



doing life together
with Jesus

the SCROLL

the monthly newsletter of
First Baptist Church North Adams

DEEP THOUGHTS WITH PASTOR DAVE

AUGUST 2025



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I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all His holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding in every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. (Paul from Philemon 4-6)

It is Monday morning July 21, and I am sitting in my office looking back over the weekend we shared as a church family. Yesterday alone we had a great morning of worship. Following worship there was a meeting for VBS with a significant group of volunteers ready to roll. The Haitian church gathered in the sanctuary for their weekly worship. From 4:00-6:00 20 people gathered to talk about spiritual gifts and shared an amazing time together. During that time a team gathered in the sanctuary to begin to work on skits for VBS and at 6:00 Fighting with Faith gathered for their monthly meeting. I love these types of days with our church family. The building was buzzing with activity.

The Apostle Paul begins his letter to Philemon as he begins many of his letters, with words of encouragement for churches and people. Paul found great joy in the Gospel work that he shared with

many throughout the Roman Empire. I have always loved these greetings Paul includes in the beginning of his letters. The church today can learn a lot about these greetings and how we should approach one another.

Throughout the New Testament the themes of love, unity, being one with Christ, not arguing and complaining, avoiding gossip and talking about others are taught and retaught and taught again. The love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13 and numerous "one another passages" are taught. Jesus Himself teaches love repeatedly including this great verse, "love as I have first loved you." (John 13:34-35)

Love is a great ideal that honestly is very difficult to live out as Christ commanded. We love the idea of love but are challenged at every turn, even in the church, to live it out as Christ desires for us all as believers. The reason that love is taught over and over again is because the church then and now have not yet arrived at the place Christ envisions for His church.

"I hear about your love for all His holy people...." Are we as a church known for love? Is love central in our DNA. Do people see us as a loving church? Are

continued →

DEEP THOUGHTS CONTINUED

we quick to forgive, ready to forbear and ready to sacrifice for one another even when we do not feel ready to do so? Are we working to love everyone here in the Body or are we comfortable only with our little circles? Are we working tirelessly to avoid gossip and slander, ready to speak face to face with those whom we need to talk with? Do you feel loved here at the church and more importantly are YOU loving others as you are called to love them?

"I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective...." We share in a partnership. We are a team with a mission. Our cause is Christ and the Good News of His Gospel. Partner is defined as "one associated with another especially in action." That speaks to we the church of Jesus Christ. At times the church becomes task oriented to a point where relationships suffer. Talking about others rather than talking to others brings far more harm than good to the Body. Teams, healthy teams require intentional work to make them healthy.

".... every good thing we share for the sake of Christ." How often do we focus on this? Can you name some of the things we share for the sake of Christ? We have (should have) relationships that are far more genuine and nurturing than what we experience in the world. We have (should have) grace and mercy in abundance. There (should be) great joy found in serving where everyone feels heard and everyone is given meaningful tasks to participate in. As disciples of Christ (we should) be living in an environment in which we are all continually being transformed by Christ. The good things of peace and joy and hope and faith and yes...love.

Over the next few months, we will be undergoing the new bylaws transformation. This journey will go far deeper than what we do. Great care and intention have been and will be put into who we are and why we are. Paul developed a culture with his churches, a culture that the church of today desperately needs.

MINISTRY TESTAMONY

When Pastor Dave approached me about joining the group to help amend the bylaws, I felt compelled and ready to be more involved to help build a bridge to connect more of our church family. This really brought tears to my eyes when I was speaking on this. It hurts my heart, hearing some of the things that I hear throughout the church, and I am not going to be one that is going to sit and complain if I am not going to try to be part of the solution. A want and feeling of being more involved and to learn more came over me. Bella is getting older, and I will be having more time to maybe help make a change within the life

or our church. To better understand and connect with my own faith. To learn more and be more involved in the life of our church. I had a moment not too long ago when I was alone in the sanctuary and just looked up at the beautiful window when a feeling just went through me. I even took a picture of that window from the angle I was standing as it moved me so much, I wanted to have something to remind me of that moment. That is what I want for everyone that walks into our church.

—Melissa Montoya

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Dave will be headed to Peru from August 4–17, and on vacation from August 18–24.

Terri will be away from the office from August 2–10, and again on August 25 & 29.

Lora will also be away on August 29 for an extended holiday weekend.

Please plan accordingly.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

2 Donna Tatro	23 Stefanie Tatro
3 Bryce Robison	24 Rebecca O'Hearn
5 Missy Peck	25 Barb Mangano
6 Prudy Gravel	26 Frank Risatti
7 Paulette Fullerton	27 Mitchell Spooner
Maddy Sigsbury	29 Corey Kennedy
8 Jeff Kennedy	30 John Gable
9 Diane Perry	31 Herb Putnam
15 PJ Goyette	
16 Wendy Lamberton	
17 Easton Field	
20 Nate O'Hearn	
21 Alex McCausland	
Judy Spooner	
22 Heidi McCausland	
Stephanie Sigsbury	
Elysse Tuper	

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Bob & Melanie St. Pierre
8 Emory & Janet Scholl
13 Steve & Lisa Brown
27 Bob & Connie Lincoln

WEEKLY STATISTICS

DATE	WORSHIP	OFFERINGS
June 29	147	\$4,806.90
July 6	121	\$2,121.90
July 13	163	\$3,564.90
July 20	190	\$2,984.90

OFFERINGS NEEDED: \$15,200.00

OFFERINGS RECEIVED: \$13,478.60

SHORTFALL: \$1,721.40

(FBCNA needs to receive at least \$3,800 in weekly offerings in order to remain on budget.)

LIBRARY/RESOURCE CENTER

We have plenty of good Christian reading at our disposal in the church library—located between the chapel and the conference room. There are quite a few options if you want to take on a personal devotional with friends. Books are separated into categories: Christian Living, Family & Marriage, Bible Study, Fiction, Devotion-

al, Children, and more. There are also movies, puzzles, & games.

Please note: Is there a particular Christian movie, book, or cd that you would like to see in our church library that isn't currently there? There are now forms available to help us better accommodate your requests!

"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR MIND."



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: More information will be presented in September. Scroll If you have participated in the past you can start stocking up on supplies and be ready when the boxes are distributed. We would love to have well over 125 boxes to send. For more information on packing a box, visit samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/. We are hearing there may be a few more restrictions for what can be placed in the boxes, We will let you know when we know, For sure, no liquids, which includes bubble stuff, liquid shampoos and soaps. This will not be an item collection. We would like families and individuals to pack the supplied boxes and bring them in when full. Deadline will be given later.

'GOOD SHEPHERD' OUTDOOR FOOD PANTRY: Donations to this mission are always appreciated. If you have a few extra shelf stable items please feel free to put them in. If you would like to donate more the donations can be placed in the donation bucket on the mission table. We have a secure shelf off the kitchen where we keep the extra supplies so that there is always something on hand. The pantry empties fast, so we know the need is great.

WARM WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE: With Summer 2025 quickly passing by the Mission Board will continue to collect warm winter clothing for our giveaway this October 18th. Please bring them in when you can and mark them Warm Winter Clothing Drive. You can leave it on the bench inside the office entrance and a board member will take care of it. Also, if you are in a store and see hats, gloves or whatever are deeply discounted please pick up a few things. Men's XL and XXL are always in demand. **THANK YOU.** Washed blankets in

good condition are also welcome. We are having a work bee on **August 18 at 9 A.M.** Extra hands will be appreciated.

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH: This has continued to be a great success. We are closing in between 80-90 meals! Thank you for all the new volunteers to our teams. New teams would always be appreciated. These can be any Ministry teams, families or groups of friends. Please let Steve King know and he will place you on an existing team to learn the ropes.

AL NELSON FRIENDSHIP CENTER: Our friends in the area are more in need of our help. Every 2nd Sunday we collect for this food pantry. This is all very much appreciated, but truth is, we are way down from previous years. The food can be brought in at any time.

GAS CAN COLLECTION COMPLETION: One of our most successful Missions has come to an end. We will no longer be collecting coins in the gas can for the motorcycle Missionary in Nepal. We have not been hearing updates and don't think the mission is still happening. Thank you all for the hundreds of dollars donated over the last several years. Stay tuned and save your change for our next exciting mission.

Thank you all for your continued generosity. We know we ask a lot but God has given us so much.

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"
(Matthew 25:44-45)

CONNECTIONS

Connection to Christ is the basis for our connection to other people. Without a connection to Christ, connection to others is nothing more than a social club. It is this Christ connection that gives our connections to others purpose and meaning.

It's so important in your journey with Christ to stay connected and to be in fellowship with one another. We are so blessed within the life of our church to have many different opportunities. Recently we had a church picnic up at Mausert's. Some kids and adults were able to fish, some people played cornhole, and there was an abundance of food. There was such a strong sense of community.

Vacation Bible School is also coming up soon. This is a great way to help out and meet new people.

"I am the vine you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - all the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Jesus says it's important to worship with and through Him. We need to feel a connection with other humans, and as Christians, we should be connected. Let us all find our place within our church.

MONTHLY EVENTS

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesdays | 10 A.M.

Thursdays | 6:30 P.M.

We have developed an amazing sense of community as we ask questions, explore, and connect.

Additional themed Bible Studies are also available. Please see the *Scroll* calendar for dates & times.

HOUSE OF PRAYER

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 6:30 P.M.

Join us for prayer that is uninterrupted and unrushed. Important, far-reaching, and powerful!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Thursdays | 10 A.M.

The topics of conversation are wide and varied. Join us for this unique fellowship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 2 | 8 A.M.

Come and partake in culinary delights and great conversation.

SPIRITUAL GIFT DISCOVERY

Sunday, August 3 | 11 A.M.

Are you eager to understand and utilize your spiritual gifts to make a meaningful impact in the way you serve? Dinner will be provided. Please join us!

ADULTS UNLIMITED

Friday, August 8 | 6 P.M.

No church business, just church fellowship! Each month is a new venue.

FIGHTING WITH FAITH

Sunday, August 17 | 6 P.M.

For anyone touched by cancer, come be inspired through fellowship, scripture, prayer, and stories of hope & strength.

SPECIAL
EVENT

KIDS KORNER



NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VBS
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 28 - AUG 1
5:00PM - 8:00 PM
Pre-K-12TH GRADE
DINNER PROVIDED

Scan Me

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
131 MAIN ST., NORTH ADAMS, MA



First Baptist Church North Adams
Back to School Blessings
AUGUST 23RD, 2025
10-1
COOK OUT LUNCH!

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Lunch!
- Backpacks for PreK
- 1 FREE Outfit
- Goodies and fun!!

AT COLEGROVE PARK
Registration Cut-off July 26th
Register at:

For more information please contact
ljmarceau@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

August 3rd: Lauren Bellows
August 10th: Kathy Church
August 17th: Bryan Lamberton
August 24th: Terri Braman
August 31st: Lauren Bellows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for Sunday School Teachers this Fall for grades 2-5 and middle school. We will equip you and provide the curriculum. The commitment is 2x monthly. Interested? Got questions? Please speak to Lauren or Terri.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd: No Sunday School. Nursery open.
10th: No Sunday School. Nursery open. No Youth Group.
14th: Kid's Summer Night Celebration—5:30-7 P.M. "I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!" Join us for fun & games, pizza, and of course...ice cream!
17th: Summer Sunday School. Nursery open. Youth Group.
24th: No Sunday School. Nursery open. No Youth Group.
31th: Motorama Sunday. Summer Sunday School.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

PARTNERING WITH GOD

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...". (1 Peter 4:10)

With the Bylaw changes voted on by our fellowship, we are moving into new territory with the commissioning of "Ministry Teams" versus the establishment of "Committees".

Part of commissioning these ministry teams is asking God to call forth individuals with the spiritual gifts needed to successfully minister to the congregation in different ways. One of the tools FBCNA will use in is the Spiritual Gifts Survey.

This tool is often used to ascertain the specific gifts the Holy Spirit has deposited within someone. I've completed a few of these surveys in my professional life as an executive administrative assistant. Let's just say, no one would want me working in the finance department - math is definitely not my forte. However, I have other spiritual gifts that I have effectively used throughout my career and in my personal life as well. Let me assure you - you do have spiritual gifts. You may not have discovered them yet, but God has planted them within you. It doesn't take long to recognize if we're operating in "the zone" of our gifting; or we're feeling more like a fish out of water,

because our spiritual gifting comes naturally - it's not forced or coerced.

As we mature in our Christian walk, I would like to suggest that our calling isn't a career to find or a ministry to start, but our calling is more about learning to live in such deep partnership with God that His nature flows through us naturally wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

Your calling unfolds as you walk WITH Him, not as you figure it out ahead of time. Every season, every role, every relationship becomes a place where He teaches you HIS ways and shows you more of who He's created you to be.

Have you ever felt a restlessness in your spirit; that's not you being impatient - that's God drawing you toward the more that He has prepared for you. You're not behind in your calling. You're not missing it. You're not too old, too young, or too inexperienced. Right where you are, in partnership with God, IS your calling being lived out.

So, instead of asking "What is my calling?", maybe we should be asking God: "How do You want to partner with me? What aspect of Your character do You want to develop in me right here? How can I represent Your heart in this season?"

QUIET TIME WITH GOD

"My response is to get down on my knees before the Father." (Ephesians 3:14)

As much as we might hate to admit it, God doesn't need or want us to tell Him what He should do. He wants to hear from us, absolutely, but what brings the Lord happiness is our devotion to His plan. That means prayer; creating open lines of communication

with God that serve as a dialogue. It means both speaking and listening. We can pray anytime, anywhere. It's a huge blessing to know that we can speak to God at any moment in our lives...the good and the bad moments. Prayer knows no rules so just pray. Pure, unplugged, heart-tuned-in communication with your best friend is all you need.

PRAYER REQUESTS

HEALTH ISSUES

Sue Bean
Craig Benedetti
Kathy Church
Ed Either
Frank Goodermote
Denise Krutiak

HEALTH ISSUES CONTINUED

Al Lorge
Charlie Marshall
Anne Nelson
Ann Perry
Suzette Pierce
Linda Quimby

HEALTH ISSUES CONTINUED

Cal & Mary Rowland
Emory & Janet Scholl
Cindy Smith
Tammy & Bill St. Pierre
Brandy Whipple
Missy Wood

HAITIAN FELLOWSHIP



Haitian fellowship is now meeting in our sanctuary on Sundays at 12:30 P.M.

The church, whose name translates to 'Assembly of Evangelical Ministries', serves the Berkshires by growing the French-speaking Haitian community.

Let us keep them, and their ministry, in our prayers.

the **SCROLL**
your home-church newsletter



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CHURCH
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