

October/November 2023



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from The Community Church of Barrington

What Kind of Baptist?



THE BAPTIST IDENTITY

Four Fragile Freedoms



WALTER B. SHURDEN

When I tell people I am an American Baptist pastor, the first question they ask is, “What does that mean — *American Baptist*?” Then I explain how, unlike other denominations, no group has sole ownership rights to the title, “Baptist..”

“You could open up a church today and call it ‘Baptist,’” I tell them, “and no one would be able to put a stop to it. American Baptists are one group in a host of churches identifying as Baptist.” At this point, I usually get a glazed look with a “Huh, interesting,” and then we go on to talk about something else. But every once in a while, a person wants to know more about what else makes Baptists unique. That is when I break out the Four Fragile Freedoms.

This moniker comes from Walter B. Shurden’s book, *Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*. Shurden’s goal in writing the book was to distill and explain what made Baptists distinctive. Again and again he came upon the concept of freedom as a defining characteristic. After looking at the various ways freedom manifested, he placed them into 4 categories: Bible, Soul, Church, and Religion. Here are the definitions* from Shurden’s book (in italics) with my comments following.

Bible Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation or belief that the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, must be central in the life of the individual and the church. Christians, with the best and most scholarly tools of inquiry, are both free and obligated to study and obey the Scripture. Get a Bible. Read a Bible. Think about what it is saying and what it means. Learn from scholars and discuss with others, but ultimately, it is you who is guided by your reading.

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Soul Freedom, which is also called the priesthood of all believers, affirms the freedom and responsibility of every person to relate to God without the imposition of creed, or control by clergy or the government. Coerced belief is not true belief. Belief developed out of fear or shame will seldom take root. Faith is voluntary and must be developed with free will, interest, and one's own experience.

Church Freedom (or the autonomy of the local church) is the historic belief that local churches are free, under the Lordship of Jesus, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whoever they perceive to be gifted for ministry (male or female), and to participate in the larger Body of Christ (other churches and other denominations). No popes. No regional control. No appointing system for clergy. Churches hire their own pastors and staff and make their own policies. Although churches are encouraged to affiliate with one another in regions and organizations, ultimate control remains with the local church.

Religious Freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion. Churches and individuals should be free to worship in whatever manner they choose and with whomever they choose. All people, no matter their religious background, should be free from any coercion to worship and free from the intervention of the state in matters of religion. Traditionally known as the separation of church and state, this freedom reaches beyond the government. It is the practice of tolerance, respect, and protection for all religions. Do unto other religions as you would have them do unto ours.

We will be exploring these freedoms more in depth in Sunday School discussions and Sunday worship. They will help us as Baptists to understand our history and unique identity. They will also help us to appreciate the great freedom we have in looking forward as a church together. Throughout time, American Baptists have been on the forefront of cultural change whether that was advocating for religious freedom in the British colonies, standing by abolitionists in the 19th Century, or leading the civil rights protests in the 1960's. We are uniquely positioned to think creatively, forge a new path and follow our convictions wherever they may lead us. And we have a host of ancestors and a tradition of upholding freedom to thank.

-Pastor Chris

*As outlined in *Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms* by Walter B. Shurden. Smyth & Helwys Publishing Inc., 1993.



If you would like to see Pastor Chris get yelled at and knocked around, get tickets for Parker Players' "Lend Me a Tenor."

Performances are
October 20, 21, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.
and October 22, 29, at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets are on sale now at
parkerplayerstheater.org.

Moderator's Update

HOLIDAYS TO ENJOY, MOUNTAINS TO MOVE



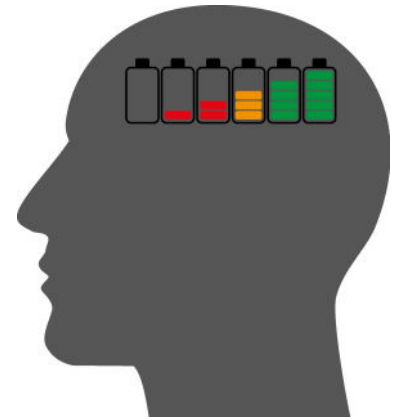
Fall is upon us, and the holidays are right around the corner. What happened to summer? How can this be?! Before we know it, there will be fireworks at midnight and a New Year will arrive. The question already hangs in the air – what will the New Year bring? Which, in turn, begs the most important question for us: How will we move forward in fulfilling our mission as a *COMMUNITY* church both inside and outside our walls?

I thought Pastor Chris' September 10 sermon was particularly important in this regard. He set the stage for our small but mighty congregation to consider/prepare itself for a future that may look different than its past. But how will that train of thought get translated into action?

I look back at an experience Pam and I shared recently in attending a non-denominational evangelical church service while traveling in central Indiana. That church had come back strongly from the dark days of Covid. One of the things we found most remarkable was the energy that clearly filled the hearts of those who greeted us and literally seemed to bounce off the walls around us.

If we are considering changes of any sort, can our church family muster the energy Pam and I witnessed in Indiana? In considering this question, I did a little research. I found an article by Dr. Jim Loehr that explores the topic of human energy and says it is multi-dimensional.

- ◆ For greatest quantity of energy (physical), our diet, exercise and sleep habits are paramount.
- ◆ For highest quality of energy (emotional), experiencing the positive emotions of approach (enjoyment, challenge and opportunity), NOT the negative emotions of avoidance (perception of threat, danger, or fear of survival).
- ◆ For clearest focus of energy (mental), bringing the appropriate focus and a realistic optimism to the work at hand.
- ◆ For maximum force of energy (spiritual), connection to deeply held values and purpose beyond our self-interest.



The first three sound correct, but doesn't the fourth ring a special bell for US? Doesn't it say that if we connect our actions to our Christian values, our small but mighty group can move mountains?

What mountains would we like to move? What projects can we envision and create that will enable us (as Chris paraphrased in his sermon) to "Do unto others as they would like to have done unto them?" As we enjoy the Fall and the holidays, let's also talk and plan to determine what we will DO together in Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord, 2024!

-Peer Lykke

Upcoming Events

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. On Sunday, October 15th, Community Church will host the Barrington Crop Walk. Please join us to support this great cause.



Community Church of Barrington will be hosting an evening with our friends throughout the Barrington area at The Community Meal. On Thursday, October 19th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. we will be hosting a dinner of two soups and chicken sandwiches, along with fruit and dessert. We're looking for volunteers to help serve our guests that evening, so if you can spare a few hours or are interested in making soup, please contact Jayne Majzan at jmjan@att.net to sign up. Thanks for your help!

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024 Weekly Class Schedule

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
3-5pm  Reserve an Art Party! \$25/Person \$100 Minimum Art Lesson is 1 1/2 hours. Complimentary 30 Minutes included for Party Room upstairs! Longer Party time? Purchase extra time at \$1/minute.	Adult Art Class Step-by-Step 10-11:30am		Adult Art Class Step-by-Step 10-11:30am Private Zoom 12 - 1 pm	Adult Studio Time 10-11:30am 1st Thursday BACOA Art Lesson 12 - 2 pm	Preschool Art Exploration Age 3-5 9-10:30am	Primary Art Class Ages 5 - 9 10:30am - Noon NEW! Elementary Art Class Ages 9-12 1-2:30pm Teen Studio Art Class Ages 13+ 3-4:30pm
	Primary Art Class Ages 5-9 4:15-5:45pm	Middle School Art Class Ages 12+ 6:15-7:45pm	Primary Art Class Ages 5 - 9 4:20-5:50pm	Elementary Art Class Ages 9-12 5:50 - 7:20pm	Intro to Studio Ages 11-13 4:15-5:45pm	Middle School Art Hybrid Class Ages 12+ 4 - 5:30pm


Art Together
 STUDIO IN & BY COMMUNITY CHURCH
MissAlayneArt.org
 (872)2Ms-AArt

Sign up for a class today!

Welcome Back Brunch



October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:30</i>	2	3	4 <i>Glenna Gilleland</i> <i>Birthday</i> <i>Peter & Patty</i> <i>Luchsinger Anniv.</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:30</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:30</i> <i>Crop Walk</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Community</i> <i>Meal</i>	20 <i>Aria Dines</i> <i>Birthday</i>	21
22 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:30</i>	23	24 <i>Council Meeting</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Leah Hornig</i> <i>Birthday</i>
29 <i>Worship Service</i> <i>10:30</i>	30 <i>Jake Davis</i> <i>Birthday</i>	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> <i>Trick or Treat</i> <i>3-7pm</i>				

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Sharon Homig Birthday</i>	2	3 <i>Ted Newman Birthday</i>	4 <i>Bill Marsh Birthday</i> <i>Set Clocks Back</i>
5 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	6	7 <i>Philip Roussel Birthday</i>	8 <i>Valissa Hilligoss Birthday</i> <i>Cheryl Schroeder Birthday</i>	9	10	11 <i>Peter Luchsinger Birthday</i> <i>Chris Newman Birthday</i>
12 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	13	14	15 <i>Potluck</i>	16 <i>Carol Marsh Birthday</i>	17	18
19 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i>	20	21 <i>Laura Newman Birthday</i> <i>Maggie Pechan Birthday</i>	22	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26 <i>Worship Service 10:30</i> <i>Hanging of the Greens</i>	27	28 <i>Council Meeting</i>	29	30		

Community Church of Barrington

407 S. Grove Avenue

Barrington IL 60010



Prayerfully I Walk

Time alone in an autumn wood,
I stroll on a mosaic carpet
of moist multicolored leaves--
rust brown, yellow, crimson.
I ponder the deep red patches,
scattered every step of my way.
Silently they speak of our Savior's
redemptive, sacrificial blood---
blessing each pace on the path of life.

Charlotte Adelsperger ©1994

TeresaGoyer.com