

From the Pastor's Desk Reverend Daniel Taylor



March

March is upon us and the pages on the calendar are turning rapidly. The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6 and continues for nearly six weeks until Easter Sunday. This is a period when, as followers of Jesus, we pause daily during those 40 days to contemplate our personal relationship with Christ as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. I do hope you will join us during this time as we worship together.

Also, we will have a Lenten devotional guide for each day beginning with Ash Wednesday that has been prepared by Rev. Dr. Richard Rusbuldt, retired ABCOPAD Executive Minister. If you can't pick up a guide, it will be posted on the church's website.

During this month Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10 and on that morning we will "spring forward" an hour. We will try to remind everyone so that no one will arrive for Sunday School or worship at the wrong time.



In March we have the opportunity each year to learn more about how we partner with other American Baptist congregations across the country to cultivate leaders, equip disciples and heal communities through our American Baptist Home Mission Societies. We do that as we publicize and receive the America for Christ Offering all month long. Publicity posters and bulletin boards are prepared, informational inserts are in the Sunday bulletins and offering envelopes are in the pew racks to make giving easier. Offering boxes for the kitchen table are also available if it would be handy to remember to give during meal time. God will bless your learning and giving.

**AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2019**

Spring is coming ... even though it doesn't feel like it right now. **The prophet Isaiah tells us** - *For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.* (Isaiah 61.11) I hope in the coming days that you will make time to praise the God of all creation as we see the changes of the season and that you will give thanks for God's love that is freely given to everyone.

In the Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Taylor



Check out our new Facebook page at:
First Baptist Church of Dover Delaware



First Baptist Church of Dover 301 Walker Road ~ Dover, DE 19904

Dear First Baptist Church of Dover members and friends,

The Lord Jesus Christ intends every member of the church to do the work of the ministry. The intention of ministry is to build up each other's faith and love. God's design is to use human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of God's children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love for their community.

We are motivated and inspired by American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) **America for Christ (AFC) 2019 "Healing Communities"** theme, based on Galatians 6.9-10: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (NIV).

The "Healing Communities" theme is a passionate reminder to join with diverse communities in engaging existing resources, expanding our understanding, and nurturing community healing that encourages mutual transformation. Your generous AFC gifts supported the following ministries last year:

"Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.

Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.

Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.

Rizpah's Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

Additional supported ministries include **Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry** and **Community Outreach Ministries**.

AFC 2019 encourages us to engage in service to the church and the community. For many, that may be the way they experience the love of Christ in us. I am asking you to join Rebecca and me in giving generously to this year's AFC offering as together we partner with ABHMS in healing communities.

In the Hope of Christ,

Rev. Dan Taylor

