

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
July 2026

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From the Pastor's Desk

July 2026



Grace and Peace!

Blessed Fourth of July!

Blessed Independence Day!

Family of God,

Our Heavenly Father has been good to us! Even in the wilderness, Divine favor covers us as we learn to rely fully upon His excellent and certain Promises. Always remember your relationship with God in Jesus Christ. We are in a secure and gracious covenant with Sovereign God!

This assures your freedom from doubt, weariness, fear, shame, or any dark thing that tries to keep you captive and hopeless. Christ has delivered on God's promises to us so let nothing keep you down! The wilderness places God chooses are not meant to be our permanent address.

Even now the road through and out is being made smooth before us with each step of faith.

Our Lord Jesus Christ can never fail so keep praising God! Give thanks, have peace and be glad!

Isaiah 49:8-13

⁸ *This is what the LORD says:*

*"In the time of my favor I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you; I
will keep you and will make you to be a
covenant for the people,
To restore the land and to reassign its
desolate inheritances,*

⁹ *to say to the captives, 'Come out,'
And to those in darkness, 'Be free!'
"They will feed beside the roads
and find pasture on every barren hill.*

¹⁰ *They will neither hunger nor thirst,
Nor will the desert heat or the sun beat
down on them.*

*He who has compassion on them will guide
them and lead them beside springs of water.*

¹¹ *I will turn all my mountains into roads,
and my highways will be raised up.*

¹² *See, me from the north, some from the
west, Some from the region of Aswan."*

¹³ *Shout for joy, you heavens;
Rejoice, you earth;
Burst into song, you mountains!
For the LORD comforts his people
And will have compassion on his afflicted
ones.*

I pray you enjoy sweet rest in Your Heavenly Father like a contented child, remembering this: "He's got you and me brother in His Hands. He's got you and me sister in His Hands. He's got all of us together in His Hands. He's got the whole world in His hands!"

Stay encouraged!

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 (10:00 a.m.)

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



Baby Blessing

May 31st
(Ezra Tate Urio)



We rejoiced with Yves & Kayla Urio as they brought their sweet baby, Ezra Tate, in dedication to the Lord.

We come alongside them as the Church family offering thanks to God for Ezra's life and supporting their commitment to guide him from the foundation of a Christian home.





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.



Community service highlight



Member, Stacie Banks-Edwards with Pine Street Inn staff, Grace Rogers-Huegel, Development Assistant and Volunteer Programs on June 11th at a Pine Street program graduation.

Stacie began volunteering in April. She's following in the footsteps of husband, James, who also volunteered there in years past. FBC parishioners help people both within our church and in the public square.

Maybe you have a volunteer highlight to share? Provide Donna Metcalf with the details by the monthly deadline. Please don't hesitate! It's not a boast, it's good, inspiring news!



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

June 13, 2026



Eagle Court of Honor

Master of Ceremonies

Bill McKinney, Former Scoutmaster Troop 1

Presentation of Colors

Pledge of Allegiance
Scout Oath
Scout Law

Invocation & Welcome

Rev. Catherine Miller, First Baptist Church

Ascent to Eagle

Trail to Eagle

Distinguished Guest Speakers

Eagle Charge

Chris Rogers, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 3

Presentation of Eagle Award

Dan Megan, Scoutmaster, Troop 1
Ray Aglugub, Scoutmaster, Troop 3

Acceptance of Eagle Award

Owen Cocchi
Patrick Connelly
Travis Engel
Ayush Patel
Jackson Schwab
Jack Strzepka

Benediction

Rev. Catherine Miller, First Baptist Church

Eagle Court of Honor

Troop 1 Islington & Troop 3 Westwood
Spirit of Adventure Council
Saturday, June 13, 2026

Owen Cocchi
Patrick Connelly
Travis Engel
Ayush Patel
Jackson Schwab
Jack Strzepka





TABCOM Friends of Regional Ministries

189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450

June 17, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church Westwood,

Thank you for your support of TABCOM's ministries! Our theme for 2026 is "Building Bridges," and your congregation's gift is part of the structure on which we can build such bridges in the form of meaningful connections between leaders, congregations, and our ministries and communities. We hope you will join us for some or all of this year's special events to strengthen the bridge between us!

Here are some of the particular ways FORM gifts from individuals and congregations are funding ministry. Together, we:

- equip pastors and lay leaders to live their call to be the church in the world by funding TABCOM-sponsored events, speakers, and workshops. This year we are focusing on mental well-being, churches facing future change with courage, planning faithfully with our finances, and more!
- ensure growing numbers of children and adults can encounter God in a natural context set aside for worship, play, and renewal by providing "camperships" and facilities improvements at Grotonwood and Oceanwood. Grotonwood's camps for adults with disabilities continue to fill months in advance, and we look forward to hosting TABCOM ministry leaders at Oceanwood this summer for what we are affectionately calling "Pastor Camp!"
- preserve our Baptist history to inspire our collective Baptist presence and witness today. We'll be sharing the anti-slavery scroll discovered in 2025, and providing guidance to churches on how to ensure their story is preserved for the future as well.

With gratitude for making this possible with and through God's Spirit,

Jennifer Sanborn, Director of Development
Gift designation: Church giving: School of Ministry

*Wow! Thank you for
blessing the School of Ministry
with funds from Hill Memorial
This is a worthy and
meaningful
legacy.
We are
so grateful!*

P.S. We hope to see you at upcoming TABCOM events and at Grotonwood and Oceanwood. Visit our websites and our Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information!

www.tabcom.org, www.grotonwood.org, www.oceanwood.org



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/>



Summer Pastoral Care

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
(beginning the week of July 6th)

Stop by the Pastor's office on
Tuesdays between 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Scheduled time is on Wednesdays
between 1:00 - 3:00 pm

(Schedule with Pastor Catherine
after service; call 781 461-0297;
or email pastor@fbcwestwood.org).



Pastor Catherine is presently
on vacation and will be
returning on Sunday, July 5th.
If you are in need of pastoral
care while she's away, call
Rev. Shelton at 617 594-6951

Prayer & Friendship meeting

On break June 24th & July 1st.

Resumes July 8th

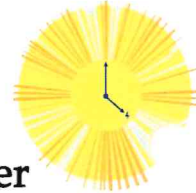
Weekly on Wednesdays
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome!
Come to the sanctuary.

Guest Preacher

Sunday, June 28th

The Rev. Shelton Miller will
be our guest preacher as
Pastor Catherine is away on
vacation.



Summer Church Office Hours

Mon., June 22nd - Fri., June 26th:
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Wed., July 1st & Thurs., July 2nd:
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

and

July 6th - September 4th:
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

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

Foundations Bible Study

Weekly on Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.

(We will not meet on July 4th)

A small group focus on core
principles of our Christian faith,
work through common questions,
discuss life application. During
June thru August meetings, we
will be Zoom only. For the link,
please see Rev. Shelton Sunday
mornings or contact the church
office.



night practices for the summer and will resume in September.

July & August

The Chancel Choir will take off Monday



"Let's Talk" Bible discussion & Holy Communion

We will break for July & August and resume in September.



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.



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.



Joyful Song & Prayer at The Ellis Senior Residence

Sunday, July 12th

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.



**Church Council
and Staff meeting
Reception Room**

**July 21st
7:00pm**

News Letter DEADLINE

Material for August's "Message" is
due to the church office by:
Wednesday, July 22nd

Information can be emailed to:
office@fbcwestwood.org



2026 Chairperson opportunity

We want to thank our 2022-2025 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.



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.

