



808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message

April 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk

April 2025



God bless you... First Baptist Church Westwood & Friends

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace; in His flesh He has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.”

(Ephesians 2:13-16)

In Jesus Christ, hearts can be transformed from hard and hostile to tender and peace-filled. The hymn, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, expresses an eager prayer request that asks for deliverance from striving with others. Try using the lyrics below as your prayer request! It lines up perfectly with the biblical teaching found in Ephesians 2:13-16 above. **Peace can begin with you, if you want it to.** You choose whether to influence your environments for God or for self. Every day we make choices to refresh or offend people, to be self-aware and sensitive or to be careless toward others. Some Christians practice kindness with partiality, tarnishing the Church. Paul wrote that the shed blood of Jesus, which God applies to our sin nature, eradicates innate desires to divide, to lord over, to contend with others. But we must repent of these ingrained sinful ways in order to be forgiven; to be cleansed; and to be delivered.

In *40 Days of Grace*, Paul David Tripp writes: “Because accepting blame is not natural, it takes rescuing transforming grace to produce a humble, willing, broken, self-examining, help-seeking heart. Only divine grace can soften a person’s heart. Only grace can decimate your defenses and lead you to repent. Only grace can make you more grieved about your sin than the sins of others.”

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

Father God, let there be peace on earth and **let it begin with me!**

Draw us nearer to the Cross. May our praises be found worthy of You, in Jesus name, Amen.

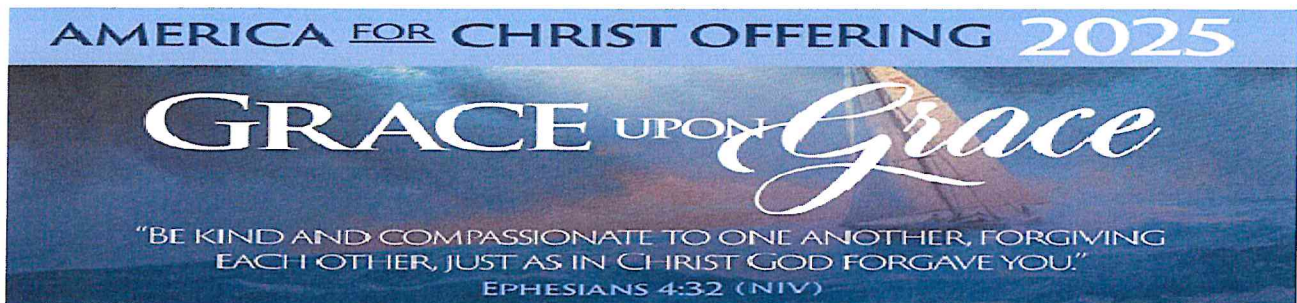
Happy Easter!

Pastor Catherine

Pastor Highlights

1. On March 31st, Pastor Catherine will participate in a discussion at her alma mater, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary's South Hamilton campus, along with 20-30 other alumni pastors, faculty, and students to provide insight for a **Lilly Endowment's Pathways Initiative**. The Pathways Initiative seeks to increase seminaries' capacity to better prepare and support pastors of North American churches. The seminary's goal is to see how expanding discipleship and spiritual formation programs to more students might strengthen a Gordon-Conwell education that encourages attendance and enables more pastors to address the challenges and pursue the opportunities they see in the church today.

2. In February, Pastor Catherine accepted a seat on the Leadership Team of the **Women's Council** of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. The Women's Council is the first council established at the seminary. They will celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2028. The Women's Council provides tuition scholarships to enrolled students.



We have extended our time for receiving America for Christ (AFC) donations. We will be accepting donations through the end of May. Our church's goal is \$1,500.00 to go towards American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)'s goal of \$1,000,000 or more to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico.

How to Give to AFC 2025: For your convenience, AFC envelopes are in the pews. Donations can be placed in the offering plate, by mailing a check to the church office, or by making an online donation at abhms.org/AFC at any time.

How AFC 2025 Funds are Used: Gifts to the AFC Offering support American Baptist regions, churches, and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico by funding grants that ABHMS awards for a variety of purposes, including:

- Creating new, innovative ministries
- Aiding children who are impoverished
- Supporting the work of chaplains and spiritual caregivers
- Making higher education more affordable through scholarships
- Our church is eligible to apply for grants and our church members for scholarships.
- ABHMS retains no AFC Offering funds for operations or overhead.

AFC 2025 will empower us to provide "Grace upon Grace." We are asking you to join us in giving generously to help reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

Please give today! www.abhms.org/afc

* Please make your check payable to *FBC Westwood* and note in the memo section "for AFC", if you are making a donation at a worship service or by mailing to the church office.



Easter Lilies and Tulips

Anyone wishing to donate one or more lilies or tulips to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday – please fill out the form below.

The cost this year for lilies is \$10.00 per plant and \$7.00 for potted tulips.

Please be specific as to how you would like the wording to appear in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

The **deadline** for ordering is **Wednesday morning, April 9th.**

Lilies or tulips may be given (please print)

IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR (circle one):

GIVEN BY:

_____ Total number of lilies @ \$10.00 per plant

_____ # of lilies I would like to donate for a shut-in

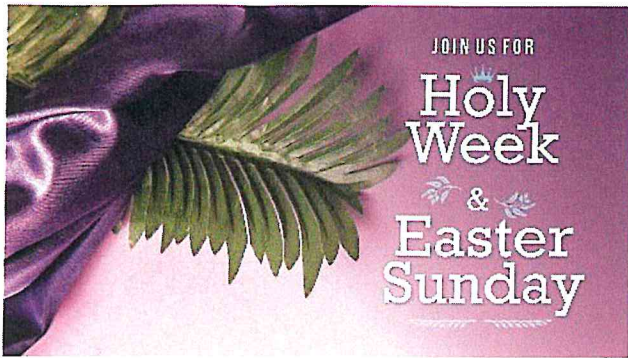
_____ # of lilies I will take home with me

_____ Total number of tulips @ \$7.00 per plant

_____ # of potted tulips I would like to donate for a shut-in

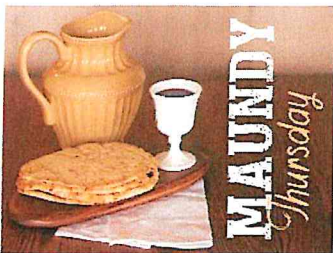
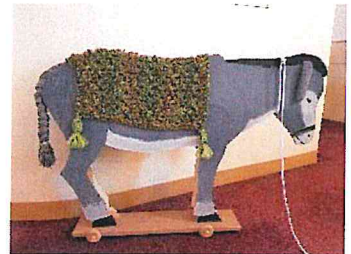
_____ # of potted tulips I will take home with me

Please have your request in the church office by **Wednesday morning,
April 9, 2025.**



all services will be Livestreamed – go to our website, fbcwestwood.org, and click on “worship services” for the links

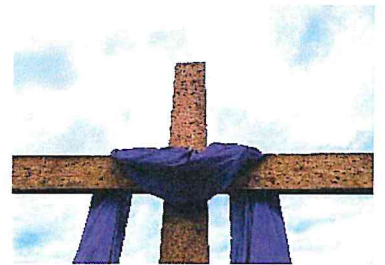
Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday: Worship at 10:00 a.m.



Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday: An evening service will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday:

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



Sunday, April 20 – Easter:

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

7:00 a.m. – Hot Breakfast! Following the Sunrise Service, join us in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast to be prepared by John Lewis, Bob Wood & Wendy Wilhelm. Please RSVP to the church office at office@fbcwestwood.org by Tuesday, April 15th.

10:00 a.m. – Then we will gather in the sanctuary, at the usual Sunday worship hour, for our Easter celebration! Special music by the Westwood Ringers, Chancel Choir, and the Easter Band. Invite someone! All are welcome!



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

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.

In May, we will return to meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month.

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: April 3, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First & Third Thu, until Jul 3, 2025,

Apr 3, 2025 07:00 PM

**Not meeting on Apr 17th - Maundy Thursday*

May 1, 2025 07:00 PM

May 15, 2025 07:00 PM

Jun 5, 2025 07:00 PM

Jun 19, 2025 07:00 PM

Jul 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-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbgqdcn0zMDRNNRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT)

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9PyI3PKEydXFVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9PyI3PKEydXFVak.1>

First Fridays Jazz & Classical Concerts presents:

without

Marceline Merrill, piano



featuring
works by
Schumann,
Strauss (Evler)
Grant Still &
Lizst

Friday, April 4th 2025 – 7:30 PM

doors open at 7:00 • admission \$20 • student discount available

First Church & Parish – 670 High Street, Dedham MA

sponsored by the Dedham School of Music & First Church



For additional information go to:

<https://www.dedhamuu.org/live-music/marcellina-merrill>

***Golden Era Piano Charity Concert
to Benefit MMTA's Music Connect Program***

Sunday, April 13th, 3:00 PM (doors open at 2:30)

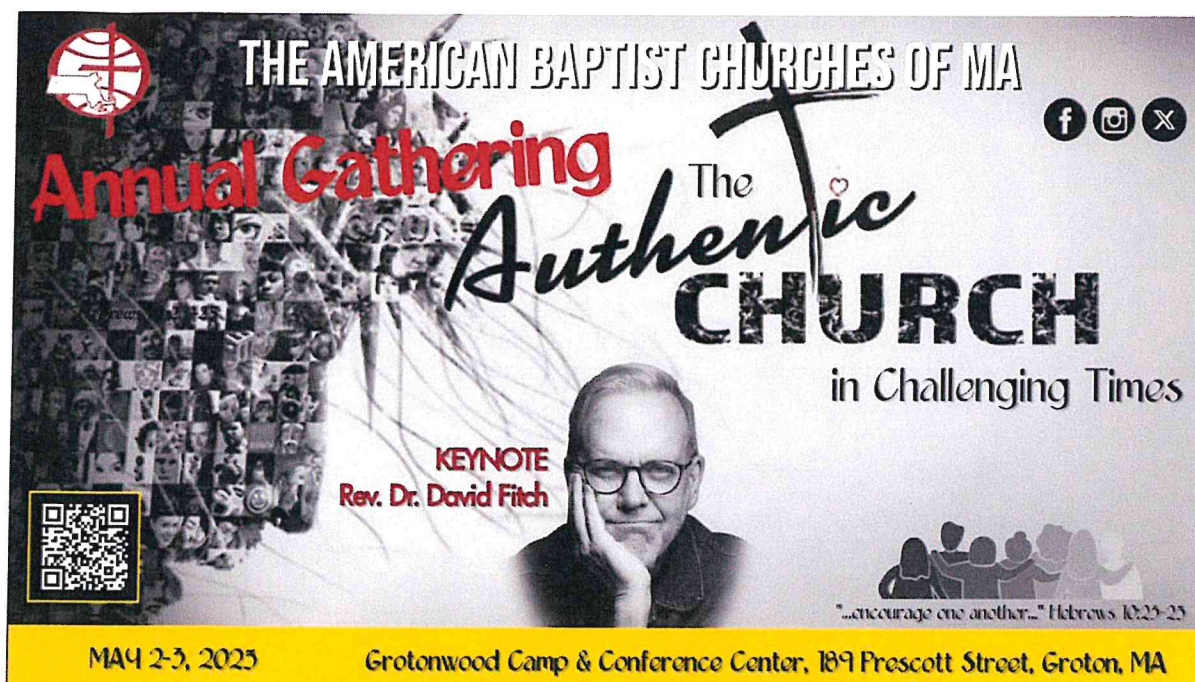
St. John's Episcopal Church

95 Deerfield Ave, Westwood MA

~ Free but suggested donation of \$20 ~

Marceline Merrill is the founder and director of Next Golden Era, an organization dedicated to raising and distributing funds for equity-based music lesson scholarships.

TABCOM ANNUAL GATHERING 2025



Given the current climate of uncertainty and the challenges we all face, now more than ever, we are called to stand together in faith, unity, and encouragement. As the body of Christ, we are not alone—we are strengthened by one another and by the unwavering faithfulness of our God.

We invite you to join us for our upcoming Annual Gathering (#TAG2025), themed *"The Authentic Church in Challenging Times,"* inspired by the powerful words of Hebrews 10:23-25.

This verse is a profound reminder that our God is faithful, and He calls us to remain steadfast in hope, to uplift one another, and to be a light in the midst of uncertainty. As we gather, we will explore what it means to be an authentic church—a people of bold faith, resilient love, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel, even in the face of difficulty.

Come and be renewed. Come and be encouraged. Come and be reminded that **we are stronger together.**

We can't wait to see you at #TAG2025!

Our Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. David Fitch. You can read more about David on our [TAG2025 website](#).

Registration will be open soon.

May 2-3, 2025

Grotonwood Camps and Conference Center
189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA

FAMILY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**SUNDAY, MAY 4
9AM - 12PM**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WESTWOOD
FELLOWSHIP HALL
808 HIGH STREET
WESTWOOD**



**FOOD, FUN & FAMILY
GAMES FOR THE KIDS
LIVE DJ - MIKE WALSH**

**Tickets – Adults: \$8
Children 3 -12 yrs old: \$3
Children under 3: Free**

**EARN A SPECIAL PARTY
FOR YOUR SCHOOL**

Join your friends and neighbors at the annual Rotary Club of Westwood Pancake Breakfast. This family-friendly, affordable event will feature delicious breakfast, games for the kids and music from DJ Michael Walsh.

This year, they're incentivizing our elementary school families. Whichever school has the highest percentage of ticket sales per student capita will receive a pizza party, compliments of The Rotary Club of Westwood.



The Rotary Club of Westwood is a local chapter of Rotary Club International, dedicated to serving the Westwood community by following the Rotary Club's motto of "Service Above Self." In the last twelve months, The Rotary Club of Westwood has supported the community in the following ways:

- Provided a Rotary Academic Scholarship to a senior from Westwood High School
- Collected clothing to benefit those in need and the Epilepsy Foundation
- Worked with the community's senior citizens to create holiday baskets
- Provided funding to The Women's Empowerment Scholarship to support the academic pursuits of a resident of Westwood attending college in 2024-25
- Organized the "Flags For Heroes" initiative, recognizing heroes who have inspired Westwood residents
- Coordinated the annual "Recognize a Youth" initiative, celebrating students for their community service
- Supported Westwood High School's "All Night Grad Party"
- Volunteered at numerous events in Westwood

Please consider joining The Rotary Club of Westwood. Contact our President, Aaron Buczek, at 781-613-0006

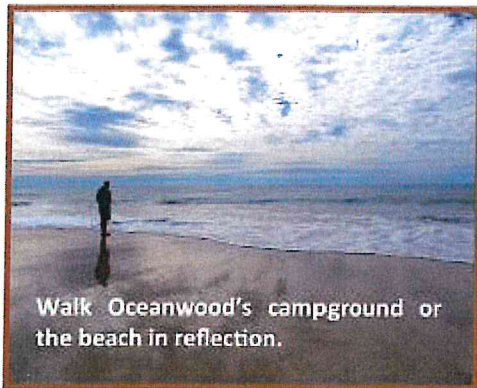
Oceanwood clean-up

May 16-18, 2025

Refresh Your Soul at Oceanwood through

The Surroundings

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."



Walk Oceanwood's campground or the beach in reflection.

Fellowship

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"



Join us in fellowship around meals, hanging out in the common room, playing games, etc.

Worship

"Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!"



Join us when we come together in worship during vespers, devotions, and Sunday morning worship service.

Acts of Kindness

"Give to him who asks of you..."



Oceanwood is a beautiful 100 acre property that could use help with various tasks. There is something to do for everyone: raking, cleaning, organizing pictures, etc.

Will involve working six hours on Saturday and enjoying worship, fellowship, and a campfire the rest of the time. Oceanwood is charging \$60.

Watch for registration information.



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 with each other through:

- Chapel*
- Classes*
- Sports*
- Beach time*
- Campfires*
- Evening programs*
- Community service*
- Formal banquet*
- Cabin devotions*
- Communion*

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



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 1,200 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.





(for in-person, calls , or Zoom)

Tuesdays:

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays:

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

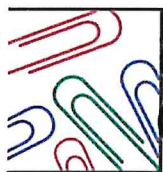
For an appointment call:

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

or email:

pastor@fbcwestwood.org.

(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



Donna will be taking the following
days off:

Mon. 3/31, Tues. 4/1,
Thurs. 4/3 & Fri. 4/4

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.





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.



Church Council and Staff meeting

hybrid (Zoom & Reception Room)

April 22nd (change in date)
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:

Tuesday, April 22nd.



Crafters' Group

Join us at our monthly meeting where we will be working on items for December's Holly Fair.

Our next meeting is on April 16th (change in date) in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

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



Choir Rehearsal

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



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



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 Church office at
office@fbcwestwood.org or call
781-461-1730.



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.



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 – 1st half in August and the 2nd half in January.

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