



THE FLAME

"...I REMIND YOU TO FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY, BUT A SPIRIT OF POWER, OF LOVE AND OF SELF DISCIPLINE."—2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7(NIV)

November 2024

Hello Church Family,

The American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) concept of *soul liberty* is the idea that each person has the right to choose what they believe and practice in matters of religion, and is only responsible to God for their decisions.

Are you familiar with Soul Liberty, as defined above? No doubt exploring together what this means in practice would lead to interesting conversations. At this time it leads to an immediate question: *What led me to share the principle?*

First, it is a core Baptist tenet of faith that led me to align with the ABCUSA years ago. Further, when guided by the principle, we have an opportunity to embrace diversity within both the wider Baptist community, as well as within our church family. This empowers us to see a range of diversity as empowering and also unifying. In other words, when actively embracing our diversity, there is an opportunity to bond together in strength. The focus is on community not becoming monolithic.

Next, as I reflect on our society, it is abundantly clear that diversity bears the mark of division, too often it manifests in chaos and hate.

Sunday, December 1, 2024 is the first Sunday of Advent. The message of Hope marks the start of the Christian Calendar. As we move into a new year, I encourage each of us to strengthen our resolve to love one another. To be empowered by Soul Liberty as a unifying celebration. For each of us is on a path of deepening our bonds to one another, life-long-learners integrating layers of participation as followers of Jesus.

The world is fractured and divided. We, as a Baptist Family, have an opportunity to be molded together as one, empowered by Soul Liberty.

Prayerfully with love,

Rev. Gary T. Ludwig
co-Pastor
(781) 249-3721

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Advent Services and Special Programs:



December 1—First Advent service celebrating **Hope**
meet the author, Daryn Stylianopolous, at 4pm

December 4—The Welcome Table first Advent special
program 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall

December 8—Second Advent service celebrating **Peace**

December 11—The Welcome Table second Advent special
program 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall

December 15—Third Advent service celebrating **Joy**

December 18—The Welcome Table third Advent special
program 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall

December 22—Fourth Advent service celebrating **Love**

December 22—The Welcome Table fourth Advent special
program interwoven with the morning service



Next Meeting:
December 11, 2024

Women's Fellowship

Meets at 12:00 on
Alternate Wednesdays
First Baptist Church of
Hingham

Christmas Caroling and Party: 3pm December 8th anyone who wants to join us for Christmas caroling meet up at Memorial Hall.

Following the caroling, Kevin and Terry Griffin are hosting their annual Christmas party at 30 Bradley Park Dr. Hingham

