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*Dahlia Glory - Sept. 24th*

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

Micah 6:8

## Good Time Had By All At "Gateway to Porchfest" On September 24th,

The goal of FBC's participation in Porchfest this year was to be a "Friendraiser" said organizer Steve Farrell. And that it was.

"Friends" stopped by view our First Baptist Pollinator Garden, enjoy refreshments, and listen to musical performances by Tony Lister, David Caughey, Joe Haines and Transpose which were held in the community room.

Donations collected went to support the Pastor's Fund which is used to meet short-term emergency needs in the greater Ithaca community.



*Carolyn Young, on the left and Alice Grew hold up a sign drawing Porchfest visitors to view FBC's Pollinator Garden.*

## FBC Shines from Top to Bottom after 2023 Fall Clean-up

*By Marlene Sack, Resource Committee*

Every spring and fall, a work party gathers at the church to "dig in the corners" and give the church a thorough going over with intense volunteer labor. The church is cleaned inside and out. For many, this may be the first time they have explored the recesses of the basement or gotten acquainted with the balcony.

This year, 18 very hard working volunteers showed up to brandish mop and pail, vacuums and dust cloths to put the shine on the woodwork, the kitchen cupboards and counters, and clean out the window wells. Marian Coger gets the prize for coming the farthest and staying all three hours. Anne Farrell, Dave Caughey, and Carolyn Young got the coffee and donuts ready before diving into their many tasks. David Hopkins, our maintenance genius, came to work alongside. Judy Kennison, Barb Fry, Bill Abeles, Amanda Ufford, Shella Chace, Bruce Chandler and Sasa Gradsky (from Transpose Choir) polished, cleaned, scrubbed and vacuumed. Anne Farrell worked in the kitchen with the help of Laura Peters, Bill Phelan, and Bruce Chandler (doing double duty). Bill Fry, Steve Hilsdorf and Dave Caughey worked outside before coming in and putting up the storm windows for cold weather.

As people worked together there was much laughter and conversation which led to more laughter. This social exchange is one of the benefits that comes along with people working together for a common purpose.

This year, more than ever, the need for the work days has become more important as the use of the church building has doubled over the previous year. Ongoing rentals from four community groups continues and one day rentals have tripled. This increase in usage may be due to groups wanting to meet in person. It is most likely due to the improvements the church has made over the last several years. After the entrance was made wheelchair accessible, the library was redesigned and refurbished, the bathrooms have been upgraded, the nursery redecorated, and the kitchen upgraded to meet required health standards. A note of thanks here to Anne and Steve Farrell's vision for improvements. The chapel was also redone and the Evans Room created for smaller meetings.

Thank you to all who have contributed to making First Baptist a welcoming and inviting space.

# Retreats 2023 - 2024



**FIRST BAPTIST ALL-CHURCH  
RETREAT — 2023  
"Better Together"**

Casowasco Retreat Center  
10 am Saturday — 1 pm Sunday  
November 18 -19, 2023  
Come, join us!

Registration:  
Cost: \$122 for one night and 4 meals.  
Registration Deadline:  
November 1, 2023

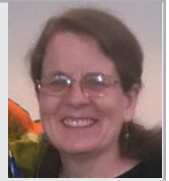
Contact Janice Nigro or Joy Rutt to register. Pay what you can and come join the fun.

## Genesee Abby Retreat Postponed

Members of the Worship, Music and Spiritual Life Committee had hoped to go to Genesee Abby south of Rochester this month for a contemplative retreat with the Trappist Brothers who live there, but after several of the intended participants had late moment conflicts, the retreat has been postponed to the spring, possibly April 12-14th. For more information about this unique opportunity to experience the contemplative practice of a rich spiritual community, contact Tony Lister at listertony8@gmail.com.

~ ~ ~ ~  
**Save the Date**  
~ ~ ~ ~  
**Women's Retreat  
Light on the Hill  
March 15-16, 2024**  
~ ~ ~ ~

## From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds



Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

"Better Together" is the theme of our upcoming Church Retreat and our fall stewardship campaign. We're claiming David Caughey's song about First Baptist because we believe it captures something essential about who we are and who we are called to be in Christ. We are called into community as followers of Jesus, called to be the Body of Christ together. We cannot do it alone. It is as a community that we live into love – God's love, love for each other, and love for ourselves as children of God. Real love is never abstract. Love is particular, embodied, lived out in real relationships with real people. That's what makes loving relationships wonderful and joyful, and that's also what makes them challenging! Being a real community takes honesty and vulnerability and commitment.

In these times we are living in, when there is so much division and polarization in our society, such heart-breaking violence and wars in our world, people need loving relationships. We need authentic community - where we can be ourselves and we are loved for who we are. That's what draws people in to be part of First Baptist – our warmth and our authentic life together. What we do as a church family matters! It matters to each of us as it encourages us and strengthens our faith and love to live our daily lives. And it also matters to our larger world! Everything we do that is loving and joyful and authentic sends forth positive energy. As the Spirit of God lives and works in us and among us, the Spirit shapes us and builds positive energy that we share into the world. As Paul wrote in Galatians 5: 22-23 "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." God knows, the world needs more of these!

So, let's keep on keeping on! Let's keep being "Better Together!" I am so grateful for each of you and the ways you are a part of our community. Each one of you is important. What you contribute – by being yourself and being a part of us – makes us a better faith community. It takes everyone of us to make First Baptist what God has called us to be. I thank God for all of you and your faithfulness and your great love.

Love and blessings,  
Debbie



Backyard

Photo by Debbie Bennett Reynolds

## In Memoriam



### Elaine Haines, 1942 - 2023

*Elaine grew up in India, attending Woodstock School in Mussoorie through grade 12, and then graduating with a nursing degree from Goshen College, IN.*

*Elaine was a caregiver devoting her life to service, while working alongside her husband in Israel-Palestine at the Hope School in Beit Jala and at the Nazareth Hospital. Elaine later worked to create new care guidelines for residents in nursing homes in eastern Pennsylvania.*

*Above all, she devoted herself to her family: her husband of 59 years, Joe, and her three children Kris, Kim, and Matt. Her 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren were a source of much joy for her and she attended their birthday, musical, athletic, and graduation events with such enthusiasm and pride.*

*Elaine will be remembered for her countless meals of curry, maqlubbi, and mjeddara, along with her beautiful wildflower centerpieces, countless handwritten cards, and her love of butterflies. She was a lover of wit and humor, spinning wonderful stories of her life with a combination of Hindi, Arabic and Pennsylvania Dutch.*

*Her fiery spirit lives on in the homes she created, the lives she touched, and the stories she told.*

~~~~~



*Joe Haines, Elaine's husband of over 60 years, entertains during Porchfest.*

## Walking the Camino – Spring 2023

By Debbie Allen

In the spring of 2023, I had an opportunity to make a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The Camino is made up of numerous paths that begin in different parts of Europe and converge in Santiago, a city in northwestern Spain where the cathedral is said to be the burial place of the bones of St. James. The group I was with, led by a teacher in the Wisdom School founded by Cynthia Bourgeault, walked from Sarria to Santiago, the shortest distance (about 100 km) that is required in order to receive a Compostela, the official document of completion.

### Unifying Body, Spirit, Mind

Many people are drawn to walk the Camino every year for a wide variety of reasons. For me, pilgrimage is an intentional journey that unites body, mind, and spirit in surprising ways. I have found that the physical demands of walking wear away my usual defenses and allow something deeper to emerge. Being exposed to the elements of air, water, and earth for long hours each day brings an awareness of my interconnectedness with the natural world. Walking alongside fellow pilgrims opens me to my need for and dependence on others. Pilgrimage is a humbling experience that evokes gratitude for all the inner and outer encounters that take place along the way. Back home, I can more easily shield myself from these realities.

### Long, Complicated History

The Camino has a long and complicated history with connections to Celtic and Muslim, as well as Christian, beliefs and culture. There were many reminders of these cultures and peoples from centuries past – the 12th century church in Barbadelo that dates back to a monastery built in 874 CE, the Castromaior ruins of a Roman camp that was inhabited since the Iron Age, the wayside Cross of Lameiros from the 17th century, to name a few. At times, I could not help but feel the presence of pilgrims and inhabitants of the land throughout the ages.

### Sustained by Galacian Beauty

On many days, the natural beauty of the Galician countryside sustained me. Fields were filled with white, yellow, and purple wildflowers. Because it is a more temperate climate, many plants were blooming (calla lilies, asphodel, Spanish broom, poppies, lemon and fig trees) that are not native to our region. The path often took us through stands of tall eucalyptus trees or lovely moss-covered woods where the trees made an arch over our heads. Color and fragrance have a way of lifting the spirit on long days of walking.

### Physical Challenge

I would be remiss not to mention the challenge of wear and tear on feet and joints that results from walking up and down hills for hours. No one, it seems, is exempt from some form of discomfort and I was no exception. The help and encouragement of others made an enormous difference in my ability to cope.

I have been asked whether I would return to walk more of the Camino. I do not think so at this point in my life, but I try to stay open to the Spirit's call.



**Basilica of Santiago de Compostela:** A destination of a pilgrimage is usually a place of sacred significance because of its history and association with a saint or spiritual leader. For pilgrims walking the Camino, the destination is the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, although many people continue on to Finisterre on the Atlantic coast. The Cathedral is said to be the burial place of St. James, one of Jesus' apostles. A dramatic Pilgrim Mass is celebrated there with the swinging of a huge incense burner accompanied by powerful organ music.

# Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage by Debbie Allen



**The Path:** The Camino took us across many old bridges and through lovely towns and old growth forests. The path was earth, clay, gravel, stone, or asphalt in more populated areas, and was wide enough for several people to walk together. Camino markers were frequent and hard to miss. Each one had the distinctive yellow scallop pattern associated with St. James on a blue background and below it, the number of remaining miles to Santiago.



**Horreo:** A frequent sight on Spanish farms in Galicia are rectangular, square or round horreos to hold grain. Raised up off the ground with wood or stone to keep rodents out and have ventilation through slits in the walls, each one also has distinctive features and decorations such as a cross on top.



**Galician cows** are raised for milk and beef. The beef is said to be the best in the world because of the age of the cows and the fresh grass they eat throughout the year. I was particularly taken with the colors of these cows in the field as the light filtered through the trees.



**Especially beautiful view** from a hillside between Sarria and Portomarin toward the end of our first day of walking. The weather was hot and dry and the water level of the lake is quite low. Our hotel was down a steep hill on the shore of the lake. Descending that hill was hard on my toes and caused bruising that lasted throughout the pilgrimage.



**Castromaior** is a Roman ruin and archeological site that was developed in the Iron Age and inhabited from the 4th century BCE to the beginning of the Roman occupation in the first century CE. The short detour to get there was well worth it, not only because of the ruins, but because of the beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.



**Fragrant Wisteria:** The intoxicating scent and beauty of this white wisteria against the blue sky filled me with delight as I walked through a rural village. All the senses come alive along the Camino.



**Cattle Roadblock:** This farmer led his cattle out from a side road directly in front of us, slowing the pace of pilgrims walking behind them. Slowing down is a good thing on a pilgrimage as it allows you to be more aware of what is happening both within and around you.

~ ~ ~ ~  
**Visit FBC's Library  
To View This  
Photo Essay of  
Debbie's Camino de  
Santiago Pilgrimage**  
~ ~ ~ ~

## FBC Team Participates in Annual Mobile Food Pack

### Excerpt from *The Covenant of Water*

By Abraham Verghese

In his 2023 blockbuster novel, Dr. Abraham Verghese chronicles the lives of three generations of a Keralan Christian Indian family from 1900 to 1977.

One of the novel's characters Dr. Rune sits on a bench along the rocky shoreline of Fort Cochin in southwest India smoking one last pipe for the day. He is restless but can't pinpoint the reason for his restlessness. He watches as a leper passes.

*(The following excerpt is from pages 195-196.)*

"In a dizzying shift of perspective, Rune suddenly feels he has *become* the leper: it's Rune who looks out through scarred opaque corneas, Rune who sees cloudy, smeared images with no edges; Rune who discerns light and shallow but remembers what it was like to have moonlight fall on his face, those are Rune's misshapen, ulcerated feet wrapped in bloodied gunysack that is secured with coir rope. The moment passes. He has no explanation for what has just happened, the sense of being momentarily embodied in another.

The figure disappears, swallowed by the night, the tap of staff against stone receding. In a rush of clarity, Rune sees all the things the leper could not; the distant horizon where the sea meets sky; the sky that suspends the moon; and the moon with the shawl of tears draped around it....He feels himself disappear in the capaciousness of the universe. He has become the sagging net, the blind leper who must sleep under the stars...In the immensity of the cosmos, Rune feels he himself is nothing, an illusion. The differences between him and the leper is no difference at all, they are just manifestations of the universal consciousness.

In this new awareness, the restless chattering in his head abruptly ceases. Just as the ocean manifests as a wave or surf, but neither wave or surf is the ocean, so also the Creator—God or Brahma—generates an impression of a universe that takes the form of a Swedish doctor, or a blind leper. Rune is real. The leper is real. The fishing net is real. Yet, it is all *maya*, their separateness an illusion. All is one. The universe is nothing but a speak of form on a limitless ocean that is the Creator. He feels euphoric and unburdened—the *peace of God which passeth all understanding*.

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**FBC Team:** A team from First Baptist, organized by Youth Coordinator Laura Ward, participated in the Ithaca Mobile Pack for its fourteenth consecutive year to feed food-insecure children worldwide. The Mobile Pack is a volunteer-based event co-organized by multiple faith congregations in Ithaca. Working under Christian nonprofit Feed My Starving Children, the packing event took place at the New York National Guard Armory from September 28 through October 1. This year's event aimed to raise \$66,000 and pack 225,000 meals. Throughout its 14 years of service, Ithaca Mobile Pack has attracted more than 14,000 volunteers and packed more than three million meals in its effort to fight hunger.

Photo supplied by Laura Ward



"Friends" having watermelon under the tent outside



Carrie Stems, left, and Leslie Schultz preparing food.

### More Porchfest Photos



Enjoying musical entertainment in the Community Room

# Palestine Peace Not Apartheid

By Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States & Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

In his 2006 book entitled *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*, Jimmy Carter, who brought Mohammad Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel together in 1967 at Camp David to sign the historic Camp David Peace Accords, shares his extensive knowledge of the Middle East and addresses the sensitive issues needed to bring an enduring peace to that turbulent region. The book begins with a chronological history of the region which is condensed below.

## B.C.

- ca. 1900 B.C.** Abraham journeys from Ur to Canaan.
- ca. 1200 B.C.** Moses leads Israelites exodus from Egypt
- ca. 1000 B.C.** King David unites the 12 tribes of Israel; his son Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem
- ca. 930 B.C.** The nation is divided into Israel and Judah. The Assyrians conquer Israel in 72- B.C.; The Babylonians destroy Judah in 580 B.C. In 538 B.C., Persia conquers Babylon and permits exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem.

**332 B.C.** The Greeks conquer the region.

**167 B.C.** Jews establish an independent Judea.

**63 B.C.** Romans take over Judea.

**4 B.C.** Jesus born, preaches for three years and is crucified at 33 years.

## A.D.

**70:** Jewish revolt suppressed; Temple in Jerusalem destroyed

**135:** Roman suppress a Jewish revolt and Jews forced into exile. The Romans rename the province **Syria Palestine**

**1099:** First Crusaders capture Jerusalem and establish Christian rule over Palestine

**1187:** Saladin, sultan of Egypt, conquers Jerusalem and, except for one 15-year interval, Muslims control Palestine until the end of WW I.

**1917:** Great Britain, issues the **Balfour Declaration**, promising a Jewish national home in Palestine, with respect for the rights of non-Jewish Palestinians.

**1922:** After the Ottoman Empire's defeat in WW I, the League of Nations confirms British mandates over Iraq and Palestine, a French mandate over Syria and Lebanon and Transjordan becomes an autonomous kingdom.

**1936:** Palestinian Arabs demand an end to Jewish immigration and a ban

on land sales to Jews. Violence erupts despite British attempts to assert control. **The Peel Commission recommends partition of Palestine between Arabs and Jews.**

**1939:** Britain imposes severe restrictions on Jewish immigration and land purchases in Palestine. Violence erupts from Jewish militants.

**1947:** The United Nations partitions Palestine into Jewish (55%), Arab and international areas (Jerusalem and Bethlehem). Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan become independent states.

**1948:** Israel declares independence; Arabs attack; Israel prevails. **UN General Assembly Resolution 194** establishes a conciliation commission and asserts that refugees could return to their homes and should be allowed to live in peace, compensation should be paid to others, and free access to holy sites should be assured.

**1949:** Agreements with the Arabs allow Israel to gain more land (77% of Palestine) and Egypt to occupy the Gaza strip. Transjordan, renamed Jordan, controls what is left of the west bank of the Jordan River and annexes the territory in 1950.

**1949:** Egypt nationalizes Suez Canal.

**1964:** Palestinian Liberation Army (PLO) formed and is committed to fight to liberate the homeland of the Palestinian people.

**1967: Six Day War:** In preemptive strikes on Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Jordan, Israel occupies the Golan Heights, Gaza, Sinai and the West Bank including Jerusalem.

**1973: Yom Kippur War:** Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in the Sinai and Golan Heights. After 16 days, the UN calls for peace talks.

**1974:** Arab summit proclaims PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Israel agrees to withdraw from the Sinai, but not the Golan heights.

**1977-78:** Sadat visits Jerusalem; Begin visits Ismailia. Camp David

Accords outline a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt and other Arab neighbors but are rejected at an Arab summit isolating Egypt.

**1979:** Peace agreement signed between Israel and Egypt, guaranteeing Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and Israel's access to Suez Canal.

**1981:** Israel escalates establishment of settlements in Palestinian territory.

**1982:** Israel attacks PLO forces in Lebanon. Militant Lebanese Hezbollah formed.

**1987:** Militant Palestinian Hamas formed.

**1987:** Jordan cedes its rights in the West bank to the PLO. PLO's Yasir Arafat acknowledges Israel's right to exist.

**1993-94:** Oslo peace Agreement between Israel and the PLO mutually recognizing a five year plan to resolve all remaining differences. Over the ensuing years up to the present, militant Palestinians and right-wing Israelis attempt to undermine any progress toward peace.



Peruvians Jenny Auqui and Edgar Escararte in sanctuary at First Congregational Church (FCC) with their children Fiorela who turned 9 on Sunday and Gricy (pronounced Gracy) age 13. On October 13th, 12 FBC members shared a dish-to-pass with the family at FCC. The next FBC ISA team meeting is November 6 at 5:15 in the church library.

ISA food support for the family is provided by the following six organizations on a rotating basis: First Baptist Church (FBC); Living Hope Fellowship (LHF); St. Catherine's of Siena (SC); First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT); Tikkun v'Or Reform Temple (Tv'O); and First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI). FBC's next week for food support is November 12-18th. Please contact Anne Horst (ahorst611@gmail.com) to become involved.

## Ithaca Sanctuary Fundraiser Planned for Dec. 2nd at FCC

Volunteers are needed for the following: publicity, soliciting food donations, program development, food preparation on Dec. 1st and Dec. 2nd, dining area set-up on Dec. 2nd, greeting and seating, collecting donations and organizing a silent auction (optional). If you can help, please contact Anne Horst (ahorst611@gmail.com).



Heavenly Blue Morning Glory



Map of Israel showing its occupied territories, the Golan Heights, West bank and Gaza strip. From wikipedia, 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.

### Prayer at AWAB-Sponsored Breakfast

Friend and former AWAB board member Madison McClendon wrote the following prayer that preceded the AWAB Breakfast at the American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Saturday, June 24th, 2023.

"Strong, handsome, fierce and powerful Mother. Sweet, gentle, beautiful and sensitive Father. Parent whose nurture and protection surpasses understanding. We have gathered for another morning. Most of us didn't get enough sleep last night. Most of us had a full day yesterday. Most of us have a full day in front of us. Last night, we heard a word to be woke. But for some of us, the work of being awake for decades, awake when others were asleep, working while others slumbered, that work has been exhausting. Many of us have had too many sleepless nights worrying about what it means to be ourselves in a world that refuses to understand. We fell asleep last night once more, not into an ignorant sleep, but into a desperate rest.

But now we have reason to celebrate. Now we gather in rainbow glory. Wake us today to more than just justice. Enliven us to see the inexhaustible beauty of your creation, a beauty that emerges precisely from the impossible diversity and inexpressible abundance that is the watchword of being alive. Every face here is a creation you made to be beautiful and fragile, glorious and vulnerable, extraordinary and queer. As we awake together, make us wholly alive to the beauty of your queer and wondrous world. Let that beauty be the fuel that lets us do more than just see the injustice around us. Let it empower us to set our hands once more to the task the day demands of us. Let it teach us once more what it means to rise in power.

Amen, and amen.



### AWAB's Origins by Natalie Aho, AWAB Director of Development Excerpt from the October 2023 AWAB Newsletter

"As you should know, this is the 50th anniversary of AWAB. In 1973, a small group from the American Baptist Churches-USA had the audacity to speak for God's radical love and welcome for all. This group, named American Baptists Concerned, advocated for their own inclusion as well as the congregations who were on the path to being disfellowshipped for their affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community.

Twenty years later, AWAB was formed in 1993 to create and support a community of churches, organizations, and individuals committed to the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons into the full life and mission of Baptist churches.

Whether your church just joined last month, is still contemplating joining, has been a member since 1993, or was a part of American Baptist Concerned, we hope that being a part of AWAB is important to who you are."

First Baptist Church in Ithaca joined AWAB more than a quarter century ago under the thoughtful leadership of Pastor Wendy Fambro. After the congregation had studied and discussed the issue for several months a Congregational vote was taken on whether First Baptist should join other Baptist churches in declaring itself "Welcoming and Affirming." The vote was overwhelming affirmative. In recent years, Shella Chace, First Baptist's representative to AWAB was Secretary to their Board of Directors and this year, had the distinctive honor of receiving AWAB's Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness award at the American Baptists Churches USA 2023 Biennial Mission Summit, June 23-25, 2023, in Puerto Rico where AWAB hosted a breakfast (See breakfast prayer in left sidebar.)



**Brunch Is Back!** On October 22nd, the Hospitality Committee organized the first brunch of the year following worship.



Please keep in your prayers:

- *Bill Reynolds*
- *Kris and Danny Scott & Zeta Pederson*
- *Suzanne Kilgore*
- *Kendrick Kemp*
- *Ron Drummond*
- *Marge Hansel*
- *Abraham Phelan*
- *Anthony Halman & family*

Even in the darkest days, the moon and sun make their ancient, reliable journeys. Birds sing. Some green thing insists on growing in a ravaged land. Our own human life force refuses to give up.

TREBBE JOHNSON

Those seemingly ordinary moments of wonder in your life — when you are arrested by the sunset or swell of music or your child’s face, and the line between you and everything blurs — are not throw-away moments. They are actually portals into the sacred nature of things.

VALARIE KAUR



### The Visitor - October 2023

Editor/publisher: Susan Eymann  
Proofers: Tony Lister, Shella Chace, Judy Kennison  
Contributors: Marlene Sack, Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Debbie Allen, Joe Haines  
Photos: Tony Lister, Debbie Allen, Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Laura Ward



Fall Field of Glory

Photo by Debbie Bennett Reynolds

## FBC Organization (updated October, 2023)

### First Baptist Staff

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds  
Office Manager: Janice Nigro  
Organist: Christopher Morgan Loy  
Choir Director: Belinda Adams  
Youth and Children’s Ministries  
Coordinator: Laura Ward  
Nursery Care Coordinator: Carol Fleming  
Nursery Care Assistant: Sarah Zipfel  
Custodian: David Hopkins  
Native Plants Garden Specialist: Sarah Zipfel

### Elected Leadership

#### Council Members (Trustees)

Moderator: Margie Latham  
Vice Moderator: Andrea Mooney  
Clerk: Susan Eymann  
Treasurer: Brian Baker

#### Council Committees

Ecological Justice: Josie Zanfordino  
Education: Leslie Schultz  
Hospitality and Nurture: Anne Farrell  
Resource: Bill Fry  
Service and Social Justice: Bill Abeles  
Welcome and Outreach: Steve Farrell  
Worship, Music and Spiritual Life: Amy Doyle

#### Council Member-at-Large

open

#### Non-Council Officers

Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry  
Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack  
Assistant Financial Secretary: Elizabeth Pia-Miller

#### Nominating Committee

Andrea Mooney + 4 open positions

### Pastoral Relations

(2024): Mark Lawrence, Amanda Ufford, Barb Fry; (2025): Judy Kennison (chair) Bill Abeles, Carolyn Young; (2026): Lil Barron, Barbara Pease.

### Reps to Affiliate Organizations

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

**ACT (Area Congregations Together):** Shella Chace

**AWAB:** Shella Chace

**Baptist Peace Fellowship:** Leslie Schultz

**Cornell Campus Ministry:** Brian Baker

**Kitchen Cupboard:** Amanda Ufford;

Sue Hemsath

**Tompkins County Workers Center:**

Bill Abeles

**Sanctuary Alliance:** Anne Horst, Bill Abeles; Bill Fry; Leslie Schultz and others

### Council Committees

#### Ecological Justice

Josie Zanfordino, Louise Mudrak (Co-chairs); and others

#### Education Children’s and Youth:

Leslie Schultz (chair), Debbie Allen.

**Christian Ed Teachers:** Baruch Whitehead; Sarah Zipfel; Meg Gillard

#### Hospitality and Nurture:

Anne Farrell (chair); Shella Chace; Meg Gillard; Tina Hilsdorf; Bruce Chandler, Andrea Staffeld; Steve Farrell; Alice Grow, Craig Riecke, Laura Peters

#### Resource Committee

Bill Fry (chair); Brian Baker, Rich Barron, Lou Carlucci, Dave Caughey, Steve Hilsdorf, Mark Lawrence, Bill Phelan

Marlene Sack, Kris Scott, Carolyn Young, Josie Zanfordino

### Service & Social Justice

Trustee Bill Abeles (chair); Baruch Whitehead, chair; Bill Phelan Amanda Ufford, Marge Hansel, Shella Chase,ww and others

#### Subgroup

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

### Welcome and Outreach:

Trustee Steve Farrell (chair) and others

#### Subgroup: Communications:

David Caughey; Mark Lawrence; Craig Riecke; Susan Eymann; Amy Bean Stowell; Lisa Kilgore

### Worship, Music & Spiritual Life:

Trustee Amy Doyle, Biz Pia-Miller (Co-chairs); Tony Lister; Barb Fry, Kris Scott; Edie Reagan; Alice Grow; Regi Carpenter; Debbie Allen

#### Subgroups

**Flower Committee:** Barbara Fry; Tina Hilsdorf; Andrea Staffeld, Carrie Stern

**Labyrinth:** Kris Scott

**Sound/Audio Ministry:** David Caughey;

Curt Ufford; Bill Fry; Bill Phelan; Leslie Schultz

Please contact Susan Eymann (susan.eymann@transonic.com) to make corrections/additions to this list.