able to attend if the maximum number has been reached. Volunteers will be recruited each week to leave if visitors come after the maximum capacity is met. The decision on reopening and how it is going will be re-evaluated after six weeks.

Moderator Judy Kennison thanked the members of the *ad hoc* committee for all their hard work in preparing the guidelines. They are Pastor Debbie, David Caughey, Leslie Schultz, Craig Reike, Amy Chaffee, Ann Farrell and Judy Kennison.

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### What does the Lord require of you?

To do justice,  
Love mercy and  
Walk humbly with our God  
*Micah 6:8*

### In Memoriam

Rev. John W. Laney  
1929 - 2020

Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church in 2006

Our new website [www.firstbaptistithaca.org](http://www.firstbaptistithaca.org) is now live! Check it out.

## The Face of Worship during COVID-19

Photos by Bill Phelan



An empty sanctuary



Flowers next to the pulpit.



All ready for Zoom worship



Christopher Morgan Loy at the piano.

~~~~~  
 "Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with its goodness."  
 John Lewis

"Faced with demoralization, gratitude has the power to energize. Faced with brokenness, gratitude has the power to heal. Faced with despair, gratitude has the power to bring hope."  
 Robert Emmons

## From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

I love summer in the Finger Lakes, and we are having a wonderful summer this year with many sunny days and very few hot nights. I hope you are all finding ways to relish this lovely time - fireflies, swimming in lakes and ponds, cycling and sailing, a comet in the night sky, fresh fruit and vegetables, barefoot walks, and beautiful flowers. Many of us have enjoyed outdoor times with church friends for good conversation, shared take out meals, hiking, biking, and even an evening outdoor worship in DeWitt Park. Another outdoor worship is planned at Taughannock Park this coming Sunday morning. In spite of COVID-19 and all the political and social turmoil of this time, there is so much to give us delight! It helps me to stop, to take notice, to pay attention to all the good things, and to practice gratitude.

I am grateful for all the ways we continue to support and care for each other. I want to encourage you to keep checking on one another, and I want to urge you to reach out if you're feeling stressed out, anxious or depressed. We all need help and support in hard times! Please don't hesitate to contact me!

I am also grateful for the ways we continue to minister to others. We have new opportunities to provide meals and social support for the Haitian family seeking asylum and to respond to the Guatemalan woman and child who have just gone into sanctuary at First Congregational Church. Please contact Leslie Shultz, Bill Abeles and Bill Fry for details on getting involved! I am also grateful for our careful and respectful process of working through the Reopening Guidelines.

I am sorry I didn't ask for help sooner on the procedural details to try an in-person worship. Yesterday, the Harvard metric actually would have allowed it, but we weren't quite ready. After the infection rate pushed up, I was discouraged and thinking it would not happen any time soon. I am grateful to Shella for taking on the little details of compliance! It turns out 20 plus years in Social Services prepared her for this challenge way better than my years in church work!

I know we feel anxiety about the fall. We are praying for all students, parents, teachers, and educational administrators in this time of difficult decisions and much uncertainty. I am grateful for the love we share and for God's Spirit in and among us, knowing that whatever comes we will be sustained by our love and faith.

Blessings to all,

Debbie Bennett



Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds



**Men's Quartet Sings "Abide with Me."** Each member of the FBC Men's Quartet pre-recorded their part of "Abide with Me" in their homes and sent their recording to David Caughey who combined each of the four recordings to create special music for worship on June 7th. From left to right are Tony Lister, bass; Bill Fry, baritone, Rich Barron and David Caughey tenors.

## RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK READ & CONVERSATIONS

We are planning to read together the widely read and discussed book, *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X Kendi. Six are still available through the church office. If you want to purchase a book, let Shella know they and then send a check for \$27.00 to Marlene Sack at 222 Tareyton Dr., Ithaca 14850.



William and Joke Keita

## Donations for Mali Education Fund for Joke and William Keita Being Solicited

Each year one of First Baptist's missions has been to fund the private tuition costs for Joke and William Keita, the children of Pastor André Thera and his wife Mariam Keita. Public education in Mali is unreliable so this is a way that we can ensure that this couple, dear to the hearts of First Baptist, is able to have their children receive a higher quality education. To contribute, please send a check to Marlene Sack with Mali Education Fund noted on memo line.

## The Backpack of White Privilege by Peggy McIntosh

1. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
2. I can avoid spending time with people whom I was trained to mistrust and who have learned to mistrust my kind or me.
3. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
4. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
5. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
6. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see my race widely represented.
7. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
8. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race.
9. I can be pretty sure of finding a publisher for this piece on white privilege.
10. I can be pretty sure of having my voice heard in a group in which I am the only member of my race.
11. I can be casual about whether or not to listen to another person's voice in a group in which s/he is the only member of his/her race.
12. I can go into a music shop and count on finding the music of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods which fit with my cultural traditions, into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can cut my hair.
13. Whether I use checks, credit cards or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.
14. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
15. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.
16. I can be pretty sure that my children's teachers and employers will tolerate them if they fit school and workplace norms; my chief worries about them do not concern others' attitudes toward their race.
17. I can talk with my mouth full and not have people put this down to my color.
18. I can swear, or dress in second hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty or the illiteracy of my race.
19. I can speak in public to a powerful male group without putting my race on trial.
20. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.
21. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my race.
22. I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of the world's majority persons of color without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion.
23. I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a cultural outsider.
24. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the "person in charge", I will be facing a person of my race.
25. If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.
26. I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children's magazines featuring people of my race.
27. I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance or feared.
28. I can be pretty sure that an argument with a colleague of another race is more likely to jeopardize her/his chances for advancement than to jeopardize mine.
29. I can be pretty sure that if I argue for the promotion of a person of another race, or a program centering on race, this is not likely to cost me heavily within my present setting, even if my colleagues disagree with me.
30. If I declare there is or isn't a racial issue at hand, my race will lend me more credibility for either position than a person of color will have.
31. I can choose to ignore developments in minority writing and minority activist programs, or disparage them, or learn from them. In any case, I can find ways to be more or less protected from negative consequences of any of these choices.
32. My culture gives me little fear about ignoring the perspectives and powers of people of other races.
33. I am not made acutely aware that my shape, bearing or body odor will be taken as a reflection on my race.
34. I can worry about racism without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking.
35. I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having my co-workers on the job suspect that I got it because of my race.
36. If my life is going badly, I need not ask of each negative situation whether it had racial overtones.
37. I can be pretty sure of finding people who would be willing to talk with me and advise me about my next steps, professionally.
38. I can think over social, political, imaginative or professional options, without asking whether a person of my race would be accepted or allowed them
39. I can be late to a meeting without having the lateness reflect on my race.
40. I can choose public accommodation without fearing that people of my race cannot get in or will be mistreated in the places I have chosen.
41. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.
42. I can arrange my activities so that I will never have to experience feelings of rejection owing to my race.
43. If I have low credibility as a leader I can be sure that my race is not the problem.
44. I can easily find academic courses and institutions which give attention only to people of my race.
45. I can expect figurative language and imagery in all of the arts to testify to experiences of my race.
46. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin.
47. I can travel alone or with my spouse without expecting embarrassment or hostility in those who deal with us.
48. I have no difficulty finding neighborhoods where people approve of our household.
49. My children are given texts and classes which implicitly support our kind of family unit and do not turn them against my choice of domestic partnership.
50. I will feel welcomed and "normal" in the usual walks of public life, institutional and social.

## Stroke Awareness



Stroke survivor Tae Hemsath

### Stroke Facts

- Stroke is a leading cause of death and serious disability nationwide and around the world.
- Every 40 seconds someone in the U.S. has a stroke.
- 80% of strokes are preventable by healthy life style choices.
- One in five women will have a stroke.
- A stroke can happen at any age, at any time just ask Tae.
- Time lost is brain loss. every minute counts when you or someone you know is having a stroke.
- Act F.A.S.T. and call 911 right away if you spot signs of stroke.

### F. A S T. Stroke Signs

#### F Facial droop

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**A** Arm drifts downward when both arms are raised

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**S** Speech slurred or not understandable

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**T** Time to call 911. Every minute counts.

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## FBC Bike Team Takes On Ride Across America Challenge

Submitted by Amy Chaffee



FBC Bike Team enjoying bike ride to Spencer.

The FBC Bike Team has been enjoying several rides this summer and getting their miles in for the Ride Across America challenge. In fact, we've ridden a combined total of over 4,000 miles so far towards our goal of 6,000 miles by September 12th. You can see where we are in the United States by going on our map on the First Baptist website (<https://firstbaptistithaca.org/outreach/aids-ride-for-life-2020-progress/>).

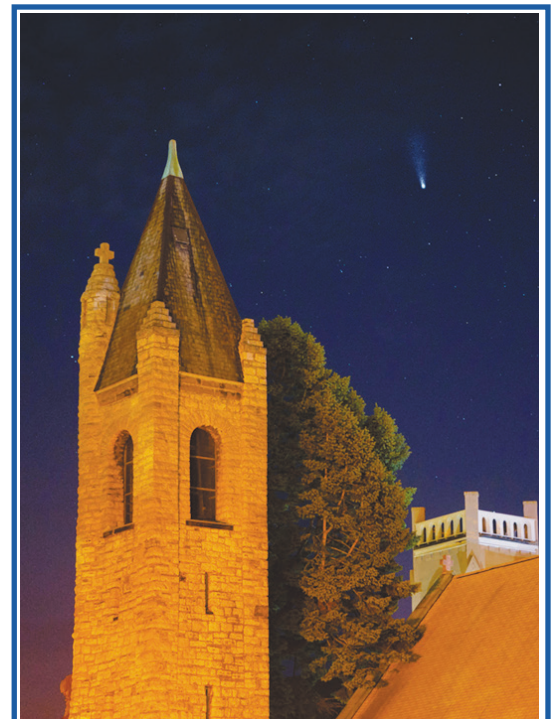


Wilseyville bike ride.

As the Southern Tier AIDS Program will not be having the Ride for Life around Cayuga Lake this year, we still want to raise money for them. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 through donations and our fundraising event on September 12, the Take out Dinner and Talent Show night.

Southern Tier AIDS Program relies on the annual Ride for Life to fund many of their important programs. Donations can be made by sending a check to First Baptist with Ride for Life in the memo line, or on the AIDS Ride for Life page on the church website.

Those from First Baptist who have been racking up miles for the Ride Across America challenge include Rich Barron, Mark Lawrence, James Schultz, Traci and Keegan Fitzgerald, Edie Reagan, Tim Dean, Janice McCarrick, Barbara and Bill Fry, Bill Reynolds, Tina Hilsdorf, Steve Hilsdorf, Craig Riecke, Carolyn Young. Charlie Gerber, Maria De Nardis and Amy Chaffee.



Comet NEOWISE was closest to Earth on July 23, passing some 64 million miles (103 million km) from our planet. Above is a view as it passes over downtown Ithaca and First Baptist Church on July 24th captured by photographer Jim Long of Danby.

"A human being is a part, limited in time and space, of the whole called by us the universe. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness.

This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us.

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

Albert Einstein, Letter, 1950

## Help Needed for Friendship Center Lunch Prep

By Sue Hemsath and Linda Caughey

Did you know that on the first Thursday of each month, even now during COVID-19, 60 bagged lunches are put together for delivery to the Friendship Center? That's 60 sandwiches, 60 boxed drinks, 60 bananas and 60 small desserts! All are individually wrapped because of the Corona virus and boxed drinks are required as opposed to the gallons of drink previously provided. The small group of 6-7 committed volunteers who make these lunches could use a bit of help!



Anne (center) and Steve Farrell and Amanda Ufford bag the lunches brought to the church for delivery to the Friendship Center on August 7th.

Photo by Tony Lister

It works this way. A week before the Thursday collection day, an e-mail is sent with volunteers to sign up for what they will make or contribute. All sandwiches must be made at home and brought to the church at 10 am on the first Thursday of the month. Suggestions of nonperishable donations include: individual boxed raisins, individually packaged granola or fruit & nut bars, individual pudding cups, small boxed drinks, individual cookie packs, individual bagged chips or nuts, individually packaged crackers with peanut butter filling and paper bags. Cans of tuna that the sandwich makers could also take are welcome. They also seek soap, toothbrushes, shampoo and socks which to be sent with the lunches.

It's EASY and it would be nice to have more church family members involved in this worthy community cause. A lot of hungry people count on these lunches! The collected food is bagged at church and delivered to The Center at 618 W. State St. by Steve and Anne Farrell. The Friendship's Center's mission statement reads: "At the heart of our services and programs is our mission – of advancing inclusive communities where every person, regardless of circumstances, has the right and opportunity to live their best life. Would YOU like to join this cheerful group of volunteers? Contact Steve Farrell (sfarrel1@twcny.rr.com) or Linda Caughey (ithacajonesy@gmail.com).

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### Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

*Did you know that the burning bush (Euonymus alatus) is an invasive species? Introduced to the United States in the 1860s, the burning bush is from Asia. It quickly became a very popular shrub in the landscape business because of its brilliant red fall foliage. Who knew it would later start spreading far beyond urban and suburban yards? Though it is not a favored food for birds, they will eat the berries (seeds) when there is nothing better to consume. The bird's digestive tract readies the seeds for propagation, and they are dropped miles from where they were eaten. Burning bushes can now be seen growing wild in forests and along roads throughout the Northeast. They overtake native species and form a monoculture in the under cover of our forests, providing little support for native insects and birds. Some states have made it illegal to sell this plant. New York State allows its sale, but nurseries are required to label the shrubs as an invasive species.*

## Invasive Burning Bushes Removed from Church Property

Submitted by the Green Team (Alice Grow)



In case you have walked by the church recently and missed seeing the burning bushes in front of the chapel, last fall the Green Team brought to the Trustees' attention that burning bushes are harmful to native species. The Trustees agreed with the Green Team that the bushes should be removed as plans to eventually plant a pollinator garden progress. The bushes have now been removed which aligns with one of First Baptist's core values "to strive for ecological justice." (For more information about burning bushes, see sidebar on left.)



Please keep in your prayers:

- Nancy Sokol
- John Gross
- Suzanne Kilgore
- Naomi Hollister
- Laurel Lawshae
- Marlene Sack
- Jan Butler
- Joan Yarborough
- Judy Kennison
- Pastor André Thera & family
- Ron Drummond
- Barbie Lister
- Dick Fielding



*Pollinator bee on sunflower*

*So I say to you, walk with the wind and let the spirit of peace and everlasting love be your guide.*

John Lewis

*It's in that convergence of spiritual people becoming active and active people becoming spiritual that the hope of humanity now rests.*

Van Jones

**The Visitor — August 2020**

Editor, publisher: Susan Eymann  
Proofers: Judy Kennison, Tony Lister  
Contributors: Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Sue Hemsath, Amy Chaffee, Bill Phelan, Tony Lister, Alice Grow  
Photos: Bill Phelan, Tony Lister, Amy Chaffee, Angela De Nardis

**Please Contribute to the Visitor**

In the Baptist tradition each of us are called to be ministers. Therefore, each of you is invited and urged to contribute to our *Visitor*. Please send announcements, articles, features, pictures to: susan.eymann@transonic.com



**BLACK LIVES MATTER:** Following the murder of George Floyd, First Baptist is demonstrating its solidarity with the anti-racism movement with this banner that now hangs on the side of the church.

## Time and Talent Ministries

### First Baptist Staff

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Bennett-Reynolds  
Secretary: Shella Chace  
Organist: Christopher Morgan Loy  
Choir Director: Belinda Adams  
Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator: Laura Ward  
Nursery Caregiver: Carol Fleming  
Sunday School Aide: Sarah Zipfel  
Custodian: David Hopkins

### Elected Leaders

Moderator: Judy Kennison  
Vice Moderator: Mark Lawrence  
Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf  
Recording Clerks: Rich Barron/Susan Eymann  
Treasurer: David Caughey  
Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry  
Financial Secretary: Marlene Sac

### Board of Trustees

Josie Zanfordino, Baruch Whitehead Bill Phelan (2023); Anne Farrell, Kris Scott, Rich Barron (2022); Hans Bump, Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2021), Bill Fry (2021); David Caughey (ex officio)

### Trustees' Subgroups

**Finance & Endowment**

David Caughey, chair, Marlene Sack, Janet Cotraccia, Andrea Mooney, Curt Ufford

**Interior Decoration:** Barbara Fry, Julie Dean, Tina Hilsdorf, Bill Abeles, Anne Farrell, Andrea Staffeld, Susan Eymann

**Church Archivist:** Linda Caughey

### Lay Delegates:

### Affiliate Organizations

Two Delegates each for **Rochester Genesee Region & ABC-USA** Rich and

Lil Barron, Co-chairs; Anne & Steve Farrell, Bill Reynolds

**AWAB:** Josie Zanfordino, Shella Chace  
**Baptist Peace Fellowship:** Meg Gillard,

**Cornell Campus Ministry:** Julia Dean, Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell

**Kitchen Cupboard:** Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

**Tompkins County Workers Center:** Bill Abeles

**Sanctuary Alliance:** Leslie Schultz, Bill Abeles, Bill Fry

### Pastoral Relations

Tony Lister, Regi Carpenter (2023); Barbara Fry, Bronwyn Evans (2022); Bill Abeles, Lou Carlucci (2021)

### Nominating Committee

Josie Zanfordino, Adrienne McNair, Linda Caughey, Marge Hansel

### Personnel Committee

Beth Wolfer, chair, Julia Dean

### Constitution/By-Law Committee

Bill Fry, Alice Grow, Linda Nicholson, Susan Eymann, Anne Farrell

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### Ministry Teams

#### Worship & Spiritual Life:

Barbara Fry, Amy Chaffee, Co-chairs; Bill Abeles, Tony Lister, Kris Scott, Edie Reagan, Alice Grow

#### Worship/Spiritual Life Subgroups

**Flower Committee:** Barbara Fry, Mariana Morse, Tina Hilsdorf, Andrea Staffeld

**Myra's Ministry:** Tina Hilsdorf, Lou Carlucci, Bill Reynolds

**Labyrinth:** Kris Scott, Liz Wilkinson

**Sound & Audio Ministry:** David Caughey, Curt Ufford

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### Education

#### Children's and Youth:

Carol Fleming, Tim Dean, Leslie Schultz  
**Christian Ed Teachers:** Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Lil Barron

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### Christian Concern

Steve Farrell, Bill Phelan, Co-chairs;

### Christian Concern Subgroups

**Circle of Care:** Coordinators: Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath, Linda Caughey

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### Hospitality Ministry:

Anne Farrell: chair; Shella Chace, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Adrienne McNair, Andrea Staffeld, Ella Dean, Greta Cotraccia, Bay Ward/Aittama

### Communications Ministry

Shella Chace (convener), David Caughey, Mark Lawrence, Craig Riecke, Susan Eymann, Amy Bean, Lisa Kilgore

### Green Team

Louise Mudrak, Lisa Kilgore (Co-conveners), Lynn Glase, Tony Lister, Hans Bump, and many others

### Ad Hoc Reopening Committee

Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds, David Caughey, Leslie Schultz, Craig Reike, Amy Chaffee, Ann Farrell and Judy Kennison.