



Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
 PO Box 2415 ~ Framingham, MA 01703-2415
 The Rev. Jason R. Rutherford, Pastor
 508-872-1176
firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistframingham.com

From the Pastor



Isaiah, chapter 11 begins, *“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”* I want to take a few moments to allow these words of Isaiah to sink in. Full of symbolism and quite apropos for this time of year, a shoot, or a young branch of new growth, became the hope of the world. After generations of promises, broken promises, wars, infidelity, redemption, and idolatry, a young branch, a thread of hope, was born and became one of us. I am speaking, of course, of Jesus.

Imagine for a moment reading scripture and thinking of your life from a new perspective. Imagine seeing, not through your own understanding, but through the understanding of one who sees the whole world. Imagine seeing the diversity of people, species, color, health, wealth, opportunity, pain, and confusion and wanting to bring relief and salvation to all creation. Imagine our Lord, our Creator who can see and provide a Savior, doing this on our very behalf. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit looking into the world and willing to do something – anything – to help the dire situation. I believe in sincerity we each desire to be a part of this reconciliation. Even as the struggles within the world are looming and large, we can be ready to receive inspiration and guidance and be a part of serving a starving world.

As people of faith, we know ups and downs, joys and sorrows. This is not inconsistent with the world at large. The joys remind us that life is good, and our sorrows will serve to ground us in empathy for one another. We are the Body of Jesus Christ, and as part of this Body, also a part of the hope for the world. As we approach our congregational life, we can and should do so with joy. We can and should do so in gratitude, remembering the mercy of God in our own lives. We can and should do so willingly, remembering the Spirit of God is ready and willing to bring relief and salvation to the whole world. And finally, we can and should do so without grumbling and keeping score, remembering we are all in dire need of the salvation Jesus brings to the world. I encourage you then to imagine your life as a recipient of the fullness of God’s grace, and respond with enthusiasm to the grace of the Lord.

Currently, there are opportunities for service to one another through our church and community. Also, there are opportunities for deepening our spiritual senses through worship and Bible Studies together. As the pandemic is prayerfully waning, we are hoping to increase times of fellowship and gatherings as we had before. Our weekly worship is one of my highest moments all week, and I encourage us all to embrace this holy time together. Consider what your spiritual offering will be to your God and your church family and prepare to step forward today as a minister in gratitude to our Lord. And remember, the heart of God is to meet people where they are, care, and respond to the needs of all people.

Jason

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Communications Committee	2	3	4	5 6:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 10:30 am Worship	9	10	11	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:30 am Worship	16	17 7:00 pm A&F	18 7:00 pm Executive Council	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:30 am Worship	23	24	25	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship	30 Memorial Day	7:00 pm Deacons				

Notes: AA meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon in Reilly Hall

Hope Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays, 3–7 p.m.

All calendar entries are subject to change

May Birthdays



1	Christine Brown	11	Brian Halbert
1	Judith Richardson	13	Xavier Allen
3	Catherine Lewis	13	Gabriel Erguiza
4	Anne Cerutti	14	Jim Wakeman, Jr.
4	John Moore	15	Vinton Allen
4	Evan Harris	18	Frances Carr
6	Joan Reilly	20	Kim Philipp
6	Chris Monaco	25	Adele Williams
8	Francesca Cerutti-Harris	28	Janie Harris
10	Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit		

Last month's birthday list omitted Jeffrey Harrington on April 29.

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Through March, the special offering for Ukraine total was \$770.
- Four people have expressed interest in church membership and will meet with the Deacons.
- A bequest from Bob and Dotty Phillips is expected soon.
- There are still many openings to serve in church leadership. Diane Halbert (Chair of the Nominating Committee) will be working on filling these positions. All open positions require full membership:
 - o Board of A&F – 1 opening
 - o Board of Deacons/Ministry – 1 opening
 - o Board of Missions – 2 openings
 - o Executive Council At-Large Member – 1 opening
 - o TABCOM Delegate – 1 opening
- Fellowship Time has returned. Volunteers are still needed to set up, clean up and provide food. Please sign up in Reilly Hall.
- Linda Devine, Al Harrington, and Diane Halbert with Pastor Jason ex-officio will be reviewing the church bylaws (for simplifications, contradictions). If you would like to help with this process or have suggestions, please see any member of the committee.
- We will be painting the exterior of our Cherry Road property.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Lecia Schronce, Naomi Stanley, and Pastor Jason.

Church Notes

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Marilyn Medler**, who died on April 16. She devoted a large portion of the past 20 years to serving God and others at First Baptist Church. As a Deacon, she was always a pleasant and well-organized presence, ensuring that the board and the church worked to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. She faithfully readied the sanctuary for worship every Sunday and prepared Communion every month. A lover of gardens and flowers, Marilyn also coordinated supplying the Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies that adorned the sanctuary for the holidays, and she often provided flower arrangements the rest of the year. Many people in the congregation received thoughtful birthday cards from her. We will miss Marilyn.

We send sympathies to Akosua Badoo and her family on the passing of her father in Ghana on April 8.



Fellowship Time Update

Thanks to all who have volunteered for coffee time so far! We still need more volunteers to set up the coffee and provide the goodies. Please see the sign-up sheets in Reilly Hall and pick a way to volunteer. Each week, there are opportunities to:

- **Set up the coffee**
- **Provide baked goods**
- **Provide fruit**
- **Provide cheese and crackers**
- **Clean up**



We can continue to enjoy fellowship time *only* with your help!



Family Promise 2022 Walk to End Homelessness

The big fundraiser for Family Promise is coming up May 13-15. You can help this program that First Baptist is passionate about supporting by walking, financially backing a walker, or making a donation. Feel free to choose your day and destination to walk and then enjoy a celebration on Sunday, May 15, at TJX headquarters in Framingham with food, fun, and entertainment. According to Family Promise:

The Walk to End Homelessness is our largest fundraiser of the year, fueling our mission to transform the lives of families with children facing homelessness across the Metrowest region. This 13th annual walk will feature independent walks throughout surrounding towns with your friends and family. Choose your own walk route and raise awareness and funds for families in need. **Walk 10 minutes or 10 miles; it's up to you!**

To register for the walk or to find more information on the organization and ways you can support this event, visit FamilyPromiseMetrowest.org.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



Framingham Repair Café

Framingham's next Repair Cafe will take place on Saturday, May 14, 10am to 1pm (rain date: May 21) in the courtyard of First Parish in Framingham at 24 Vernon St.

If you have something that needs fixing or mending, take it to the Repair Café. Volunteers can help fix many items *free*, including clothing, lamps, small appliances, computers and other electronics, bikes, batteries, toys, jewelry, and sewing machines. The cafe will also have a station for sharpening knives, scissors and garden tools.

If you know what parts are needed, please get them ahead of time.

The Repair Café also is looking for more handy volunteers. Please sign up at [tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer](https://www.tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer) or call/text Alex at 508-379-3971 if you can help!

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2517516778380549>