

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message June 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk

June 2025



"Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive fails and the fields produce no food, Though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will [choose to] rejoice in the Lord; I will [choose to] shout in exultation in the [victorious] God of my salvation!" Habakkuk 3:17-18

During Lent we made available at the church a profound devotional booklet very nicely written in the <u>first-person voice of Jesus</u> entitled: **40 Days With Jesus: Celebrating His Presence** (by Sarah Young). I'm grateful for resources like this that are biblically sound, creatively lighting the path to God and nurturing the educational and spiritual Christian experience. We need to understand and enjoy the faith we profess in Christ with eyes trained on Heaven while keen to God's Presence and missional activity on earth.

The below is from the devotional which again, is to be read as Christ speaking directly to us.

"Spiritual blessings fall freely onto you through those openings into eternity. Moreover, as you look up with a grateful heart, you get glimpses of Glory through those windows. You cannot yet live in heaven, but you can experience foretastes of your ultimate home. Such samples of heavenly fare revive your hope. A thankful mindset does not entail a denial of reality with its plethora of problems.

Instead, it rejoices in Me, your Savior, in the midst of trials and tribulations."

Indeed, we do want to be alert to these 'windows, doors...openings' that God allows blessings in through. We need regular reminders of God's Glory hovering over our lives. Truth be told, the joy of salvation needs a revival. Do you understand what the "the joy of the Lord" is and why it is a crucial fruit of the Spirit? Ask God to help you know this joy and expect God to respond in His way and time, for those who seek Him with their whole heart will find Him. (**Proverbs 8:17**)

Consider our ancient brother, the prophet Habakkuk whose words of Old Testament Scripture above have in the backdrop a heart-wrenching time period for God's people. In terror and perplexity he seeks refuge in God while at the same time, grappling with the fact that the impending devastation is a result of God's judgment. Habakkuk loved God and knew God's nature is *just and merciful*. God indeed reassured Habakkuk's trembling soul as they dialogued for God would not utterly abandon! God would once again restore! Like Habakkuk we too must keep our courage firm in God, remaining thankful for the certain victory that is to come!

Blessings, Pastor Catherine





Baker Chapel 10:00 a.m.

As summer approaches, we will be enjoying worship outside in Baker Chapel. Summer services begin on June 22nd and will continue through August 31st.

This summer, we will be celebrating Communion Sundays inside (in the sanctuary) and they will be held on the 2^{nd} Sundays rather than the traditional 1^{st} -

- July 13th
- August 10th

We are looking forward to another summer of joining with First Parish Congregational Church and St. John's Episcopal Church for Interfaith Union services:

Sun. July 6th @ First Baptist Church Preaching: Rector V. Michael Bousquet

Sun. July 20th @ St. John's Episcopal

Preaching: Rev. J.T. Hill

Sun. August 17th @ First Parish Congregational Church

Preaching: Rev. Catherine M. Miller

* * * * * *

In Baker Chapel there are several benches for seating, but we encourage you to bring your own chair, as these may fill up quickly. There will be folding chairs available for those without their own.

In the case of inclement weather (rain or extreme heat outside), worship will be held in our air-conditioned sanctuary.

If you are unable to join us on a particular Sunday, worship is livestreamed and also videotaped so it may be viewed at a later time. The livestream and YouTube link can be found on our website, fbcwestwood.org, by clicking on "Worship Services" and then choosing which service you'd like to view. In addition, an all-church email will be sent out a few days prior to the upcoming service with that service's link. If you are not on our email list and would like to receive the link to our services, please email Donna Metcalf at office@fbcwestwood.org.

Let's Talk" group discussion and Holy Communion

This month only, meeting on the third & fourth Wednesdays

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion where she 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! The sessions are held in the Reception room and on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. This month only, we will be meeting on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The July 3rd session will be held on Zoom only.

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: June 18, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

June 18, 2025 07:00 PM June 25, 2025 07:00 PM July 3, 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=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwq https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwq https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwq https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwq <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us0

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k10BxoEcM



Remembrance Sunday Sunday, May 18, 2025

At First Baptist Church of Westwood we have a tradition where we hold a Remembrance Service on a Sunday in May in which we recognize those connected to our fellowship who have passed on in the past 12 months.

As part of the service, loved ones' names were read, some words were shared in the bulletin about them, and we invited a family member or friend to place a white rose in a vase on the Communion table.











Those we remembered during our Service:

Mabel Badger, Calvin "Cal" Colwell, Russell "Coach" Downes, Marie Everts, Robert "Bob" Lee, Robert "Rob" Lee, Judith "Judy" McLaughlin,
Pauline "Polly" Smith, and Caroline Thompson.









We give thanks for the loved ones and keep their family and friends in our continued prayers!





Westwood Ringers "Ring in Spring" Concert - May 18, 2025





Ring in Spring





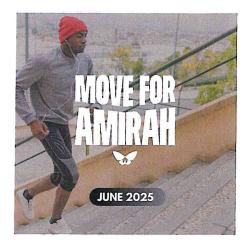




The Westwood Ringers

Sheila Bennett Vickie DeVoy Melissa Emerick Donna Horan Diane Kimball Wendy Lewis Karen Mueller Jodi Murray Ann Neville Elizabeth Rice David Smith

Director, Daniel K. Moore



June fundraiser "Move For Amirah"

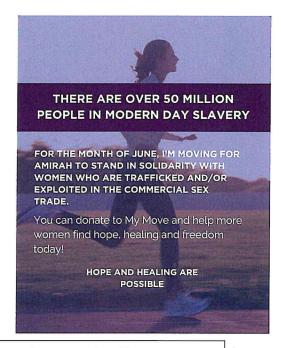
Join us again this year!

The Amirah move challenge starts on June 1st and ends on June 30th.

This is our second year joining this challenge and we want to raise \$500 for this great organization, Amirah Inc., to continue to help exploited women regain their lives by building more "exit ramps" (opportunities for the exploited to get away from trafficking and traffickers) via rapid rehousing and to provide mental health resources for their journey of healing.

Join us this month by walking at home, in your yard, going for short walks, taking hikes, biking – all matter, no walk is too short! Each step represents survivors!

Record the distance (tenth/quarter/half mile...) and leave updates in the church office or email the Pastor. The Pastor will add your miles to the overall goal of 75 miles 'combined' tally for our church.



Donations are <u>not</u> based on miles. This is a free will offering.

We are being inspired by courageous members and friends of our church, including some with physical disabilities and seniors and those who hike and bike! **Our MOVE FOR**

AMIRAH goal at First Baptist Church of Westwood will be to walk, hike or bike no less than 75 combined miles in June. We'll cheerfully walk our campus halls and outdoor grounds at 808 High Street and adjoining Rice Reservation trails. Others will walk laps on WW high school outdoor track or around their towns. Some will take dogs hiking at Lowell Dog Park or in Maine, etc. We do this to represent the difficult nature of the first year of recovery from exploitation. Every step of the way we will be thinking of the grueling journey these women face to heal from the trauma of exploitation. We are thrilled to join the movement to end exploitation and offer hope! Thank you for donating and supporting survivors of sex trafficking! Every dollar counts.



→ Please make checks payable to **FBC Westwood** and reference "**Move For Amirah**" in the note section. FBC Westwood will send one check with all our donations to Amirah, Inc.

Congratulations to Jen Cromack!

Jen is the new CYC

Acadmic Assistant. She will be assisting with the academeic oversight of the program and teaching classes.



Christian Youth Conference 2025 Oceanwood

Christian Youth Conference (CYC) is an exciting, two-week conference held on the beautiful southern coast of Maine. Specifically targeted towards High-school youth, this camp provides students with the tools and faith-building they need to face the challenges of young adulthood in today's society. Since 1915, their campers have experienced inspiring classes and programs, connected with God, and established lifelong friendships in the picturesque town of Ocean Park.

Objectives

- To introduce students to Jesus Christ and encourage growth in the Christian faith
- To help students gain a sense of themselves and their own personal beliefs
- To experience together the love of God

Activities

The men of Camp Judson and the women of Camp Hasseltine build their faith witht each other through:

- Chapel
- Classes
- Sports
- Beach time
- Campfires

- Evening programs
- Community service
- Formal banquet
- Cabin devotions
- Communion

Due to a generous grant from the BBSU (Boston Baptist Social Union), the cost for CYC 2025 has been lowered to \$950.00!

Scholarships are available www.cycop.org / info@cycop.org on Facebook- ChristianYouthConference Have any questions, speak with Jen Cromack



VA Boston Healthcare System 1400 VFW Parkway West Roxbury, MA 02132

March 31, 2025

In Reply Refer To: 523A4/135

Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor First Baptist Church Westwood 808 High St Westwood, Massachusetts 0209

Dear First Baptist Church Westwood:

On behalf of the West Roxbury-VA Boston HCS (523A4) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of 3 large boxes of socks for our Veterans. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans.

Please accept this letter as a small token of our appreciation, it is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

Sincerely,

Matthew Edwards

haul P Edwar

Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement & Recreation Therapy VA Boston Healthcare System.



Donation requests from The Westwood Food Pantry

- 1. Please do not travel to the stores just to pick up donated itemsinstead 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: <u>pastor@fbcwestwood.org</u> 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)



Pastor Catherine will be off the following dates:

Wed, June 4 - Thurs, June 12th.

Rev Dr. David Wright will be our guest preacher on Sunday, June 8th.



June 8th – Welcome back Dr. David Wright, as our guest preacher

Dr. David Wright is a native
Bostonian. He holds a Bachelor of
Arts degree, cum laude, from
Harvard College and a Doctor of
Jurisprudence degree from Harvard
Law School. He also holds a Masters
in Urban Ministry and a Masters in
Theology from Gordon Conwell
Theological Seminary.

Dr. Wright is a bar certified attorney with skill in litigation, contract and employment law.

From 1999 to 2004, Rev. Wright was chosen to serve as the president and CEO of the African American Federation of Greater Boston, Inc. (the "Federation") a collaboration of 35 community-based organizations located in inner-city Boston.

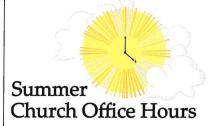
He is executive director of the BMA (Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston) TenPoint, Inc. In addition, Rev. Wright is an adjunct professor at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He also serves as the Assistant to the Pastor at Peoples Baptist Church in Roxbury.

David is a husband, and a proud father of two sons and one daughter.



The church office is available:

June 2nd - June 20th: Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm



June 23rd - August 29th: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 am - 2:00pm

Donna can be reached by calling

781-461-1730 or by emailing

office@fbcwestwood.org



Fathers' Day Sunday, June 15th

Come join us in-person or on-line as Bob Folsom will be our guest speaker. Pastor Catherine will be officiating that day.

The FBC Westwood's Settled Pastors' and Spouses' plaque, designed and created by Sterling Smith, will be unvailed during worship.



Tues., June 3 (11:00 am - 1:30 pm),

Wed., June 18th
&
Thurs., June 19th (for Juneteenth)



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.



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.



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

June 17th 7:00pm



Crafters' Group

The Crafters' Group will be taking a summer break beginning in June.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th 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.



You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9:20 a.m. in the sanctuary.

First Turtle sighting of 2025





Each spring/summer, turtles come and lay their eggs in sand by the WNS playground, in mulch or in loam around our church campus. In May, we had our first sighting of the year. It is the first time it's been a smaller turtle, they are usually a lot larger, and that the chosen location is in the church's front lawn.





The sign-up sheet for June is posted in the Reception Room for volunteer ushers.

This is your opportunity to volunteer.



July "Message"

Material for next month's newsletter is due to Donna in the church office by Wednesday, June 18th

(office@fbcwestwood.org)



Building will be closed

The facility will be closed from Monday, June 30 – Friday, July 4. During this time, campus projects will be done while the Westwood Children's School and Westwood Nursery School are taking their vacation week.

To reach the church office, please email office@fbcwestwood.org or call 781-461-1730 and leave a voice message.



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.



Thank you for the lovely lily. I will enjoy.

Sincerely, Beverly Norton

Thank you from



Dear Members of the First Baptist Chuch of Westwood,

Thank you so much for all your donations and the monetary donation to the O'Connell House. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Take care, Leslie Warner- Maloney

*The O'Connell House provides support to women who have been victims of human trafficking. Their residents can be pregnant, and they also support their young children in the O'Connell House's safe home.