



808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message

February 2026

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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Grace and Peace!

Dear friends of God,

When you suffer through trying days, weeks, seasons, remind yourself that God knows the circumstances and personalities you are subject to daily. God knows the difficulties in navigating the public square as well as our more familiar spaces. God is always guiding our hope to the anchor for our soul (**Hebrews 6:19**). Our Creator God gently refreshes us with His **all-knowing** Presence. At the end of each day find ease for your spirit by turning over what is impossible *for you* to change to God. Maybe it's an internal struggle. Even then, look to the new day ahead and really trust your tomorrow to Christ! Unlike machines and robots, we can't simply purge or reboot ourselves from troubling events that life 'downloads' with the press of a key or button. Honest, passionate lovers of Jesus Christ everywhere tense under the weight of social distress, discord, disillusionment about who and what we *thought* were good. You're not alone!

But be reminded that we are made in **God's** image and likeness! (**Genesis 1:26-27**) Grasping what this means will help you find the determination to *win the day* when taxed by unkind people, closed doors, or facts beyond your control. You are made in **God's** image and likeness! You were selected to have this testimony: "I am an overcomer because God has already won the war on my behalf!" Apply that and walk in the victory! You are destined to make a bright imprint in the world! The Sovereign King gave you a 'new, powerful nature' in Jesus Christ. Face each day as the conqueror you are. Sure, you'll have bruises, but you will not be beaten by the dark schemes aimed at God's faithful! We are **redeemed** image bearer!

Consider what biblical scholars (John Walton, Craig Keener) say about what he concept of being an *image* meant to people when back when Genesis was written.:

"Throughout the ancient Near East, an image was believed to contain the *essence* of that which it represented. The *essence* equipped the image to carry out its function... it was generally a king

who was spoken of in such terms. The image [reflected] the king's power and prerogative. Monuments featuring the image of a king were set up in territories he had conquered... it was not physical likeness that was important, but a more abstract, idealized representation of identity relating to the office/role and value connected to the image... **The Biblical view is similar as people were created in the image of God, embodying His qualities and doing His work. They [we] are symbols of God's qualities and doing God's work."**

You can count on God making your life an expression of His qualities. If you belong to Christ, it will certainly manifest! Christ is at work in you now! You will show goodness and righteousness even when facing evil. Christ will see to it that we represent Him well! Trials will help by humbling you. God has the best for us. will certainly reveal His glory in us when we trust, obey and refuse our old ways!

So let us 'revere Christ in our hearts as Lord' obeying the wise pastoral instruction of the Apostle Peter (**I Peter 3:8-16**).!

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

'For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.'

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats[b]; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

Represent God's image well!

Pastor Catherine

Worthy of love

Let all that you do be done in love –1 Cor 16:14

Originating in the mid-1930's as the Communion Fellowship Offering, it became known as the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) in 1977.

Through the end of February, our church will be accepting donations to RMMO. Our RMMO gift goes toward thank you checks and direct emergency assistance to ABCUSA clergy and missionaries who have served. The pastors, missionaries and leaders who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries have bestowed us numerous blessings through their service.

We give to remember and thank those who have dedicated their lives in service to Christ, the church, and to us. With gift revenue from the RMMO 2024 offering, we distributed 3,331 thank you checks averaging \$174, a modest amount in which the gesture says far more than the dollars.

For all the blessings they've brought us, together, let's remember them again this year.

RMMO envelopes can be found in each pew.

- * You may place your donation in Sunday's offering plate
- * Mail it to the church office (808 High St, Westwood, MA 02090)
- * Donate online at abc-usa.org

Instructions for Giving Online:

- 1) Go to abc-usa.org and click on the "GIVE ONLINE" button at the top right.
- 2) For "Fund," select, "Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering."
- 3) Provide our church's name in the "Comment" box.

(Please make checks payable to FBC Westwood and be sure to note in the "memo" section of your check "RMMO")





White Socks Outreach Project



Thank you to those who have donated to our White Socks Outreach project for the Homeless and Veterans.

If you haven't had the opportunity and have been planning to donate, we will continue accepting donations through this Sunday, February 1st.

Donations of new white crew socks can be placed in the drop-off bins that are available in both the narthex and the reception room.

In February, half of the socks will be donated to the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program which provides services to the homeless in hospitals, shelters, and on the streets throughout the city. The homeless are always in need of new socks - for warmth, for comfort, and for good health. One of the reasons that white socks are requested is that they are more likely than darker colored socks to indicate when someone is having foot problems and infections that need to be treated.

The other half of the socks collected will again be donated to the West Roxbury VA Hospital for our veterans who are hospitalized or in outpatient treatment.

Please spread the word and help us make things a bit better for some who are less fortunate than we are.



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion (change in dates for February)

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.
February sessions will be on **Thursday, February 12th and 19th**.

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: Feb 12, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Feb 19, 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-7ztmZbgqdcn0zMDRNnRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpu0fst9PyI3PKEydxFVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

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



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 or drop them off at the church office, Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The food pantry accepts all non-perishable items and are in most need of the following (please no bulk items):

- SUGAR
- FLOUR
- CAKE MIX (YELLOW AND CHOCOLATE) AND BROWNIE MIX
- PANCAKE MIX
- SYRUP
- PEANUT BUTTER
- JELLY
- SALAD DRESSINGS
- SALSA
- OLIVE OIL, VEGETABLE OIL
- CANS OF WHITE TUNA (IN WATER)
- CANS OF CHICKEN (IN WATER)
- CANS OF CARROTS
- CEREAL
- SOUP (CLAM CHOWDER, VEGETABLE)
- MAYONNAISE (REGULAR)
- COOKIES AND CRACKERS
- BOXED PASTA
- PASTA SAUCE
- BAKED BEANS
- BLACK TEA
- TOOTHPASTE AND TOOTHBRUSHES
- PAPER TOWELS AND TOILET PAPER
- ADULT SANITARY PRODUCTS (SIZE L AND XL)
- SMALLER SIZE PERSONAL ITEMS (SHAMPOO, BODY WASH, BARS OF SOAP)



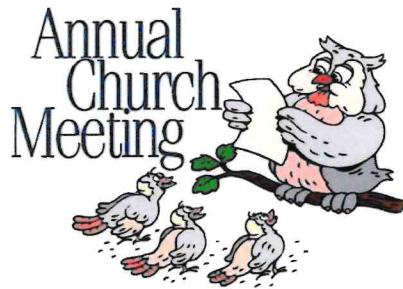
Pastoral Care Meetings (in-person or virtual meetings by appointment):

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.

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



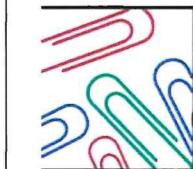
Sunday, February 1, 2026
Following worship
In Fellowship Hall
& on Zoom

2025 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. Both will be held in
Fellowship Hall.

A R.S.V.P. by Wed. morning,
Jan. 28th, is required by all who
plan on attending in order to
arrange for sufficient seating and
food. Contact the church office
by emailing
office@fbcwestwood.org or by
calling 781-461-1730.

**Please indicate any food allergies
when making reservation (i.e. gluten,
chicken, egg, dairy, etc.)*



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

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



Sign-up sheets for February and March 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, February 8th.



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 February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m.

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



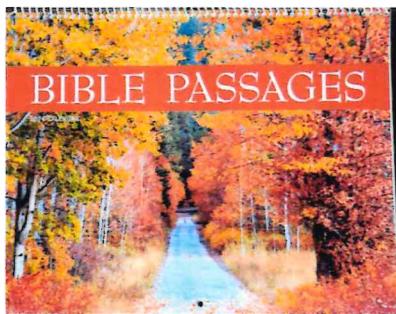
Words from Wendy (a.k.a. the Financial Secretary)

Offering envelopes have been distributed to those who requested them. Let me know if you would like envelopes.

Please note that donations made in the green envelopes go to the Fellowship Fund, not your pledge. I would prefer that you not use staples or tape on your envelopes or checks.

Statements of giving were mailed out the week of January 12th.

Donations of items you purchase for coffee hour or church use that you are not reimbursed for are considered charitable donations. Give me the receipts and I will record them on your statement. The value of these donations cannot be put toward your pledge.



2026 Wall Calendars

Bob & Brian Folsom have provided 2026 wall calendars for our church family. They are available in the Narthex. Please take one.

Thank you, Bob & Brian!



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.



**Church Council
and Staff meeting**
Reception Room
February 17th
7:00pm

News letter **DEADLINE**

Material for March's "Message" is due to the church office by:
Wednesday, February 18th

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.



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.



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 February and March 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.

