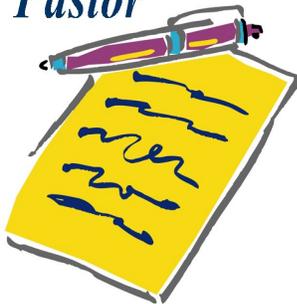


Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
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From the Pastor



Holy Scripture is a source for both guidance and amazement in our life and our worship. The Psalms, or songs, are prayers and readings that may illuminate our souls to dance, enable our eyes to see, and encourage us in our spiritual journey to the house of God. Psalm 84 is one example of a Psalm that has significance for us and is meaningful in our life and worship. Psalm 84 is believed to be a liturgical account of the annual pilgrimage to the temple at Jerusalem. Early worshipers of God would unite each autumn for a fall harvest festival and worship. The journey to the house of God would have been a holy experience, uniting people as they prepared to worship their God during this thanksgiving harvest dedicated to remembering the deliverance of their God. “How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my

heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of thirst, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.” (Psalm 84:1-2, 5-6)

Centuries later, we still journey to the house of the Lord as we seek to worship the one, true God. Today, as before, we journey together, full of hope, anticipating something truly miraculous. In the ancient world, pilgrims may have feared drought, robbery, illness, or any number of obstacles on their journey to the House of God, but nevertheless, they persevered because their life, and the fullness of it, depended on their arriving together to worship and celebrate. As we approach the House of God today, we too might be deterred along the journey. We suffer from natural disasters, illness, war, and at times personal ambivalence. These do not have to be permanent obstacles. **When we believe, whole-heartedly, that our life depends totally on uniting with our Holy, Creator God, we will become encouraged and skilled at overcoming any obstacle that might otherwise deter us from worship.**

Furthermore, we do not journey alone. Although it is profoundly painful to see the havoc in people’s lives that storms, political upheaval, and spiritual desolation can bring, we are also faced with an opportunity to help one another. **We are faced with opportunities to lend our hand, our heart, and our willingness that no person be left in the valley of thirst and desolation, but rather be lifted up and strengthened so that he or she might also have opportunity to give thanks and adoration in the House of the Lord.** My encouragement to each of us is that we remember the many deliverances of God in our life and community, that these remembrances foster a spirit of gratitude, and that the gratitude we share inspires us to minister in the lives of another.

Jason

Special Summer Sunday School Sessions

Children in elementary school will enjoy Summer Sunday School on July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21. Following the children's time in the service, at about 10:45 a.m., they will go downstairs for songs and animated video based on the Bible.

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 am Worship	4 Happy 4 th of July 	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	11	12	13 7:00 pm Bylaws Comm.	14	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 am Worship						

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.



July Birthdays

2	Matthew Moore	27	Willow Wilder
5	Ahlea Tucker	28	Edward Zeman
9	Samantha Poole	29	Patti Devine
22	Sarah Wilder	29	Tom Swan
24	Tom Stefanini	31	Diane Halbert

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm <i>Deacons</i>	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship	15	16 7:00 pm A&F	17 7:00 pm Exec. Council	18	19	20
21 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship	29	30 7:00 pm <i>Deacons</i>	31			

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

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August Birthdays



6 Daniel Rutherford	18 Jillian Kelley
7 June Cooper	19 Jim Wakeman, Sr.
8 Dara Badoo	20 Erika Velazco
8 Joe Borghetti	21 Ryan Watton
10 Annabelle Rutherford	23 Tami Beth Long
10 Izabella Ishagara	27 Amanda Sonnenberg
11 Chestine Kate Azurin	30 Frank Schneider
12 Catherine Paiva	31 Coleen Allen
17 Robert Hyslop	

Online Worship

If you cannot attend worship in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, you can always join online by going to the church website (<http://www.firstbaptistframingham.org>) and clicking the ONLINE WORSHIP button. Enter the password shown under that button, and you can be part of the service every week.

Also, if the weather is severe (blizzards, hurricanes, etc.), the Pastor and the Deacons may cancel a Sunday service. Check the church website or Channel 5 for an announcement.

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- The special offering for Family Promise shelter totaled \$595
- Anyone with photos from Children's Sunday should forward them to Jay Reilly for the website
- Flower committee members are needed, as is someone to work on or help oversee the Memorial Garden
- Linda Devine, Al Harrington, Diane Halbert, and Ray Zeman with Pastor Jason ex officio are reviewing the church bylaws. If you have thoughts on this process or the contents, please talk with one of the committee members.
- The Board of A&F and the Executive Council will not meet in July
- There are still opportunities to serve in church leadership. Diane Halbert (Chair of the Nominating Committee) is working on filling the following board positions, which require full membership:
 - ◊ Administration and Finance – 1 opening
 - ◊ Deacons/Ministry – 1 opening
 - ◊ Missions – 2 openings

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Lecia Schronce, Naomi Stanley, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Jason. Other church members are invited to attend Council and Board meetings as observers.

Christian Youth Conference in Maine

Our teens at First Baptist Church in Framingham have an amazing opportunity to enjoy unique summer learning experiences August 6-20. The Christian Youth Conference (CYC) (<https://cycop.org>) takes place at Oceanwood, a camping and conferencing facility on the beautiful coast of Ocean Park, Maine. The two-week conference helps senior-high youth face the challenges of high school and young adulthood in today's society. Much more than a typical summer camp, it is a journey shared by the men of Camp Judson and the women of Camp Hasseltine, forming a solid foundation for campers. Participants have fun and build their faith together through a wide variety of activities, including sports, vespers, campfires, devotions, beach time, community service, field trips, and free time.



CYC also is looking for volunteers (age 17+) to enroll in a staff training program to help teens draw closer to God and develop long-lasting connections while working in a loving, supportive, Christian environment. (This experience looks good on college applications and resumes!) Young adults 20+ may apply for Senior Counselor positions to lead a cabin of 8-12 teenagers and mentor someone in the training program. To learn more, email chair@cycop.org by July 10.



Gardens and Flowers

The flower committee is looking for more people who want to provide flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings and who enjoy playing in the dirt. If you have some time to pull weeds from our Memorial Garden, just go for it!

And if you want to donate flowers to beautify the church for worship, please talk to Naomi in church or reach her at naomi.stanley@comcast.net or 508.963.7715.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

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