** Baptist Tabernacle **

**Baptist Tabernacle**

**63 Division Street**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706**

**570 823-3083**

Website: [www.wbtabernacle.com](about:blank)

**Tabernacle Tidings**

**April 2021**

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**Happy Easter! Happy Spring!**



Message from Pastor Valerie: **Stay Diligent**

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus the Exalted Christ!

As we return to in person service, I just want to remind everyone that we must stay diligent. Like you, I am excited to see our church family reunited and the joy that flows in my heart is overwhelming. I would love to hug each and every one of you, especially after not seeing each other for a long period of time. As most of us are fully vaccinated, remember that some people are still in the process of being vaccinated or some have chosen to forego vaccinations. Either way that is fine.

Although, the CDC guidelines have been altered, I just want to remind everyone that we must continue to wear our masks and continue to social distance. It is my prayer that when this is all said and done, Baptist Tabernacle will be able to say that by the grace of God, our church did not experience any COVID-19 fatalities. I truly believe that the time will come when we will all be able to greet each other with a Christian brotherly and sisterly hug.

Be Blessed,

Pastor Valerie

**If anyone needs pastoral support, please feel free to call or email Pastor Valerie**

**Phone: 570 877-2975**

**Email:** [**pastorWBTabernacle@outlook.com**](about:blank)

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**Easter Reflections:**

**Where flowers bloom, so does hope. Lady Bird Johnson**

**For I remember Easter morn, and life and love and peace are all new born.**

**Alice Freeman Palmer**

**“Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has spoken for us by his death”**

**Soren Kierkegaard**

**“Easter is a time to rejoice, to be thankful, to be assured that all is forgiven, so life extends beyond the soil of the earth” Byron Pulsifer**

**He takes men out of time and makes them feel eternity. Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**From Guideposts**

**Why Spring Is the Most Positive Season**

We can all embrace the exuberance of the world waking up to hope*.*

by **Holly Lebowitz Rossi** Posted in **Inspiring Stories**

“The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring,” said the British moral philosopher Sir Bernard Williams.

In my view, it is this hope that makes spring the most positive season of the year.

The world [wakes up in springtime](about:blank). Having been grey, cold and still through the winter months, suddenly there are sights, sounds, smells and flavors bursting from the natural world—and inviting action, inspiration and commitments to fresh starts in each of us.

It’s so easy to connect the feeling of a spring day to the positive attribute of hope. Each seed we tuck into the dirt gets a whispered hopeful wish that it germinates, roots and grows. Each bulb we planted last fall gets sought out and celebrated when it pokes through the thawing dirt. And each time we step outside to the songs of chirping birds, we hear the hope they have brought back from their winter sojourn and into the warm months ahead.

Here are some of my favorite ways to embrace the positive, [hopeful nature of spring](about:blank):

--Give your home a thorough spring cleaning. Get rid of things that no longer bring you joy—donating old clothes and kitchen items, or shredding unnecessary papers, will leave you feeling clear, clean and ready for whatever is next in your life.

--Open the windows. Visualize the fresh air swirling through your home, through your lungs—imagine it swishing away the dusty stillness of the cozy winter season.

--Get moving! Take a walk in the woods—or around the block. Breathe deeply and luxuriate in the invigorating feeling the spring air brings.

--Go “searching for spring” by peeking in the yard or a local park to notice crocuses, tulips and daffodils emerging, or leaf buds plumping up on the trees above. Silently thank each for signaling the return of warmth—and of hope.

With each passing day, each nourishing rain shower, each awakening sparkle of green, each ripening spring fruit and vegetable, let us allow spring’s positivity to wash over us, elevating our outlook, mood and activity level. Because as the poet Alexander Pope famously said, “Hope springs eternal.”

**Covid-19 Update:**

As the Covid vaccine becomes more accessible for everyone, perhaps more people will want to consider in-person worship. We continue to comply with Covid Guidelines for our Sunday services and feel that live streaming the service is the safest option; but we appreciate seeing members of our church family again. You are welcome to join us for in-person worship while maintaining covid protocols and safe distancing. Our goal is to provide a safe opportunity for as many people as possible to participate in the Sunday worship service.

**Communion**

If anyone is interested in receiving communion at home, disposable communion cups are available and can be picked up at the church. Contact Ron Shandorf or Bettie Sims to make arrangements to pick up communion cups. Pastor Valerie can offer communion via phone or arrange for a personal visit for our shut-ins.

**Live Streaming Services:**

Live streaming can be done on any internet device including smart phones; iPads; tablets; or computers. If you have any questions about how to access live streaming, you can call Ron Shandorf at **610 462-8476.**

**To access the live streaming, you can choose one of two options:**

1. **Go to the church website:** [**wbtabernacle.com**](about:blank) **and click on the link for live streaming. You can choose the service you would like to view.**
2. **Go to Youtube and search for “Baptist Tabernacle Church-WB”. You can select the service you would like to view.**

**Thank you to everyone who returned the Baptist Tabernacle Survey mailed in February (2021)** We had about 16 responses.

Common ethnicities: German, Welsh, English, PA Dutch, Lithuanian, Italian, Polish, Irish, French and Indian

Family holiday traditions: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years focused on family get - togethers and traditional meals. (Polish Christmas meal and Christmas cookies).

Family food favorites: pizza, pierogies; pasties, welsh cookies, hot slaw, meatloaf, lasagna, haluski, piggies, mac and cheese, potato pancakes, cole slaw, sausage and peppers, “ Sunday dinner”, McDonald’s.

Other family traditions: Homemade fruitcake for Christmas and Plum Pudding for New Years. Celebrating all standard and Christian holidays and family get-togethers like weddings, graduations, birthdays and anniversaries.

Most responded positively to receiving and reading the monthly newsletter.

Most were satisfied receiving the newsletter via email, but a few members do no have access to the internet.

Most were aware that Baptist Tabernacle has a website and had logged on at least once.

Most were aware that Baptist Tabernacle is also on Facebook, but several had never accessed the Facebook group.

Most were aware of the option for live-streaming the weekly church services via the website or the YouTube channel.

**Church Business:**

A grant is available through ABCOPAD to help the church reach new people and increase support of youth and family ministries. Baptist Tabernacle meets both requirements to submit for this grant. The monies from this grant if approved can be used to upgrade our live stream capabilities. Ron has completed and submitted the grant application request.

The ADT Security System has been replaced by the Ring Security System. The new system includes cameras for better surveillance and fire alarms throughout the church.

It was agreed that new candles for the candelabra (with re-fillable liquid paraffin) will be purchased from Memorial Fund.

American Baptist Women’s Conference will be held virtually on June 18 and 19. Registration fee is $20.00 per person.

The Annual Church Business Meeting was held on March 14th as planned and the Annual Church Report was approved. Copies of the Annual Report are still available at the church for anyone who would like to review.

**Individual Board Meetings: Board of Deacons; Board of Education; and Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, April 8th at 5:15 PM at the church prior to the Official Board meeting.**

**Official Board Meeting: Thursday, March 8th at 6:00 PM at the church. Participation via ZOOM can be done by clicking on the Link on the Website OR can be arranged by contacting Ron Shandorf. He will email you an invite.**

**Please remember our members who are sick or shut-in by sending greeting cards.**

Note: We are happy to report that Arlene Ebert is back home after her stay at the Hampton House! We wish her well.

Beatrice Murray

Timber Ridge

Rm. #241

1555 East End Blvd

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

**Birthdays and Anniversaries: April**

**13 Michael Sims 19 Arlene Ebert**

**14 Barry and Peggy Breese (anniv.) 19 Jase Grilz**

**14 Tony Marcincavage 24 Charles Gordon**

**18 Barry Breese 26 Tammy Marcincavage**

**18 Elizabeth Finnegan Le 29 Bethany Saltz**

**Key Contact Info:**

Website: [**wbtabernacle.com**](about:blank)

YouTube Channel: Search YouTube for “**Baptist Tabernacle Church-WB”**

Facebook: Search for “Group” = “Baptist Tabernacle” and Join the group

**Name Email Address Phone #**

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Tech issues – Ron Shandorf [IT.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com](about:blank) (610) 462-8476

Bea Fell [BeaFell93@Gmail.com](about:blank) (570) 301-8073

Don Ostrander [Dgunnyo@Comcast.net](about:blank) (570) 817-6835

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