



# Baptist Notes

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



The “way to God” and the “truth of God” are subjects spanning many cultures, beliefs, and practices throughout documented human history. There are too many to count on one page; however, in Christian tradition and practice, our congregation has become a voice in the Framingham community of what we say it means to know and experience God through faith. In cooperation with the guidance of scripture, Holy Spirit, and church tradition and in encouraging one another, we strive to find our way to the salvation of God in our lives. One of the most striking lessons that Jesus taught and demonstrated is that when we welcome one another, we are quite literally welcoming God. The wealthy, the poor, the sick, the healthy, the powerful, the powerless, the popular, the outcasts, the young children, the old graybeards, and many more — Jesus demonstrated that when we welcome one another, we welcome God.

Jesus promised a Holy Spirit, a helper to guide our hearts after the resurrection. The Holy Spirit works mysteriously, nurturing our hearts to take the opportunities God makes available to us as we minister and mature in faith. Also, our Church tradition is a helpful guide and teacher, demonstrating for us ways to apply the teaching and guidance of God to minister in the world we are entrusted to serve and protect. One day, Jesus heard the disciples talking about which among them was the greatest. He picked up the teachable moment, placed a child among them, and said, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. The word last, *esxatos* in the Greek, means lowest, final, and uttermost. In short, to follow Jesus is to embrace all people.

As we encourage one another, we open our hearts to embrace all people, and this may be our tallest order as Christians. There are those in our lives who will be our greatest challenge, and it is these very people who will bring us to our knees and consequently bring us to God. As we embrace them in our lives, so we embrace God. As we welcome the people along our way, so we welcome God.

The holidays are upon us, and this is a time when the world around us becomes more mindful of charity and the needs of others. Although as a congregation, we extend this all year, we too increase our reach to the community around us. In the coming weeks, our church leadership will be organizing additional ways to give to our community and larger world. Please be in a state of mind and heart to know these invitations are coming and ready to respond.

*Jason*

## November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	3	4 <i>2:00 pm Stillman Meeting</i>
5 <i>10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>
12 <i>10:30 am Worship Stewardship 11:30 am Comm mtg</i>	13	14 <i>7:00 pm A&amp;F</i>	15 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i>	16 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	17	18
19 <b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> <i>10:30 am Worship Stewardship Ingathering</i>	20	21	22	23 <b>Thanksgiving</b>	24	25
26 <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	27	28 <i>7:00 pm Deacons</i>	29	30 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>		

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.*

### November Birthdays

10 Marcus Vaz	19 Reshima Samuel
11 Ernesto Velazco	23 Olivia Zeman
14 Catherine Tucker	27 Zoey Zeman
18 Ivette Badoo	



### Church Notes

Sympathy is extended to the Azurin family following the sudden and unexpected death of Cathy's mother, Maria Romin Bacon, in the Philippines.

## Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- First-floor heating system upgrade is complete. We should expect reliability but not necessarily increased heat. Baptismal tank has been partially filled and maintained a 98° temperature.
- Akosua Badoo will lead the Stewardship Campaign:
  - ◊ Focus on giving, not on budget
  - ◊ Initial letter to go out on November 6 (pledge card included)
  - ◊ Presentations on November 12 and 19
  - ◊ Pledge cards due back on December 3
- Family Promise director is rescheduled to speak on December 3.
- Nominating Chair Diane Halbert will be contacting church members to serve on boards and committees.
- Thanksgiving offering will go to A Place to Turn.
- Pastor Jason will be contacting people about restarting a weeknight Bible study.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Lecia Shronce, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Jason.

Other church members are invited to attend Council and Board meetings as observers.

## Your Church Needs You



The First Baptist Church in Framingham has been operating continuously since 1826 because of the dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talents, and energy. As in the nearly 200 years past, FBC needs people to serve on the various boards and committees that help our church to function and serve our community.

Would you consider working with the Board of Deacons/Ministry, Board of Administration & Finance, or Board of Missions? For more information about these boards, you may refer to descriptions in the church bylaws posted on the website. You also may speak with Nominating Chair Diane Halbert or the board chairpersons: Jay Reilly of Deacons/Ministry, Al Harrington of Administration & Finance, or Francesca Cerutti-Harris and Lecia Shronce of Missions.

If you cannot commit to a board position at this time, please consider volunteering on our Ushering and/or Flower Committees. We also need someone to represent our congregation at the TABCOM (The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts) meetings.

I am happy to talk with you about your choices for 2024. Thank you for prayerfully considering all the ways you can be an active and vital part of First Baptist Church.

Diane Halbert, Nominating Chair

## Thanksgiving at First Baptist and Around Town

Every year at Thanksgiving time, we remember to appreciate our bounty, and we share with those who are not as fortunate.

On Sunday, November 19, you will be able to add to a Thanksgiving Cornucopia on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Please bring some nonperishable items such as canned and boxed foods or produce that lasts a while, like apples, oranges, fruit cups, and winter squash. We will take the donations to A Place to Turn food pantry in Natick to ensure that the people it serves enjoy bountiful dinners at Thanksgiving and beyond.



To make an even bigger difference on the November holiday, we will use the Thanksgiving offering collected on November 19 to help with local food insecurity by sending the funds to A Place to Turn. Thank you for giving generously.

## Poinsettias to Brighten the Sanctuary

We will again decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season with poinsettias. Although it is not yet time for you to place your order, we need to tell the provider the number of plants we want by November 30. Please let Naomi Stanley ([naomi.stanley@comcast.net](mailto:naomi.stanley@comcast.net)) know how many plants you would like to order before then. Order forms will be available on December 1 and due by December 17 with cash or a check. The cost per plant will likely be between \$15 and \$17.

## Giving Tree Project



The Executive Council is working with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) again this year to provide Christmas gifts for 10 foster children! Each child will receive three gifts: one clothing gift and two non-clothing gifts. There are clothing sizes and non-clothing suggestions for each child for each gift. Three labels per child will be on a small Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. You may select one or more labels and may take all three for the same child if you so desire. Please return your UNWRAPPED gift(s) with the gift tag(s) attached on or before Sunday, December 10.

Thank you for your help in bringing joy to foster children this year!

## Family Promise Metrowest Gala and Online Auction

It's almost time to celebrate Family Promise ([www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org)), the wonderful organization that First Baptist supports on a regular basis, at its 10th annual *Keeping the Promise* gala. Auction prizes include tickets to games by your favorite teams (Red Sox, WooSox, Patriots, and Celtics), weekend getaways, restaurant gift cards, jewelry, skating and golf passes, auto care, go-kart racing, concert tickets, spa treatments, bird houses, and specialty baskets. Check the site for even more options. Please plan to attend the gala or visit the website to bid on fabulous prizes as you are able.

# Family Promise Metrowest's 2023 Keeping the Promise Gala



**Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:30pm**  
**Framingham Country Club**

**Join us for an unforgettable night of giving! Our online auction is your chance to score some truly incredible items. From luxury getaways, fabulous restaurants and court side sports tickets to one-of-a-kind experiences, we've got something for everyone. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference and win big!**



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