

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET • WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



The Message
September 2025

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The Pastor's Desk



September 2025

Greetings...

First Baptist Church Westwood & Friends

It can be difficult for even the most faithful and biblically literate Christian to reckon with the words of the Apostle Paul in **Romans 8:28**: *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* (New Living Translation) How does Sovereign God cause our bad experiences like spiritual disobedience, doubt, and crises of faith end up serving God's will and result in good for us?

Do you know what it feels like to be ridiculed for your belief in the Holy Bible and in Jesus Christ being God the Son? Have you been made to feel unintelligent when standing up for Christian values and principles? Maybe you went silent because focusing on personal inadequacies prevented you from looking to God's patient grace in Christ.

How can being ridiculed or doubting God along the faith journey be used for a godly result?

Only when we admit that these feelings are present within and injuring our faith. The Word teaches us how to fight the good fight of faith! We defend our faith using God's power!

The Apostle Paul explained to the early believers:

"Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ." II Corinthians 10:3

Handwrite the above verses, II Corinthians 10:3-5, and I Corinthians 1:18 below. This will help commit them to memory and you won't regret it for these verses will serve you well on the Christian journey.

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18

[Below is adapted from a Drew Dicken's *Encountering Peace* audio, Aug. 15, 2025.]

Respond to the questions, use the prompts to help meditate and pray about your answers:

1. Have you ever felt foolish for believing the Holy Bible is true?

Breathe and acknowledge doubts and fears before God. Pray for God's grace.

2. Do you ever struggle with your beliefs?

Breathe and acknowledge doubts and fears. Tell the Lord why you struggle.

3. Do you struggle with knowing the truth versus living the truth?

Breathe and acknowledge doubts and fears. Ask God for grace to help live the truth.

4. Do you shy away when others think Christian beliefs are foolish?

Don't shy away now, God knows your answer but there is no condemnation.

5. Take as long as you need with these closing prompts:

Trust the Holy Spirit to capture any thoughts of doubt you have right now.

Move away from any thoughts of doubt.

Move away from any thoughts of fear and lostness.

Center yourself in God's grace surrounding you.

* * *

Remember that Jesus prayed for Peter's faith not to fail. Jesus is still interceding for us!

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 21:31-32

First Baptist, stay faithful to loving God and obedient to God's Word. Keep growing in godly love for one another always holding high Christ's Good News and The Cross!

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

I Corinthians 1:18

Peace to you

Pastor Catherine



“Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

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.

September sessions will be on **Thursday, September 4th and 18th.**

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: Sept 4, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Sept 18, 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-7ztmZbgqdcnOzMdRNnRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9PyI3PKEydXFVak.1-7ztmZbgqdcnOzMdRNnRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT)

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/k1OBxoEcM>

August Worship Services



August 3rd Coffee Hour



* * * * *



Westwood Clergy Ecumenical summer
worship service
at First Parish Church of Westwood
August 17, 2025

Westwood's Participating Houses of Worship:

FBC Westwood – Rev. Catherine M. Miller

First Parish Church – Rev. J.T. Hills

St. John's Episcopal Church – Rev. V. Michael Bousquet

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August 24th worship service



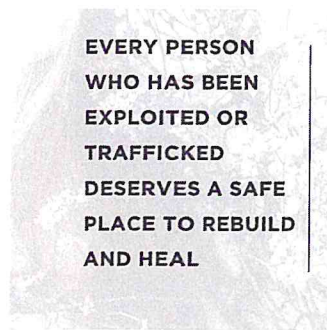
Pastor Catherine



Marcy



Jim P (Tech team)



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.

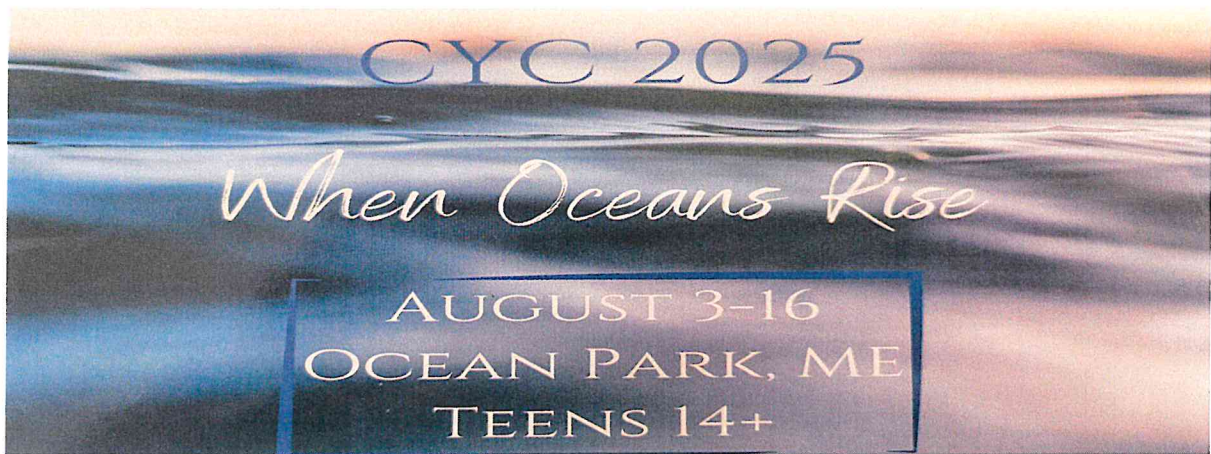
Since Spring 2024, our congregation and mission team have given generously in support of Amirah's nationwide fundraiser, ***Move For Amirah***, which is held annually in June. On Hope Sunday we will present Amirah, Inc. with a check representing our 2025 ***Move For Amirah*** donation.

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!

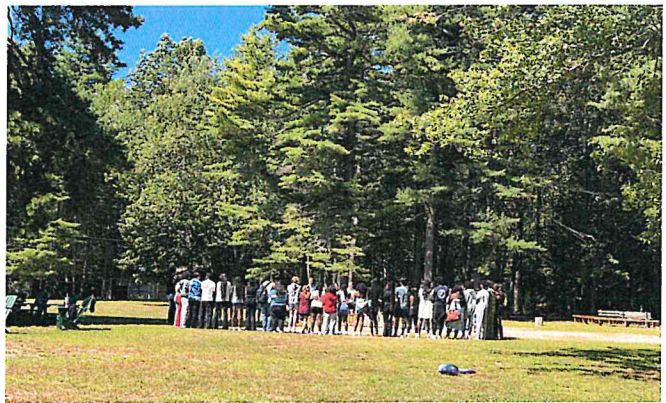
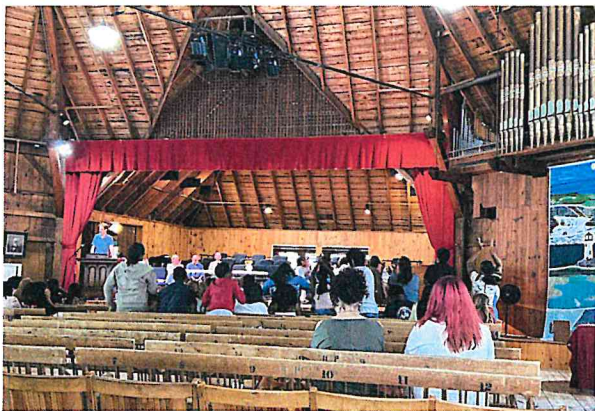
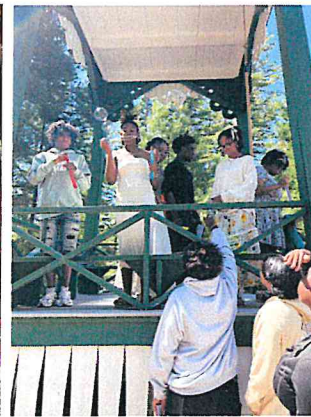
'Hope Sunday' will be encouraging and educational.

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



Christian Youth Conference (C.Y.C.) – Oceanwood, Ocean Park ME



Thank you to Ken Shaw for these photos



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):

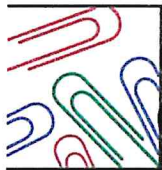
For meetings with the Pastor
please

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

Beginning September 2nd:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Donna can be reached
by calling

781-461-1730 or

by emailing

office@fbcwestwood.org



The Pastor Will Be Away

Pastor Catherine will be off the
following dates:

Wed., Sept. 3rd & Thurs., Sept. 4th
and

Sunday, September 7th



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.



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



September 7th –
Guest
Preacher,
Dr. Quonekuia
Day

We welcome back Dr. Day, who was our guest preacher on Mothers' Day this past May.

She is Assistant Professor of Old Testament and teacher of the Latino & Global Ministries program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She serves on the board for the *Society of Gospel Haymanot* (SGH).

Dr. Day is an ordained minister with the Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn. She has over twenty-five years of ministry experience as a teacher, counselor, and outreach/formation minister. She serves as the director of ministerial care and development at Deliverance Temple Worship Center in Dorchester, MA.



**Choir
Rehearsal**

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Music room, beginning on September 8th.



**Crafters'
Group**

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.



Shirley Munroe

Saturday, September 13th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Visitation

Folsom Funeral Home, Westwood
649 High Street, Westwood
Funeral service and Interment will
be private



Join us on
September 14th
at 10:00 a.m.

Our Chancel Choir will be performing and there will be a Coffee Hour following worship.

We trust you had a good Summer break and look forward to everyone worshipping together again this Fall!



October
"Message"

Material for next month's newsletter is due to Donna in the church office by Wednesday, September 17th

(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,
September 14th.*



Saturday, September 20th

Additional volunteers are needed to help staff our booth.

***Come join the fun,
and help spread the word
about FBC!***

Contact Wendy Lewis (iring4h@comcast.net) or the church office (office@fbcwestwood.org) if you are interested in volunteering (can be for an hour or more) at the booth.

A CORI form must be completed by all volunteers and they are available in the church office and the bulletin board in the Reception room.

Westwood Day is held at Westwood High School's parking lot on Nahatan Street from 10am- 3pm, rain or shine.



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

September 16th
7:00pm





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.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a great time to enjoy catching up with others and having some goodies, too, following morning worship.

Join us in September as we will be back to holding Coffee Hour each Sunday following 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 September, and October 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.



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

Attic Treasure donations



Have you been doing some "spring cleaning" this summer? Are you looking for a place to donate items? We are 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*



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of **Shirley Munroe**. Shirley passed away on August 14th.

Shirley and her family were long-time members of FBC Westwood.

Both Shirley and her late husband, Herb, were very active members of FBC Westwood, along with their 5 children.

Through her many years, Shirley was on the Board of Christian Ed, the Board of Deacons, the Crafters' Guild, the Flower Committee, and a member of the Dorcas Society. She taught Sunday School, facilitated the Women's Bible Study, volunteered with "Kids in the Kitchen" middle school outreach program, Vacation Bible School, and at our church's Holly Fair. She and Herb were members of the Couples Club.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m. at Folsom Funeral Home. The funeral service and interment will be private.

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



Dear Church family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers sent to me while I was in Rehabilitation. It certainly brightened up my days.

Your cards, calls and prayers were very much appreciated and a source of comfort. How blessed to be a member of a loving caring church family.

Blessings,
Kenneth Shaw



9/2	Mark Randlett
9/6	S. Gail Weatherhead
9/11	Steven Barner
9/17	Mikayla Metcalf and Yves Urio
9/19	Vickie DeVoy
9/24	Evan Folsom
9/26	Darren Valentine
9/30	Jean (Mellen) Sinko



9/1	Austin (Bill) & Kim Poirier
9/12	Brad & Jan Randlett
9/21	Phil & Jan Shepperson