

FIRST  BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
May 2026

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From the Pastor's Desk

May 2026



Grace and Peace!

“While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another,

“Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

“Leave her alone,” said Jesus.

“Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.” Mark 14:3-6

Dear Church,

God has done such a mighty thing in each of our lives. We are safe now through eternity! In Christ we each have an immense overflow of grace, of mercy, of forgiveness... daily! Injected into our pain and worries and failings is the **unshakeable** peace of salvation! Refuse to let war, violence, illness, disappointment, or regrets diminish these precious blessings! In times when you don't *feel* God's nearness, **know** that His love and power is still with you!

So many, many people only have superficial and temporary 'stuff' to dull and mask pain. How empty... to be only as happy as one can make oneself or that others can make you. Dear Christian this is **not** our portion! **Gathering to worship we celebrate God with us!**

Because of Jesus Christ, we have the right to boldly come to the Father for help, forgiveness, comfort; all that we need! Likewise, we unashamedly tell others about what Jesus Christ has done in our hearts and lives. Our actions reflect that we have learned a **precious love and reverence for the Lord!**

Do not be silenced by ungodly people/unbiblical actions. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and spend your energy wisely. Consider your Christian faith; put it to work and watch beauty blossom.

Psalm 90:12 is a great prayer for us to add to personal prayer.:
“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

A heart that bows to godly wisdom will blossom with beautiful things for Christ!
You were created to love and enjoy God; to do beautiful things that express love to Jesus.

God has beautiful things waiting for you to say; to do! Do them with the help and grace of God.

MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

From *And He Walks With Me*
(Daily Bread 365-Day Devotional)

***“Leave her alone,” said Jesus.
“Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.***

Just before her death, artist and missionary Lilius Trotter looked out a window and saw a vision of a heavenly chariot. According to her biographer, a friend asked, “Are you seeing many beautiful things?” She answered, “Yes, many, many beautiful things.”

Trotter’s final words reflect God’s work in her life. Not only in death, but throughout her life, He revealed much beauty to her and through her. Although a talented artist, she chose to serve Jesus as a missionary in Algeria. John Ruskin, a famous painter who tutored her, is said to have commented: “What a waste,” when she chose the mission field over a career in art.

Similarly in the New Testament when a woman came to Simon the Leper’s house with an alabaster jar and poured perfume on Jesus’s head, those present saw it as a waste. This expensive perfume was worth a year’s common wages, so some of the people present thought it could have been used to help the poor. However, commending this woman’s deep devotion to Him, Jesus said: ***“Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.” Mark 14:6***

Every day we can choose to let Christ’s life shine in our lives and display His beauty to the world. To some, it may seem a waste, but let us have willing hearts to serve Him. May Jesus say we have done many beautiful things for Him.

May our lives display the beauty of God.

Have a blessed Mother’s Day!

Pastor Catherine



“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 **Thursday, May 14th and 21st.**

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: May 14, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

May 21, 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-7ztmZbqqdcn0zMDRNNrZLJE_hLZ5BtGODT

Join Zoom Meeting

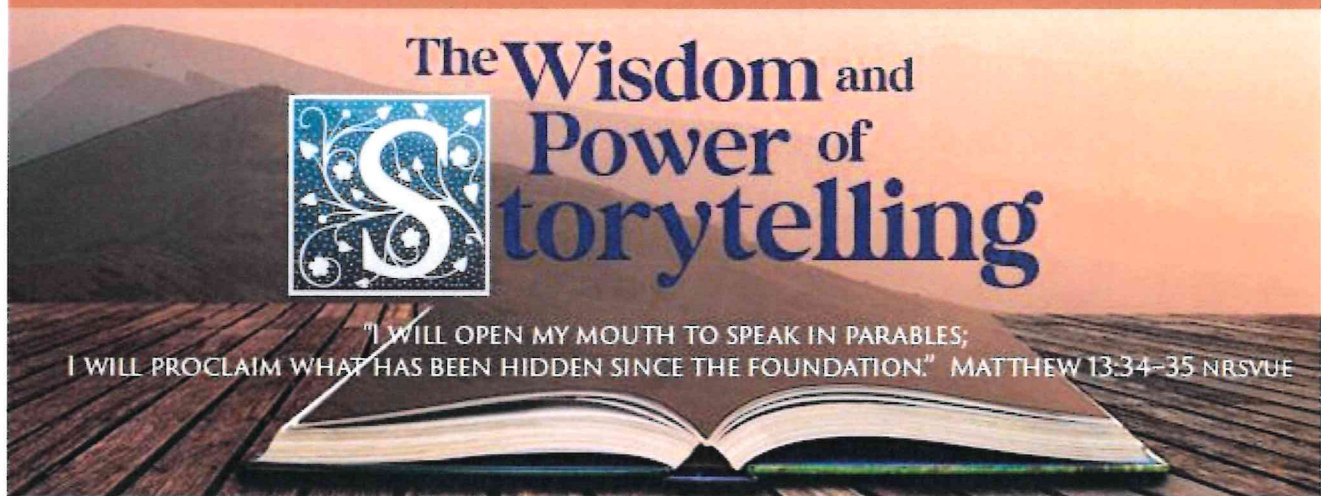
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpu0fst9Pyl3PKEydXFVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

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

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we begin the campaign for the 2026 America for Christ Offering (AFC), we are called to reflect on this powerful theme: “The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling.” Scripture reveals how God’s truth and love are passed down through generations, often through the simple yet profound and powerful gift of storytelling. Stories have always been God’s way of shaping faith, identity, and vision.

Jesus chose stories—parables—to reach people’s hearts. Matthew 13:34–35 reminds us that His words were not just lessons but living testimonies that have connected listeners across time, culture, and experience. Similarly, we are called to share our faith, our history, and our vision for the future with those who come after us.

This year’s campaign encourages us to celebrate storytelling as a form of ministry. Sharing the stories of our churches, families, and faith communities helps strengthen the present and sow seeds of hope for the future.

Together, we can make AFC 2026 a season of storytelling that bridges generations, deepens faith, and advances God’s mission of love and justice. Thank you for your faithful partnership in this vital ministry.

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor
Jen Cromack, Missions Coordinator

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2026 Please give today! www.abhms.org/afc

* Please make your check payable to *FBC Westwood* and note in the memo section “for AFC”, if you are making a donation at a worship service or by mailing to the church office.

We will be accepting donations for AFC through Sunday, May 10th.



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.





Scout Troop 3
A special thank you to all who participated in the church clean up. It was very much appreciated by the church.





An Easter visit with one of our special
longtime members



Jen C. with Chester



Ken S. with Chester



Spring is here!

Thank you to Carol Ahearn
for decorating the sanctuary on
Easter Sunday with the tulips
and lilies, and for decorating
our sanctuary entrance and
Baker Chapel with her spring
arrangements.





FBC Westwood's Food Drive Sat., March 21st



Dear Pastor Catherine,

A huge thank you to First Baptist for the generous donations during your food drive for the Westwood Food Pantry.

Spring is a very important time to run a drive as we have gone through donations from the holidays, while need still exists.

A special thank you to Rev. Shelton Miller and team for their work.

Finally, a thank you to Donna M. and Dave S. who helped me organize donations into bags on pick-up day.

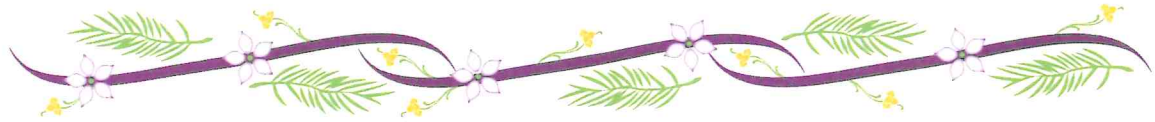
I was able to do it in one trip!

Thanks again for everyone's kindness and generosity!

Maryanne Carty - Westwood Food Pantry



Thank you to all who donated items and to those who volunteered the day of our Food Drive.



Easter Sunday – April 5th



Thank you to Darren, Ron, & Chris for preparing the Easter morning breakfast and to Donna M, Jen, & Rick for setting up!

Rotary Club of Westwood Presents

2026 FAMILY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Family Fun with a Derby Flair

Rotary
Club  **Westwood**



SUNDAY, MAY 3

**Games For Kids
Face Painting
Live DJ**

First Baptist Church
808 High Street, Westwood
9am - 12pm

*The Westwood Ringers
In Concert*



*Sunday May 10, 2026
4:00 PM*

*First Baptist Church
808 High Street Westwood, MA*



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.aleposhriners.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)



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.

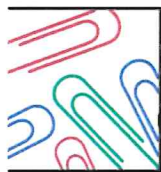
FBC Westwood Church Survey

Deadline to submit: May 1st

A survey was emailed to fellow parishioners in April. It requests feedback on your experience as part of the First Baptist community. The answers will help us better understand what can be done to enhance worship and the FBC community for our congregants and visitors.

If you are a fellow parishioner that does not have email and would like to fill out a paper copy of the survey, please request a copy by calling Donna Metcalf at 781-461-1730.

All answers are completely anonymous and no identifying information about the participant will be collected.



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



Choir Rehearsal

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

You are invited
to join the
Chancel Choir

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, May 3rd

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.

**National Day
of Prayer Gathering**

*A Call to Pray, A Call to Praise!
Thursday, May 7th*

FBC Westwood is a host location for a time set aside to pray for our country. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Let's join hearts in prayer and song.



Lord,

*thank you for the women
who have loved us,
prayed for us
and walked with us
in faith.*



**Church Council
and Staff meeting**
Reception Room

***May 12th* (change in date)**
7:00pm



**Crafters'
Group**

The May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13th at 10:00 a.m.

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

Join us

**Sunday, May 17th
10:00 a.m.**



**Remembrance
Sunday**

Join us as we celebrate the lives of those in our church family who have passed on within the last 12 months and our ongoing memories of them.

News Letter DEADLINE

Material for June's "Message" is due to the church office by:
Wednesday, May 20th

Information can be emailed to:
office@fbcwestwood.org



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.

Sunday, May 24th
10:00 a.m.



**Baby
Blessing**



We will be celebrating a Baby Blessing (Elina Taylor) along with Pentecost, the birthday of the Church and the ongoing life of it.

Wear red to celebrate the day.



**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 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.



Baby Blessing

Sunday, May 31st
Join us as we Dedicate
Ezra Urio at our 10:00 a.m.
worship service.

