

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



*The Message*  
*April 2024*

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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## From The Pastor's Desk

***Greetings!!***

***First Baptist Church***

***& Friends...***

***April 2024***



***“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.  
They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,  
praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.  
And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:45-47***

The Lord continues to shower our church community with grace and favor!

At our March 9th worship service the congregation received **12 new members** (including my husband and son, David) with a joyful ***right hand of fellowship***. Smiles, laughter, and jokes filled the sanctuary as Bob Folsom directed everyone to walk the aisle and offer hearty handshakes while Jan played an upbeat tune. Then, the next day **another attendee of recent months asked to join our church also!**

What special blessings all on the weekend of my pastoral installation service.

Please join me in thanking Almighty God for abundantly adding to our number...

Father God, I pray that you help us to keep the commitment taken before you to support and build up each other which is what the act of giving and receiving the right hand of fellowship signifies among your Church. By your grace may we grow together and bear much fruit that glorifies Jesus Christ and shows the world what familial Christian partnership looks in times of difficulty as well as celebration.

Grant a refreshing and renewal of relationships among the First Baptist Church of Westwood for we have agreed with Your Word in Ephesians 4:1-6 which calls each of us to: ***“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*** May each member have sure knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior so that we know the security of having the ultimate unfailing Friend. Amen.

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As a young man, Joseph Scriven had been engaged to a woman he deeply loved. But tragedy struck the night before their wedding when the boat she was in capsized, and she drowned.

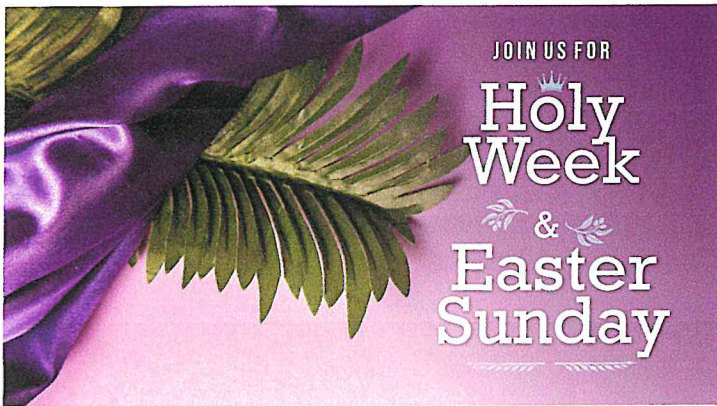
In the hope of forgetting the shock, which he never did, Joseph left his home in Ireland and went to Canada. There he taught school and served as a tutor. He chose to live very simply, spending his money and strength generously providing for destitute people. At times he even gave away his own clothing. He was considered an eccentric by some, yet all he tried to do was obey God's Word as best he could understand it.

In his loneliness, Scriven needed a steadfast friend. Having found that friend in Jesus Christ, he wrote these simple words, which movingly express his experience: ***What a friend we have in Jesus, /All our sins and griefs to bear! / What a privilege to carry / Everything to God prayer !***

Even if we have been blessed with deeply enriching friendships, we all need Joseph Scriven's Friend. But before we can know Jesus as our Friend, we must know Him as our Savior. Then, through all of our changing circumstances, He will be the one we can depend on – our unfailing Friend.

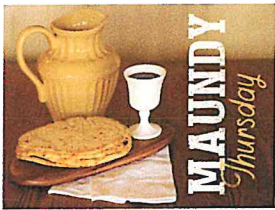
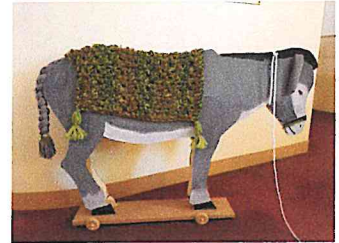
(by Vernon Grounds; Daily Bread Ministries devotional, And He Walks With Me)

Peace to you,  
***Pastor Catherine***



all services will be Livestreamed – go to our website, [fbcwestwood.org](http://fbcwestwood.org), and click on “worship services” for the links

**Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday:** Worship at 10:00 a.m.



**Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday:** An evening service will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 29 – Good Friday:**

The sanctuary will be open for quiet time and prayer from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.



**Sunday, March 31 – Easter:**

**6:30 a.m.** - Join the early risers to greet the Easter morning at an outdoor service in Baker Chapel to celebrate the Risen Christ.

**7:00 a.m.** – Following the Sunrise Service, a hot breakfast will be prepared by John Lewis and his crew. Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) by Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**10:00 a.m.** – Then, at the usual hour of worship a more formal Easter celebration will be held in the sanctuary with music provided by the bell choir, chancel choir and Easter Band. All are welcome!





# “Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone! Pastor Catherine hosts the in-person and Zoom Bible discussion monthly on the third Thursday of each month.

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!

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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: April 18, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Thu, until Oct 17, 2024, 7 occurrence(s)

Apr 18, 2024 07:00 PM

Sept 19, 2024 07:00 PM

May 16, 2024 07:00 PM

Oct 17, 2024 07:00 PM

June 13, 2024 07:00 PM

July 18, 2024 07:00 PM

Aug 15, 2024 07:00 PM

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

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6ggj4rGNKQzhPzBjhjWM\\_euPcsFMH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqj4tEtCQsRuBRpwMBo\\_4KPzwiCVcjY12rQXtMzpxaAv-PNVvDbdqINvD](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcu6ggj4rGNKQzhPzBjhjWM_euPcsFMH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqj4tEtCQsRuBRpwMBo_4KPzwiCVcjY12rQXtMzpxaAv-PNVvDbdqINvD)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85457845126?pwd=bXhNVXNxBK0tIbGo1T25MMkZiaDRxZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

Passcode: 655104

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One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,85457845126#,,,,\*655104# US (Chicago)

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Dial by your location

• +1 309 205 3325 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

Meeting ID: 854 5784 5126

• +1 669 444 9171 US

Passcode: 655104

# WELCOME

## *New Members*

On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, we presented the Right Hand of Fellowship and welcomed:

Rev. Catherine Miller, Shelton Miller and David Miller by transfer of letter from Hill Memorial Baptist Church in Allston, MA.

Andrew Bolton, Paul Bolton, Susan Bolton, Bonnie MacDonald, Kathy Rex, and David Smith by Confession of Faith.

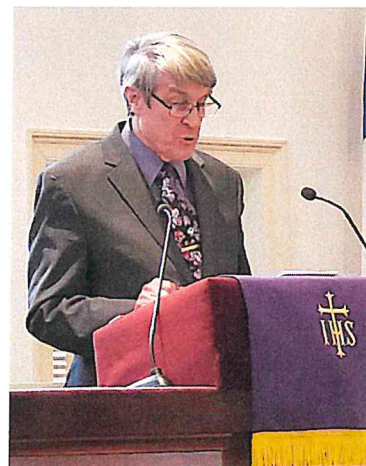
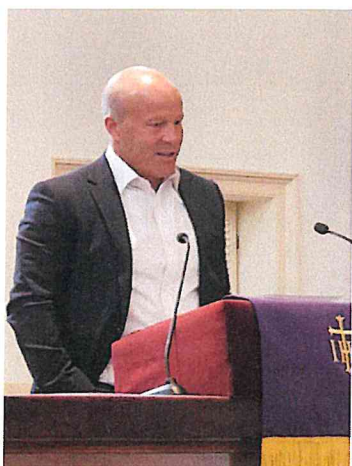
Bruno Mario Demarco, Anthony Donato, Ian Wayne Henry, and David Savage were not able to join us on this day but will be extended the Right Hand of Fellowship at a later date. These new members joined us by Confession of Faith.

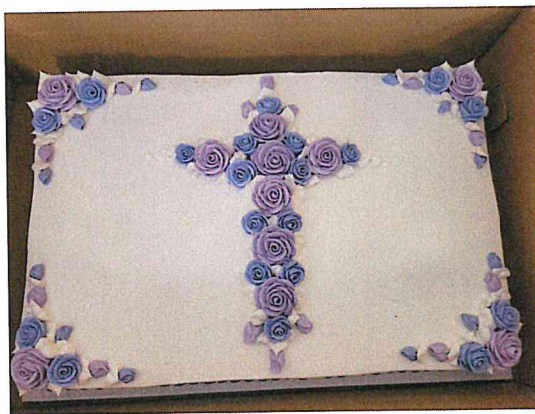


*On March 20th, Pastor Catherine, FBC members and 3 family guests enjoyed an evening out at the movie theater. FBC sponsored tickets to see special feature of Christian film, 'The Ark & The Darkness'.*

# Installation Ceremony of Rev. Catherine M. Miller

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>









## **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 200<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 dismissal 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.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**



# Leslie Lee ~and~ Steve Gretz

*songs to lift spirits and soothe souls*

LESLIE LEE AND STEVE GRETZ were married in 2000 and began performing and recording music together in 2003. The songs they write and sing are influenced by a variety of genres including folk, gospel, Americana, and contemporary singer/songwriter.



*"We sing these songs because they move us, and we hope they will lift your spirits and soothe your souls."*

*now appearing at*

## *A Return to* THE MOZAIC ROOM

Benefit Concert for All Hands In  
Avon Baptist Church  
Sunday, April 21, 2024  
2:00pm • \$15



**All Hands In**

*committed to fighting human trafficking locally and globally*

For more information:

[www.facebook.com/AllHandsInMA](http://www.facebook.com/AllHandsInMA) / [www.avonbaptistchurch.org](http://www.avonbaptistchurch.org) / [www.leslieandsteve.com](http://www.leslieandsteve.com)



(for in-person, calls , or Zoom)

Tuesdays:

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays:

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

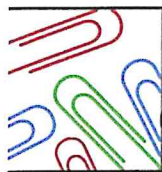
*For an appointment call:*

781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730  
ext. 12

*or email:*

[pastor@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:pastor@fbcwestwood.org).

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



## CHURCH OFFICE

The Church's Administrative Asst.,  
Donna Metcalf is available:

Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm

She can be reached by  
calling

781-461-1730 or

emailing

[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)

**Face masks are required in the  
church office.**

## New Staff Member

Please join me in welcoming Susan Merullo to the Church Staff. Susan has been hired as the Pastoral Administrative Assistant.

She will be working in the Church Office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

You can reach Susan by calling the Church Office at 781-461-1730 or by email to

[PastorAdmin@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:PastorAdmin@fbcwestwood.org).

Welcome Susan!

Sincerely,

Darren Valentine

Board of Trustees

## 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](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).





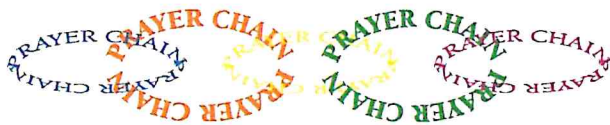
## Sunday Worship Services

Please check out our website, [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org). We post Livestream links and videos of our worship services there, plus other news and devotional materials.



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

April 16<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm



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.



## May "Message"

Material for next month's newsletter is due in the church office by:

Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>



## Crafters' Group

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month as we work on items for December's Holly Fair.

Our next meeting is on April 10<sup>th</sup> in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

For some of our projects, we are hoping to have craft packets so individuals that can't make it during the day can work on them at home.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



## PRAISE RADIO

Tune in to AM 590 WEZE 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>.



## Choir Rehearsal

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Monday nights.

We meet in the Music Room, adjacent to Fellowship Hall, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.



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



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.



## 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? Sign-up sheets for April and May are posted in the Reception Room.

Have questions? Contact the Coffee Hour Coordinator, Karen Thompson, at [kleethompson65@gmail.com](mailto:kleethompson65@gmail.com),

or

the Church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) or call 781-461-1730.



### **COLLEGE BOUND IN THE FALL? ALREADY IN COLLEGE?**

*First Baptist is offering college scholarships to active church members who are pursuing college educations. Awardees will receive their scholarships in two installments – 1<sup>st</sup> half in August and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in January.*

*Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't delay – call or email today, and we will mail you an application!*