

Pentecost / 200th Anniversary Celebration

The exuberance of this Pentecost bouquet on the right captures the beauty, and joint celebration of Pentecost and First Baptist's 200th Anniversary on a breathtaking June 5th Sunday. Barb Fry commented that it was one of those "good for the soul" days. A heart-warming worship service was followed by a fabulous reception in DeWitt Park provided by Anne Farrell and the Hospitality Committee.

It was a tribute to the 200 years that First Baptist of Ithaca has championed Faith, Freedom and Justice and a fitting sendoff for Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds on her three-month summer sabbatical. Don't miss listening to the inspiring sermon by former Pastor Wendy DeMott Fambro on fbithaca.com. More pictures of the celebration are on page 5.



Tae Hemseth Competes Again in NYS Summer Special Olympics

Ithaca was the host city for this year's NYS summer Special Olympics. Opening ceremonies were at Ithaca College and Tae Hemseth entered the quad with the athletes from each region in the state. Southern Tier athletes wore purple (shown below). Tae was thrilled to be back—as was everyone—after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. She competed in the track and field events at Ithaca High School.



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*What does the Lord
require of you?
To do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with
your God.
Micah 6:8*



Keagan Fitzgerald assists Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds in lighting cupcakes for the youth to celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost.

Thanks from Enfield

Subject: Love went to Enfield

Good morning! I really liked the suggestion of sending some "goodies" to Enfield's teachers and staff on Valentine's Day. Linda got coffees, teas, and some chocolate. I loaded up two bags of LOVE with individually wrapped candies, nuts, granola bars and cookies. They were thrilled!! Still can't go into the school but Sonja and front office staff did meet me at the door. Sonja's classroom had no heat so she and the children were bundled in coats, hats and mittens she said. If her classroom is like the one I had, then each room has its own heating unit (never was a good design). She looked mighty weary and extremely thin from having just had a nasty case of covid. I wanted to hug her but, of course, couldn't. She gave me a little statue of an angel and said we were angels to that school and her. I'd be most happy to do it again. It made my day!

Sue Hemseth

Save the Dates!

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**Nov. 12-13:
All-Church
Retreat at
Camp
Casawasco**

From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Although this letter was written in early June as Debbie embarked on her sabbatical, I have included it with a few edits of events that already have occurred. Please see listing for upcoming worship services at bottom of page. SAE

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday was my last Sunday before my sabbatical time begins. I am so grateful for this opportunity to take some time away, even though it's hard to pull away and I will miss you! Please know that you can say Hi if you see me! I will be back for the church picnic on August 28th!

I am confident you are all going to have a good summer! We have good preachers lined up to lead worship services, and Andrea Mooney will be Coordinator of worship services and other administrative needs, with backup help from Amanda Ufford. Andrea Mooney will be sharing plans for dates beyond this. Watch for news!

Please plan to participate and support those who are leading! And, sign up to bring snacks for Doorstep Receptions after worship and stay around to visit.

I am aware that the last time you had a pastor go on sabbatical a lot of problems boiled up. That turned out to be a very difficult, painful time. Those of you who were here then may realize you are feeling a little more than the usual anxieties about this summer's plans. We are in such a different place! We have made good plans together for this summer, and I am not disappearing! I have told those taking leadership that I trust them to handle things - but I also want to be contacted if they need me!

Debbie Allen and Tony Lister will be taking the lead to provide Pastoral Care this summer, with some help from other clergy as needed (Rich Barron, Edie Reagan, Tim Dean and Brian Baker) Debbie will be coordinating all of this. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them if you are needing support or know of others who are. Debbie's cell phone is 607-738-6148 and Tony's cell is 607-319-1095. For emergency pastoral need, you can contact them directly or contact Shella in the church office during office hours.

I also encourage all of you to be intentional about taking care of each other! Stay around after worship to visit, make phone calls, send cards, and reach out to each other to plan fun times together! If you're willing to be a regular volunteer to visit and call others in the church, let Linda Caughey from Circle of Care know.

We are living in such difficult times. There is so much pain and distress and fear in our world. We need to encourage and care for one another and share God's love in every way we can. You all are so good at this, so I know you'll have a great summer of nurturing and caring for each other.

*Love and blessings,
Debbie*



Pastor Rev Debbie Bennett Reynolds with her daughter Anna and new son-in-law Maroun Mansour and husband Bill celebrating the marriage of Anna and Maroun at Ithaca Town Hall.

Date	Preacher	Liturgist	Lectionary	Special Music
July 24 AWAB Sunday	Rev. Ossie Heath-Crump	Regi Carpenter	Luke 11: 1-13	Mark Lawrence
July 31	Dr. Baruch Whitehead	Judy Kennison/ Marlene Sack	Luke 12: 13-21	David Caughey, Bill Fry, Bruce Chandler
August 7	Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrad	Andrea Mooney	Luke 12: 32-40	Mark Lawrence
Aug. 14	Rev. Rich Barron	Anne Farrell	Luke 12: 49-56	Regi Carpenter
Aug. 21	Brian Henderson	Shella Chace	Luke 13: 10-17	New Creation Singers
Aug. 28	Worship/Picnic at Taughannock State Park, 11 am, Edie Reagan leading			



Jan Butler



Bill Fry



Barb Fry



Amanda Ufford

Worker Bees Scrub, Dust and Clean First Baptist June 4th

Photos by Judy Kennison



Steve Hilsdorf



Meg Gillard



Marlene Sack and Anne Farrell



Curt Ufford



Margie Latham



Carolyn Young



Debbie Allen, Steve Farrell and Jan Butler



Linda Caughey

Myra's Memories

I awoke early this morning thinking about Ruth Barrett Lacy who wrote the history of FB. I remember it was Ruth who gave the name, VISITOR to our paper. She and her husband Jim had 3 sons. Dick, Hugh and Norm. Norm was in the same classes with me in SS and in high school.

Ruth was a devoted genealogist and writer. Ruth taught at Ithaca High as a sub some of the time. She and my mother, Evelyn, were close friends. Ruth even suggested my mother's name be put on the ballot for the Ithaca School Board position in 1954. My mother served there as one of the first two women on the Board for four years! Ann Baldwin was the other Board member.

Ruth traced a mutual family connection. It was Richard Warren who was on the Mayflower. Evelyn enjoyed family history for many years as did Ruth. The family lived on Troy Road and as teenagers we came to the Lacy home for outings from FB.

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Communion table bouquet July 10th



Congratulations to James (Nico) Schultz on his graduation from high school.

## The Mystery of God

by John Todd Ferrier

Submitted by Christopher Morgon Loy



Christopher Loy

The Mystery of God is one by which every human Soul is impressed, before which all awakened Souls stand in awe, and after which many seek that they may solve the mystery and know God. In every language almost, the word, which signifies God, implies the Eternal Good. We speak of God as the Eternal Love, the Eternal Light, the Eternal Life; but all are gathered up into the idea affirmed in the term God. God is Good. Good there is a quality. It is not a principle, but the quality of a principle. God is Good because God is the Eternal Love, Eternal Light, Eternal Life. Goodness is of the very nature of perfect Love, and of the Light begotten of Love, and of the Life manifested from Love. In the ancient Hebrew language Jehovah implied the Divine Principle. Yahweh was the Eternal and Ever Most Blessed One. All sublime qualities are in God as Jehovah. All sublime qualities manifest in the realm of Being, of worlds, of Life are from Him. Good in man is of the quality of the Good that He is. Love in man is of the quality of the Eternal Love. Yahweh creates children, and these partake of His qualities that He may be reflected gloriously through them.

The Mystery of God is the most sublime. The transcendence of God above all manifest creation is beyond speech. So is His Immanence in the children whom He creates. The majesty of the mystery of the Being of God is nowhere more transcendently expressed than in the lowly state of a human Soul wherein the Divine Immanence is not only potential and latent, but sublimely realized.

The Mystery of God is the mystery of the Divine Substance and the Sacred Flame called the Spirit. He is no person. He is no individual. God is not expressed, nor indeed can He be expressed, by any terms we could command, nor any signs we could give, nor any symbol we could fashion. God is He and She and It : that is, God is Fatherhood—Motherhood in all Spirit and Substance; the creative, the formulative, the fashioning, the transforming, the transfiguring and perfecting power inherent in all Being, and realized for glorious manifestation in the realm we speak of as Divine. It is thus a human Soul, through the Divine realm within it, knows the Mystery and expresses it in all the Diving attributes which are begotten and built up, glorified and manifested from and through and by the Eternal Love, the Eternal Light, the Eternal Life, contained within the sacred casket of the Heavenly Principle which is God in the Soul.

Thus is Yahweh known. Thus is Jehovah revealed. Thus is the Diving Mystery unveiled to Souls.

From *Life's Mysteries Unveiled* pp. 80-81



Debbie Allen preaching in June



# Glory to God Abounds at First Baptist through Its Music, Prayers, Retreats, Social Action & Ecological Endeavors

## FBC Elects Officers at June Meeting

At the annual FBC June Congregational meeting June 26th officers for the 2022-2023 year were elected from the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. Most of the officers, including Moderator Margie Latham, choose to remain in their former positions for another year.

Anne Farrell was thanked and honored as she timed out as convener of the Board of Trustees. Under her stellar leadership much was accomplished.

The only other substantive changes were the election of Marlene Sack and Carolyn Young to the Board of Trustees. Also, Steve Farrell said that he would be leaving the job as convener of the the Christian Concern Ministry team to join the Hospitality Team. See updated list on last page.

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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

We are sad to report the sudden passing of a friend of FBC Helen Tseng, formerly of Mount Pleasant Rd., Ithaca. She leaves behind a son Dakota.



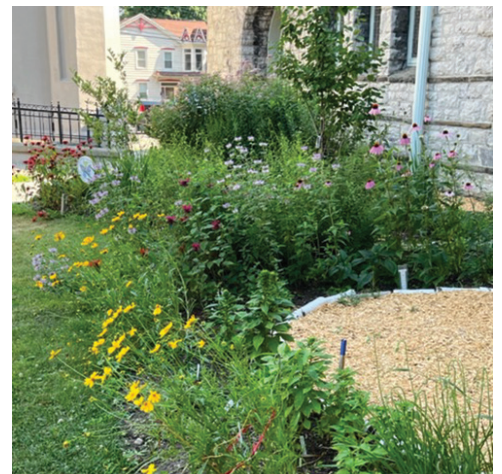
Belinda Adams and David Caughey leading music.



Anne Farrell and Marlene Sack combine their beautiful soprano and alto voices in lovely duets..



Tony Lister leading a six-fold body prayer during worship at Taughannock State Park on June 19th



FBC Pollinator Garden in full bloom



Alicia Dixon-Garrad and Peggy Fry Keating get acquainted at the Memorial Day weekend Women's Retreat at Light on the Hill



During a recent trip to Zambia to conduct legal English seminars Andrea Mooney found time to befriend a baby elephant.

Pentecost / 200th Anniversary Worship & Reception cont.

"God the Artist"

By Angela Morgan

God, when you thought of a pine tree,
How did you think of a star?
How did you dream of the Milky Way
To guide us from afar.
How did you think of a clean brown
pool
Where flecks of shadows are?

God, when you thought of a cobweb,
How did you think of dew?
How did you know a spider's house
Had shingles bright and new?
How did you know the human folk
Would love them like they do?

God, when you patterned a bird song,
Flung on a silver string,
How did you know the ecstasy
That crystal call would bring?
How did you think of a bubbling throat
And a darling speckled wing?

God, when you chiseled a raindrop,
How did you think of a stem,
Bearing a lovely satin leaf
To hold the tiny gem?
How did you know a million drops
Would deck the morning's hem?

Why did you mate the moonlit night
With the honeysuckle vines?
How did you know Madeira bloom
Distilled ecstatic wines?
How did you weave the velvet disk
Where tangled perfumes are?
God, when you thought of a pine tree,
How did you think of a star?and that
our dancing might be
contagious."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Reverends Wendy DeMott Fambro, Debbie Bennett Reynolds & Sandra L. DeMott Hasenauer



Refreshments and discussion



Sarah Zipfel with nephew Stevie



Tina Hilsdorf in Pentecost red.



Sweet-grass and black ash basket by Wolf Clan Mohawk Indian entitled Hair of Mother Earth 1997 exhibited at the Cooperstown James Fenimore Museum. Basket is representative of baskets created by the Haudenosaune Indians.



Lou Carlucci, Steve Hilsdorf and Biz Pia-Miller



Linda Nicholson & friend

Kudos to Amanda

The church office received this notice from the New York State Office of the Aging recognizing Amanda Ufford's thirty-plus years of volunteerism in the Ithaca Community.

"It is my pleasure to inform you that our committee has chosen Amanda as a recipient of our Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2022! We plan on recognizing our Outstanding Volunteers at our Open House event on Friday, May 13th. Also, the New York State Office for the Aging will be honoring all of the Outstanding Volunteers for Older New Yorker's Day during a virtual event held in November. Thank you for sharing Amanda's achievements with us.



Communion table bouquet July 3rd

Habitat for Humanity Crew Assembled

Under the sponsorship of the Christian Concern Ministry Team, several, including Carolyn Young, Charlie Gerber, Bill Abeles, Linda Nicholson, Curt and Amanda Ufford and Steve and Anne Farrell, have volunteered to work on a Habitat project in downtown Ithaca in August. They are awaiting the date. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Amanda Ufford for more information.

Friendship Lunches Delivered Twice a Month



Amanda Ufford (left) stands with Anne and Steve Farrell as they prepare to deliver 60 wholesome lunches to the Friendship Center. Lunches are prepared by two teams on the first and third Thursday of each month in the FBC kitchen.

On the first and third Thursday mornings of each month FBC teams of lunch makers prepare 60 lunches to be delivered to the Friendship Center. Lunches include a sandwich (bologna, cheese, egg salad etc.), Juice, fruit, a snack and dessert.

Some volunteers help prepare the lunches in the FBC kitchen for delivery while others who are working simply drop off their contribution to be packed.

If you would like to volunteer for this worthwhile project, please contact Anne Farrell for first Thursday lunches and Barb Fry for third Thursday lunches.

New volunteers are always welcome.

Rev. William J. Barber II & Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis Invite Participation in a Third Reconstruction - an Excerpt from <info@poorpeoplescampaign.org Submitted by Linda Caughey

"To build a true Third Reconstruction we must simultaneously deal with the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of health care, militarism and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism that blames the poor instead of the systems that cause poverty."

- When 140 million poor and low-income people can be ignored by our policies and politics, it's time for a moral revival.
- When our country makes it easier to get a gun than to vote, it's time for a moral revival.
- When millionaires become billionaires and the billionaires fly off to space while their own workers are overworked and underpaid, it's time for a moral revival. ...

We have moral authority. We have people power. And when we take action together, we will win. If the extremists in power are cynical enough to stick together behind their agenda, we must stick together to create an honest, fair, loving country that prioritizes the poor. Instead of waiting for our well-being to trickle down from those at the top, we must organize and lift from the bottom, for everyone to rise. We aren't just counting down the days until the midterm elections — we have a plan to show candidates and lawmakers that we will vote for our people and for our lives:

- We will register poor and low-income voters.
- We will call and email and show up at our lawmakers' offices.
- We will head to Washington in September to take direct action in support of the Third Reconstruction.
- We will show up at the polls on November 8, 2022.
- And we will continue to organize and build the power of the 140 million poor and low-income people in this country.

It's our time."

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis



Please keep in your prayers:

- Hans Bump
- Zetta Pederson
- John Gross
- Suzanne Kilgore
- Jan Butler's children
- Pastor André Thera & family
- Ron Drummond
- The Phelan family
- Anthony Halman & family
- Marianna Morse
- Biz Pia-Miller and family
- Margie Latham and family

I don't know anything about consciousness. I just try to teach my students how to hear the birds sing.

SHUNRYU SUZUKI ROSHI

What actually sustains us, what is fundamentally beautiful, is compassion—for yourself and for those around you. That kind of beauty inflames the heart and enchants the soul.

LUPITA NYONG'O

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are but doesn't leave us where it found us.

ANNE LAMOTT



May Communion Table Bouquet

The Visitor - July 2022

Editor/publisher: Susan Eymann
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The annual FBC Women's Retreat was held over Memorial Day weekend at Light on the Hill in Van Etten.

Time and Talent Ministries (updated June 2022))

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: Margie Latham
Vice Moderator: Andrea Mooney
Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf
Recording Clerks: Rich Barron/Susan Eymann

Treasurer: David Caughey
Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry
Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack

Board of Trustees

Bill Fry chair (2024); Baruch Whitehead, (2023) Bill Phelan (2023); Josie Zanfordino secretary (2023); Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2024); Steve Hilsdorf (2024); Kris Scott (2025); Marlene Sack (2025); Carolyn Young (2025); (David Caughey, ex officio).

Trustees' Subgroups

Finance & Endowment
David Caughey, Chair, Bill Fry; Marlene Sack, Curt Ufford, Janet Cotraccia

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

Church Archivist: Linda Caughey

Affiliate Organizations

Two Delegates each for **Rochester Genesee Region** & **ABC-USA** Rich and Lil Barron, Co-chairs; Anne & Steve Farrell

AWAB: Shella Chace

Baptist Peace Fellowship: Meg Gillard,
Cornell Campus Ministry: Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell

Kitchen Cupboard: Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

Tompkins County Workers Center: Bill Abeles

Sanctuary Alliance: Bill Abeles, Bill Fry

Pastoral Relations

Tony Lister, Regi Carpenter (2023); Mark Lawrence (2024), Amanda Ufford (2024); Judy Kennison (2025), Bronwyn Evans (2025)

Nominating Committee

Leslie Schultz, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Susan Eymann

Personnel Committee

Bruce Chandler (2023), * Lou Carlucci (2024), * Judy Kennison (2024)

Constitution/By-Law Committee

Bill Fry, Linda Nicholson, Susan Eymann, Anne Farrell, Judy Kennison, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Ministry Teams

Worship & Spiritual Life:

Barbara Fry, Amy Chaffee, Co-chairs; Biz Pia-Miller, Tony Lister, Kris Scott, Edie Reagan, Alice Grow, Regi Carpenter, Debbie Allen

Worship/Spiritual Life Subgroups

Flower Committee: Barbara Fry, Tina Hilsdorf, Andrea Staffeld

Labyrinth: Kris Scott

Sound/Audio Ministry: David Caughey, Curt Ufford, Bill Fry, Bill Phelan

Education Children's and Youth:

Leslie Schultz, chair Carol Fleming,
Christian Ed Teachers: Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Meg Gillard

Christian Concern

Baruch Whitehead chair; Bill Phelan, Bill Abeles, Amanda Ufford and others

Christian Concern Subgroups

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

Hospitality Ministry:

Anne Farrell: chair; Shella Chace, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Adrienne McNair, Andrea Staffeld, Steve Farrell, Bay Ward/Aittama, Alice Grow

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

Green Team

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

Ad Hoc Reopening Committee

Pastor DBR, David Caughey, Amy Bean Stowell, Barbara Pease, Barbara Fry.

Zouera (aka Sally) Phelan is now living in Charolette, NC and is working with the East Coast fundraising team for the non-for-profit World Vision.