** Baptist Tabernacle **

**Baptist Tabernacle**

**63 Division Street**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706**

**570 823-3083**

**Website:** [www.wbtabernacle.com](http://www.wbtabernacle.com)

**YouTube Channel:** Baptist Tabernacle Church – WB

Email: Pastor.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com

**Tabernacle Tidings**

March **2022**



**Message from Pastor Valerie**

**LENT**

As we find ourselves in this Lenten Season, we traditionally give up something be it food, bad habits, activities, etc. This had been a tradition that we have practice and observed for years. Years ago, my cousin, Chrystal Baldwin would fast by eating no food. She would only drink liquids beginning on Ash Wednesday until Easter. Recently, I was having a conversation with my secretary, Katie. Her father is an Episcopal Pastor, he suggested that she shouldn’t give up anything for lent, but focus on doing something to ease her stress or aggravation such as complete a project that she had been putting off for a period of time. I told her that was a great idea. So, instead of giving up something for lent, complete a long-standing project that you have been putting off. I know that my project will be cleaning out my bedroom closet and donating all of those clothes to charity. Then I will see what else the Lord lays on my heart to do this Lenten season.

Pastor Val

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

**Phone: 570 877-2975**

**Email:** **Pastor.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com**

Spring is here! I saw the first robin of the season…

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**Good-bye Winter… Hello Spring! Signs of Spring are all around us if we look closely… the crocus and daffodils are starting to push through the ground, trees are budding, the robins have returned, and Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13th at 2 AM*. Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour!***

(If you forget, you might miss church next Sunday!)

**Preparing for Easter**

**Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. The 40 day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning “springtime, spring” and from a West Germanic word meaning long-days or lengthening of the day.**

**According to Merriam-Webster, Lent means “the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter”.**

**Jesus marked a period of preparation for 40 days in the wilderness in Luke 4:1-2.**

***Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan (after baptism) and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for 40 days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.***

**Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of the resurrection Jesus at Easter, which comes at the end of lent.**

**During this time of preparation, Baptists generally do not participate in physical fasting, but do reflect more on the life and teachings of Jesus culminating in his sacrifice of death on the cross and ultimate resurrection to save us from our sins giving hope for new life with him. Let us focus our efforts on being more Christ-like in our daily interactions during this Lenten period.**

**Covid 19 update: from Web MD**

New metrics for measuring the threat of COVID-19 show that more than 90% of people in the United States now live in counties with a low to medium threat and generally don't need to wear face masks anymore, the CDC said Thursday.

Last week, the CDC said it would start looking at COVID-19 risk in communities by focusing on pandemic-related hospital strain rather than case numbers alone. On Thursday, the agency released a color-coded map showing mostly green and yellow counties that indicate low to medium "community levels." High-level counties were colored red.

"As of March 3, more than 90% of the U.S. population is in a location with low or medium COVID-19 Community Level," the CDC said Thursday on its website. "Going forward this data will be updated on Thursdays. This data will help counties make informed decisions and take appropriate public health actions."

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**What The Tech?**

The church has been investing in technology during the pandemic. So exactly WHAT do we have tech-wise?

Well, First of all we have a **Website** with full information about our church – have YOU visited and Bookmarked [www.WBTabernacle.com](http://www.WBTabernacle.com) ? There’s a wealth of information including our Church History and our Newsletters.

 Secondly, we invested in **Live Streaming** equipment and are publishing to YouTube (Facebook to follow soon) so you can ‘attend’ church services wherever you are with your smartphone, tablet or computer. We also have a ‘loaner’ iPad if you do not have a device to use.

 Third, we replaced & expanded our **Security system**. Our new Ring system includes Break-in and Fire alarms as well as internal and external cameras to watch our property.

 Fourth, we have a **Facebook “Group”** to keep everyone connected and updated.

 Lastly, we upgraded our **Internet service** and therefore our Wifi capability.

**Website:** [**www.WBTabernacle.com**](http://www.WBTabernacle.com) **Facebook Group: Baptist Tabernacle
Live – Streaming: You Tube: Baptist Tabernacle Church – WB**

**Why The Tech?**

Your Official Board and Board of Trustees decided to invest in these Tech items for 2 primary reasons.

 #1: To protect our wonderful church property

 #2: To position our church for a re-birth and growth by using modern social media technical methods to reach out to the community and encourage folks to check out our church and join us in worshipping our Lord.

Our Constitution states:

Section 4- Duties of Members

Members are expected to be faithful in all spiritual disciplines essential to the Christian life, to attend habitually the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and benevolences, to share in its organized work, and to vote on church policy.

**While our Bylaws expect our members to be vital, active members supporting our church and participating in various ways, we know that we need more members to fill all positions and roles and need to grow as a church and hopefully fill the church every week in order to serve the Lord and our neighbors.**

**Church Business:**

**Our Church By-laws state that in order to approve any changes to current, accepted practice, we must have a vote by a quorum of the church membership. This means that we must have the physical (or virtual) presence of 26 church members in order to vote. This rule has made it very difficult to conduct business and move forward on decisions made by the church leadership, even though the majority of active, interested church members are currently serving on the boards. We currently only have 10 involved members. Many older members are no longer able to physically attend, but continue to support the church. Efforts have been made to enable active members who are not able to attend to participate through use of technology, but few have chosen this option.**

**We are discussing ways to modify the By-laws to enable us to conduct the business of the church in a non-emergency mode.**

**Currently, we are trying to get a quorum vote to approve the 2022 board members; the Annual Report for 2021; and the proposed Budget for 2022.**

**We have been unable to get a quorum vote for the past 2 scheduled Business meetings (2/27 and 3/6). The next Church Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday (3/13). If we still are unable to have a quorum vote, we will proceed with the Church Business Meeting on 3/27 with or without the quorum (per advice from legal counsel).**

**The Annual Report for 2021 is available at the church. If anyone is unable to pick up a copy at the church and would like to receive a copy via email, please contact** **IT.WBTabernacle@gmail.com****.**

**\*\*\* Again, we encourage anyone who is willing to become involved with maintaining the operation of the church to contact a member of the official board. We have many available positions on all boards. (Deacons, Trustees, or Board of Christian Education)**

**Missions**

Thank you for your support of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. We will collect the America for Christ Offering in March and April this year.

**Bible Study**

We have completed the Bible Study: Victory in Spiritual Warfare by Tony Evans. Please let Pastor Val know if you have any suggestions for the next Bible Study.

**Meetings/ Events:**

March 10th Board Meetings: Individual boards 6 PM Official Board 7 PM

March 13th Church Business Meeting following Sunday worship (10:45 AM)

March 13th & 27th Kid’s Sunday School 11AM - 12PM

**Birthdays and Anniversaries: March**

**10 Linda Evans**

**18 Ada Cannavale**

**21 Jeffrey DeRocco Jr.**

**26 Jacki Hauer**

**26 Amy Foltz**

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

**Beatrice Murray**

**Timber Ridge Rm # 105**

**1555 East End Blvd**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711**

**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**](http://www.wbtabernacle.com) **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.**

**Key Contact Info:**

Website: [**wbtabernacle.com**](http://www.wbtabernacle.com)

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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