

FIRST  BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
February 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

Last month I suggested that we start the new year practicing what I refer to as **intentional gratitude**, making our best effort to write down a reason each day to be grateful to God. I call it a gratitude list.

I invited you to join me in “...*setting aside a notepad, calendar, or use a smartphone app to keep your gratitude list. Starting today and each day going forward take just a few minutes and write down one thing that you are grateful to God for.*” If you haven’t started, will you give it a try??

Life continues to be busy at work and/or personally I’m sure but why not extract a gratitude statement even in that fact. Consider this for your gratitude list: “*God I am grateful for the focus and energy to handle the demands this year began with.*” You see, this practice of gratitude is to help us! We need encouraging energy. As you intentionally look for reasons to be grateful, trust the Holy Spirit to point them out. I’ve only remembered to write a few times a week, but now I look forward to it more. It is also a spiritual practice to help keep focus on who all our blessings truly come from. In taking time to write personal statements of gratitude to God, we are actually praising God!! We are *submitting to God and resisting the devil!* **James 4:7**

Listen, gratitude surfaces unexpectedly; during tranquil moments with a good book or a dear pet; during a car ride enjoying nature's beauty on display; when you see strangers exchange kindnesses. Gratitude rises when reflecting on your past and realizing that you've enjoyed lots of good in life and little or no tragedies... Find your reasons for gratitude!

As God's Church our gratitude is rooted in Jesus Christ's sure promise, that *the gates of hell shall not prevail against us!* **Matthew 16:18**

May your heart be at ease because you know grace and truth in Christ. May you find yourself anchored in Christ and passionate for the Holy Bible's teachings. Pray *God's* Word over your life and be strengthened so that even on the toughest of days, you will not be moved!

“The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.” **Psalm 16:5-8**

*Peace to you,
Pastor Catherine*



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone! Pastor Catherine hosts the in-person and Zoom Bible discussion monthly. The February 15th "Let's Talk" small group is rescheduled to **Thurs Feb. 22 @ 7pm** due to Pastor Catherine's attendance at a conference at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (South Hamilton campus) on Feb 15th-16th.

For those attending in person, the group will meet in the Reception room. 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! **Hope you can join us!**

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

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

Time: Feb 22, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

Feb 22, 2024 07:00 PM

July 18, 2024 07:00 PM

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

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

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6ggj4rGNKQzhPzBjhjWM_euPcsFMH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqj4tEtCQsRuBRpwMBo_4KPzwiCVcjY12rQXtMzpxaAv-PNVvDbdqINvD

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85457845126?pwd=bXhNVXNxK0tlbGo1T25MMkZiaDRxZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

Passcode: 655104

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,85457845126#,,,,*655104# US

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

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

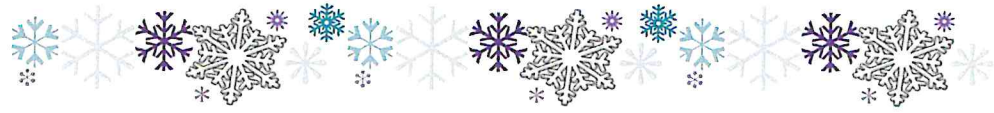
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• +1 564 217 2000 US

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

• +1 669 444 9171 US

Passcode: 655104



January worship services



January 14th -
Glen Cunningham
as our Guest
Preacher



January 21st





White Socks Report

We're pleased to announce that we collected 413 pairs of new socks for our "White Socks" outreach program during the month of December!

We will be donating over 200 pairs to the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program which has numerous clinic sites to help provide for those experiencing homelessness. They are always in need of new socks - for warmth, for comfort, and for good health. And, at the suggestion of Bob Wood, we are also donating over 200 pairs to the veterans who are hospitalized or in outpatient treatment at the West Roxbury VA Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this project a success again this year!





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 13th.**

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.**

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024 GRACE upon GRACE

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Because of God's great love we are not
consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)

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new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

How to Give: AFC offering envelopes can be found in the church pew racks. Your donation can be placed in the offering plate, can be made through our website (fbcwestwood.org) or mailed to the church office at:

FBC Westwood, 808 High St, Westwood, MA 02090.

Please make checks payable to "First Baptist Church of Westwood" and in the memo section write **AFC**.



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



www.abhms.org/afc



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.



Thank you for this meaningful
gift!

Caithlin Sawicki

January 10, 2024

First Baptist Church of Westwood
808 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear First Baptist Church of Westwood,

Thank you! On behalf of Circle of Hope, thank you for your generous gift of \$750.00 which we received on 1/9/2024. Your thoughtful donation makes it possible for Circle of Hope to serve the increasing number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts. With your help we are able to respond to urgent requests within 24-48 hours and provide items needed for health, comfort, and dignity in a moment of deep need.

Donors like you help us protect the most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you for your compassion!

Your generosity is making it possible for Circle of Hope to continue our mission. Together, we are protecting health and saving lives.

Sincerely,

Ari Barbanell
Executive Director
Circle of Hope, Inc.
ari@circleofhopeonline.org

Pursuant to IRS requirements, Circle of Hope does not provide any goods or services in exchange for the above-mentioned contribution. Donations to Circle of Hope are deductible as charitable contributions in accordance with Federal tax law. Please keep this receipt for your records.

***This donation was provided from the offering taken at our 2023 Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Thank you to everyone who donated to this very worthy cause.**

DIGNITY • HEALTH • RESPECT • HOPE



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 Shiner help a child. Donate pull-tabs for recycling.





Sunday Worship Services

Please check out our website,
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.



(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:

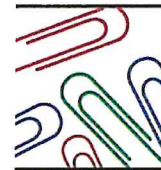
781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730

ext. 12

or email:

pastor@fbcwestwood.org.

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



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

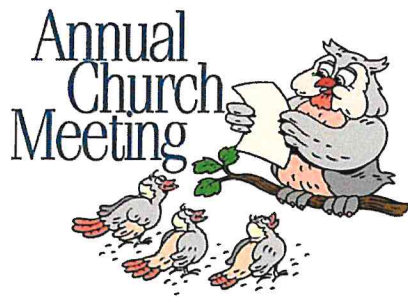
office@fbcwestwood.org

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



Sign-up sheets for February and
March are posted in the Reception
Room for volunteer ushers and
greeters.

This is your opportunity to
volunteer.



**Sunday, February 4, 2024
11:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall & on Zoom**

2023 Annual Reports are available in the Narthex and Reception Room, or a copy can be mailed to you upon your request.

A luncheon will follow morning worship and precede the annual meeting which will be held in Fellowship Hall.

An R.S.V.P. is required by all who plan on attending in order to arrange for sufficient seating. Contact the church office by emailing office@fbcwestwood.org or by calling 781-461-1730.

If you'd like to participate in the meeting on Zoom, email the church office for the link (office@fbcwestwood.org).



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.



**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 two introductory sessions following the morning Worship Services on February 11 and 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.



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.



Crafters' Group

We are excited that the Crafters' Group will be starting up again! Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month as we work on items for December's Holly Fair. Our first meeting is on **February 14th** 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.



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 February and March are posted in the Reception Room.

Have questions? Speak with one of the Church Council members, contact the Church office at office@fbcwestwood.org or call 781-461-1730 and leave a message.



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.

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.





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.

Our newest donation method is through using Venmo. We introduced it at our Holly Fair with great success and received requests to provide this option for offerings and other donations. Here is our QR code that you can scan.



Tuesday, February 20th
7:00pm
Reception Room & on Zoom



March "Message"
Material for next month's "Message" is due (to the church office) by
Wednesday, February 21st

Save the Date

Saturday, March 9, 2024
1:30 p.m.

**Rev. Catherine M. Miller's
Installation service
followed by a collation in
Fellowship Hall.**

Mark your calendars!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the entryway for those who requested them. You will notice they are dated differently than in the past. Monthly envelopes just have the month on them, no year. Weekly envelopes indicated 1st Sunday, 2nd Sunday, etc. By not having them year specific, we can use unassigned envelopes in another year and not have to throw them away, thus saving the church some money.