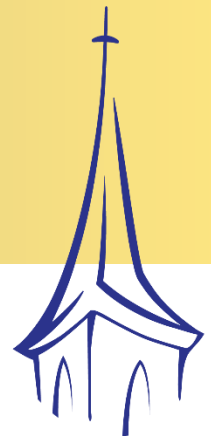


November
2020

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

Along with my Scripture reading, I've been working my way through a devotional called *Real Identity* each morning to help guide my time in prayer. The author, Thaddeus Barnum, caught my attention this week. He pointed out that our Father is known for changing names. For instance, He tells Abram ('exalted father') that he will forever be known as Abraham ('father of nations'). He changes Abraham's identity and does so before Abraham has even one child, let alone 'nations.'

Our Father loves renaming His children. If you are in Christ, then *you* have a new name. You who were 'dead' are now called 'alive,' old is now declared new, broken becomes whole, and unloved is forever known as His beloved. That truth is amazing, friends. If you are in Christ, then God declares new names over you. You who were 'worrier' are now 'peaceful' or the 'adulterer' becomes His 'chosen Bride.'

But Barnum took things a step further and that's where I got really interested. He pointed out that not only is God known for changing *our* names, He's famous for changing *His* name. You see, God did not merely change *Abraham's* name as a result of Abraham entering into relationship with God, but our Father also changed *His own* name. From that point forward He is forever known as *the God of Abraham*. Later He will call Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob or the God of Elijah or the God of David. God the Father takes on the names of those whom He loves. He chooses to be known as their God; intimately and forever associated with those He chose as His own. Can you imagine? I mean, you know *their* stories and they are not exactly picture-perfect. These men lied, lived in fear, were consumed by depression, committed adultery . . . the list goes on. And God wanted to be known as *their* God.

That got me thinking. What if our Father is still doing that? What if He sits on the throne in glory declaring that you are His and He is the God of Steve, the God of Linda, the God of Doug, the God of Bethany, the God of Tom, the God of Janet? What if He who gives you a new name has also taken on yours? What if He genuinely chooses that level of intimacy, of association, of love with *you*?

What does that change? Might that truth do for us what it did for Abraham? Might it call us further up and further into His heart, ready to live our new names, to be who He declares, out of response to the sheer wonder that He (!) chooses to be our God? May it be so.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

From Pastor Greg

With the presidential election drawing ever nearer, the news channels seem to get ever louder. The polarized, incessant jabbering of media outlets can make it appear as if what lies ahead for the United States of America, if their particular candidate wins, is a blissful, paradisaical utopia. And what lies ahead, if their candidate loses, is a dystopian apocalypse. Christians shouldn't think this way.

In fact, Psalm 146:3 encourages us to "put not your trust in princes" but instead to trust in the Lord who reigns forever. Here are 20 diagnostic questions (written by Jason Seville) to help us search our souls and determine whether or not we're trusting in the tiny, temporary, earthly "princes" of Donald Trump or Joe Biden. I invite you to pray through them and ask the Lord to reorient your heart and trust in Him.

1. Do you expect your "prince" (presidential candidate) to satisfy something for you that you believe Jesus fails to satisfy?
2. Do you get more worked up when someone speaks ill of your candidate OR when someone speaks ill of Christ? Do you get more excited about the prospect of converting a vote for a candidate or converting a soul for Christ?
3. Do you feel more fundamentally aligned with a church member who votes differently than you do OR a non-Christian who aligns with your political party?
4. When you think about the outcome of the upcoming election—some happiness or sorrow would be appropriate depending on how things turn out—but can you experience the election without being overly elated/euphoric if your candidate wins and without being totally devastated and destroyed if they lose?
5. How do you feel about the people who are supporting the "opponent?" Are you tempted to view them as enemies, or stupid, or evil? Or do you view them as image bearers of God (if non-believers) or as brothers and sisters in Christ (if believers), who may have good intentions (even if misguided) about why they're supporting who they're supporting? And then how do you treat/not treat or speak to/not speak to those supporters of an "opponent" in light of that?
6. Are you so excited about your "prince" that you fail to see their shortcomings, failures, and ways they aren't obeying the Lord? Are you only able to see this person's strengths and no weaknesses? Can you respectfully disagree with some of what they do or think?
7. Are you so discouraged if your "prince" isn't elected, that you fail to see how he/she could be used for the good of others?
8. Do you fail to pray for the "prince"...regardless of whether or not you voted for them?
9. When thinking of Biden or Trump as president, does your heart grow unsettled, anxious, angry, bitter, or frustrated to an extent that it is hard for you to focus spiritually, relationally, or occupationally?
10. Do thoughts of God being good and in control in this election cycle find its way into your feelings and actions?
11. When anxiety from the election rises, are you running to God in His Word and in prayer?
12. Are you seeing an increase in consumption of media (or an increase of consuming news from one political side) that is fueling an anxious heart?
13. Does anyone know your heart processes and struggles in this area? Are you bringing them to light?
14. As a Christian, do you primarily see your citizenship in America or in heaven with Christ? Are you so consumed with the Prince of Peace that your heart is immovable regardless of who is elected? While we do have a stewardship responsibility to vote for candidates who promote righteousness and who will pursue justice, God is our hope. So, pray, cast a vote, and trust that the outcome is ordained of the Lord. Our hope is not in the government.
15. Do you elevate your expectation of a candidate to a level that is not realistic?
16. Are you idolizing your vote/the voting process? Have you forgotten that it's not you who appoints leaders? Are you merely using your vote for a "good" candidate to produce the change you want to see or are you willing to put in the work yourself and tell the truth in your home/ neighborhood/ work/ social media?

From Pastor Greg – cont'd

17. Can your candidate win and you still feel compassion and love for the church member who wanted the election to turn out differently? Can your candidate lose, and you still feel that the world will not completely unravel?
18. Will you suffer through a sitcom that consistently blasphemes God but change the channel in disgust if a news anchor disparages your presidential candidate?
19. Do you think Christianity will die off if ___ is in the Oval Office in 2021?
20. If you were arrested for being a zealot for your political party, would there be enough evidence on your social media feeds or private conversations to convict you? Now, ask the same question about your passion for Jesus.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

Every month, I meet with Pastor Kelly, Pastor Greg, and Carol Saltzer to help plan upcoming songs for our worship services. Our prayer in these meetings is always that God would speak through the music, that the words we sing together on Sunday morning would bring hope and encouragement.

The team is working on a new song for November called “Do It Again” by Elevation Worship. I suggested this song because God kept laying it across my path this summer. As many of you know, my sister was diagnosed in July with a brain tumor the size of a billiard ball. My heart broke for her when I heard the news. In the coming weeks as my family waited for her surgery, I felt myself grieving her loss, even though she still lived. There’s a suffering unique to moments of waiting, when death feels close and real, but you don’t yet feel like you have permission to grieve.

As Laura’s surgery in August approached, I heard “Do It Again” over and over. I’d run across it before, but suddenly it was everywhere. It kept coming up in Pandora when I walked the dog. I’d start playing music on YouTube while I worked, and it would show up on the playlist sooner or later. I’d turn on the radio and it would be playing. Sometimes, I knew that I needed to hear it, and I’d deliberately put it on to hear God speak to me.

Why this song in particular? There’s a lot I like about it, from the quiet piano opening to the triumphant, energetic bridge, but for me it’s really about seven words in the middle of the second verse:

I know the night won’t last
Your Word will come to pass
My heart will sing your praise again.

As sorrow and grief run their course, it can sometimes feel like the people around you expect you to just get over it and move on, like there’s something wrong with you for suffering. This song makes it clear: “My heart will sing your praise again,” but that won’t necessarily happen today. The writer understands that feelings are what they are, that we can only process them when we’re willing to be honest about them. As I waited for Laura’s surgery, my lips sang God’s praise but my heart didn’t. Inside, I struggled with anger against a God who would let misery after misery pile up on my sister—and many others in our church family, as well.

There’s emotional honesty in those words, but there’s profound hope, too. They cling to the promises of a God who will one day right all wrongs. Even now, he makes all things new, bringing life where there was only death and hope where there was only bitterness. My heart struggled to sing his praise as I waited for Laura’s surgery, but I knew that he wouldn’t leave me in that place forever. He surprises us with joy in the darkest circumstances.

As it turned out, Laura’s surgery was successful. The doctors determined that the tumor was benign and were able to remove it completely. Her recovery has not been easy, but my parents, my brother, and I were all able to travel to Alaska to help her with the house and her three children during this time of healing. I watched her improve every day, and I could see that my God is good. After a long wait, my heart and my voice could finally join together in praise.

When we sing “Do It Again” as a congregation, there will be many people among us with hearts heavy with sorrow. In Romans, Paul tells us to mourn with those who mourn, so there’s a lot of mourning at West Shore right now. People we love face difficult medical decisions, and bear the burdens of anxiety and dread as they wait. Others languish in the aftermath of loss, and are looking for God’s face as they pick up the pieces of their lives.

In the chorus of “Do It Again,” the singer reminds us of a powerful truth: “Your promise still stands / Great is your faithfulness.” God built this church for moments like these. We’re meant to be a place and a people where those who are lost can find hope, where those who are suffering can find peace, and where those who are bitter can find joy.

In the coming weeks, pray with me that our worship together would be a place where people can hear God’s promises and be comforted by them.

[From the Diaconate Board – cont'd](#)

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.

Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m. to decorate the church.



[From the Mission Board](#)

Dawne Strock

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet ministry will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Gently used/clean clothes 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.

Bethesda Mission

Would you like to provide a meal that starts it all? At Bethesda Mission, it's often by first meeting someone's basic needs, like food, that we can develop a relationship that leads to a transformed life. Their goal is to collect 120,000 pounds of food this fall and we can help!

Here's how you can help:

Purchase non-perishable food items and drop them off at the table in the Lobby by November 29.

Suggested food items:

Canned green beans, corn, yams, gravy

Boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing

Cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail

Pasta, rice

Condiments

[From the Mission Board – cont'd](#)

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 30, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

You can sign up to donate at:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>



**American
Red Cross**

**Blood
Services**

[From the Trustee Board](#)

Thanksgiving Offering

During November we will receive our Thanksgiving Offering. The Trustees use this annual offering to improve our building. Envelopes are available in the pew.

[From the Christian Education Board](#)

Community Groups

Community groups are welcome to gather in our building (utilizing Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary, or Davidson Chapel) to meet. Groups must reserve use of the building in advance by contacting the church office, observe social distance rules including the use of masks, limit their movement within the building, and sanitize the area before leaving. Groups may also make use of the WSBC Zoom account. To do so, connect with Pastors Kelly or Greg to reserve a time slot and receive the log-in information.

Children's Church

We successfully relaunched children's church this past month and are deeply grateful to all our teachers and assistants for adapting to new circumstances. Thank you!

November Meetings

All meetings will be Zoom meetings unless otherwise notified.

Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on ***Thursday, November 5*** at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on ***Monday, November 9***, at 6:30 p.m.

Diaconate Board Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet on ***Tuesday, November 10***, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on ***Tuesday, November 17***, at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on ***Tuesday, November 17***, at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Poinsettias

Please watch for bulletin inserts regarding Christmas Poinsettias during the month of November. The florist has made us aware of the fact that there may be a shortage this year. We will do our best to fulfill the orders you place in honor/memory of loved ones.

The cost will be \$10 each and the colors (if available) will be red, white and marble.



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 8:00 a.m at Perkins Restaurant.

Ladies Breakfast

The Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 8:30 a.m. at West Shore Family Restaurant. All ladies are invited.

Special Dates



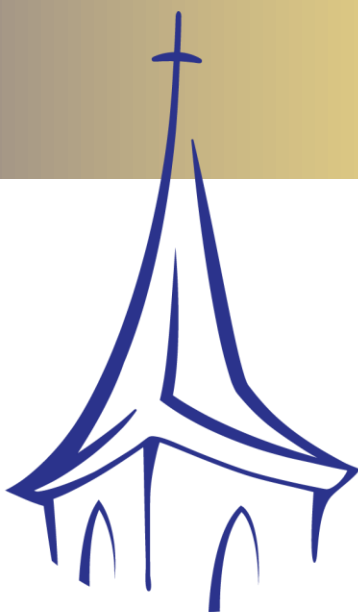
Birthdays:

- 1 – Dick Loucks
- 5 – Charlie Alford
Brenda Webb
- 6 – Connie Behney
- 9 – Bethany Malykh
- 11 – Rosemary Sleboda
- 12 – Steve Campbell
- 13 – Jayne Metz
- 14 – Tom Gabel
- 16 – Rev. Frank Frischkorn
- 25 – Dick Karschner
Loretta Royer
- 28 – Bill Zoll
- 29 – Dave Kennerly
- 30 – Ron Keeney



Anniversaries:

- 7 – Tom & Edie Kennerly
- 11 – Duane & Deena Kennedy



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	