Our Unlearning Continues

The chalkboard at the front of the sanctuary, the one we started at the beginning of this series, is continuing to fill up. Now, added to the notes from our original conversation, are these things we’re working on “unlearning”: fear; bad habits; to worry; to be someone I’m not; coolness; that everyone should embrace faith in the same way; the need to be liked. What’s written on that board that resonates with you?

Teacher and theologian Henri Nouwen suggests that most of us fall victim to (at least one of) three “big lies,” lies we tell ourselves: I am what I do. I am what I have. I am what other people say about me. The sound of those lies, he says, drowns out the voice of God, telling us we are - each and all of us - the Beloved. But they’re so... compelling, aren’t they? In August, we’ll spend time in worship thinking about each lie in turn: why it captivates us, the damage it does, how we might break free, what awaits us when we do.

Thank you for the thoughtful ways you’re engaging with this series so far, and for considering, meditating on, and telling your own stories. This is vulnerable work, and it is good to be in compassionate community as we do it. Take care, Erika
Financial Update:
We appreciate your ongoing contributions in support of our ministry. You may check on your financial contributions to First Baptist Church through our secure church software database, Realm. If you would like assistance creating a Realm profile or have other questions, please contact Treasurer, Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) or Realm administrator, Barbara Burr (barbaracoleburr@gmail.com).

FBC Finance Committee: Don Watson, Barbara Burr, Judee Kunze, Roger Dell, and Jane Apel

Church Board Notes, July 12th

The Church Board met as scheduled on July 12th, in person. We started off with a devotion by Virginia Holmstrom. She shared a reflection on how there is so much bad news out there, we are at risk of becoming calloused to these terrible events like mass shootings. Hebrews 3:12-15 says “Do not harden your hearts.” This is good advice for our continued work in our community.

We also introduced our new (and returning) Members: Kerry Ballati and Nadia King - At Large; Kathleen Verigin - Vice-Moderator; Steve Howard - Building & Grounds; Don Watson - Treasurer; and Vicki Cartwright - Missions. We discussed duties of Board members and mechanics of consensus voting.

Pastor Erika reminded us of the strategic plan, and promised to research another option from the Community Consulting Project. This new proposal should cost significantly less than the most recent proposal. The board voted to submit an application for consideration. More to come on this soon!

The concert series organized by Dana Libonati will occur on the third Wednesday of each month (except in September, when it is the fourth Wednesday). The series is a fundraiser for the Lions Club, and each concert will pair professionals with a local amateur opening act.

We discussed the issue of church members who cannot attend in person due to mobility issues. We asked Pastor Erika to investigate possible grants that might help us obtain and maintain a wheelchair bus.

The Board heard an update from the McMinnville Refugee Coalition. A family is selected and will hopefully arrive by the end of August! Their house will need furnishings, and different subcommittees are charged with various aspects of support (transportation, communication, employment, etc.).

Under Team Reports, we heard updates from each Board representative. Don Watson shared the Treasurer’s Report, and we discussed providing part of the additional funds needed for the Youth Mission Trip. We were also reminded of the proper way to submit receipts for reimbursement.

We heard about a possible grant for Building and Grounds from Interfaith Power and Light. The Board gave the OK for staff to take the first step - completing a survey.

We will reach out to the community from the Courtyard during Farmers Market on August 17th from 11am – 5pm. Please stop by if you are available.

Finally, our next Board meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, August 9th in person in the FBC second floor conference room. Guests are always welcome at Church Board meetings, so please email me at gbdlinor@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Larmouth, FBC Moderator
Sunday Worship Highlights

FBC is a Matthew 25 church, inspired by the words of Jesus, "Whatever you do unto the least of my sisters & brothers, you do unto me."

Adult Sunday Classes: (details on page 11)

8:30 am - CONNECTIONS Class - on hiatus until Fall / Contact - barbaracoleburr@gmail.com
8:45 am - FAITH & JAVA - 1st Sundays only - in person, Fireplace Room / Contact - schulmanrob@yahoo.com
8:45 am - CHAPEL Class - on hiatus until Fall / Contact - gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com
8:45 am - BEREAN Class - on hiatus until Fall / Contact - janet@janetlangenwalter.com

10:00 am - WORSHIP in person in the sanctuary, or streaming live: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/

August 6 - Communion Sunday
"Unlearning 'We Are What We Do''"
Sermon from Luke 10:38-42
Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching
Unlearning Story from Muriel Dresser
Music led by Dave Ferry & Doug Verigin
After Worship Fellowship hosted by Care & Concern.

August 13
"Unlearning 'We Are What We Have''"
Sermon from Luke 19:1-10
Rev. Jeremy Richards, Linfield University chaplain, preaching
Unlearning Story from Dave King
Music led by Tegan & the Worship Team
After Worship Fellowship hosted by Climate Action.

August 20
"Unlearning 'We Are What Others Say About Us''"
Sermon from Luke 6:20-26
Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching
Unlearning Story from JoAnn Sims
Music led by Heidi Toth
After Worship Fellowship hosted by Tom Kilinsky, who will treat us to tastes of his home-smoked meats, his secret recipe cherry BBQ sauce, and gooey mac and cheese.

August 27 - Worship in the Park!
10am at Discovery Meadows
An interactive, intergenerational, conversational worship service
Music led by Tegan & the Worship Team
After Worship Fellowship: Stay at the park and enjoy a potluck lunch! Details on the front page.

Last Month's Community Celebrations

In July, we welcomed Nora and Ava Olson to our church family as their dad, Rev. John Olson, baptized them on their proclamations of faith.

And we commissioned the members of the McMinnville Youth Collective as they set out on their Service Learning Trip to Washington State. Come to the Social Hall July 30 at 2pm to hear stories and see photos from their journey, and enjoy a dessert buffet.
FBC recently celebrated reaching our Endowment goal of $500,000 in donations. The earnings on this money will be available ‘in perpetuity’ to pay for major maintenance needs of our building. This after worship fellowship on July 16th was hosted by the Endowment Committee: Charlie Walker, Les Toth, Judee Kunze, Barry House, Barbara Burr, Barbara Nelson, and Pastor Erika Marksbury.

Thanks to wagonmaster Dave King for leading this adventure! Everyone is welcome - watch in early spring for next year’s dates and destination, and plan to come along!
SAVE-the-DATES
for these September Music Events:

**CONCERT Fundraiser**
Saturday, September 23, 7-9 pm
in the FBC Sanctuary
Followed by a Gathering Room Reception.
Performances by our own Nancy McCann & Friends, the Baptist Babes, Good News Gospel Choir, Ukulele Ukestra, and other musicians & singers from FBC and the wider community.

A goodwill offering will be collected with proceeds benefiting the McMinnville Refugee Coalition, through which FBC, together with four other congregations, is sponsoring the relocation of a six-person Ukranian family to McMinnville.

**McMinnville Keynote CONCERT Series**
Begins Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30-9 pm
(in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary)
This is a once-a-month, September through May project. Starting in October, concerts are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday.

September’s Concert features
The Randy Porter Trio
www.randyporter.com

Series creator & organizer Dana Libonati is a songwriter, composer, arranger, and has led McMinnville High School’s Twilighters & Choir. Now Dana teaches music at Chemeketa Community College and is adjunct professor of music at Linfield University. The McMinnville Lions Club and the Performing Arts Association are proud sponsors of this concert series.

FBC offers hospitality during the McMinnville Farmer’s Market every Thursday by welcoming folks into the shade of our beautiful courtyard. We provide tables and chairs for people to eat their lunch in the shade, and relief from the heat with a water mister. Monthly, we host a community engagement event. Our next is:

**Thursday, August 17, 11am-5pm**
Making Hope & Dream Prayer Flags

This event takes a community of volunteers - if you can help, please contact Susan at 503-435-9952, susanlanechambers@gmail.com.

**Last event this summer:**
> September 21st: Climate Action

**NEW Study Group forming:**
**A Course of Love by Mari Perron**
Facilitated by Jace Early

Many of us wonder if there is a better way that we could be living our lives. Overwhelmed by the information swirling around us, we have forgotten a simple truth: that we should seek guidance through our hearts, not our minds.

A COURSE OF LOVE presents a collection of teachings that will lead us to a completely different experience of life, which springs directly from the heart. It draws the mind into communion with the heart and facilitates the dawning of a consciousness of unity - a consciousness that cannot be learned, but only revealed through union and relationship.

A study group is forming for those interested in exploring this. The course works toward establishing whole-heartedness and integration of mind and heart. For more information, please contact Jace Early at jaceearly1949@gmail.com. We’ll set up a time and place to combine our heart energy and make our reality of living a love-filled life manifest now!
Roshana Shockley was born in Portland, the second oldest of five children. She was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools until her last two years, graduating from Lake Oswego High School. She married soon after graduation and moved with her husband to Oahu, Hawaii where she had three children in three years -- a son and two daughters. The marriage dissolved soon after they returned to the mainland, so Roshana found herself in the difficult situation of being a single mom. Three years later, she married Paul Shockley to whom she was married for 35 years, until he passed away in 2006.

During her married life, she and Paul lived first in Portland and then in the small town of Colton, east of Molalla, where Roshana was the manager of the food co-op for a couple of years. She calls these her Hippie years, becoming a vegetarian and learning to live off the land.

In 1983 they moved to McMinnville. By now they were empty nesters. Roshana was a massage therapist at Key to Health for a few years and then worked for 10 years at A-dec as their international secretary, a fun job that put her in communication with people all over the world.

During an A-dec reorganization in 2000, Roshana lost that job, which actually was fortuitous because she was suddenly needed to raise the three children of one of her daughters. While coping with this responsibility, she worked for a couple of years at Mac Plumbing and Heating and then for ten years for Community Home Builders, which helps provide affordable homes and self-help housing programs for low-income families. This was her favorite job of all because she loved helping families get into their first home.

After retiring, Roshana has been involved in many FBC and community groups -- Community Garden, STARS, FBC Shelter, Ukulele Ukestra, Sister Circle, Singles Group, McMinnville Women’s Choir, FBC choir, Climate Action Group and others.

Roshana first got connected with FBC when she was a member of the Yamhill Valley Peacemakers, which often met at FBC. When Kent Harrop was pastor, Roshana started occasionally attending church. She got more involved as time went on. She says she gets a lot of comfort from the church community. When she is going through some heavy-duty stuff, she finds it important to have a place of connection, one with a spiritual element. FBC is a place where more and more she feels that she belongs; she resonates with its atmosphere of unconditional acceptance.

In her free time, Roshana loves bird watching. And music is a big part of her life. She plays the guitar as well as the ukulele. Besides FBC music, she is involved in a couple of community music groups. And her six grandchildren and several great grands help to keep her engaged.

Roshana is a very interesting person. She enriches FBC and the community with her talents, her unique perspectives and her compassion toward others, the latter being an outgrowth of her many life experiences.
What does it mean to be a member at FBC?

For American Baptists, the local church is the fundamental unit in denominational life. Our Baptist roots date back four centuries to a people seeking the opportunity to worship God as individual members of freely organized and freely functioning local churches. Our denomination maintains the need for autonomous congregations, each responsible for articulating its own doctrine, style of worship and mission. It is up to the members of the congregation to determine and carry out its mission, which for FBC is, “to respond to the call of the Spirit and the teachings of Jesus to learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all.”

At FBC we have a Church Board that consists of members of the church serving as Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, 6 Ministry Team Leaders, 2 At-Large members, and our Senior Pastor. The Church Board holds two congregational meetings per year for the membership to approve major decisions, for example, nominations for the Church Board (typically in June) and approval of the annual budget (January). The Church By-laws outline which decisions can be made by the Church Board and which decisions require a vote of members. As of January 2021, FBC recorded 174 members representing 131 households. It is estimated that there are approximately 200 active adults and children who have not joined the church in membership. Becoming a member is one way to commit to the FBC faith community.

What is the process to become a member at FBC?

The first step to exploring membership is to mention your interest to the Senior Pastor, Erika Marksbury (adults) or Children and Youth Minister, Sean Williams (youth). Then you will meet with Erika and/or Sean to talk about your faith journey and learn generally about the American Baptist denomination and more specifically about FBC. Welcome Classes are also offered periodically for youth and adults seeking to know more about FBC and membership here. After participating in a Welcome Class and/or meeting with Erika/Sean, if you sense God leading you to join in membership at FBC, you can do that in one of three ways: by Transfer of Letter from another church, by Christian Experience, or after Baptism. These ways to join the church as a member will be explained in the Welcome Class or meetings. Once you have been affirmed into membership by the Church Board, you will be formally welcomed by the congregation during a worship service. This ritual of welcome includes a congregational litany honoring your journey and celebrating your commitment.

We give thanks that you are prayerfully exploring membership with our faith community!
For more information, contact Erika Marksbury or Sean P. Williams.

WELCOME CLASS begins in early October

FBC’s next welcome class will be held on Sundays, September 24, October 1 & 8, following the worship service. This class is for anyone who wants to learn more about our congregation: its history, its commitments, its governance, and ways to get involved. You might choose to attend if you are new to FBC, or if you’ve been here a while but want to get a sense for the inner workings, or if you’re considering church membership, or if you’re just looking to connect more deeply. Here’s the schedule for this upcoming round:

✦ Sunday, September 24: Introductions, Sharing Our Stories
✦ Sunday, October 1: History & Commitments of FBC McMinnville and of American Baptist Churches (timeline; mission, vision, & welcome statements; the four freedoms / Baptist distinctives)
✦ Sunday, October 8: FBC Ministries & Structure (small groups and other ways to get involved; church tour)

If you are interested in the Welcome Class, or have questions about it, let Erika know (erika@fbcmac.org).
Nestled in the foothills of Mt. Hood, Camp Arrah Wanna is a non-profit retreat center offering a quiet and peaceful place of respite from the busy, fast-paced world for groups of 10 to 250 - any time of year. Leave your cares behind and soak up the majesty of the forested 120 acres: simply enjoy the beautiful surroundings and friendly services.

Arrah Wanna hosts guests of all ages by providing the perfect backdrop for a variety of large and small group gatherings - our FBC children and youth attend both Winter and Summer Camps there, and last October, Arrah Wanna was a terrific host for our first annual All-Church Retreat (we’ll return this October, see page 1). In addition to camps and retreats, they also welcome family reunions, weddings, school programs, community events, and much more, providing delicious meals, versatile meeting spaces, cabin/cottage style lodgings, and numerous activity options. If you are looking for a beautiful venue to hold your own event, or you want to join one of theirs this year - they’d love to have you as part of their family. To learn more, go to: www.camparrahwanna.org.

FBC member Heidi Toth knows this family feeling. She says, "I discovered Camp Arrah Wanna when I was 10. It is a home away from home for me. Everything about the place is both peaceful and full of adventure." Join in one of the events below and find out for yourself!
Virginia Holmstrom Shares ABCUSA Biennial Reflections

I was your grateful church delegate in June 2023 at the American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The weekend convention was packed with opportunities to experience the wider American Baptist constituency (ABCUSA is the most diverse Protestant denomination in the U.S.).

Puerto Rican Baptist musicians filled the stage to welcome 1,300 attendees at worship services. The Caribbean-flavored beat was an invitation to rise and respond with movement. Okay, okay . . ., reading and singing Spanish (and English) lyrics was a challenge for some, but joyous nevertheless!

The theme for the entire Mission Summit event focused on a phrase from the Old Testament story in Esther: “For Such a Time as This”. Four prophetic sermons called American Baptists to be on the frontline of justice, each from a different perspective. Four preachers: three of them women; all four with unique cultural backgrounds. (I give an A+ to all the white male pastors in the crowd who graciously let go of some traditional privileged expectations.) I have access, until the end of September, to online videos of all four worship services; each sermon is well worth a listen! Tell me if you’d like to schedule a time with me to view one or all.

Since 2013, the ABC Biennials have embraced a process of Mission Table Conversations to identify and dialogue around issues facing the Church today, instead of spending hours for debates and voting on divisive issues. Thus, it was relatively simple to fulfill my responsibility as your voting delegate. I voted to affirm the presented 2024 budget of the American Baptist Churches USA. I voted to elect the three nominees for elected (volunteer) ABCUSA officers for a 2-year term beginning in 2024: Rev. Nikita McCalister, President; Thomas Ross, Jr., Vice President; and Paul Higgins, Budget Review Officer.

On my walkabouts in the Exhibit Hall that displayed information and ministries throughout ABC, I touted FBC McMinnville’s ministries with the homeless, AWAB membership, partnership with AMOS, our outstanding pastor, and more. Alas, it was not new news for many; our church is widely recognized for its prophetic ministries.

I was deeply moved by the testimony of two pastors receiving the biennial Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award. In 1882, the membership in the Baptist church in Evanston, IL, had included a few Black members, 10 of whom departed to form the first Black Baptist Church in Evanston. Meanwhile the original Lake Street Church greatly increased in historic and property value. Rev. Michael Woolf, current pastor of the now property-rich church realized that a 140-year old injustice needed to be righted. He and Rev. Michael Nabors, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, began a conversation about the rightful ownership of Lake Street’s property, and their congregations have acknowledged together each other’s joint ownership. The two congregations are discerning together how to live out that partnership through reparations. Inspiring indeed!
AUGUST Dinner
Wednesday, August 30 from 6-7pm
at Nancy Jo’s Burgers & Fries
drop off & pick up there
just bring money for dinner & friends

Youth Group - FALL KICKOFF
Join us as Youth Group resumes &
we kick off a new school year together!

Sunday, September 10
at First Presbyterian Church
Middle School from 5-6 pm
Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

Children, Youth, and Families!
Join us on Sunday, September 10
as we celebrate the beginning

Blessing of the Backpacks
during the children’s time
at the 10am worship service

Children’s Chapel (returns!)
following the children’s time
during the 10am worship service

Youth Group (returns!)
at First Presbyterian Church
Middle School from 5-6 pm
Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

The McMinnville Youth Collective
Fall Beach Retreat is back!

HIGH SCHOOL
9th-12th grade youth
Friday, September 22
through Sunday, September 24

MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th-8th grade youth
Friday, September 29
through Sunday, October 1

Cost, more details, and registration
all coming soon.
We hope you will join us!

Vacation Bible School 2023
We had an amazing week at VBS in the Changemaker’s Lab!
Thanks to all the children and families who were part and to
the youth & adult volunteers who helped make it happen!

Summer Camp 2023
We had an awesome time at Summer Camp
at Camp Arrah Wanna!
Thanks to all the campers for joining us
and for all the adults who volunteered!
Bible Study - Tuesdays, 12 noon
This group meets with Pastor Erika. All are welcome! In-person in the Fireplace Room OR via Zoom.
A discussion-based Bible study with opportunity to delve deeper into highlighted scripture for the week. It's a great forum for asking difficult faith-based questions and/or sharing life's ups and downs, and requesting prayer, too.

Sunday Adult Classes on Summer Break
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Berean Class
Contact: Janet Langenwalter, janet@janetlangenwalter.com

Connections
Contact: Barbara Burr, barbaracoleburr@gmail.com

Chapel Class
Contact: Gary Langenwalter, gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com

Faith & Java Class
Contact: Rob Schulman, schulmanrob@yahoo.com

Rainbow Class, for Special Needs Adults
Contact: Cynthia Parker, cynp007@gmail.com

Meaningful Movie Night
at the Co-operative Ministries, 544 NE 2nd St.
Thursday, August 10th at 6:30 pm.
"The West is Burning"
Raising the awareness about the conditions of western forests in the US, and examines the history of forest management and social conflict that has contributed to current forest conditions.

Thursdays, September 14th at 6:30 pm.
"Displaced: The Climate Exodus"
More people around the world are fleeing from climate change than from war. If human-induced climate change continues at the current rate, the World Bank warns that by 2050 there could be as many as 180 million refugees.
Sponsored by Peace & Justice, Yamhill County
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<td>Dave &amp; BJ Larmouth 10</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Barbara Burr 1</td>
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<td>Tim &amp; Pat Fasana-Lynn 13</td>
<td>Gary &amp; Janet Langenwalter 5</td>
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<td>Jennifer Scott &amp; Russell Weaver 5</td>
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<td>&amp; Holly Darling 20</td>
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<td>Lisa &amp; Helios Ovando 26</td>
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<td>Sheila &amp; Ron Lenker 27</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Diane Belgard 29</td>
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