

FIRST  BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
June 2026

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From the Pastor's Desk



June 2026

Grace and Peace!

*“But I am like a green [thriving] olive tree in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.
I will thank you forever, because of what you have done.
In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.”*
Psalm 52:8-9 (NRSV)

To our fathers and father-figures may you always remember that you are *secure* in God. The writer of Psalm 52:8-9 learned that relying upon God brought him strength and prosperity.

Psalm 52:8-9 reflects upon ‘**Alternative securities**’: **human strength or divine love?** The flourishing tree (**contrasted** to the uprooted tree) is the image of one settled in the presence of God, marked by trust, assured of divine unfailing love; characterized by a tongue of *praise*, ever-expectant hope that God will be true to His name. This person has good testimony among God’s saints...’ J.A. Motyer (Old Testament Scholar and Author)

Psalm 52:8-9 described as ‘**The destiny of the man of faith**’.
John Walvoord, Roy Zuck (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Lord God, I pray for fathers and father-figures; brothers and uncles; mentors, coaches, etc. Help them to rely on You even more! Thank You for the honor they show Christ and in serving His Church. Give them strength for each day. Refresh their loved ones with hope and joy! Grant healing of wounds these godly men carry. Overflow their hearts and homes with laughter! When they sin, shower them with Your unconditional love and the peace of repentance. Thank you for blessing our men to thrive “like trees planted by streams of water.” Amen.

“Happy is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or taken the path of sinners, or joined the company of the insolent; rather, the teaching of the Lord is his delight, and he studies that teaching day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, whose foliage never fades, and whatever it produces thrives.” Psalm 1:1-3

(The Tanakh) Jewish Publication Society English Translation of Old Testament

Happy Father's Day and Happy June!
Pastor Catherine



Summer worship services will begin on June 28th and end on August 30th. Join us each week at 10:00 a.m. in our Outdoor Baker Chapel (off of the back parking lot).

*Communion Sundays (July 5th & August 2nd) will be held in the sanctuary.

Once Again, this summer, we are looking forward to joining with First Parish Congregational Church and St. John's Episcopal Church for the Westwood Clergy Ecumenical services:

Sun. July 12th @ First Baptist Church

808 High Street, Westwood (Outdoor Baker Chapel)

To access streaming: fbcwestwood.org

Preaching: Rev. J.T. Hills, Pastor of First Parish Congregational Church

Sun. July 19th @ First Parish Congregational Church

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood

To access streaming: firstparishwestwood.org

Preaching: Rev. Michael Bousquet, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church

Sun. July 26th @ St. John's Episcopal Church

95 Deerfield Avenue, Westwood

To access streaming: stjohnswestwood.org

Preaching: Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor of First Baptist Church



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion twice a month 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.

March sessions will be on **Thursdays, June 11 and 18.**

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: June 11, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

June 18, 2026 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-7ztmZbgqdcnOzMDRNNrZLJE_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>



Prayer & Friendship Group

During April, our Prayer & Friendship group completed their first service project to meet a need for clients of Amirah Inc. (A unique Massachusetts-based anti-human trafficking organization.) FBC is joining a few other churches in providing this on-the-go nourishment. Wholesome, shelf-stable snacks, etc. and lined lunch bags were purchased to donate to Amirah's for when clients attend

therapy, housing, employment appointments. The FBC group assembled bags after mid-day prayer and worship on Wednesdays and the Pastor delivers them to Amirah, Inc. in Beverly. (We are thankful for funding from FBC's Hill Memorial Baptist Church Memorial Fund.)



The Prayer & Friendship group is open for anyone to pop in as your schedule allows. We meet most Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (See weekly bulletin.) If you live in or near Westwood and would like to host an occasional meeting in your home on a Wednesday, please speak to the Pastor or Jan Randlett.

* * * * *

Welcomed New Members

Right Hand of Fellowship

Sunday, April 26th

In April, we presented the Right Hand of Fellowship to 2 new members. They joined our church by Confession of Faith.

Welcome to Jennifer Ngure and Ruth Murphy.



Jennifer Ngure & her husband Martin, in the center, Ruth Murphy (in red) to their right.



Crafter's Group update



The Crafter's group has been busy seeking out new ideas and recycling church and household goods. These church candles have been melted down to make new holiday jar candles.

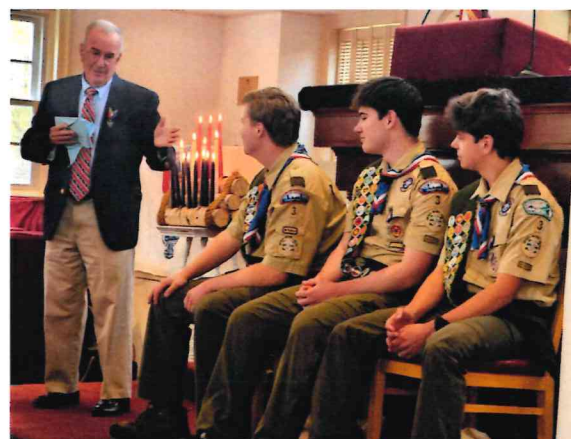
We are looking for plain 8" x 10" handled bags to decorate. If you have any please drop them off at the church office.

While you are doing your spring cleaning and have any craft items that you don't need consider donating them to the Crafter's group. Items can be left in the church office.



Eagle Scout Court of Honor Troop #3 Westwood May 2, 2026

Joe Previtera (Westwood Selectboard)
and Eagle Award Recipients
(Charles Goodman, Jack Goodwin,
& Liam LaCroix)



John Judge (Scout Executive-CEO,
Scouting America Greater Boston)
Reverend Catherine (Invocation & Benediction)
Darren Valentine (Master of Ceremonies,
Former Scoutmaster)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

West Roxbury-VA Boston HCS (523A4)
1400 VFW Parkway
West Roxbury, Massachusetts 02132

Monday, May 04, 2026

Reply to: 135

First Baptist Church Of Westwood
808 High Street
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Dear First Baptist Church of Westwood,

On behalf of the West Roxbury Campus of the VA Boston Healthcare System patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your generous donation of white socks for Veterans.

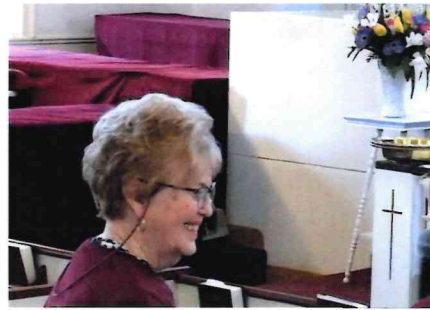
It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely;

COL Matthew P. Edwards
Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement & Recreation Therapy
VA Boston Healthcare System

National Day of Prayer service Thursday, May 7th



808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 7, 2026

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First Baptist Church of Westwood
Westwood, MA

National Day of Prayer
6:00 p.m.

May 7, 2026

Prelude

Welcome

Reading of *State of Massachusetts Proclamation*

Opening Prayer *

Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" # 569

Prayers of Petition to God*

The Church (Stacie Banks-Edwards)

Family (Violet Isibor)

Education (Steven Cromack)

Worship Solo: "I Speak Jesus" Pastor Catherine M. Miller
Prince, Reeves, Smith, et al.

Prayers of Petition to God*

Arts/Entertainment & Media (Rev. Shelton Miller)

Business/Workplace (Darren Valentine)

Military (Sunny O'Malley)

Government (Jan Randlett)

Hymn: "Awesome God" #658

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing The Lord's Supper

Benediction: Psalm 46:1-7, 10-11

*The *Prayers of Petition to God* shared above are adaptations
of *Seven Mountains of Prayer* resource provided by
National Day of Prayer.org

Janice Randlett, Pianist

The Westwood Ringers

In Concert

Sunday, May 10, 2026



Program Notes

This afternoon's concert features works by contemporary handbell composer and arrangers - not surprising since our instrument is relatively new to the music world. As handbell musicians we are fortunate to have so many talented and inventive individuals dedicating much of their life's work to our instrument.

From a ringers' perspective, however, the diversity of these imaginative minds present a number of real challenges as each arranger and composer seeks to personalize their interpretations by using multiple handbell techniques to express their music. It is these techniques - there are over 35 currently popular ones - which demand a ringers' absolute mental focus and physical organization. Handbell ringing is not just the simple task of playing the correct note/bell at the right time; that feat is compounded by how a particular note/bell and passage must be played... frequently by switching technical and musical challenges with a single measure or phrase. Often, it appears that the composer/arranger goes out of his/her way to challenge our abilities.

We hope you both enjoy and appreciate the wide variety of sounds you hear today armed with the knowledge that the minds and hands of a dozen ringers are collectively playing a *single* instrument with many, many moving parts, with a range of a grand piano, all striving to collaborate as one. If this strikes you as physically and mentally exhausting, and challenging, you are correct.

Our ultimate goal is to move you beyond these complexities so that you may simply enjoy each musical and emotional moment - and still wonder 'how did they do that?'

We are very grateful for your presence here today; without you our efforts have less meaning. Our art is for you, not just us.

dkm

Program

Prelude on Thaxted	arr. Michael Helman
Gaelic Blessing	John Rutter arr. Mary Kay Parrish
Toccata in C	Mary McCleary
Rejoice He is Risen	Cathy Moklebust
Morning Light	Jon Schmidt arr. Stephanie Berryman
O Sacred Head Now Wounded	Hassler/Bach arr. Arnold Sherman
All Creatures of Our God and King	arr. Sandra Eithun
Dance of Celebration	Michael Tarant
Fanfare and Intrada	Jason Krug
Ashokan Farewell	Jay Unger arr. Douglas Wagner
Laudation	Arnold Sherman



Westwood Ringers

Sheila Bennett	Wendy Lewis
Kat Craven	Karen Mueller
Vickie DeVoy	Jodi Murray
Melissa Emerick	Ann Neville
Donna Horan	Sunny O'Malley
Diane Kimball	Liz Rice
	David Smith

Daniel K. Moore, Director



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, May 17, 2026

At First Baptist Church of Westwood we have a tradition where we hold a Remembrance Service on a Sunday in May in which we recognize those connected to our fellowship who have passed on in the past 12 months.

As part of the service, loved ones' names were read, some words were shared in the bulletin about them, and we invited a family member or friend to place a white rose in a vase on the Communion table.

Those we remembered during our Service:

Betty Carlson, Anthony "Tony" Donato, Shirley Munroe, Sterling Smith,
and Linnette "Linn" Whitlock

We give thanks for the loved ones and keep their family and friends in our continued prayers!



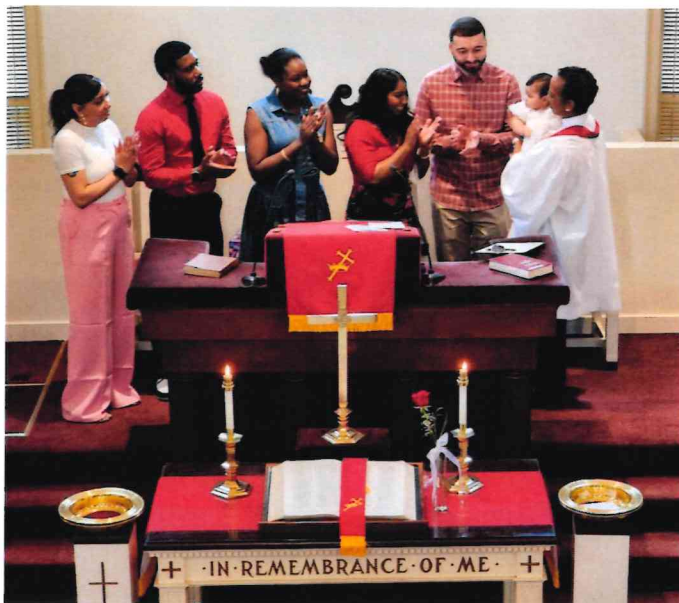
Pastor Catherine & Rev. Shelton's daughter's baby shower



Pastor Catherine with daughter, Sukari, and son-in-law, David... celebrating **Baby Davie**, who is soon to arrive in June.



Baby Blessing May 24th (Elina Marie Taylor)



We rejoiced with Michael & Trina Taylor as they brought their sweet baby, Elina Marie, in dedication to the Lord. We come alongside them as the Church family offering thanks to God for Elina's life and supporting their commitment to guide her from the foundation of a Christian home.



Elina's Godparents
(Danielle Dookhran, Curtis Burris, Samantha Benoit),
Elina's parents (Trina & Michael Taylor),
Elina & Pastor Catherine



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 1,600 tabs in one pound.

The Aleppo Shrine Center has processed over 10 TONS of pull-tabs collected from throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

Funds generated in the pull-tab program are used to transport children and their parent or guardian, free of charge to a Shriners Hospital for Children. Volunteers from local shrine organizations use specialized vans, small buses and automobiles and give freely of countless hours of their time providing transportation to and from doctor's visits. One very important mode of transportation this fund pays for are the life-saving med-flights transporting children from all over the world to a Shriners Hospital when their life is in the balance. These specialized med-flights cost tens of thousands of dollars, but when a child's life hangs in the balance, money is no object. Parents of injured children admitted to a Shriners Hospital for Children do not see a single bill for transportation provided through this fund.

FBC Westwood donates the tabs to the Shriners' Burns Hospital – Boston. Neil Patterson coordinates this project, and Ken Shaw delivers the tabs to the hospital. There are two plastic bottles 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.



Information from the Shriners Hospital website
-> <https://hospitals.alepposhriners.com/childrens-transportation-fund/>



Pastoral Care

Tues., Wed., Thurs.
between 1:30-4:00 pm

Pastor Catherine holds meetings by appointment during the above times.

They are held in the Pastor's church study; by home visit; or by Zoom, if you prefer.

To schedule time with the Pastor, please

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

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



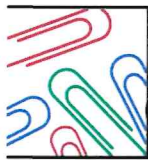
Choir Rehearsal

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Music room.



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.

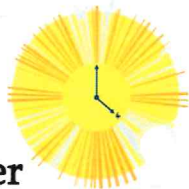


CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is available:

June 1st - June 26th:

Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm



Summer Church Office Hours

June 29th - September 3rd:

Tuesdays & Thursdays

8:00 am - 2:00pm

Donna can be reached by calling 781-461-1730 or emailing office@fbcwestwood.org



Church Council and Staff meeting Reception Room

*June 2nd (change in date)
7:00pm

Prayer & Friendship meeting

Weekly on Wednesday

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome!

Come to the sanctuary.



Joyful Song & Prayer at The Ellis Senior Residence

Sunday, June 7th

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

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.



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.



2026 Chairperson opportunity

We want to thank our 2025 Holly Fair chairperson for her great work. Unfortunately, she is unable to head up this year's fair due to her new role as Church Treasurer.

Our various fair tables have experienced coordinators running their tables. We are looking for someone to be the chairperson (or 2 co-chairs) to oversee the coordinators for this December's fair. Please speak with Vickie DeVoy if you have any questions or are interested.

News Letter DEADLINE

Material for July's "Message" is due to the church office by:
Wednesday, June 17th

Information can be emailed to:
office@fbcwestwood.org



Crafters' Group

The Crafters' Group will be taking the summer off. Their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m.

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

Another option we offer is through using Venmo.

Below is our QR code that you can scan.

