

August 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

Please hold in your prayers

- Please continue to hold Blair Childs in your prayers who in hospice care at home. We also hold in our hearts Peggy and family.
- Jessica Rybeck had shoulder surgery last week is now at Suffield House during her rehabilitation.
- For Earth, God's planet, our home, that we may recognize and experience the Presence of God within all creation and know that we are an integral part of this great web of life.
- For those making decisions about how, and whether or not to open schools for our children, teachers and all those connected to the educational efforts of our young people.
- In gratitude to all the health care workers and others who continue to give of themselves in this time of pandemic.
- Gratitude to God for life.

The Diaconate meets on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**Wednesday morning, August 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a time to gather for prayer and meditation at 10:00 am**, outside, near the Memorial Garden next to the parking lot behind the Second Baptist Church building. This a time to gather together in a spirit of prayer, in silence, sharing joys and concerns, hearing some scripture readings and quiet reflection. We will practice social distancing and you are asked to bring a chair with you for seating. We will not meet in the event of rain.

There will be **no Bible study** via zoom **this Wednesday evening**. We will meet next Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and continue our reflections on the Gospel of Mark. No advanced preparations are necessary and all are invited to attend. A Zoom invitation will be sent in next week's SBC News.

The Second Baptist Church received recognition of our denomination, the American Baptist Churches, USA, for our giving to United Mission in 2019. Of the 5,000 congregations in the United States and Puerto Rico, we ranked #85. Thank you for your generous support of Second Baptist and the caring ministries of our denomination. 2/3 of this United Mission support are dedicated to our local region, the American Baptist Churches of CT (ABCCONN), along with particular needs in the U.S., Puerto Rico and around the world. Again, thank you for your generosity, commitment and love through your giving to Second Baptist Church and through our congregation, to the world.

Worship during the month of August will continue to be ecumenical and focused at the historic First Baptist Church. In order for us to be as safe as possible, this year during August and the first Sunday of September, worship will be on-line and recorded outside

of First Baptist with hymns played and recorded on the pump-organ. Clergy from Second Baptist, First Congregational Church, West Suffield Congregational and others, will be leading the services. As has been the case throughout the coronavirus pandemic, you will be able to see and participate in the services through our YouTube channel ([www.secondbaptistsuffield.org](http://www.secondbaptistsuffield.org)) or our Facebook page at 10:00 am on Sundays or any time afterwards. If you would like, when you go on the YouTube link, click “subscribe” which will be helpful to us in our outreach.

Your continued financial support of the ministries of Second Baptist Church is deeply appreciated. Thank you. You may do so through Pay Pal on our website or by writing a check to the Second Baptist Church, attention, Collector.

I came across the following poem related to our need for, call to and practice of, prayer. It's entitled, “The Difference,” by Grace L. Naessens

**I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day:  
I had so much to accomplish, I didn't have time to pray.**

**Problems just tumbled about me and grew heavier with each task;  
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered; He answered, 'You didn't ask.**

**I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me – He said, 'But you didn't seek.'**

**I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock;  
God gently and lovingly chided, 'My child, you didn't knock.'**

**I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.**

Peace.

Tom