

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



*The Message*  
*March 2024*

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk

(The Rev. Catherine M. Miller)

Greetings First Baptist Church and Friends.

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Let's start this reading with some praise! Join me in singing/humming a few lines of the below hymn with the chorus first to get us on tune!

*We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion, that beautiful city of God!*

***Come we that love the Lord and let our joys be known; join in a song with SWEET ACCORD, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne!***

*We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion, that beautiful city of God!*

We are blessed to know that the Lord has gathered us and is slowly drawing others to be a part of God's First Baptist Church **family**. We will surely march *together* in sweet accord by His grace. We don't have to doubt **Proverbs 19:21** that says this: "The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established."

No matter what, we have a great promise from God that is declared in **Isaiah 35:10**. It says that everyone who belongs to the Lord **shall find their way back** to Zion. Christ's Church will return to Him with singing *together* and with Heavenly joy hovering over our lives!

***"And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."*** Isaiah 35:10

We are God's family on pilgrimage to Heaven *together*; we'll grow *together* and become an authentic church family as we march *together*.

The story goes that the author of "We're Marching to Zion" Isaac Watts, began writing hymns at the young age 15 after being frustrated with his church's 'lamentable' singing. He believed that: "The singing of God's praise is the part [of worship] that is *nighest* (closest) to Heaven!"

When our church sings together there is a *sweet accord*. For a little while we all let go of concerns. We forget about ourselves and allow God's presence to bless our church with a taste of *righteous togetherness* as we willingly and humbly praise Him. We find unity in singing God's praises *together*; catching a glimmer of the unity of our Holy Godhead.

The enemy does not like unified worship of God nor a unified church and will not hang around. I commit myself to God and you on this journey! Will you join me? "***Draw near to God; resist the devil, he will flee!***" *James 4:7*

The Holy Spirit keeps us firm in "the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love" as God inhabits all that we do for Christ. We are to value this *marching to Zion together* rather than attempting the journey apart. Heaven is guarding us and all church families whether large or small; home churches or in cathedrals; whether free or in secret, as we joyfully prepare ourselves to surround the Throne *together!*

I look forward to enjoying our special March celebrations *together* and most of all the culmination, Easter Sunday! Thank you, Jesus, for the truth of the Resurrection! Let's keep ***happily Marching*** upward to Zion for: "***Happy are those whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.***"

**Psalm 84:5**

*Peace to you,  
Pastor Catherine*

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

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808 High Street | Westwood, MA 02090 | 781-461-1730 | [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) | [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org)  
Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor

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February 7, 2024

Greetings from the First Baptist Church of Westwood, MA!

You are cordially invited to join us on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1:30 pm\*** to celebrate the installation of our newly Settled Pastor, The Reverend Catherine M. Miller. Our church address is **808 High Street in Westwood**. There is ample parking on the grounds.

*\*Clergy are invited to robe. Please arrive by 1:15 pm to proceed together into the sanctuary.*

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We called Rev. Catherine to be our settled pastor in January 2023 and the journey together began in April 2023. We are excited to officially celebrate what the Lord is doing in this new chapter in the life of the First Baptist Church of Westwood and to stand with our new pastor and receive our charges before God.

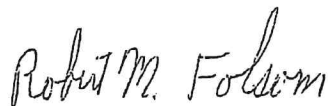
The guest preacher for this special day will be The Reverend Dr. André Morgan, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wollaston, MA who is also the Moderator of the Boston Southwest Association of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

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We will gather for a **celebratory meal** in our Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. **If you plan on joining us kindly RSVP as soon as possible by either calling the church office at (781) 461-1730 or sending your RSVP by email to [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).**

We truly hope you can come rejoice in the Lord with us on March 9<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,



Robert Folsom,  
Moderator

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, March 3 so we can plan accordingly.  
Thank you.



# “Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone! Pastor Catherine hosts the in-person and Zoom Bible discussion monthly on the third Thursday of each month.

Pastor Catherine will present a topic for us to reflect upon and there will be open discussion for sharing and learning from each other, with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

We'll close with The Lord's Supper, so bring your bread and juice!

For those attending in person, the group will meet in the Reception room.

## Hope you can join us!

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For those attending by Zoom, Rev. Catherine M. Miller is inviting you to the scheduled event.

Topic: "Let's Talk" Bible discussion and Holy Communion facilitated by Pastor Catherine.

Time: March 21, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Thu, until Oct 17, 2024, 9 occurrence(s)

Mar 21, 2024 07:00 PM

Aug 15, 2024 07:00 PM

Apr 18, 2024 07:00 PM

Sept 19, 2024 07:00 PM

May 16, 2024 07:00 PM

Oct 17, 2024 07:00 PM

June 13, 2024 07:00 PM

July 18, 2024 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6ggj4rGNKQzhPzBjhhjWMeuPcsFMH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqj4tEtCQsRuBRpwMBo4KPzwiCVcjY12rQXtMzpxaAv-PNVvDbdqINvD>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85457845126?pwd=bXhNVXNxBk0tIbGo1T25MMkZiaDRxZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

Passcode: 655104

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One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,85457845126#,,,,\*655104# US (Chicago)

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Dial by your location

• +1 309 205 3325 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 205 0468 US

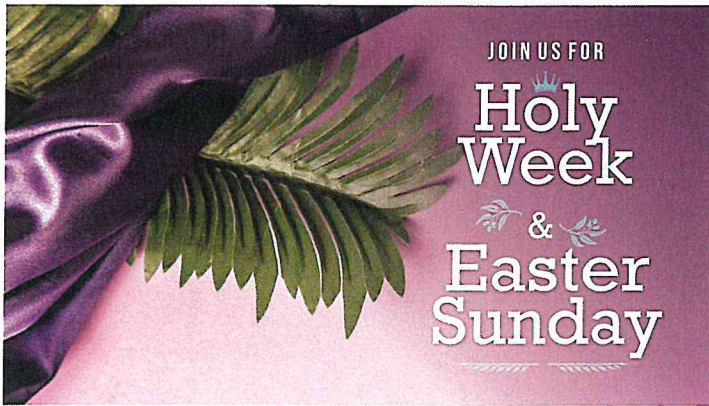
• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

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• +1 669 444 9171 US

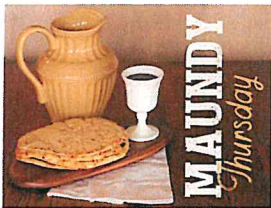
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all services will be Livestreamed – go to our website, [fbcwestwood.org](http://fbcwestwood.org), and click on “worship services” for the links



**Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday:** Worship at 10:00 a.m.



**Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday:** An evening service will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 29 – Good Friday:**

The sanctuary will be open for quiet time and prayer from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.



**Sunday, March 31 – Easter:**

**6:30 a.m.** - Join the early risers to greet the Easter morning at an outdoor service in Baker Chapel to celebrate the Risen Christ.

**7:00 a.m.** – Following the Sunrise Service, a hot breakfast will be prepared by John Lewis and his crew. Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

**10:00 a.m.** – Then, at the usual hour of worship a more formal Easter celebration will be held in the sanctuary with music provided by the bell choir, chancel choir and Easter Band. All are welcome!





## Easter Lilies and Tulips

Anyone wishing to donate one or more lilies or tulips to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday – please fill out the form below.

**The cost this year for lilies is \$9.00 per plant and \$7.00 for potted tulips.**

Please be specific as to how you would like the wording to appear in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

The **deadline** for ordering is **Wednesday morning, March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Lilies or tulips may be given .... (please print)

**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of lilies @ \$9.00 per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ # of lilies I would like to donate for a shut-in

\_\_\_\_\_ # of lilies I will take home with me

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of tulips @ \$7.00 per plant

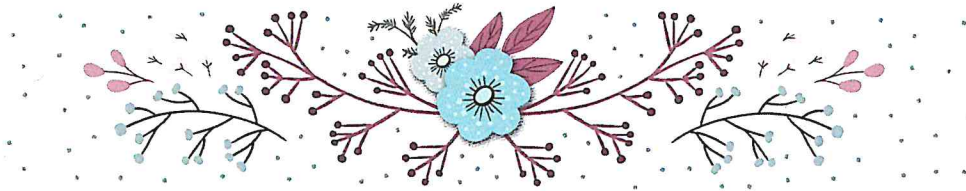
\_\_\_\_\_ # of potted tulips I would like to donate for a shut-in

\_\_\_\_\_ # of potted tulips I will take home with me

Please have your request in the church office by **Wednesday morning, March 13, 2024.**



Recently, Pastor Catherine had a nice visit with Polly Smith and her daughters, Pam & Kim.



The T.A.B.C.O.M. Archives Committee greatly appreciates the \$500 donation that First Baptist Church of Westwood gave to purchase the much needed shelving for our Baptist archives.

A small group of Baptist History Buffs have been meeting periodically in 2023 & 2024 to organize these archives.

If you have not visited the office lately, you will see some changes.

We have:

- A history room/library that is a great place to do research on our rich Baptist history in Massachusetts.
- Books on Baptist History and Polity.
- Biographies on prominent Baptist Ministers
- Church Histories
- Annual Reports for TABCOM going back to the early 1800s.



And we are starting a shelf of books written by TABCOM authors. The archival records in the back room behind the reception area (T.A.B.C.O.M.'s office at Grotonwood) are being organized and catalogued so that we have a good idea of what we have in terms of church and denomination records. We have already received requests for information that cannot be found anywhere but in our archives.

If you are interested in visiting our archives and/or history room, please contact us and we can arrange a time for you to visit.

Sincerely,

Jen Cromack (jenstenc@yahoo.com) and Diane Badger (diane.badger@comcast.net)





## **FBC Will Celebrate Its Bicentennial in November!**

On November 3, 1824, our church was formally constituted. And so, on Sunday, November 3, 2024, we will celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the First Baptist Church of Dedham and later of Westwood! It has been suggested that we do something special on that day to celebrate this milestone, but the big question is: What do we want to do? We have several months to come up with plans and would appreciate suggestions. Please forward your ideas in writing or via email to the church office, Pastor Catherine, or any member of the Church Council.

In 2010, we researched and printed a brief history of the church, and reprints are currently available in the church office. In the meantime, here's a quick review of the history of our church and our meetinghouse.



One must first remember that in 1730, Westwood was still part of Dedham. That year, the General Court created a second Dedham parish which eventually became the town of Norwood in 1872. In 1736, the Third Parish, also known as West Dedham, was established, and the meetinghouse, built in 1731, was located approximately where the First Parish Church stands today.

By the early 1800's, the meetinghouse needed extensive repairs and it was decided in 1806 to replace it with a new structure. The question of where to build it – near the existing meetinghouse or in the geographical center of town – split the congregation into two factions. It was eventually decided to build it near the existing meetinghouse, and those who disagreed began attending the Baptist church in Medfield in 1808.

The new Third Parish meetinghouse was dedicated on March 1, 1809, and the old structure was purchased by Aaron Baker. In the spring of 1810, it was taken down and the timbers moved to High Street. Reconstruction commenced and the building was completed and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1810. The services were performed by the Rev. Mr. Gammel, the pastor of the Medfield church, and from then until he resigned in 1823, he preached alternately between Medfield and the reconstructed meetinghouse which served as a branch of the Medfield church.

In 1824, it was decided that the members of the Medfield church living in Dedham would form their own separate Baptist society and church, and the initial meeting of the First Baptist Society in West Dedham was held in the meetinghouse on March 15, 1824. In May, the Rev. Samuel Adlam was engaged to supply the pulpit once every two weeks. In October, twenty-five members of the Medfield church applied for and received letters of dismissal for the purpose of forming themselves into a distinct church. On Wednesday, November 3, 1824, the church was constituted, becoming a legal corporation, and the Rev. Adlam was ordained.

In 1897, the Third Parish was incorporated as the Town of Westwood, and the official name of the society became the First Baptist Society of Westwood. In 1908, the church formally became the First Baptist Church of Westwood, and the First Baptist Society, which had been in existence since 1824, disbanded in 1910, and turned over all the property to the church. In 1966, the new Christian Education Center and Fellowship Hall were completed and dedicated, and in 1989, the historic meetinghouse was jacked up, placed on wheels, and moved to its present location where a new reception room linked it to the education wing.



## Donation requests from The Westwood Food Pantry

1. Please do not travel to the stores just to pick up donated items- instead we suggest that you purchase a few donation items during your regular shopping trip, especially if they are on sale.
2. You can bring your items to worship on Sunday.

### Suggested items:

- Canned Soups -especially Progresso (Vegetable types, Clam Chowder, etc)
- Canned Vegetables (Peas, Corn, etc.)
- Canned Baked Beans
- Canned Fruit (Pineapple, Fruit Cocktail, Peaches, Pears, Mandarin Oranges, etc.)
- Canned Beef Stew, Hash, Chili with Meat)
- Spaghetti Sauce (small 24 -25-ounce jars)

### Other "Always Needed" Popular Items

- Health & Beauty Aids (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste etc.)
- Diapers
- L or XL Depends
- Cleaning Products (dish detergent, laundry detergent, etc.)
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Canned **White** Albacore Tuna in water
- Canned Chicken (5-ounce cans or small pouches)

### Volunteers:

At this time they have all the volunteers they can use, but their needs may change at any time. If you or your high school or college aged student is interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please email [westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com).  
(Sorry, but they are unable to accept volunteers younger than 9th grade.)

### How to Apply:

The Westwood Food Pantry is available to all residents of Westwood who are experiencing temporary or long-term food insecurity.  
To request assistance from the Westwood Food Pantry or to set up a client visit, please email them at [westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com) or call them at 781-269-2008.



## Pull-Tabs for Shriners Hospital

Are you aware that for years we've been collecting pull-tabs from beverage cans – and we're still doing it? Why? Here's the story.

Shriners Hospitals in Springfield and Boston have been collecting pull-tabs or “pop-tops” from beverage cans since 1989, recycling them, and putting the money toward programs that directly benefit children. The pull-tabs are the only pure aluminum part of the beverage can, and there are approximately 1,200 to 1,400 tabs in one pound. Since the program's inception, about a half-million pounds of aluminum tabs have been collected and recycled.

We donate the tabs to the Shriners' Burns Hospital – Boston. Neil Patterson coordinates this project, and Ken Shaw delivers the tabs to the hospital. There is a plastic jug in the Reception Room at church where you can leave the tabs you have removed from beverage cans.

Their website reminds us that Shriners' Children's Hospitals are “always here for our patients, regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status”.

**You can help a Shriner help a child. Donate pull-tabs for recycling.**





A Church Business Meeting will be held at 9:55 a.m. to vote on membership requests presented by the Church Council - one outgoing and three incoming letters of transfer, along with a request for an attendee to join by Statement of Faith.



**CHURCH OFFICE**

The church office is available:  
Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm

Donna can be reached by  
calling  
781-461-1730 or  
emailing  
[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)

**Face masks are required in the church office.**



Pastor Catherine's Office Hours  
(for in-person, calls , or Zoom)

Tuesdays:  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays:  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For an appointment call:  
781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730  
ext. 12

or email:  
[pastor@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:pastor@fbcwestwood.org)

(if you call when she isn't there,  
you can leave a message)

### Digital version of the Sunday Bulletin



We produce a digital version of the weekly Sunday bulletin that is formatted so that it can be easily read on a cell phone, tablet, or computer. This is being emailed to people a day or two ahead of the service. It can be helpful when watching the worship service online or simply to find out what's happening at FBC that week. If you wish to be added to the email list to receive the digital bulletin, please contact Donna Metcalf via email at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).





**Come RING!  
Ever Wonder How  
They Do That?**

Have you ever wondered what it takes to ring a handbell - or if you even might be good at it?

Here's your chance to find out! The Westwood Ringers and their director, Dan Moore, are offering a second introductory session following morning Worship on March 3.

If you have ever played any kind musical instrument, that is a plus but not a prerequisite for attending a fun session or two. We'll teach you everything you need to know. These no-obligation sessions are open for all - ages 9 to 90; all you need to bring is a willingness to learn a bit about this unique instrument.



**Sunday  
Worship Services**

Please check out our website, [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org). We post Livestream links and videos of our worship services there, plus other news and devotional materials.



You are invited to join our Prayer Chain. This is a small group of FBC folk who email one another with prayer concerns of the larger church community and then include those concerns in their prayers. This is beyond the all-church prayers shared by the Pastor. If you would like to join The Prayer Chain, please contact Sunny O'Malley.

You are invited to attend  
The Ordination Council meeting  
for

**Minister Shelton Miller  
Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.**

**F.B.C. Westwood Sanctuary**

Come and support Shelton by your attendance, your prayers, and with your good wishes.

Please R.S.V.P. to the church office by Tues., March 5<sup>th</sup>.



Be sure to change clocks (one hour ahead) before going to bed on Sat., March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sun, March 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Crafters' Group

We are excited that the Crafters' Group will be starting up again!

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month as we work on items for December's Holly Fair.

Our next meeting is on **March 13<sup>th</sup>** in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

For some of our projects, we are hoping to have craft packets so individuals that can't make it during the day can work on them at home.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



**Church Council  
and Staff meeting**  
hybrid (Zoom & Reception Room)

**March 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm**



## April "Message"

Material for next month's newsletter is due in the church office by:

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>



## **PRAISE RADIO**

Tune in to AM 590 WEZE on Saturdays @ 5:15pm and enjoy our Pastor's prayer/inspiration program, **Be Still**, a family-oriented radio outreach sponsored by FBC Westwood!



## **Choir Rehearsal**

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Monday nights.

We meet in the Music Room, adjacent to Fellowship Hall, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.



Sign-up sheets for March and April are posted in the Reception Room for volunteer ushers and greeters. This is your opportunity to volunteer.



Do you have a favorite hymn or other musical selections you would like to have played during worship? Please speak to Jan Randlett and share your requests.



## Coffee Hour

What a great time to enjoy catching up with others and having some goodies, too.

We are looking for additional helpers to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. Wouldn't you like to host one? Sign-up sheets for March and April are posted in the Reception Room.

Have questions?

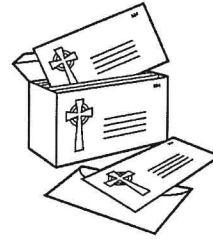
Speak with Karen Thompson, contact the Church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) or call 781-461-1730 and leave a message.



### **COLLEGE BOUND IN THE FALL? ALREADY IN COLLEGE?**

*First Baptist is offering college scholarships to active church members who are pursuing college educations. Awardees will receive their scholarships in two installments – 1<sup>st</sup> half in August and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in January.*

*Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't delay – call or email today, and we will mail you an application!*



If you would like 2024 offering envelopes and haven't already requested them, please either contact Wendy Lewis, the Financial Secretary, or the church office at 781-461-1730 or [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).



If it's easier for you, we accept PayPal payments on our website for offering or other donations. Just click on the "donate" button on [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org).

Another option we offer is through using Venmo. Below is our QR code that you can scan.



### **Did you know?**

On Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of every month), parishioners have the opportunity to help those in need by making a donation to the Fellowship Fund (Pastor's Discretionary Fund). Envelopes (labeled "Communion Fund") are in the pews on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding this fund, please see Pastor Catherine.