

THE VISITOR

What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

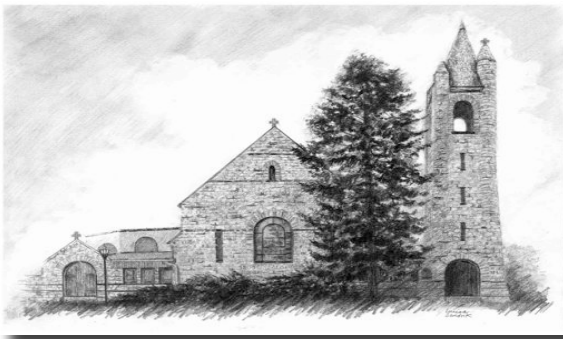
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Excerpt from Martin Luther King, Jr.

Loving Your Enemies, November 17 1957

Jesus says, "Love your enemies." It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. That's why Jesus says, "Love your enemies." Because if you hate your enemies, you have no way to redeem and to transform your enemies. But if you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. You just keep loving people and keep loving them, even though they're mistreating you. Here's the person who is a neighbor, and this person is doing something wrong to you and all of that. Just keep being friendly to that person. Keep

loving them. Don't do anything to embarrass them. Just keep loving them, and they can't stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with bitterness because they're mad because you love them like that. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they'll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies.

APRIL 2010

In this issue



Loving Your Enemies, Martin Luther King, Jr.

1



Spotlight on Dr. Baruch Whitehead

2



Upcoming Events at First Baptist

3-4



Lectionary Readings & Calendar

6-7



Baruch Whitehead, First Baptists' Interim Choir Director

Dr. Baruch J. Whitehead, an associate professor of music education at Ithaca College, is an elementary music specialist with the Orff-Schulwerk Process. He is the founder of the Ithaca College Orff certification program and lead teacher of the Orff certification program at Boston University. Dr. Whitehead studied at the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria and founded the Orff-Schulwerk Certification Program at Marshall University.

Dr. Whitehead was a featured presenter at the International Arts and Humanities conference in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2003, 2004 and 2005 for his research paper in the area of music and learning and diversity in music education. His article entitled *The Spirit of the Schulwerk* was published in *Reverberations*. Dr. Whitehead has presented numerous

workshops at national conferences, as well as a workshop entitled "Making the Connection" African-American and Native American Music, in Tenerife, Spain. He has been a featured presenter for the West Virginia Orff-Schulwerk Association, Twin Tier Orff Association and the Texas Orff-Schulwerk Association along with serving as a clinician, conductor, and adjudicator through West Virginia, Florida, Texas, Ohio and Central New York. Dr. Whitehead traveled to Winchester, England to present a paper on the Music of the Civil Rights Movement in April of 2006.

He is the director of the multicultural chorus *Voices in the Greater Ithaca Community* and founder of the GIAC African Dance and Drumming ensemble. He is founder and director of the Syracuse-based Gospel Choir "Unshackled". He is a gospel music specialist and advocate for the preservation of gospel music within mainstream musical settings. He is the 2005 recipient of the Excellence in Service Award from Ithaca College. In his travels each summer with students from Ithaca College to the Dagara Music Center in Medie, West Africa he studies African Drumming and Dance where he has established a short-term study abroad program through the International Studies Department at Ithaca College.

Dr. Whitehead has taught marching band and concert band for over fifteen years. He was the athletic band director for Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia where he directed the *Marching Thunder*. He served as assistant principal oboist for the Huntington Symphony Orchestra.

He was recently chosen as an international author to write a chapter on the Music in the Civil Rights Movement for an upcoming book entitled *Music and Conflict Resolution*. He is a peace activist and presented a peace concert with famous Israeli musician, composer and performer Yair Dalal along with a special group of young people from the Muslim and Jewish community. His "Peace Cantata" was premiered at the 2006 Martin Luther King Celebration at Ithaca College.

Dr. Whitehead has taught at the World Music Village in Helsinki, Finland and continues to present workshops on diversity in music education for state, national and international conferences. He will be participating in the Russian Mosaic Music Festival in Magnitogorsk, Russia where he will present workshops on gospel music and West African Drumming. Dr. Whitehead was recently awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor of music education at Ithaca College.

Wolfer & Barron Families Walk to Benefit March of Dimes

On May 2, 2010 the Wolfer and Barron families will be taking part in The March of Dimes March for Babies walk at Otsenigo Park in Binghamton.

We would like to invite anyone who would like to walk with us on this day. The walk starts at 11am and lasts about an hour.

They usually have free food after the walk for the walkers, last year I think they had pizza.

If anyone would like to make a donation, they should see Beth or Matt Wolfer to do so, or they can go online to

www.marchforbabies.org/team/t1343212 to make a donation.

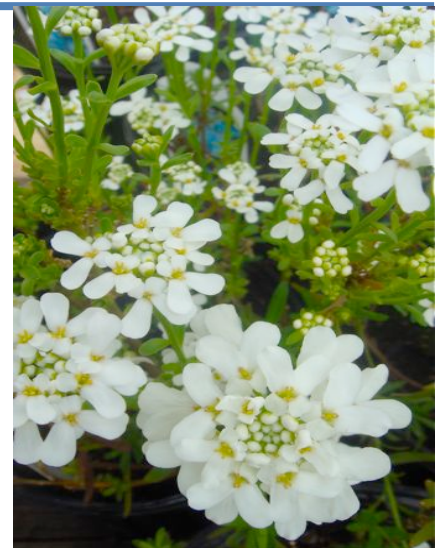
Thank you for helping us raise money for a worthy cause.

~ Matt and Beth Wolfer

Get Ready for the Ithaca Festival Parade!

First Baptists' application to participate in the Ithaca Festival Parade has been accepted! This means that we will be parading through the streets on June 3rd! Get your thinking cap on, we'll need your ideas for the First Baptist entry. This year's theme is "Singing in the Rain." For details about the festival, or for information about volunteering (they need LOTS of help!), check out their website:
<http://www.ithacafestival.org>.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27



First Baptist Now on Facebook!

Okay, you Facebookers, (you know who you are!) check out our new group page on Facebook. Our page is a members only page, so we can post our photos, links, community events, etc. and they are seen only by members of the group.

How can you join? Search for "First Baptist Church Ithaca" and the group will appear. Click on the tab that says "Join Group" and your request for membership will come to the office and we will approve you. This is a great place to post photos of events, to share links to happenings that you would like to share with other members, or share your joys and concerns.

We hope to see you on Facebook!

Stop the Spread of Germs that Can Make You and Others Sick!

As the weather begins to break it is important to remember that cold and flu season has not passed. Serious respiratory illnesses like influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) are spread by:

Coughing or sneezing

Unclean hands

To help stop the spread of germs,

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Put your used tissue in the waste basket.

If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

For your care and convenience, tissues and hand sanitizers are both available at the back of the sanctuary. Don't accidentally pass more than the Peace!

Adult Bible Study Ongoing at Longview

An Adult Bible Study on Thursdays at 2:00p.m. at Longview. There are plans to offer this Bible Study for six weeks, after which, a feasibility study will be conducted to determine an ongoing need. Look for more information in future Sunday bulletins. Please touch base with Ossie Heath-Crump at ohcrump@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Great Women's Luncheon to be Held on April 20th

The Great Women of First Baptist will be meeting at Lil Barron's home at noon on April 20th. Please bring a dish to share! Car-pooling is available.

Contact Liz Wilkinson for more information.
lizwilkinson44@hotmail.com

Continue to Support the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard in April to Reap the Benefits of the Annual Feinstein Challenge

In March and April all our contributions to the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard earn extra financial support for the Cupboard through the Feinstein Challenge Grant. Last year Feinstein added \$312 to the totals given by IKC member groups, such as First Baptist. This is not a one-for-one match, but a base donation plus additional funds from the \$1,000,000 grant, divided amongst food pantry applicants nationwide in proportion to the amount they themselves raise during March and April. Each item of non-perishable food or toiletries contributed to the Cupboard is counted as a \$1 addition to the total raised. Checks can be made out to 'First Baptist Church' and designated for 'Kitchen Cupboard'.

Although we traditionally collect Kitchen Cupboard donations, financial and in goods, on the last Sunday of each month we are happy to receive contributions at any time. We hope to have access to our big, green collection bin in our kitchen again before long.

Last year Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard served food for nine meals each to 6,478 people. Those of us who take a turn working at the Cupboard once every three weeks see first-hand how urgent the need for this help continues to be. Thank you so much for all your past and future support.

~ Amanda Uttord and Sue Hemsath, Coordinators



FIRST BAPTIST WOMEN'S RETREAT

Come join with the women of First Baptist to explore the Stories that Open Our Hearts

Date: Friday May 7, 3:00 pm
Saturday May 8, 5:30 pm
Location: Light on the Hill Retreat Center, Spencer, NY
Contribution: \$65/ person, plus a menu item to share

Sessions include "Opening the Heart Through Story Telling and Reflection," "Faith as the Foundation of Openness," and "Opening to New Possibilities."

*THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO
RELAX, DEEPEN
RELATIONSHIPS, AND
GROW AS A PERSON OF
FAITH.*

Please contact Debbie Allen, Barb Fry, Tina Hilsdorf, Sally Ramirez, or Lynette Rayle for more information.

For a registration form, please call, or email Heather

607.273.5800

fbithaca@gmail.com

Maastricht Easter Play, Amazing!

The Maastricht Easter play was performed by members of the First Baptist Church Choir under the direction of Baruch J. Whitehead.

The discovery in 1947 of the manuscript of a 12th century liturgical music-drama in the Royal Library of the Hague proved to be a rare musical find. Between the beautiful carved ivory covers of an Evangelarium which contained the gospels and liturgical practices of Lady's Church in Maastricht, Holland, was revealed an Easter play of full proportions containing text, music and detailed stage directions. This play is told from the point of view of Mary Magdalena, Mary Jacobi and Mary Salome.

It was a blessed Maundy Thursday event which was followed by a simple fellowship meal in the community room. Thank you to Baruch, members of the choir, and the muscians for all of your time, energy, and anointing spent in practice and



Photo by Simon Wheeler



A very special worship gathering - a U2charist, was held at First Baptist in recognition of Good Friday.

U2charists have become a popular way to celebrate Good Friday in the United Kingdom. An out-of-the-ordinary church experience weaving the music of U2 with readings from the gospel.

In the likeness of Bono (the lead-singer of the group U2), this worship gathering is focused on larger world issues, incorporating belief and doubt into tangible expression found in the music of U2.

Pastor Rose, portraying himself as Judas, spoke to the condition of brokenness and the redemption available to us all, including Judas Iscariot. He broke bread and shared the Eucharist in character evoking the grace, mercy and forgiveness available to even the one who had betrayed Christ to the cross.

*Take these hands, Teach them what to carry
Take these hands, Don't make a fist no
Take this mouth, So quick to criticize
Take this mouth, Give it a kiss
~ Yahweh, U2*

Meredith Lawhead Honored as Distinguished Youth

Meredith Lawhead was honored as the latest Tompkins County Distinguished Youth on April 6th by the Tompkins County Legislature for her "profound love for her community through her perpetual and continual volunteer service...using her time and talents in numerous ways."

Highlights from Meredith's formal community service in 2009 include the following: Learning Web summer volunteer program; DeWitt Middle School mentor to incoming sixth graders; DeWitt Middle School food pantry collection; Alternative Gift Fair volunteer; ongoing service with the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes; Greenstar Cooperative Market; Ithaca Dragon Boat Club; Finger Lakes International Dragon Boat Festival; Salvation Army bell ringer; member of the National Junior Honor Society and DeWitt Middle School honor roll.

Beyond her formal community service, Meredith was also praised for loving care of her mother, family, and home after her mother's recent spinal surgery and "countless acts of service that are never recognized."



Frank Proto, Meredith Lawhead, & Heather Swift

In Thanks

The Faith in Books, Family Reading Partnership Thanks FBC!

Thank you to the First Baptist Congregation for your generous donations of 65 new and gently used books to be distributed to the Big Red Bookshelves throughout Ithaca! Our gratitude for partnering to make books a part of everyday family life for children in our community.



“Let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the earth.~ Jalāl ad-Dīn Muḥammad Rūmī

A warm thank you to who donated flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter. This gift adds beauty and joy for the Easter season!

In Memory of Janet Brown, William & Grace Brown by Betty Brown.
In Memory of Margaret & Carl Caughey by the Caughey Family.
In Memory of William & Elvera Costie, and Ann Costie Feeney by Julie Costie.
In Memory of our mothers, Ida C. Eyman & Barbara S. Lister by Susan & Tony Lister.
In Memory of Delos, Rachel & Roy Everhart by Helen E. Freeman.
In Memory of William Mazur by Sue Hemsath.
In Honor of Andrew & Ursula Hilsdorf by Steve & Tina Hilsdorf.
In Honor of our Soldiers by Barbara Noyes.
In Memory of Ed Lucksinger & David Lucksinger by the Putnam Family.
In Memory of Arno Sack & Robert Kennison by Marlene Sack & Judy Kennison.
In Memory of Ethan Swift, Alfred & Mary Ellen Swift, Dale & Ellen Bartholomew, & MaryAnn Paladenic.
In Honor of Ethan Andrew Wasko-Fox by the Swift-Lawhead Family.
In Honor of Ida Allen by the Williams-Kalnins Family.
In Memory of Joseph Zanfordino by Josie Zanfordino.
In Honor of all who work for peace.

Warm thanks to Barbara Pease for all of her time, energy, and enthusiasm in updating the First Baptist Website!

If you have information to share on the website, please send your request to the office with the subject “WEBSITE,” a date for posting, and a date for removal from the site. Thank you for your contributions and to Barbara!

We appreciate the sharing of your gifts and talents!

A Big Thank You to Bill and Barbara Fry for hosting Dinner Discussion Group on Friday, March 5th!

It was so nice to have the dinner even though the church was unavailable. They made everyone feel welcome!
Linda Caughey

A note from Naomi Hollister:

Thank you to all who contributed box tops and Christmas cards to support the work of Springbrook, our home in Oneonta, where they are redeemed for education materials used by their the residents. Please continue to save your box tops from qualifying soup cans, cereals, baking items, and paper products for our next collection! Your help is appreciated!

Ushers Needed for Sunday Services

Have you ever thought about how exciting it would be to be an usher on Sunday morning and to be one of the first people to greet your First Baptist family members at services? I thought so! Now, this dream can become a reality! Shella Chase is seeking your assistance with a commitment to usher.

If you would like to answer this calling and live your dream, please contact Shella directly via email: shella.chace@gmail.com, via phone: 272.2951, or after service on Sunday!

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Everyone Counts in Tompkins County! 2010 Census

If you haven't done so yet, get in your census form! Every 10 years through the U.S. Census, the United States counts everyone living in the United States, as directed by the Constitution. 2010 is a Census year, and you'll be mailed a Census questionnaire this spring sometime between mid-March and mid-April. By taking just 10 minutes to complete a simple, secure 10-question form, you provide the population information that affects federal and state dollars to support our community services, as well as our area's government representation. The Census counts you where you are living as of April 1.

Be sure to be counted. Watch for your Census form. Fill it out. Send it back. For more information, visit www.tompkins-co.org, "2010 Census"

Updating the FBC Library

Sarah Murray and Heather Swift would like to make our church library more useful to you! If there are books that you would like to see added to the library, please send an email to the church office. We'll be cataloging requests from the congregation and keeping a wish list posted on Amazon.com. However, we strongly encourage those who wish to donate to shop locally first (Autumn Leaves, or Buffalo Street Books) where a living wage is guaranteed.

Book donations will be accepted at the church office. If you wish to make a monetary contribution and dedicate a book in honor, or memory of a loved one, please contact us. sarai82070@aol.com
fbithaca@gmail.com

Lectionary Readings

Holy Thursday ~ April 1, 2010

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday ~ April 2, 2010

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday ~ April 3, 2010

Job 14:1-14, Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8, Matthew 27:57-66

Easter Sunday ~ April 4, 2010

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26, John 20:1-18

Second Sunday of Easter ~ April 11, 2010

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 18, 2010

Acts 9:1-6, 7-20, Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ April 25, 2010

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ May 2, 2010

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

First Baptist Calendar

April 16	8:15pm	Meditation	May 3	6:00pm	PTSD Group
April 18	9:30pm	Choir Rehearsal		7:00pm	Bible Study
	10:00am	WORSHIP	May 4	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
	11:30am	Church School		7:00pm	ACT Meeting
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers		7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus
April 19	6:00pm	PTSD Group	May 5	5:30pm	Banner Committee
	7:00pm	Bible Study		7:00pm	Women's Spirituality
April 20	12:00pm	Great Women's Luncheon	May 6	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation	May 7	8:15am	Meditation
	6:00pm	Ithaca Community Chorus	May 8	10:00am	Brunch Setup
	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus		3:00pm	Parent Co-Op
April 21	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality	May 9	9:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
April 22	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal		10:00am	WORSHIP
April 23	8:15am	Meditation		11:30am	Church School
April 25	9:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	May 10	5:30pm	Cabinet Meeting
	10:00am	WORSHIP		6:00pm	PTSD Group
	11:30am	Church School		7:00pm	Bible Study
April 26	6:00pm	PTSD Group	May 11	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
	7:00pm	Bible Study		7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus
April 27	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation	May 12	5:30pm	Banner Committee
	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus		7:00pm	Women's Spirituality
April 29	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	May 13	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
April 30	8:15pm	Meditation	May 14	6:00pm	Dinner Discussion
May 1	1:30pm	IACC Fundraiser	May 15	3:00pm	Parent Co-Op
May 2	9:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	May 16	9:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am	WORSHIP		10:00am	WORSHIP
	11:30am	Church School		11:30am	Church School
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers



Light to Live In:
The Biblical Call to
Peace Rooted in Justice:
A Conference for
Peacemakers

sponsored by the Baptist
Peace Fellowship of North
America

July 12-17, 2010

Keuka College, Keuka Park, New York

This Life Sustaining week will include the following highlights:

- * Keynote Speaker Tony Campolo: *"Red Letter Christians: Taking Seriously the Words of Jesus"*
- * Interactive Dialogue: *"Christians, The Church, and Sexual Orientation."*

* Bible Study: *"Light to Live in: Following Jesus"* and *"Amos' Vision of Justice"*

* Morning Prayers: *"Sustaining a Heart of Peace in the Midst of Violence"*

* Workshop Series: *"Modern Realities and the Prophetic Vision"*

Featured Speakers & Worship Leaders: Tony Campolo, Peggy Campolo, Harry Knox, Maung Maung Yin, Pat Dutcher-Walls, Kim & Reggie Harris, Rachel McGuire, Michael Ware, Leslie Lee, and Steve Gretz

Jesus once again addressed them, "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in." ~ John 8:12, from the Message

For More Information, visit:
wwwbpfna.org/conference



Treat Yourself

Whether you are newly diagnosed, or have survived cancer for 3 months or 30 years, we invite you to join us for a day of nurturing. Through workshops, good food, and sharing time with others, you will truly feel refreshed and renewed!

The fee is \$30 and includes a light breakfast, delicious lunch, and all activities. We'll end our day with a pampering mini- treatment in August Moon Spa. The quiet serenity of this lovely space will encourage you to deeply relax while savoring the effects of your massage.

**For more information
Contact Sharon Kaplan
277-0960 or sharon@crfl.net**

This Month's Community Wish List: Hospicare & Palliative Services of Tompkins County

Here a few items on the Hospicare Wish List this month. A complete list can be found at:

www.hospicare.org/donate

- * CDs featuring soft acoustic , or instrumental music DVDs.
 - * \$10 gas cards (for volunteers visiting patients)
 - * New, soft hand towels in a variety of colors.
 - * Compost thermometer.
 - * Small blocks of suet for bird feeders.
 - * Soft facial tissues.
 - * Copy paper.
 - * Men's medium, large, and extra large t-shirts, plain colors in short and long sleeved.
- Items can be dropped off at 172 East King Road, Ithaca. Feel free to call ahead: 607.272.0212.

Photo Credits: Heather Swift, Simon Wheeler

THE VISITOR

First Baptist Church, Dewitt Park

P.O. Box 254, Ithaca, New York 14851

Return Service Requested

Recipient