

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
October 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

CHURCH OFFICE: 781-461-1730 EMAIL: OFFICE@FBCWESTWOOD.ORG

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Greetings...

First Baptist Church Westwood & Friends

Below is a spiritual exercise to help Christians recognize the value of church community. This *TouchPoint* teaching is from LifeBible.¹ I labeled the points “takeaway” and added a simple prayer. As you read, notice what comes to mind. Think about it, then move to the short prayer. Invite a friend or relative to do this with you. Encourage each other to value church community. Pray for each other’s churches. Let God guide your thoughts and prayers for His Church! ...and thanks for praying.

What is the value of community?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 “To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit.”

- **Takeaway:** Community makes it more likely that there will be a balance of complementary gifts, skills, and temperaments. **Prayer:** Lord, teach us to respect the balance of gifts, skills, and temperaments in our church so that we honor You.

Acts 9:26-28 “When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.”

- **Takeaway:** A community can provide trustworthy references to other people’s integrity and character. **Prayer:** Lord, help me recognize & trust godly discernment active in our church.

¹ *LifeBible.com* was formerly known as *Tecarta Bible.com*. The organization’s mission: “Life Bible reflects our mission to help people get the most out of their Bibles and to apply it to their daily lives.”

Acts 13:1-3 “Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.”

- **Takeaway:** Leaders rely on community to discern gifts, callings, and abilities. The early church community was marked by leaders who were a mix of races and socio-economic status. This is a model of community all churches should pattern themselves after for it provides a picture of Heaven, where peoples from all places will be present. A community can also provide support to those sent out for particular work in God’s kingdom. Many churches support missionaries who travel all around the world to share the gospel message.

Prayer: Lord, teach us to pattern our church according to Your will and mission.

Acts 2:44 “All the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.” **Acts 4:32** “All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.” **1 Corinthians 12:25-27** “This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” **Galatians 6:2** “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

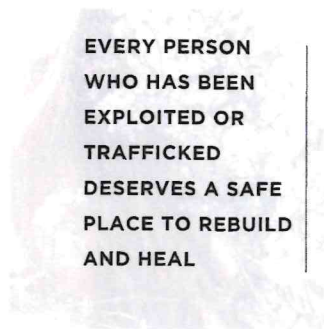
- **Takeaway:** A community shares one another’s joys and sorrows. It provides a practical way to meet one another’s needs. **Prayer:** Lord, soften our hearts toward the less fortunate among us.

1 Thessalonians 5:11-14 “So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.” **James 5:16** “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

- **Takeaway:** A community provides encouragement, accountability, and practical and spiritual support. **Prayer:** Lord, strengthen and build our church with the Holy Spirit’s power.

Friends, remain firm in faith! Keep returning to Christ’s peace and enjoy this lovely Fall!
May grace overflow you...

Pastor Catherine



Hello Church Family!

We have a special Sunday service coming up on October 5th! First Baptist Church will host Amirah Inc. at our first 'Hope Sunday'. Mr. James Hunt of Amirah, Inc. will share an inspiring biblical message with us.

Since Spring 2024, our congregation and mission team have given generously in support of Amirah's nationwide fundraiser, ***Move For Amirah***, which is held annually in June. On Hope Sunday we will present Amirah, Inc. with a check representing our 2025 ***Move For Amirah*** donation.

We also participate in the fundraiser by dedicating miles of personal activity in honor of survivors of human trafficking in this country. Activities include: walks & dog walks, hikes, running, boating, etc. This recognizes the strength it takes for survivors to face each new day with hope for a brighter future. Amirah, Inc. is a leader in the field of aftercare and specializes in ending the cycle of exploitation in the United States. Amirah, Inc. is helping survivors build brighter futures and our church has been enabled to join in the national fight against human trafficking and exploitation (modern day slavery). We praise the Lord for that!

'Hope Sunday' will be encouraging and educational.

Please join us on October 5th at 10:00 a.m. worship to welcome Amirah, Inc. and enjoy a blessed time of fellowship.

Pastor Catherine



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

(Note the change in date for the first session this month)

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion twice a month (first & third Thursdays) 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.

October sessions will be on **Thursday, October 9th** and **16th**.

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: Oct 9, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Oct 16, 2025 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-7ztnZbgqdcn0zMDRNNRzLJE_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>

TABCOM



SAT OCT 25

Join Us For

MISSION WORKS

KEYNOTE

Rev. Donald Ng
FORMER PRESIDENT OF ABCUSA

*Walk by Faith,
Not by Sight*
2 Corinthians 5:7



Rev. Elizabeth Grady-Harper
BOSTON FAITH & JUSTICE NETWORK



Rev. Glenn Butner
GORDON-CONWELL



Rev. Liza Cagua-McAllister
EMMANUEL GOSPEL CENTER



Rev. Diane Badger
TABCOM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 561 MAIN STREET - MELROSE



Saturday, September 20th

Our Historic Meeting House

Our meeting house was first erected in 1731 near the present First Parish Church. In 1816, after a new church was built, the meeting house was taken down and rebuilt on High Street at the end of Pond Street. In 1989, it was moved to its present location.

Our Worship Services Are Online

Our worship services are live-streamed every Sunday morning at 10:00, and are available thereafter on YouTube. Just go to our website: www.firstwestwood.org and click on "Worship Services" to watch the services live or at a later time.

Boy Scout Troop 3

Our church chartered Boy Scout Troop 3 in 1963, and we're pleased to still support their activities. Among other projects, they constructed the fire pit at the edge of the woods next to our parking lot and share it with the church.

Worship services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and all are welcome. Join us for coffee and fellowship following the service. Communion is generally celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and everyone is invited to partake. Worship services are live-streamed, and the videos are available on our website. Our building and facilities are accessible and parking is available both in front of and behind the church.

804 High Street - Westwood, Massachusetts 02090
 Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor
 Church Office: 781-461-1270 email: office@firstwestwood.org
 Pastor's Study: 781-461-4037 email: pastor@firstwestwood.org
 Website: www.firstwestwood.org

Respect for Others

You don't have to be a Baptist to be a part of our congregation. We endeavor to be welcoming and nonjudgmental. Come worship with us on Sunday.

A Diverse Community

American Baptist Churches celebrate the racial, cultural and theological diversity of our Protestant body. We believe in respect, mutual support and dialog, leading to growth and understanding.

We Are an Autonomous Church

American Baptist congregations are freely functioning local churches, and we have no higher organizational structure. We are responsible for our own doctrine, style of worship, and mission.

Thank you to all who helped make the day successful:

- Created new display board: Judy B.
- Organized items for the booth and prepared hand-outs (carabiners with new message tags, flyers): Judy B. and Donna M.
- Transported all the items for our booth - Bob and Brian Folsom
- Set-up - Wendy and Vickie
- Helped in booth - Wendy, Donna F., Jen, Violet, Pastor Catherine
- Cleaned up - Wendy



Journey Worship Gathering

Sunday, September 21st – 12:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET - WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



SUNDAY AFTERNOON
JOURNEY WORSHIP
12:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR
PASTOR'S STUDY: 781-461-0297
EMAIL: PASTOR@FBCWESTWOOD.ORG

CHURCH OFFICE: 781-461-1730
EMAIL: OFFICE@FBCWESTWOOD.ORG
WWW.FBCWESTWOOD.ORG



Welcome to our afternoon Journey Worship gathering!
We are excited about the Lord's vision unfolding here.
Let's praise God freely together! Let's expect to receive
food for our souls as we join in reflection and prayer.
Forgiveness is the focus of our gathering today.
May God touch our hearts & refresh our hope in Christ!

(Many thanks!! to Marcy Merrill, our Director of Music and all
involved with the Journey Worship small group initiative.)

THE REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

Opening Devotion

Worship: "We Bring The Sacrifice of Praise" #651

"This Is The Day" #652

Musical Offering: "I Speak Jesus" (solo)

Worship: "You Are My All in All" #427

Prayer

Food for the Soul

A reading with Scriptural support will facilitate our
reflective discussion on the action of forgiveness.

Prayer Requests

Closing Worship: "Through It All" #452

Closing Prayer





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.





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)

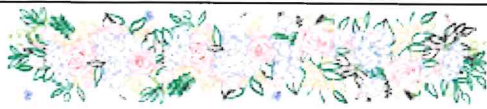
Volunteers:

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.



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

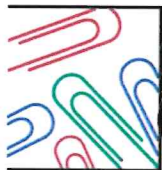
For meetings with the Pastor
please

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.

The Pastor will try to
accommodate other times on
these days.

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



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



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.



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.



The Pastor's Time Off

Pastor Catherine will be taking
the following dates off:

Wed, Oct. 1 & Thurs., Oct. 2;
Thurs., Oct 9th;
Sun., Oct. 26; and Thurs., Oct. 30.



On Sunday, September 14th, two new
members received the
Right Hand of Fellowship.
Welcome, James Edwards &
Min. Stacie Banks-Edwards!



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.



Boy Scout Troop #3 Ever So Humble Pie Company Fundraiser

The Boy Scouts are holding their
pie fundraiser again this fall.
They are accepting orders now
through October 7th.

Pies will be delivered to the
church's front parking lot early in
November (date to be
determined).

An order form is included within
this newsletter and other copies
are available in the Reception
room and on the bulletin board
outside of the church office.



BOY SCOUTS Troop #3 fundraiser

Chocolate cream - Our own, made from scratch, chocolate pudding topped with 100% real whipped cream.

Farmhouse Chicken Pot Pie - Tender Chicken breast, hand cut carrots , celery and peas in our own gravy.

Apple Crisp Serves 5

Allergy Alert: Produced in a facility that uses eggs, milk, wheat, pecans, walnuts, almonds, almond oil, soy



Thank you for your support!



Choir Rehearsal

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

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir



Crafters' Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8th to prepare for our December Holly Fair. They 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.

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, October 12th.



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

Wed., October 22nd
(change in date)
7:00pm



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 October and November 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.



November "Message"

Material for next month's newsletter is due to Donna in the church office by Wednesday, October 22nd

(office@fbcwestwood.org)



Guest preacher, Rev. Don Ng
Sunday, October 26th

On October 26th, we will welcome The Rev. Don Ng as our guest preacher at morning worship.

Rev. Ng was the Senior Pastor of the historic First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco, founded in 1880, for 17 years and served as President of the American Baptist Churches, USA from 2014-15.

Presently, he is serving on the Friends of the North East Christian University, Nagaland, India; Advisory Council of Andover Newton Seminary at YDS, the American Baptist Foundation, the American Baptist Historical Society; the ABC Creation Justice Network, and Co-convenor of MMBB Asian Colloquium.



Fall Quarterly Business meeting and Stewardship luncheon

Sunday, November 2nd
 Following morning worship

In the Reception room
 Please R.S.V.P. to the church office



Saturday, December 6th
 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall

We are excited about our upcoming Holly Fair! If you are interested in helping at any of our tables please contact Vickie DeVoy at rwdvmd@gmail.com.

Can you bake? We will be looking for people to bake items for the Baked Goods Table.

Attic Treasures -



Were you doing some "spring cleaning" this summer? Are you looking for a place to donate items?

We are now starting to accept items for our Holly Fair's Attic Treasures table. Items can be dropped off at the church office or brought on Sundays when you come to worship.

We can use just about anything that is in good, clean condition at this table.



(However, please note: we cannot accept T.V.'s, computer equipment, dehumidifiers, typewriters or air conditioners.)

Vickie DeVoy,
Holly Fair Chairperson





Sign-up sheets for October and November are posted on the Reception room bulletin board. This is your opportunity to volunteer.



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.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sterling Smith. Sterling passed away on August 29th.

Both Sterling and his late wife, Georgia, were very active, long-time members of FBC Westwood, along with their 3 children.

Through his many years, Sterling was Chair of the Trustees, Chair of the Board of Christian Ed, Co-Chair of the By-Laws Committee, a member of the Educational Center Building Committee, the Board of Deacons, a Sunday School teacher, a Delegate to the Boston SouthWest Baptist Association, and a member of the Nominating Committee. He and Georgia were also members of the Couples Club.

A Celebration of Life Services will be held at the Smith-Goodwin Cemetery, located at the family homestead in Palmyra, Maine, at a time to be announced.

Please keep Sterling's family and friends in your prayers.