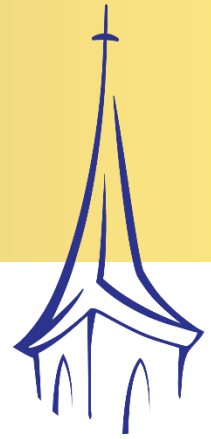


March
2021

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

Our anniversary is just around the corner, friend. Do you know the one I'm referencing? The one-year anniversary of our two-week lockdown! 😊 I say that in a tongue-in-cheek manner, of course, but the truth is that one year ago this month everything changed.

One year ago, we transitioned our services online, first through pre-recorded messages and emailed home liturgies, then to the wild, wonderful world of Zoom (complete with kitty cats, pancakes, and PJs). One year ago, we needed to put a halt to community groups, Sunday school classes, music ministry rehearsals, and summer outreach plans. For the safety of one another and our wider community, we shifted everything virtually and learned how to 'visit' on telephones and from front lawns.

As we approach that milestone together, I find myself reflecting on what the LORD has given us in this past year. While much changed one year ago, the truth of whose we are and who we are remained perfectly steadfast. If anything, that identity simply went deeper into our DNA here at WSBC. For instance:

- We shifted from seeing corporate worship as a nice part of our weekly rhythm, to recognizing our vital need to obey our God and refuse to forsake the gathering together of His saints to sing His praises, boldly approach His throne, and receive His word with open minds and hearts. Now, more than ever, we're committed to being disciples who **believe** through worship and are willing to do so in whatever means possible.
- A year of separation drove deep our desire to **belong** to one another in community. We long for connection and relationships where we are known and encouraged to pursue Jesus even more fully. That is why more than 50 people are joining a community group this season.
- The uncertainty of the past year reminds us that no one is guaranteed another day. Yet, all of us will stand before the LORD one day to give the account of our life. Either *we* will pay for our sin or *Jesus* will. This year is calling us to **bridge** the Gospel with greater fervency and compassion than ever before.
- And a year of disappointment and frustration, sadness and loss revealed for many of us that we long to **become** like our Savior – marked by the fruit of His Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control). Becoming like Him, though, is utterly impossible without opening our lives to other believers who love Him, love us, and will hold us accountable to surrender to who we are in Him more and more.

Without doubt, this has been a crazy year. But as we approach the anniversary, I find myself incredibly hopeful for what lies in our future. Not a life that returns to "normal." But a life together that even more fully embraces our God-given mission to love Him and make disciples who believe, belong, bridge, and become.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

From Pastor Greg

Growing up, I remember being captivated by stories of heroic Christian martyrs. Men and women with other-worldly courage, doing great works for God, and then dying a horrific death, all while never losing an ounce of faith. A protestant man being burned at the stake for his declaration that justification was by faith alone; and even while his skin shriveled belting out hymns with such exuberance that onlookers, taken aback by his faith, were converted on the spot. That sort of thing. I so greatly admired the faith, courage, and all-out commitment of these saints of the past that I unwittingly began to place those who experienced extreme persecution or accomplished much for the Lord in a more “spiritual” category than the rest of us normal Christians. I esteemed and idealized this manner of living the Christian life so much that it was almost as if I was doing something wrong, or at least spiritually inferior, if I was not in perpetual danger of being waterboarded, burned at the stake, or thrown to starving lions. This is extreme, but you know what I mean; and I think we all do something similar.

We all tend to place vocations into spiritually ranked categories, for instance. We might not ever say it, but we’ve determined that being a nurse in Haiti is somehow spiritually superior to being an electrician in Mechanicsburg. Using your law degree to fight sex trafficking in China is more spiritual than using it to reform property law in Camp Hill. And being a pastor is spiritually superior to being a plumber. That’s why pastors, not plumbers, are always asked to pray at dinner, pray at board meetings, pray at lunches, pray at business meetings, and pray at every other event where there could possibly be prayer. After all, what else are pastors but professional Christians (*Sarcasm*)? The point is, we so often subconsciously divide Christians into more-spiritual and less-spiritual categories and venerate the Christians whose lives are more ‘exciting.’

The Bible, however, does no such thing. Rather, Scripture repeatedly commands Christians to live normal, quiet lives (1 Tim. 2:2, 1 Thess. 4:11). In other words, doing ‘great’ things for the Lord often probably looks less like nailing theses to doors and more like minding your own business and not causing too much of a fuss, less like being burned at the stake while belting out hymns and more like careful Bible study with an obediently humble heart, less like being mauled by lions and more like a grateful spirit and a committed prayer life. Granted, nailing a thesis, being burned at the stake, and being mauled by lions for acts of faith are not inherently bad things at all, but they also should not be presented as normal or more spiritual – and definitely not as required in order to live a faithful Christian life. The faithful Christian life, as the Bible portrays it, is not marked primarily by bold, public declarations of faith, but by characteristics such as quietness, love, humility, sober-mindedness, a smallness on one’s own mind, meekness, joy, patience, an others-centeredness, love for God’s word, peace, prayerfulness, slowness to speak, gentleness, and self-control – to name a few.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

The older professor who shepherded me through the challenges of being a tenure-track faculty member. The experienced guitarist who let me explore his extensive collection of instruments and helped me find my own style. The wiser friend who helped me make the tough decisions that would stabilize my household finances. What do these three men all have in common? All were mentors to me at key moments of my life. Their influence had a profound impact that continues to this day.

Many of us have mentors at work or in our hobbies, but how many of us have mentors that help us in our spiritual walk? Here at WSBC, we're keenly interested in developing spaces where spiritual mentoring relationships can develop. What would your life be like if a more experienced Christian played an active role in your daily walk with God? What if there was a trusted, God-centered friend you could turn to in times of crisis, in times of stagnation, in times of confusion and doubt?

The other side of the mentoring relationship is just as important. In our congregation, we have a wealth of experience, wisdom, and perspective. One of the most important things that Christians can do to help one another become more like Christ is sharing the hard-earned insights that only come from a life spent following Jesus. What if you could provide a listening ear for a person struggling with some of the same issues that used to weigh you down? What if you could speak the words of encouragement and hope that they need to hear?

Mentoring relationships offer rich rewards for both people involved. Mentoring can't be forced, though. This kind of relationship arises when the different generations of our church are engaged with and talking with each other. Mentoring happens when we trust each other enough to open up about the struggles we have today—and the challenges that we overcame in the past. Mentoring happens when we realize that we're not meant to live life alone, but in community with other Christians.

There are many reasons why God called you to WSBC right now. Maybe one of those reasons is that there's a person here who can help mentor you through the trials that you're facing, the obstacles that seem too large to overcome. Maybe there's a person here who desperately needs your encouragement, perspective, and faithful friendship. Right now is the perfect time to find out. We're launching new community groups this spring, and we're excited to see how many people have expressed interest in joining one. Get plugged into a community group to experience how God-centered mentoring can build you up as you learn how to live more like Jesus.

Online Giving

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving! Your generous obedience in this area allows our church to continue to engage in ministry and mission even in this season. You may give online through our secure portal by visiting www.wsbc.org/give.

Please note that the church incurs a fee for each transaction. If you give using your checking account (rather than a credit or debit card), the fee is significantly lower and preferable. Those who prefer to do so can continue to mail their tithes & offerings to 2025 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

From the Deacon Board – cont'd

Benevolence Fund

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Benevolence Fund.

These funds continue to be used to meet the practical needs of congregants and the community.

This offering is collected the second Sunday of each month but can be donated anytime online or in person by designating "Deacon's Benevolence Fund".

Baptism

Believers baptism is the public profession of an inward transformation; the sign that you have died to your old way of being and are resurrected to new life in Christ.

A baptismal service is planned for April. If you are ready to take this next step, connect with Pastor Kelly.

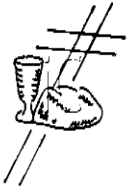
Holy Week

2021 WSBC Holy Week



Palm Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 AM

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! We celebrate the coming of our King and look forward to the day when He comes again.



Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

The King took the place of the criminal; He bore the title of the condemned. And He does so still. On this night, we will experience anew the King's radical love through music & art, at the cross & at His table.



Easter Sunrise Service, April 4 at 6:15 AM

Come to the Upper Pavilion of Negley Park in Lemoyne (park on Cumberland Rd.) in the dark as we await the dawning of light. Through song, prayer, and scripture, we will declare "He is risen indeed!" Dress casually and comfortably – it may be chilly!



Easter Service, April 4 at 10:30 AM

The resurrection is not a myth or nice story. It is the historical event that changed *everything*. We gather on this morning to encounter the Risen Savior and to invite Him to change our *everything*.

Masks & social-distancing required at all services

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet ministry will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Gently used/clean clothes and toys/books may be dropped off in Room G-2 Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. or any Sunday.

To help sort clothes in advance on Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or to volunteer that day, please connect with Dawne Strock at: dawne1954@aol.com.



Diaper Depot

The Mission Board is partnering with Diaper Depot in Mechanicsburg for a hands-on service opportunity in April!

The Diaper Depot gives away more than 30,000 diapers monthly to families in central PA and, in order to do so, needs help counting and wrapping diapers in packs of 25.

On Saturdays April 10 & 24 from 10 AM - 12 PM groups of 10 people will serve at their "That's a Wrap" Initiative. Space is limited to no more than 10 individuals each Saturday. Be on the lookout for opportunities to sign-up via their website later this month!



America for Christ Offering



Thanks to your **America for Christ** (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) ministers to families who have lost homes to floods, to children living lives of limitation in poverty, to seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News, and many more. We have been answering God’s call to heal broken families and communities—as well as cultivate strong Christian leaders and equip passionate disciples—since 1832.

The world’s needs today are as great as they were close to two centuries ago. ABHMS is extending their ministry by awarding grants to mission partners across the United States and Puerto Rico—partners who are also doing the work of empowering Christian leaders, nurturing disciples and intercultural awareness, and transforming congregations and communities with the healing power of God’s love.

By contributing to the **AFC** Offering, you increase ABHMS capacity to fulfill the biblical mandate in Matthew 22:39: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This offering will be collected during the month of March. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews.

[From the Christian Education Board](#)

Community Groups

New community groups are forming right now! Contact Pastor Kelly to get plugged in!

March Meetings

All meetings will be Zoom meetings unless otherwise notified.

Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on *Tuesday, March 2*, at 6:30 pm.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on *Monday, March 8*, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Deacons Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet on *Tuesday, March 9*, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on *Tuesday, March 16*, at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on *Tuesday, March 16*, at 7:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 8:00 a.m at Front Street Diner in Harrisburg.

Ladies Breakfast

The Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 8:30 a.m. at John's Diner, New Cumberland. All ladies are invited and will have the opportunity to sign-up on their Connect Card.

Secret Place and Daily Bread Devotionals

The March - May (Spring) devotional booklets are available at the Welcome Center. If you would like a copy mailed to you because you are unable to pick one up, please contact Janet at j.spriggs@wsbc.org or 717-761-0942.

Easter Flowers

Order forms will be available on Sunday, March 7 for you to complete if you are interested in placing flowers in memory/honor of a loved one for Easter Sunday. The cost will be \$9.50 and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 14. There will be daffodils, lilies, tulips (red, yellow, purple, pink) and Hyacinth (pink, blue, white).

Spring Forward!

Don't forget to change your clocks as Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14.



SAVE THE DATE!

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of ABCOPAD will host their annual THRIVE Conference virtually on **Friday, June 18 (7-9 PM) and Saturday, June 19 (8:45 AM - 12:30 PM)**. Pastor Kelly is the keynote speaker this year!

The conference will focus on what changes in how we see others when we know we are seen perfectly by Jesus.

ABWM is inviting small groups of women to gather in homes and/or churches across the region to experience the conference together.

More details regarding registration to come.



Special Dates



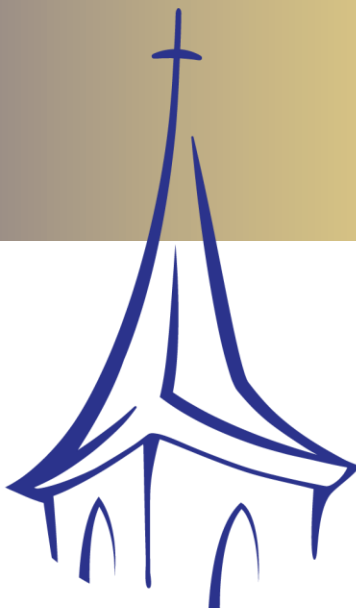
Birthdays:

- 1 – June Karschner
- 6 – Earl Blust
- 8 – Carolyn Wolf
- 9 – Jason Barth
- 11 – Diane Auten
Shirley Wall
- 14 – Ken Saltzer
- 17 – Pat Zulaica
- 19 – Alice Orozco
- 23 – Bob Zoll
- 25 – Anna Carr
Alexis Kabakjian
- 26 – Zoe Kennerly
- 30 – Edie Kennerly



Anniversaries:

- 24 – Ed & Anne Bihl



WEST SHORE

BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Worship Service — 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

Staff:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:	Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: gkabakjian@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: j.spriggs@wsbc.org
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
Church Sextons:	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	