

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
November 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk

November 2025



Greetings...

First Baptist Church Westwood & Friends

Thank you for the great feedback relating to the inspiring, instructive messages the Lord gave me to share during October-Stewardship Month. All praise due to God!

You may recall two key takeaways from the preached Word of Oct. 12th & Oct. 19th:

- **His Righteous are generous, even in tough times, for the Lord directs their giving!**
- **God-honoring stewardship reflects intentional, generous, joyful giving!**

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.”
(II Corinthians 9:6-11)

We engaged Scriptures in both Old Testament and New Testament, learning that our Heavenly Father expects His born-again children to learn **and** practice stewardship that lines up with His merciful, generosity toward us in Christ, even as we also value human, professional wisdom.

No human will ever understand nor beat God’s giving! God’s favor will be upon stewardship that includes **sharing money willingly, generously, and cheerfully**, not grudgingly/pressured! God knows each of our financial pictures. **We are entrusted to mediate what we have.** Whether cushy or tight budgets, we all can express gratitude and trust toward God for meeting our desperate need in Christ, the cleansing of our sin, forgiveness, and Divine peace!

“God showed how much he loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” (I John 4:9-10)

Consider this story about sacrificial giving, shared anonymously in the *Christian Clippings* publication from Jan-March 2025. (*Thank you, Folsom's Funeral!*)

“As her mother was scanning the pantry shelves, she suggested, “You can take these cans of sardines that none of us like.”

The little girl's face fell in disappointment. “But that means the poor people are helping us.”

The story has helped me re-evaluate my benevolence. There is nothing wrong with giving what we no longer use. In fact, I gave a suit to our clothes bank this week. However, I do not want closet cleaning to be my total expression of compassion. If I do, then the poor people are helping me and I am not getting the spiritual benefit of helping others. David realized this principle. He wanted to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. A man offered to give him animals for the sacrifice and wood for the fire. However, David refused by saying, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which cost me nothing” (II Samuel 24:24).

Not only do people need to be helped! I need to help—and if it does not cost, it does not count!”

* * *

Deuteronomy 16:17 ‘All must give [to the Lord] as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.’

II Corinthians 8:12-15 ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may also supply your need, in order that there may be equality. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Isaiah 53:10 ‘Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.’

May God direct your financial giving to FBC in 2026! Continue to support the advancement of The Gospel! Continue helping disenfranchised, vulnerable, hopeless people! Continue to help with FBC's operating expenses as we follow Christ's mission! God is blessing our efforts and obedience!

Peace to you and thank you!
Pastor Catherine

WARRANT FOR THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

The Fall Quarterly Church Business Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Westwood will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025, held right after the morning worship service. The meeting will be held in the reception room at 808 High Street, Westwood, MA. There will be either a zoom or live streaming option, please call the office for the link.

1. To hear reports from the various council members regarding the upcoming budgets.
2. Trustees update
3. To hear and act on any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Victoria M. DeVoy
Clerk



Please R.S.V.P. today for the meeting and luncheon so that we can prepare seating and food for those attending.

To RSVP:
Call (781 -461 -1730) or email (office@fbcwestwood.org) the church office



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion twice a month (first & third Thursdays) where she presents a topic for us to reflect upon and there is open discussion for sharing and learning from each other, with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

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

The sessions are held in the Reception room and on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

September sessions will be on **Thursday, November 6th and 20th.**

Hope you can join us!

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

Topic: Let's Talk: Bible Study & Holy Communion w/ Pastor Catherine

Time: Nov 6, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Nov 20, 2025 07:00 PM

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

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbgqdcn0zMDRNNRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9Pyl3PKEydXFVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k1OBxoEcM>



2025 Blessing Baskets

How many families can we help this Thanksgiving?

Join us, again, this year as we work with the Kouri Team (Keller Williams Real Estate) and Neroli Mercato restaurant in Westwood to provide Thanksgiving meals for local families by contributing Blessing Baskets.

Each year, The Kouri Team of Keller Williams Boston SW joins a nationwide initiative to collect baskets to help local families with their Thanksgiving holiday meal 🍽️

FBC Westwood's 2024 goal was to donate 10 Blessing Baskets. Our church family was so thoughtful and generous last year with their donations. Thank you! Our goal this year, in 2025, is to donate **15**.

A sign-up sheet is posted in our Reception room for specific items needed. Please check out the list and consider donating a few items for our baskets. ** please be sure to write your name next to each item on the list that you are donating (i.e. if donating 4 cans of corn, then fill in your name next to lines 1, 2, 3, & 4)*

The deadline to donate items is Wednesday, November 12th.

Donations can be dropped off:

- in the designated donation box located in our Reception room
- or
- at the church office



Hello!

In November, our church dedicates time towards awareness, advocacy, and action for global mission as part of the **World Mission Offering**. We can participate in God's work around the world in partnership with **International Ministries (IM)**, a cross-cultural mission agency with a long heritage in the global mission movement.

WHO IS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES?

Founded in 1814, International Ministries (IM) has been sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ holistically with both words and actions in cross-cultural Christian mission that addresses the needs and inequities present in the communities they serve. Also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, they are the oldest international Baptist mission agency in North America. Their multicultural leadership team and 120+ global servants are led by the wisdom of our 250+ international partners. Together they respond to the call of Jesus Christ, serving incarnationally and with humility in 70 countries. Their home office is located in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

THEIR MISSION STATEMENT:

International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.

We will spend this month learning more about God's life-transforming work in Thailand and Ukraine through International Ministries in bulletin insert write-ups, we hope you will prayerfully consider how God may be inviting you to take part in what He is doing through His global mission.

How can you give to the World Mission Offering?

- Donate in Sunday's offering plate – place your gift in a WMO envelope found in your pew rack.
- Mail your WMO gift to our church office (808 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090).
 - *We will send these donations through our American Baptist Churches USA regional office. If you give by check, please write "WMO 2025" on the memo line.*
- Give online at worldmissionoffering.org.

Kingdom work happens all year long! I pray that the time we will spend over this month sharing about global missions will continue to impact us as Christians throughout the year. Let's dedicate our prayers and finances to take part in what God is doing around the world.

In Christ,

Jennifer Cromack, Missions Coordinator

If you would like to read testimonials from other churches who have seen how God has used their giving in their own community and in other countries around the world, go to:
<https://internationalministries.org/wmo-2025-why-participate/>.

The Archives at Groton

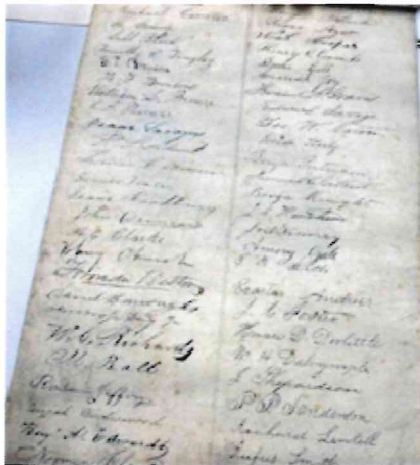


We will be holding a working day on Thursday, October 30th and our next Saturday workday is November 15th. Come visit and see our work.

The archives is much more than a room full of boxes. Every document tells the story of the Baptists in Massachusetts. We have a small history room and a growing library on

Baptist history and polity. If you would like to bring a group to visit us, we can arrange that too. You can contact me

at badger@tabcom.org.



To update you on our “Declaration and Protest against Slavery.” The document is now in the hands of the conservator for preservation and restoration. We are having two additional copies made: One which will be displayed and one which we are referring to as our “traveling copy” so we can bring it to your church, association meeting or other group. We still need to have a display case made for the document so we can have it in our history room for people to view. The document is about six feet long, so we are trying to figure-out the best way to do

this. We have raised some money for this project, the cost of which is approximately \$10,000. Any donations to this project would be greatly appreciated. You can send checks to TABCOM and in the message box write “preservation” or you can make a donation online at the TABCOM website (www.tabcom.org). Click on the donation button, but sure to write “Preservation” in the message box.

We would like to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and support around this project.

POINSETTIAS ORDERS

Anyone wishing to order one or more poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Sunday (Dec. 21st) and Christmas Eve, please fill out the form below. The cost this year is \$7.00 per plant. The poinsettias will be in a 6" pot.

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

The deadline for ordering is Friday morning, December 5th.

Please Print.

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

GIVEN BY:



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

GIVEN BY:



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

GIVEN BY:

_____ Total number of poinsettias @ \$7.00 per plant = \$_____ enclosed

___ I would like to donate my plant(s) to a shut-in

___ I will take my plant

Please have your request to the church office by Friday morning, December 5th.



Pastor with Stacie Banks-Edwards, and Rev. Dr. Mar Imsong (Exec. Dir. of both Mass. Baptist Multicultural Ministries and the ACE Center for New Americans)



Pastor with Rev. Ron Bouthillette (Assoc. Exec. Minister in Church Relations – TABCOM) Stacie Banks- Edwards (FBC Westwood member), Jennifer Sanborn (Dir. of Development- TABCOM)



South Africa Missionary – Faye & our Pastor



Worship & Communion in the afternoon



October Worship Services

Our guests



Sunday, October 5th

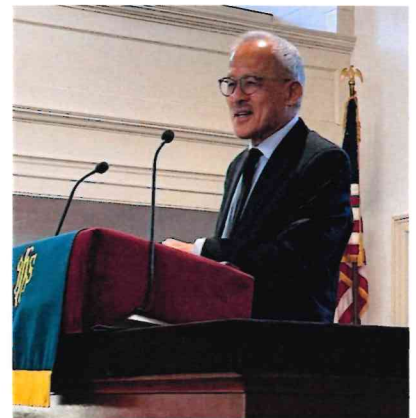
James Hunt from Amirah, Inc was our speaker at worship.

Sunday, October 26th

The Rev. Dr. Donald Ng was our guest preacher.

Dr. Ng served as President of the American Baptist Churches, USA from 2014-15.

Presently, he is serving on the Friends of the North East Christian University, Nagaland, India; Advisory Council of Andover Newton Seminary at YDS, the American Baptist Foundation, the American Baptist Historical Society; the ABC Creation Justice Network, and Co-convener of MMBB Asian Colloquium.



Rev. Shelton & Dr. Ng



Ruth Lee & her cousin, Dr. Ng



Rev Shelton, Dr Ng, Ruth & Joshua Lee

Cub and Boy Scout news

New Eagle Scouts -



Charlie Goodman and Liam LaCroix
with Asst. Scoutmaster Darren Valentine;
Scoutmaster Dr. Alex Goodwin; and
Asst. Scoutmaster Alex LaCroix



Jack Goodwin
with Great Blue Hill District Training Chair
Bob Wannamaker; Asst. Scoutmaster Lew Marten;
Great Blue Hill District Commissioner
Jeff Anderson; and Scoutmaster Dr. Alex Goodwin

Cub Scout (outdoor) Movie Night -

Wednesday, October 8th





Dear Rev. Miller and First Baptist Church,

Thank You for Sending Your Youth to CYC 2025!

We are so grateful that your church sent a staff to the Christian Youth Conference at Ocean Park this summer. Because of your support, teens from across the Northeast gathered for two weeks of worship, learning, and fellowship, including:

- Rev. Joshua Ferris of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden leading us in inspiring times of worship, filled with biblical messages, solid theology, heartfelt prayer, and uplifting music.
- Students exploring what it means to follow Christ intentionally and developing skills in areas such as Bible study, evangelism, worship practices, and helpful conversations. Examples of classes included *The Whole Old Testament*, *Know Yourself & Help Others*, *Discover Life*, and *From Mobster to Ministry: The Life and Conversion of Paul*.
- Living in a loving, diverse Christian community and making new friends.
- Enjoying classic CYC fun: an amusement park trip, beach volleyball, and dining hall shenanigans (including a "rat"-eating contest!).

At CYC, we recognize that we are a supplement to the work you do week in and week out with these students. You faithfully teach and encourage them as they live out their faith back home. With that ongoing support, they can carry forward what they learned at CYC to bless your church and grow into future leaders.

Thank you for partnering with us in this life-changing ministry!

In Christ's service,

Melinda

Rev. Melinda Parry
Dean of Conference

*We are grateful that
Jan Sten-Oromark once again
taught our class called "Starting Point"
as well as serving as Academic
Assistant! She contributed
greatly.*





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.
(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 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.





Pastoral Care Meetings (in-person or virtual meetings):

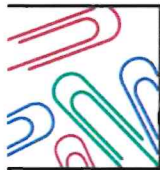
For meetings with the Pastor,
please

email: pastor@fbcwestwood.org
or call (781) 461-0297.

Pastoral Care meetings are held
on Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday between 1:30 - 4:00 pm.

The Pastor will try to
accommodate other times on
these days.

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



CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Donna can be reached
by calling

781-461-1730 or

by emailing

office@fbcwestwood.org



Boy Scout Troop #3 Ever So Humble Pie Company Fundraiser

Pies ordered by church family are
available for pick-up now. You will
find them labeled in the church
kitchen freezer. You may pick up
your pie(s) following Sunday
worship or Mon.-Fri. from 8:00am
- 1:30pm by checking in at the
church office.



Daylight Savings Time ends on the
first Sunday of the month, November
2nd. So, don't forget to turn your
clocks back 1 hour before going to
bed on Saturday, November 1st.



The Pastor Will Be Off

Pastor Catherine will
be off the following
days during
November:

Wed, Nov. 12th & Thurs., Nov. 13th
Wed., Nov. 26th



Donna will be out of the office on the following dates:

Wed., Nov. 5th - Fri., Nov. 7th;
Fri., Nov. 21st; and Tues., Nov. 25th



BOSTON SOUTHWEST ASSOC. FALL MEETING

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9:00 AM - 1:00PM

First Baptist Church of Norwood,
(71 Bond St, Norwood, MA 02062)



Choir Rehearsal

rehearsals on Monday nights at 6:30
p.m. in the Music room.

You are invited
to join the
Chancel Choir



Greeters and Ushers Needed

Sign-up sheets for November and December are posted on the Reception room bulletin board. This is your opportunity to volunteer.

Joyful Song & Prayer at The Ellis Senior Residence

Pastor Catherine and Jan Randlett host service and times of musical fun for residents at The Ellis Rehab & Nursing Center, every 2nd Sunday, starting at 2:00 p.m. located at 135 Ellis Ave in Norwood, MA.

The residents and staff join in singing hymns, Oldies but Goodies, & participate in prayer.

Come join us at the Ellis for our next monthly gathering on Sunday, November 9th.



Crafters' Group

The November meetings will be on Wednesday, November 12th & 26th to prepare for our December Holly Fair. They meet in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@fbcwestwood.org.

Journey Worship gathering

Sunday, November 16th

12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Join us. Expect a time of devotion, prayer and musical worship (fusing contemporary & traditional); and group discussion that encourages the practice of filtering life's journey through the lens of faith.



We are very excited and getting ready to have our Holly Fair. If you are interested in helping at any of our tables please contact Vickie DeVoy rwdvmd@gmail.com or cell 781-690-3755.

Our tables include the following:

Bake Foods, Attic Treasurers, Crafters, Kitchen and the expanded jewelry table. There will be no outside vendors this year.

Bakers are needed, please contact Sunny O'Malley to volunteer your delicious morsels at 781-326-7799.

Start cleaning out for those Attic Treasurers; we are taking donations now to be put in the basement or the weekend after Thanksgiving on the stage in Fellowship Hall. If you need help please contact Vickie DeVoy.

Please remember, we cannot accept T.V.'s, computer equipment, dehumidifiers, typewriters or air conditioners.

Flyers for the Holly Fair will be available in the Narthex mid-November for church family to distribute in local stores, share at club meetings or hand out to friends and neighbors.

*Vickie DeVoy,
Holly Fair Chairperson*



Sunday Worship Services

Please check our website, www.fbcwestwood.org. We post Livestream links and videos of our worship services there, plus other news and devotional materials.



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

November 18th
7:00pm

NewsLetter DEADLine

Material for December's "Message"

is due to the church office by:
Wednesday, November 19th

Information can be emailed to:
office@fbcwestwood.org



The Westwood Interfaith Clergy Group is sponsoring this year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Westwood (95 Deerfield Ave) will be hosting the **Sunday, November 23rd**, service which will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Our Westwood congregations will gather to offer prayer, give thanks, and sing joyfully together!

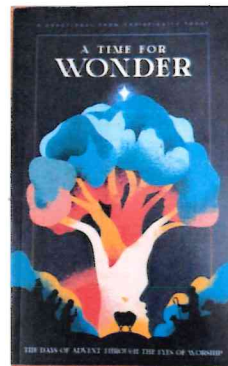
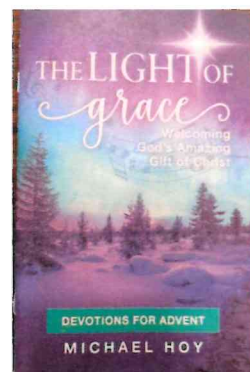
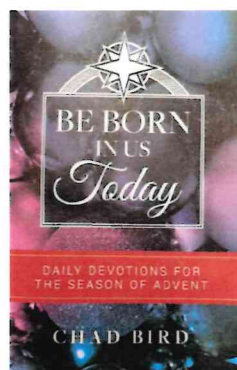
The officiants will be The Rev. Michael Bousquet, Rabbi Karen Citrin, The Rev. J.T. Hills, and The Rev. Catherine M. Miller.

All are welcome!



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 few days ahead of the Sunday 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.



Advent Daily Devotionals

This Advent, we have an assortment of daily devotionals available to choose from. They are from past Advent seasons:

- *"Be Born in Us Today. Daily devotions for the season of Advent."* by Chad Bird.
- *"The Light of Grace. Welcoming God's Amazing Gift of Christ"* by Michael Hoy.
- *"A Time For Wonder."*
- *"Hope-Full Living"*

Copies will be available in the Narthex and Reception room beginning on Sunday, November 30th. Or, you may contact the church office at office@fbcwestwood.org (or call 781-461-1730) and leave a message indicating which devotional you would like to receive.



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 will 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.



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.

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



HollyFair

Saturday, December 6th
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



"Home For The Holidays"

Sunday, December 14th
4:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church,
Westwood

Featuring the Westwood Ringers
performing many of your
favorite carols and Christmas
songs.

- with special guest artist and
former ringer,
Kat Craven, flautist.

- Free and open to the public
Bring your family and friends!



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a great time to enjoy catching up with others and having some goodies, too, following morning worship in the Reception room.

We are looking for additional helpers to host a Sunday. Wouldn't you like to host one? Sign-up sheets for November and December are posted on the bulletin board in the Reception room.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office at office@fbcwestwood.org or call 781-461-1730.



*Join us as we celebrate the birth
of Christ*

Wednesday, December 24th

6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

