

Graphic by Andrea Staffeld

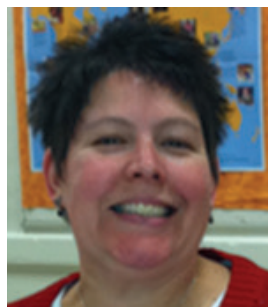
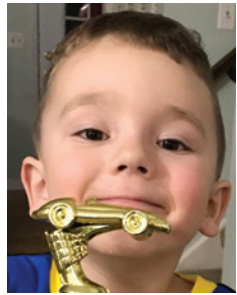


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***"We Are The Church"***  
 Members & Friends of First Baptist  
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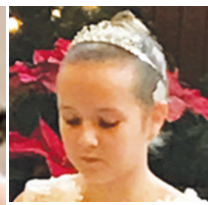
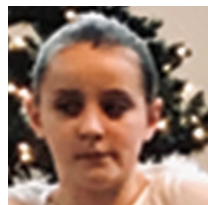
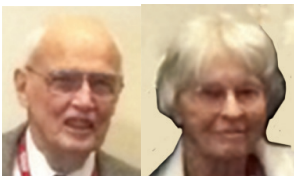


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*"We Are The Church"*  
 Members & Friends of First Baptist  
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 "We Are The Church"  
 Members & Friends of First Baptist  
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We regret that we do not have pictures of every member or friend of FBC for this photo collage of "We Are The Church." Please send your photos to susan.eymann@transonic.com to be included in the next updated collage.

We Are The Church"

By Donald S. Marsh
Richard K. Avery

Refrain:

I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

Refrain

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
~We're many kinds of people,
with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

Refrain

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Sometimes the church is marching,
sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,
always it's learning.

Refrain

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
~And when the people gather,
there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes,
all of it saying:

Refrain

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world
to all who would hear it.

Refrain

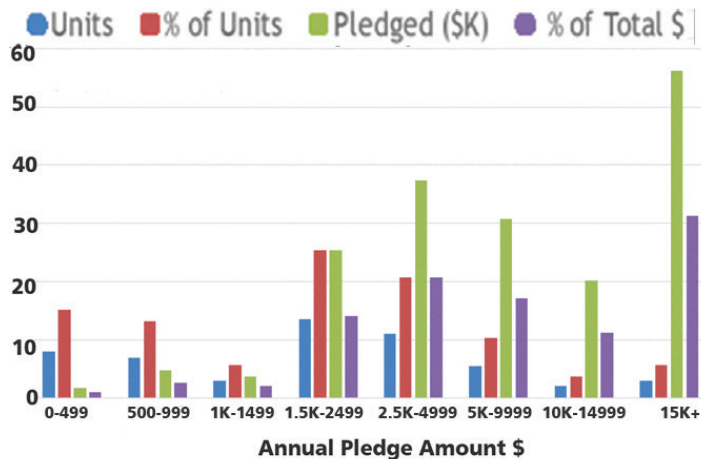
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Widow's Mite, Mark 12:41-44 (NRSV)

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

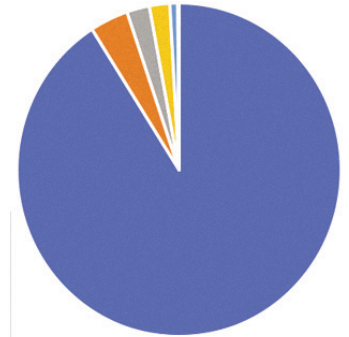
2020 Budget Needs	2020 Budget	2021 Target
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$210,396	\$217,994
PROGRAM PLEDGES	\$186,896	\$196,494

Distribution of Pledges 2019-2020



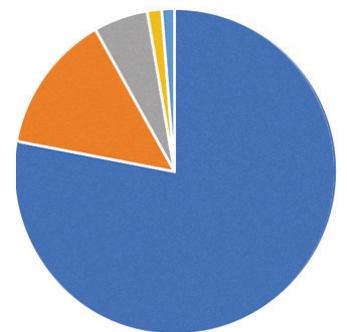
Annual Pledge (\$)	Units	% of Units	Pledged (1K)	% of Total \$
0-499	8	15.1	1.7	0.9
500-999	7	13.2	4.7	2.6
1,000-1,499	3	5.7	3.7	2.1
1,500-2,499	14	25.5	25.4	14.1
2,500-4,999	11	20.8	37.4	20.8
5,000-9,999	6	10.4	30.7	17.1
10-14,999	2	3.8	20.3	11.2
15,000 +	3	5.7	56.3	31.2
Total	53	100	170.7	100

FBC INCOME 2020 (Est.)



- Pledges
- Anticipated
- Investments
- Plate
- Parable of Talents
- Building Use

FBC EXPENDITURES 2020 (Est.)



- Personnel
- Property
- Mission
- Worship
- Education

In Memoriam: 2020

- Betty Brown
- Frank Butler
- Rev. John Laney

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Four Baptist Freedoms

Bible Freedom

Baptists are free & encouraged to study & interpret the Scriptures for themselves.



Soul Freedom

Every person has the inalienable right to relate to God without imposition of a creed, obstructions of clergy, or intervention of civil government.



Church Freedom

Local churches can determine their membership & leadership, their order of worship and work, to ordain whom they choose, irrespective of gender or gender identity, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ.



Religious Freedom

Baptists affirm: Freedom of Religion, for Religion, and from Religion; insisting that Caesar is not Christ and Christ is not Caesar.

Dear Friends and Members of FBC,

In this time of uncertainty and anxiety we at First Baptist have learned that we are a resilient, creative and adaptive congregation. Friends and members from near and far attend our Sunday Zoom worship, and Saturday evening contemplative services. We participate in Zoom Ministry Team and Cabinet meetings, Sunday School, meditation, Bible 101, the reading group and now "Getting to Know Us Better" offerings. We have continued many of our outreach programs, such as preparing the monthly lunches for the Friendship Center, staffing the Kitchen Cupboard and raising record-breaking monies for the annual "Ride for Life." Hence, the theme for the 2021 Stewardship drive is "We Are the Church," not necessarily dependent on in-person gatherings and worship in our church building, but continuing to "walk the walk" guided by our new value statement that emerged from months of visioning in 2019 and 2020.

"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 this year's Stewardship campaign we will be lifting up elements of this value statement for reflection and guidance as we move forward as "We are the Church." They will include:

- 1) First Baptist as a nurturing community;*
- 2) The teachings of Jesus guiding our striving for social and ecological justice;*
- 3) Our embrace of the Four Baptist Freedoms.*

For many, this pandemic has been enervating and exhausting. It also has given us a time to reflect, and an opportunity to plan intentionally how these beautifully articulated First Baptist values will shape our activities and destiny as a congregation.

It is a time of promise. While we have learned that we can indeed "carry on" without getting together in person, we look forward to once again filling our building. We anticipate welcoming the many different groups from the larger Ithaca community such as the Gay Men's Chorus, The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee singers, the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance, the Sufi meditation, Food Not Bombs, T'ween Days, The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers Kids choir, Mindfulness Meditation, Ithaca Collaborative Law Meditation, the Sacred Harp Singers and other spontaneous meetings of groups that need a space.

In order to continue our creative programming, and support our outreach and staff in the upcoming year, First Baptist needs your financial support. We also need your contributions of time and talent. Please prayerfully consider your ability to contribute as you complete the enclosed pledge form. Pledges enable us to plan and execute the work of "We Are the Church." Please do pledge.

*Gratefully,
Your Stewardship Team*

*Janet Cotraccia, Margie Latham, Andrea and Bill Staffeld, Judy Kennison
Andrea Mooney, Alice Grow, Susan Eymann, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds*

Offer Your Time and Talents to Various Church Ministries.

Since we are not meeting in person at this time, this form looks somewhat different from those in the past. All FBC Ministries are following public health guidelines. Almost all meetings are on Zoom.

Please pledge, as you are able, to the financial support of our programs and ministries. Please check or circle the activities in which you would like to participate.

Please return this form before November 22nd in an envelope to:

Marlene Sack, Financial Secretary, 222 Tareyton Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Worship

- Perform special music by recordings (with technical assistance as needed)
- Manage audio and zoom video for worship services
- Participate in worship music planning and performance
- Participate in virtual "choir" development and performance
- Read scripture or core values; lead litanies

Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry

- Help plan special worship services
- Provide flowers for worship
- Help plan for Advent and Lent Services
- Lead meditation or evening prayer times

Local/global Christian Concern Ministry

- Promote ABC/USA mission offerings
- Represent FBC at ABC Region/AWAB/Baptist Peace Fellowship events/meetings
- Work with Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance
- Volunteer at Kitchen Cupboard
- Make Friendship Center lunches or contribute needed items
- Ride and fundraise for the Ride for Life
- Participate in other local outreach projects
- Work on national/international concerns
- Make/deliver food to the ill and/or isolated
- Phone, send cards and visit with the ill and/or isolated
- Provide rides

Christian Education Ministry

- Lead adult education classes or workshops
- Teach children (includes substituting)
- Work with youth

Hospitality Ministry

- Assist in planning and hosting special church events and fellowship efforts

Care of Resources/ Trustees Ministry

- Help with building upkeep/repairs
- Volunteer for kitchen cleaning
- Assist with fundraising
- Participate in interior decorating projects
- Work on personnel matters
- Serve on Stewardship Committee

Communication/Technology & Administration

- Participate in Communication Team – technology and communications/publicity
- Assist in office
- Help maintain website and Facebook pages
- Photography and videography
- Work on *Visitor* newsletter
- Liaise with local organizations, i.e. ACT, Tompkins County Workers' Center

Green Team Ministry

- Educate about ecological justice
- Help with Native Plants pollinator garden
- Help with local cleanup
- Plan worship emphases and prayers

Special Covid Programming

- Organize small group outdoor activities, i.e. bonfires, hiking, cross-country skiing, sledding
- Volunteer to be part of lunch time get-togethers

My 2021 Commitment of Resources to Help Meet Our FBC Pledge Drive Goal of \$ 217,994

Name(s) _____

Phone/Cell _____ Email _____

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we make the following commitment to support the ministries of First Baptist Church of Ithaca in 2021 with my/our contribution of:

\$ _____ Weekly, Monthly, Annually, Other _____