

# Contact

January/February 2020

1st First Baptist Church of Metuchen

225 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840  
FBCMonline.org 732.548.4279

## Pastor's Pennings



Dear Church Family,

In the early years of our church, we had a series of seminary students that came here from Philadelphia to preach the morning message. The first of these was Louis Hylbert. Following his year as "student pastor" here, Hylbert went as a missionary to China. I have often wondered if his vision for China rubbed off on our congregation and became part of who we are as a church. We have always had a strong emphasis on world missions here at First Baptist.

On the other hand, every church should really have a strong emphasis on missions, because, didn't Jesus tell his followers,

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation (Mark 16:15)"

and

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)?"

Our two Missions Conference Sundays this year will be:

February 23 - Pat & Joyce Murphy

Pat directs the mentoring program at Seminaire Baptiste Evangelique du Quebec, a French-speaking seminary in Montreal, Canada. Our church has supported the Murphy's since 1988.

Pat will bring the message at the two morning messages. Pat and Joyce will

share in Room 209 during the Sunday school hour.

March 1 - Paul & Dondra Decker.

Paul is involved with campus ministry at the University of Buffalo. He spent 28 years prior to that in pastoral ministry, including four years (1987-1991) as our Assistant Pastor here at FBCM.

Paul will bring the message at the two morning messages. Paul and Dondra will share in Room 210 during the Sunday school hour. We will also have our Missions Conference lunch, which will be prepared by our Missions Team.

Later in the year, April 19, we will also have Diana Muenzenberger. Diana is a veteran missionary who teaches middle school at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines.

I do hope you will participate in the events of our conference to hear what God is doing.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor Jim Miller

### GENERAL FUND - JANUARY 31, 2020

<b>2020 Budget Need</b>	\$590,000
<b>YTD Budget Need</b>	\$45,385
<b>YTD In</b>	\$37,122
<b>YTD Out</b>	\$46,882
<b>Pending Bills</b>	\$8,203
<b>Weekly Payroll (approx.)</b>	\$5,000

## Sunday Morning Worship Service



Sunday Morning Message Series

## Mid-Week Prayer Meeting



## Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays  
at 7:30pm  
in the Chapel

## Sunday School Classes

### Sunday School Classes at 9:45am

#### Adult Sunday School

##### Guardrails

Ever wonder what it would be like to have guardrails in other areas of your life—areas where culture baits you to the edge of disaster and then chastises you when you step across the line? Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails.

Room 206

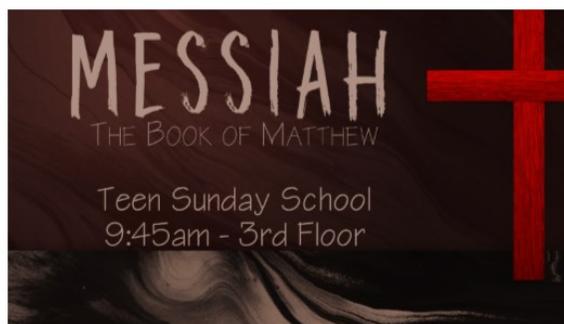


### Sunday School Classes at 9:45am

#### Teen Sunday School

MESSIAH  
THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Teen Sunday School  
9:45am - 3rd Floor



##### Be Compassionate - Luke

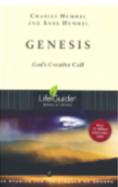
Christ's overwhelming compassion for people marked his life and ministry. His heart is the same today. We are to be Christ's hands and feet and extend His extravagant love to a broken world. Examine the heart-beat of our Savior and explore how Jesus connected with hurting people in an authentic powerful way.

Room 207

##### Questioning Evangelism

Sometimes the best answer is a question. Jesus talked with people as He led them into discussions about the issues that mattered most. Learn thought provoking, practical insights to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations. Be challenged in how we think about people, their questions, and our message.

Room 208



##### Genesis

Do you struggle to know and to follow God's call for you in the world? Genesis tells us that even the giants of faith- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph-struggled to obey their Creator. But Genesis also reveals the amazing truth that the God who called a world and a nations in to being also calls each of us to serve Him.

Room 209

##### 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Samuel has power struggles, betrayal, warfare, and romance... fascinating, in-depth look at the inauguration of the Davidic dynasty in ancient Israel and shows how it reflects God's cosmic reign. Include historical insights, word origins, life applications, discussion questions.

Room 210



##### Discovery Bible Study

An intimate & friendship based interactive Bible study to discover scripture meaning in your life through sharing, discussing and supporting one another.

- small group for people to share more intimacy & friendship
- absolutely safe for people to ask questions or have doubts
- welcomes not only Christians but also non-believers
- There is no teaching; share, discuss, support each other and pray

Gym

## Children's Sunday School

### Sunday School Worship Hour

- \* Bible Storytime
- \* Activities
- \* Praise & Worship
- \* Weekly Memory Verses
- \* Snacks



### Junior Church follows at 11:00am

#### Children earn points every Sunday

- \* Attendance
- \* Bringing a Bible
- \* Reciting Memory Verses
- \* Special Assignments
- \* Bringing a New Friend to Church

Children can redeem their points for prizes and gifts.

If anyone is interested in volunteering as a teacher or helper, please contact

Anthony Picinich  
201-491-6406

Cynthia T. Picinich  
732-882-4885

Email [FBCM.Children.Ministries@gmail.com](mailto:FBCM.Children.Ministries@gmail.com)



This year was our very first ever couples retreat.

In October, we took 18 couples to Spruce Lake for an awesome time of fun and reflection. Our speaker, Pastor Todd Spain, from Pelham, New Hampshire spoke on the topic of "Bringing Back the Booyah,"

Through object lessons and media, Pastor Todd challenged us to look at our marriages as plants. Just like plants, marriages thrive when they are tended to and cared for. The plants that receive the most attention produce the most fruit; in the same way, if we put a lot of time into marriage we can expect to reap the benefits of a blessed union.

We enjoyed hiking and zip lining and played lots of fun games. In the end, we each declared something we would leave at the retreat, something we recognized was hurting our marriage and then something we would start doing that would be healthy for our marriage.

All of the feedback was positive and many expressed a desire to have a retreat like this on a regular basis.

*(from the 2019 First Baptist Church of Metuchen Annual Report)*

**- - - Save the Dates - - -**

**Women's Retreat**  
Oct 2-4  
Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

**Men's Retreat**  
Oct 9-11  
Spruce Lake Lodge

**Theme:** Sharing Our Faith (teaching & workshops led by Tommy & Karen Waters)

I felt the Spiritual Enrichment Day helped connect the dots between caring about others and sharing the gospel. We learned about the Three Modes of Evangelism and how to share our faith stories quickly and meaningfully. Karen and Tommy shared many useful resources such as the gospel booklet, "Would You Like to Know God Personally?", but almost as important - how to get to the point of sharing this information. Ultimately, the outcomes of our spiritual conversations are in God's hands, but "how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" -- Romans 10:14

*-Jessie Jankowsky*

I've found that in our current American culture, we don't have the basic beliefs in one God, how to reason (e.g. two contradictory statements can't both be true), and absolute morality, so when I share the Gospel with people they don't accept it or worse yet, are offended by it. Tommy and Karen showed us how to engage people in spiritual conversations by asking questions that explore and guide their spiritual journey, so that we can share the Gospel in a meaningful and non-confrontational way.

*-Joe Lai*

"Recognizing that this event was a condensed version of several years worth of training and information, I found the Spiritual Enrichment Day to be quite helpful in understanding the basics of sharing my faith with others. Tommy and Karen took what is often considered a daunting task and simplified our understanding of how to do it effectively - that is, how to tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was well worth the time investment, and I would go again if another one was offered."

*-Mike Spatz*

Check [FBCMonline.org](http://FBCMonline.org) for more information and full calendar.

# Small Groups

I'm a disciple making disciples who make disciples.



## First Baptist Church of Metuchen Small Groups

	<b>Leader &amp; Location</b>	<b>Day / Time / Frequency</b>	<b>For Whom</b>
	Ed & Dina O'Connor <i>at</i> FBCM 206	Alternating Sundays 2:00pm	Co-Ed
	Andy & Patricia Kobayashi <i>at</i> The Kobayashi Home (Metuchen)	Alternating Sundays 5:00pm	Co-Ed
	Ian & Sara Dancer <i>at</i> The Austin Home (Hopelawn)	Sundays 6:00pm	Co-Ed
	Anne Lai <i>at</i> The Lai Home (Metuchen)	Mondays (Sep - May) 7:00pm	Ladies Bible Study
	Suzanne Kalish <i>at</i> The Kalish Home (East Brunswick)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays 7:30pm	Co-Ed
	Ian & Sara Dancer Joe & Anne Lai <i>at</i> their homes (Metuchen)	Tuesdays 7:30pm	Young Adults (~21-35)
	Jennifer Spatz <i>at</i> FBCM 206	Wednesdays (Sep - Jun) 7:00pm	Parents
	Anne Lai <i>at</i> FBCM 206	Thursdays (Sep - May) 10:00am	Ladies Bible Study
	Pastor Miller <i>in</i> Pastor's Office	Thursdays 8:00pm	Co-Ed
	Dan & Lucy Tillotson <i>at</i> The Tillotson Home (Edison)	Alternating Fridays 7:00pm	Co-Ed
	Joe & Anne Lai <i>at</i> The Lai Home (Metuchen)	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays 7:30pm	Co-Ed
	Mike Spatz <i>at</i> (various locations)	<i>watch for events</i>	College

**Contact:**



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