



THE TIE THAT BINDS

February 2019 Newsletter of the
First Baptist Church of Bordentown

For God 

SO LOVED THE WORLD

THAT HE GAVE HIS

ONLY

BEGOTTEN

SON SO

THAT WHOEVER

BELIEVES

IN HIM SHALL

HAVE EVERLASTING

Life





God's Love Despite Our Imperfections

In this month, when we celebrate Valentine's Day, I want to share this poignant illustration on the Love of God from D. A. Carson's book, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*:

Picture Charles and Susan walking down a beach hand in hand at the end of the academic year. The pressure of the semester has dissipated in the warm evening breeze. They have kicked off their sandals, and the wet sand squishes between their toes. Charles turns to Susan, gazes deeply into her large, hazel eyes, and says, "Susan, I love you. I really do."

What does he mean?

Well, in this day and age he may mean nothing more than that he feels like testosterone on legs and wants to go to bed with her forthwith. But if we assume he has even an ounce of decency, let alone Christian virtue, the least he means is something like this: "Susan, you mean everything to me. I can't live without you. Your smile knocks me over from 50 yards. Your sparkling good humor, your beautiful eyes, the scent of your hair—everything about you transfixes me. I love you!"

What he most certainly does *not* mean is something like this: "Susan, quite frankly you have such a bad case of halitosis it would embarrass a herd of unwashed, garlic-eating elephants. Your nose is so bulbous you belong in the cartoons. Your hair is so greasy it could lubricate an eighteen-wheeler. Your knees are so disjointed you make a camel look elegant. Your personality makes Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan look like wimps. But I love you!"

So now God comes to us and says, "I love you." What does he mean?

Does He mean something like this? "You mean everything to me. I can't live without you. Your personality, your witty conversation,

your beauty, your smile—everything about you transfixes me. Heaven would be boring without you. I love you!" That, after all, is pretty close to what some therapeutic approaches to the love of God spell out. We must be pretty wonderful because God loves us. And dear old God is pretty vulnerable, finding himself in a dreadful state unless we say yes....

When He says He loves us, does not God rather mean something like the following? "Morally speaking, you are the people of the halitosis, the bulbous nose, the greasy hair, the disjointed knees, the abominable personality. Your sins have made you disgustingly ugly. But I love you anyway, not because you are attractive, but because it is my nature to love."

Respectfully,
Pastor Mark



In Case of Inclement Weather that might cause cancelation of any of our ministries, you can check out our Website (www.Bordentownbaptist.org), Facebook Page (First Baptist

Bordentown), or call the church phone number at 609-298-0805 and listen for the message for new of any cancellations.



"The new Flower Calendar for 2019 is hanging on the bulletin board in the Upper Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for a Sunday (s) at anytime. The cost for flowers to be placed on the platform is \$35, payable to First Baptist Church Deacon's Fund."

Worship for February



Sunday, February 3rd

Communion Served

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 24:1-23

Message: "It's Not How You Start, It's How You Finish"

Sunday, February 10th

Scout Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 25:34-40

Message: "Be Willing to Get Dirty"



Sunday, February 17th

Scripture: Romans 14:1 - 15:33

Message: "How Should We Respond When We Disagree?"

Sunday, February 24th

Women's Sunday

Rev. Miriam Mendez preaching



Come join us on Sunday evening, February 10th for our new Praise and Worship Service. Worship begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Led by Nia Catania and others, experience new contemporary songs, hear testimonies, and worship through prayer and devotions. All are welcome.



From the Trustees

The Board met in early January for its regular monthly meeting that also served as its organizational meeting for 2019. Elected officers are: Sharon McCormick, Chairperson; Jason Bird, Vice-Chairperson; and, Ken Blair, Secretary. Committees within the Trustees are (Other trustees include: Lora McQueen, Sandi Stark, Tony de la Cruz, Steve Rafferzeder, Sandy McGonigal). Each Trustee is asked to serve on one of three committees: the Finance Committee, the Property Committee, and the Memorial Committee. If there are any questions that arise during the course of the year, please do not hesitate to ask any member to help you.

Sandy McGonigal is organizing a Red Cross blood drive to be held at the church on a Saturday in February or March. More information will be shared in the near future.

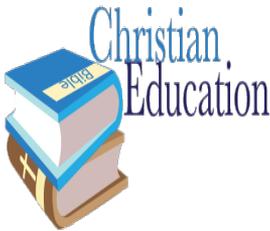
The Trustees will be organizing this year's First Baptist Church annual church-wide cleanup day. It will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019 – please mark your calendar! All congregation members and friends of the church are encouraged to come out and help!

In the February-March time frame, we are planning to have a qualified instructor(s) offer a course(s) in CPR and AED use. A date and more specific information have not as yet been set.

We are continuing to look at possible ways to save fuel during the winter months. One area that looks promising is to ensure that our thermostats for the various heating zones throughout the church facilities can meet the needs of a widely varying schedule of use. Using a programmable thermostat(s) with remote access via laptops or smartphones should help us keep the temperatures comfortable only when the building or portion of the building is

actually being used. Technical and cost reviews are currently underway. The Trustees met in a member's home in January and plan to also do so in February. When reasonably possible, we encourage others to do likewise in the winter months in order to help save on fuel costs.

Finally, there is now a church calendar on the bulletin board in the foyer. We ask each board, committee, and officer to keep this calendar updated. We also encourage each person in our church family to check out the calendar on a regular basis for updates and happenings within and outside our church.



Board of Christian Education

This year, we welcome Melanie de la Cruz as our chairperson. In January, we had our first "First Sundays" session, a musical worship service for the youth right before they meet for youth group. The youth are looking forward to another retreat coming up in **March** and are beginning to discuss a summertime mission trip. We plan to host Vacation Bible School this summer at our church the week of **July 14** in the evenings.



The Women of First Baptist will lead worship on Sunday, February 24th as we celebrate Women's Sunday. Come on out and support and affirm our Lend-a-Hand Society as they lead us.



On Sunday, February 24th, the Rev. Miriam Méndez, Executive Ministry of American Baptist Churches of New Jersey will bring God's Word on Women's Sunday.

Rev. Mendez is a native New Yorker and Puerto Rican and enjoys a deep history with the American Baptist Churches. She has been

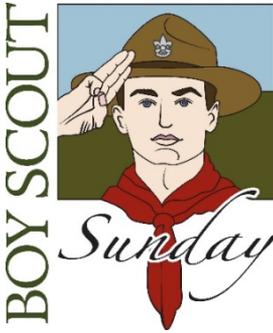
shaped by her over 20 years of extensive and high energy leadership in pastoral ministry, region work, spiritual direction, mentoring, seminary teaching, and community leadership. Throughout her ministerial career, Rev. Méndez has served as an interim pastor, co-pastor, lead pastor, associate pastor and church planter. This has given her a rich and unique insight into the various roles and complexities of pastoral ministry.

Rev. Miriam Méndez has served as the Associate Regional Pastor for the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. As regional staff she has worked with local churches in mediation and conflict resolution, in education and resourcing their pastoral search committees, provided opportunities for leadership development, worked with declining churches to help them to re-imagine a new future, and mentored young pastors and leaders. In each of these situations, she has been able to build a collegial relationship with the local church and leaders thereby strengthening relationships with the region. Prior to New Jersey, Rev. Mendez served in the Pacific Northwest.

Her educational training includes a Bachelor's in Business Administration from National Louis University, Evanston, IL, Masters of Divinity and Spiritual Director Certification from Portland Seminary, Portland, Oregon and a one-year residency of Clinical Pastoral Education at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon. She is currently completing her D.Min. in Leadership and Global Perspectives from Portland Seminary. Her studies for this degree have taken her to London, South Africa and Hong Kong.

Rev. Miriam Méndez continued

Rev. Méndez is deeply grateful for her diverse experiences in the region, with her ministry networks and in her personal life. These all continue to teach her and keep her accountable to the work in God's reign and to the call of the Good News of Jesus Christ.



We will welcome our own Boy Scout Troop #13 to worship on Sunday, February 10th. Make sure you're in attendance that day to welcome and help affirm our scouts as they worship with us.



The Women of First Baptist will lead worship on Sunday, February 24th as we celebrate Women's Sunday. Come on out and support and affirm our Lend-a-Hand Society as they lead us.

Valentine's Day by the Numbers



Valentine's Day—it's coming to this month. Did you know 62 percent of adults in the U.S. say they celebrate Valentine's Day. We spend about \$450 million on candy and buy 58 million pounds of chocolate the week before the holiday (although some frantic men buy it on the day of the holiday). We send

150 million Valentine's Day cards and gifts every year. Every year candy companies crank out about 8 billion of those little Sweethearts. That's enough candy to stretch from Rome, Italy to Valentine, Arizona and back again twenty times. And be careful with this stat: The average guy spends \$150 every year on treats for his sweetheart. (But we don't want anyone to feel below average!)



BIRTHDAYS

Cameron Foster	5	Forrest Harrison	20
Eugene Zaiss	8	Kyle McGonigal	20
Sandi Stark	8	Rich Scassero	20
Rose Zaiss	10	Anne Kettner	22
Ken Blair	12	Shauna Catania	27
Judy Price	13	Rachel Lease	28
Delores Huffman	13	Robin Caruso	29
Philip Heitzenroeder	14		



Keep Praying For

Barry Carlson
Phil Heitzenroeder
Scott Magowan

Betty Nelson
Madeline Strusz
Truck Stop Ministry
Rose Zaiss





February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:					1	2 Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m.
3 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Youth	4	5 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Bd.Of Chr. Ed. 7:00 p.m.	6 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	7 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship at Clare Estates 2:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	8	9 Crafty Ladies 1:00 p.m.
10 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Boy Scout Sunday 6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Serv. 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth	11	12 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m.	13 Singles Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	14 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Valentine's Day	15	16 Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m.
17 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m. Youth	18 Presidents' Day	19 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.	20 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	21 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Women's Sunday 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth	25 Motel Ministry 3:00 p.m.	26 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Lend-A-Hand Society 7:00 p.m.	27 Singles Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	28 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship at Clare Estates 2:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.		