

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message June 2024

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk.

Greetings...

First Baptist Church
& Friends...
June 2024



What I share below is an adaptation from the devotion entitled *Five To Help You Thrive* ². I appreciated the wise reminders as I read and could not help smiling and nodding in agreement. I thought you'd welcome these simple truths also as timely reminders in this transitional season into Summer, for some a different type of 'busy'. May the Holy Spirit reset and refresh hearts, minds, and attitudes as you apply the principles in your daily situations (whatever context you live or work in). As you prepare for kids out of school; major events; travel; or a renovation project remember these *Five to Help You Thrive*. Put them into action so you remain in sync with God's will. My friend, if your spirit is low because you can't do things you once did, then principle #1 is your main assignment as you look toward Summer. You are to be determined to *rise thankfully* each day relying on the strength of Christ in you! This wisdom keeps our hearts and minds healthy and thriving by living our faith! Apply the principles when interacting with loved ones, co-workers; friends; strangers. God will be glorified, we will be blessed, and we will be a blessing to someone else.

FIVE TO HELP US THRIVE!

A woman of faith placed a sign over her kitchen sink that reads:

DIVINE WORSHIP CONDUCTED HERE THREE TIMES DAILY.

To her, the mundane had become miraculous, and daily work became worship.

Sound far-fetched? Perhaps, but applying 5 simple principles makes it possible.

1. Rise thankfully. 'Are you having a good day?" I asked the bank teller. She answered smiling, "This morning I was able to open my eyes; to place my feet on the floor." I couldn't help but smile back! Each morning when we rise, we choose to either be grateful or grumpy, pouting over yesterday's problems or praising God that we're alive and able to live another day. ("Since we have a Kingdom nothing can destroy, let us please God by serving him with thankful hearts..." Heb 12:28 (TLB ¹)

- 2. Pray expectantly. Since many who pray don't truly expect answers to their prayers, they keep fretting over their problems even after they've talked to God!

 The Bible teaches that we can pray and believe and receive OR pray and doubt and go without. ("But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer."

 James 1:6-7 (TLB)
- 3. Speak kindly. Kind words flow from kind hearts. Knowing this, the psalmist prayed for the words of his own mouth and the meditations of his own heart to both be acceptable to God ("May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to you, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14 (TLB)
- 4. Forgive quickly. It is by God's grace that we've been saved, and nothing is more characteristic of God than forgiveness. If He can forgive us instantaneously, then we can forgive others quickly. ("Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.") Ephesians 4:32 (TLB)
- 5. Work worshipfully. Some work only to make a living; others find real meaning in their work by making it an experience in worship. One of the greatest discoveries in life is learning that our walk with God is not limited to one day a week or one place that seems 'worshipful'. ("May he remember with pleasure the gifts you have given him, your sacrifices...) Psalm 20:3 (TLB)

May we all keep finding strength in the joy of the Lord!

Peace to you,

Pastor Catherine

[¹-TLB is abbreviation for The Living Bible translation; ² The writing above is an adaptation of a devotional entitled "Five To Help You Thrive" written by Pastor Roger Campbell in his book, "Everywhere You Go There's a Zacchaeus Up a Tree".]





Baker Chapel 10:00 a.m.

As summer approaches, we will be enjoying worship outside in Baker Chapel. Summer worship services begin on June 30^{th} and will continue through September 1^{st} (Labor Day Weekend). Services will be at 10:00 a.m.

In Baker Chapel there are several benches for seating but we encourage you to bring your own chair, as these may fill up quickly. There will be folding chairs available for those without their own.

In the case of inclement weather (rain or very hot outside), worship will be held in the Sanctuary.

If you are unable to join us on a particular Sunday, worship is livestreamed and also video-taped so it may be viewed at a later time.

The livestream and YouTube link can be found on our website, fbcwestwood.org, by clicking on "Worship Services" and then choosing which service you'd like to view.

In addition, an all-church email will be sent out a few days prior to the upcoming service with that service's link. If you are not on our email list and would like to receive the link to our services, please email Donna Metcalf at office@fbcwestwood.org.

When worshipping outside, please be prepared to bring your own folding chair to Worship. A few benches are available but may fill up quickly. Chairs will be available for those who do not have their own.



808 High Street | Westwood, MA 02090 | 781-461-1730 | office@fbewestwood.org | www.fbewestwood.org | Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor

May 7, 2024

Spring greetings church family and friends!

I take great pleasure in inviting to the Service of Ordination of Shelton Miller which will be held on Sunday June 9, 2024 at 2:30 pm at the First Baptist Church of Westwood.

On March 9, 2024, Shelton Miller presented himself to an ordination council. He discussed his personal journey and testimony of faith in God through Jesus Christ and clearly articulated his theological positions and his call to the pastoral ministry. Shelton fully embraced his call during the pandemic, while continuing Christian Education with TABCOM's School of Ministry. At the council Shelton confidently answered questions sharing insight from years of ministerial experience both within the church walls and in the community. By God's grace Shelton has worshipped and eagerly served the Lord with TABCOM churches for years while maintaining a stellar reputation in his secular career. During the past year Shelton has continued to provide regular pulpit coverage as he wrapped up the pre-ordination process.

Our congregation joyfully supports the unanimous vote of the council that Shelton proceed to ordination and feel honored to formally ordain him and celebrate God's call upon his life. We thank God for the gifting, compassion, and integrity that Shelton brings to Christ's Church.

We hope you will join us for this special event!

A celebratory meal will immediately follow the service in our Fellowship Hall.

If you will join us for dinner, please RSVP by Monday, June 3rd by either calling our church office at (781) 461-1730 or send an email RSVP to office@fbcwestwood.org.

Peace to you,

Rev. Catherine M. Miller Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor



"Let's Talk" group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion monthly. **Starting in June, we will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month** (there will be no meeting in July).

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!

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: June 6, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

June 6, 2024 07:00 PM Aug 1, 2024 07:00 PM Sept 5, 2024 07:00 PM Oct 2, 2024 07:00 PM

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

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6gqj4rGNKQzhPzBjhhjWM_euPcs
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6gqj4rGNKQzhPzBjhhjWM_euPcs
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6gqj4rGNKQzhPzBjhhjWM_euPcs
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6gqj4rGNKQzhPzBjhhjWM_euPcs
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<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tzpc.us02web.zoom.us02web.zo

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

Passcode: 655104



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 200th 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.

8003

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 dismission 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.



April & May Guest Preachers and Guest soloist



April 29th - Glen Cunningham



May 5th - Rev. Dr. David Wright

May 5th -Guest soloist, Mrs. Shelby Wright





Photos from the bell choir celebrating Dan's 80th birthday.











Cub Scout Pack 1 & Boy Scout Troop 3

On May 8th Cub Scout Pack 1 & Scouts BSA
Troop 3 (Chartered/Sponsored by First Baptist
Church Westwood) met in the Reception Room
(due to inclement weather) for their annual
Crossover event. Three Cub Scouts first went

through an Arrow of Light Ceremony (highest award in Cub Scouts). Next was a Crossover ceremony and they walked over the bridge representing them and parents crossing over and being welcomed as new Scouts. (Though sorry it was rainy, the Pastor enjoyed seeing all the excited faces passing by as they prepared. Thanks for the photos Darren!)





Remembrance Sunday Sunday, May 19, 2024

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 one's names were read, some words were shared in the bulletin about them, and we invited a representative from each family to place a white rose in a vase on the Communion table.













Those we remembered during our Service: Cynthia "Cindy" Wong, John "Jack" O'Malley,

Nellie Crosby, Warren Perkins, Thomas "Tom" Pond, Fraser MacKinnon, and Sandra "Sandy" MacKinnon



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

Westwood Ringers

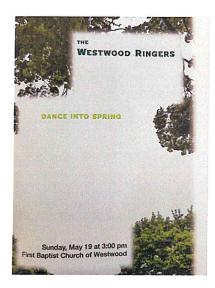
Dance into Spring Concert - May 19, 2024



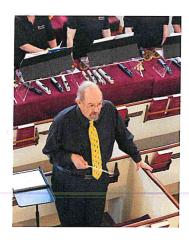
Sheila Bennett
Vickie DeVoy
Donna Horan
Diane Kimball
Wendy Lewis
Karen Mueller
Ann Neville
Elizabeth Rice
Sandi Rodriguez
David Smith
Liz Smith

Director,

Daniel K. Moore



Listening to the Westwood Ringers during the May 19 Spring Bell Concert was a treat! Sanctuary acoustics made it extra special. The range of music selected by Dan Moore included an arrangement originally composed for strings and Ragtime pieces were such fun to hear and watch them play. The hymns included Sweet, Sweet Spirit and Were You There? Attendees really enjoyed themselves. Kudos to Dan Moore and Westwood Ringers including 3 newbies!







SHARING THE LIGHT FOR 75 YEARS

A LETTER FROM YOUR WORLD RELIEF OFFICER

"Let me tell you why you are here...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world...Keep open house; be generous with your lives." (Matthew 5:13-16, The Message)

Dear American Baptist Church members,

On Easter Sunday in 1949, on nation-wide radio, Christians were challenged to donate one million dollars in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge and the goal was met. That was the beginning of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering!

In 1973 American Baptists formally joined the movement that had been carried forward by several Protestant denominations. Giving to OGHS in 1973 was \$82,045. Over the decades since, American Baptists have increased their support for the offering and in doing so have been sharing the light in all corners of the world-at times during some of the darkest moments in human history.

Providing for the myriad needs that result from famine and hunger crises, displacement of people due to war and natural disasters, and recurring and extraordinary natural disasters have been the focus of OGHS. But not just in the immediate aftermath. Today OGHS continues to provide emergency relief after disasters while at the same time supporting development work around the world that seeks to address chronic conditions that linger for years or decades longer.

I love Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of these verses in Matthew 5, and the clear commission they give to show up brightly in the world and be generous with our lives. That is the invitation extended in this year's theme, Share the Light. And it's an invitation that American Baptists have accepted and responded to for over 50 years.

The scriptures tell us that huge crowds were gathering, drawn to Jesus by his teachings and the miracles of healing he performed. So Jesus climbed a hill and delivered his "sermon on the mount" to an audience captivated by his message and ways. He offered them blessings, affirming them in ways probably no one had before.

Then he described a life of discipleship characterized by prayer, humility, love of one's enemies, and a steady practice of being 'salt and light,' generously sharing the goodness of God in all the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a beautiful opportunity to do just that. When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we become a dazzling prism of light scattering blessing in places that desperately need it. We offer hope to people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. We empower partners in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and

This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope and to be generous with our lives. I hope you will invite giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with the same spirit of joyful generosity you have for so many years!

In grateful partnership,

Lisa Rothenberger-Winter World Relief Officer

Please make donation checks payable to "FBC Westwood" and note in the memo section "OGHS"



ABOUT FBC's MOVE FOR AMIRAH JUNE FUNDRAISER!

This is our first year joining this challenge and we want to raise \$500 for this great organization, Amirah Inc. to continue to help exploited women regain their lives by building more "exit ramps" (opportunities for the exploited to get away from trafficking and traffickers) via rapid rehousing and to provide mental health resources for their journey of healing.

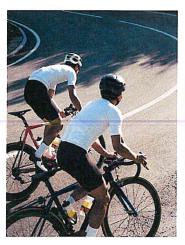
Join us by taking walks, hikes, biking during June, record the distance (tenth/quarter/half mile...) and place note in offering plate for the Pastor to add to tally. Walk your yard! Each step represents survivors!

We are being inspired by courageous members and friends of our church, including some with physical disabilities and seniors and those who hike and bike! Our MOVE FOR AMIRAH goal at First Baptist Church of Westwood will be to walk, hike or bike no less than 50 combined miles in June. We'll cheerfully walk our campus halls and outdoors grounds at 808 High Street and adjoining Rice Reservation trails. Others will walk laps on WW high school outdoor track or around their towns. Some will take dogs hiking at Lowell Dog Park or in Maine, etc. We do this to represent the difficult nature of the first year of recovery from exploitation. Every step of the way we will be thinking of the grueling journey these women face to heal from the trauma of exploitation. We are thrilled to join the movement to end exploitation and offer hope! Thank you for donating and supporting survivors of sex trafficking! Every dollar counts.

Ready to make an impact with FBC Westwood?

Donate online through below link or address check to First Baptist Church Westwood (Note memo line: Move for Amirah Fundraiser)

https://www.moveforher.org/t/FirstBaptistChurchWestwoodMA-Moves4Her









Donation requests from The Westwood Food Pantry

- 1. Please do not travel to the stores just to pick up donated itemsinstead 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.







(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)



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.



The church office is available:

June 3rd - June 21st: Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm



June 24^h - August 30th: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 am - 2:00pm

Donna can be reached by calling 781-461-1730 or by emailing

office@fbcwestwood.org

Face masks are required in the church office.



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.

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.

PASTA NIGHT

Community Pasta Night-Free event

FBC Norwood Saturday, June 8th 5:30 pm (Parish Hall, 71 Bond St., Norwood)

Join them for pasta and fellowship.

Reservations are required – (781)762-1633, June 4th deadline *Please leave your name, phone#,* & number of people attending)

*limited to the first 75 people



Crafters' Group

The Crafters' Group will be taking a break during June, July and August, but please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of September as we work on items for December's Holly Fair.

On September 11th, we will 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.



One of the crafters' upcoming projects is working on wreaths for the Holly Fair. They are looking for donations of artificial evergreens and small Christmas decorations for this project. Do you have either of these items that you'd like to donate? Donations can be dropped off at the church office Monday - Friday.

Thank you!



Chancel Choir will not be rehearsing during June, July & August, but you are invited to join them for practice starting in September on Monday nights. We meet in the Music Room, adjacent to Fellowship Hall, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.



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.



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



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

> June 18th 7:00pm



July "Message"
Material for next month's
newsletter is due to Donna in
the church office by:

Wednesday, June 19th (office@fbcwestwood.org)



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? June and September sign-up sheets are posted in the Reception Room.

Have questions? Contact Karen Thompson, at kleethompson65@gmail.com,

or

the Church office at office@fbcwestwood.org or call 781-461-1730.

Salem Radio Boston



Christian Radio Station

Tune in to AM 590 WEZE "The Word" channel on Saturdays
@ 5:15pm and enjoy our Pastor's
prayer/inspiration program,
Be Still, a family-oriented radio
outreach sponsored by
FBC Westwood!
Livestream & podcasts at
http://wezeradio.com/radioshow/
be-still.



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.

