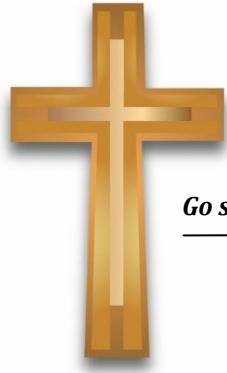


*Sunday, July 12, 2020*



Welcome to  
**First Baptist Church  
of Endicott**

*Know the love of God in Jesus Christ;  
Grow as followers of Him;  
Go share the love of God in our community and world.*

Interim Pastor • Rev. Dr. Keith Marlett  
Worship Leader • Jared O'Neill  
Praise Team Leader • Bill Starring

+ + +

*Praise & Worship*

Opening Song		Kyle Todack
Opening Prayer		Worship Leader
Announcements		Worship Leader
Children's Message		Nancy Marlett
Praise Music		Praise Team
Scripture Reading	Acts 6:8 - 7:1 NIV	Linda O'Neill
Special Music	<i>Amazing Grace</i> Kaleena Berchtold, solo	John Newton
Message "A Godly Response to Persecution"		Pastor Keith
Closing Song		Praise Team
Benediction		Pastor Keith

*Today's Scripture*

**Stephen Seized**

<sup>8</sup>Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with

Stephen. <sup>10</sup>But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. <sup>11</sup>Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." <sup>12</sup>So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup>They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup>For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." <sup>15</sup>All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin**

<sup>1</sup> Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

*Prayers, Concerns & Celebrations*

Health Concerns: Dale Peloke; Al McFall; Dan Marlett; Pat McFall; Pat Fernald;  
Church family, friends, and our homebound members;  
All victims and families of COVID-19; and  
All those on the front lines battling and protecting;  
The Pastoral Search Committee;  
Our virtual worship service;  
God's direction during this time of transition;  
Safe travels for Al & Pat McFall as they return home!

You can submit your prayer requests by emailing the church office or by contacting a deacon or the pastor. Prayer requests of a personal nature will not be shared during the virtual worship service.

*Announcements*

**NYS Safety Requirements for Sanctuary Worship:**

- Face coverings are required at all times unless seated;
- A hand sanitizer station is located in the back of the sanctuary;
- Ushers will guide attendees to the pews available to maintain social distancing;
- A collection plate station is located in the back of the sanctuary;

- For the safety of others, if you have a fever, cough, or are not feeling well, please do not attend.

Childcare *will not* be provided and children need to remain with their parents at all times.

- We recommend bringing items for your children to use during the service (coloring books, quiet toys).
- Rooms will be available for you and your children if you need to remove yourself during the service. See an usher if you need an available room.

The Board of Ministries requests that you:

- Please enter using the front doors (volunteers/employees may use the back entrance);
- If possible, please limit the use of the church building to the sanctuary and main floor restrooms when possible to minimize the amount of cleaning/sanitizing needed after the service;
- Coffee, snacks and our drinking fountain will not be available during the service;
- After service, please dismiss yourselves in an orderly fashion and congregate outside if you wish.

+ + +

**Virtual Bible Study:** Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM. Pastor Keith is leading a time of Bible study and prayer via ZOOM. He will send an email invite and all you need to do is click on that invite to join.

+ + +

**Diaconate Meeting:** Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM in Pastor Keith's office. The meeting will also be set up on Zoom for those who prefer to attend from home.

+ + +

**Special Congregational Vote:** Our church has re-enacted the Nominating Committee to fill a vacancy and review the Board positions with expiring terms. The electronic vote will be released Monday 7/20 to all eligible voting members and all responses must be submitted by Friday 7/24, with the results being announced Sunday 7/26 during regular worship. Copies will be mailed to those without computer access. If you have any questions or comments

regarding the slate of officers, please address them to Becky Mellander as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

+ + +

Looking for fun and meaningful activities for your children and grandchildren this summer? Check out "Camping Outside the Box" at [VPCCMinistries.org](http://VPCCMinistries.org)!

+ + +

Deadline for submissions to the **August Tower Topics** is Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

+ + +

**Remember to remain faithful in your giving:**

**1. By check made payable to First Baptist Church and mailed to:**

First Baptist Church		Kay Hollister
1406 Monroe Street	<b>OR</b>	6021 Day Hollow Road
Endicott, NY 13760		Endicott, NY 13760

**2. By using your bank "billpay" with "payment" sent to:**

First Baptist church of Endicott  
1406 Monroe Street  
Endicott, NY 13760

**3. By using "Online Giving" feature through our website.**

Go to [www.firstbaptistendicott.com](http://www.firstbaptistendicott.com)

Please consider giving to the **Diaconate Fund** by designating on your on-line giving or at place provided at the back of church.

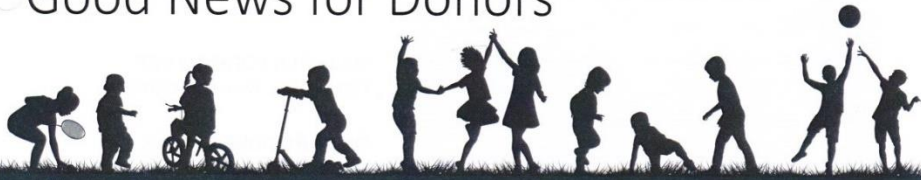
**Financial Update**

Year Goal	Weekly Goal	YTD Given
\$110,600.00	\$2,126.92	\$60,072.28
<b>YTD Goal</b>	<b>Given 07-05</b>	<b>%</b>
\$57,426.84	\$1,398.00	104.61
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$16,355.00</b>	

**Looking for a great way to help during the COVID pandemic *and* benefit from a tax deduction???**

## The CARES Act

### Good News for Donors



The COVID-19 crisis has produced many unprecedented situations in our nation. While many of those situations are adverse, you may not know that with the CARES Act, there are great benefits and incentives that can stretch your charitable giving.

Gifts up to \$300 are now 100% deductible even for those using the standard deduction. This means you can deduct up to \$300 whether you itemize your deductions or not. Contributions by cash, credit card, or check are eligible; however, gifts of stock are not.

Maximum deduction is raised to 100%. Previously, individuals could deduct up to 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable deductions of cash (not gifts of stock). The stimulus package allows individuals to deduct up to 100% of their AGI in 2020. This is helpful for donors making major gift donations and makes it possible to eliminate federal tax burden entirely. In addition, donations in excess of AGI may be carried over for up to five additional years.

Corporations have greater incentive to make charitable gifts. Previously charitable giving for a corporation has been limited to 10% of taxable income. The limit has been increased to 25% of taxable income, making charitable gifts more attractive to business donors.

**Please prayerfully consider caring for the children and send your gift today!**

**Mail Check To:**  
**Child Evangelism Fellowship**  
**P.O. Box 348**  
**Warrenton, MO 63383**

**Donate Online:**  
**cefonline.com**

**American Baptist Home Mission Society awards \$56,000 in OGHS funds for COVID-19 recovery in U.S., Puerto Rico**

VALLEY FORGE, PA (6/17/20)—Food distribution, rent assistance, medical aid to homeless persons and child-care for low-income essential workers are among the projects that received \$56,000 total during the first round of American Baptist Home Mission Societies “COVID Recovery: Renewing Hope and Service” One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency grants, awarded on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing cause.



Non-perishable food donations to **CHOW** are most welcome and needed! Cindy Starring is willing to pick up donations from you if you are unable to bring them to church. Monetary gifts are always welcome through our online giving or by check made payable to First Baptist Church and earmarked “CHOW.”

**First Baptist Church**  
**1406 Monroe Street + Endicott, NY 13760**  
**[www.firstbaptistendicott.com](http://www.firstbaptistendicott.com)**

+ + +  
**Rev. Dr. Keith Marlett**  
**Interim Pastor**