

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
 PO Box 2415 ~ Framingham, MA 01703-2415
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From the Pastor



For people of faith, gathering to worship is central to our faith. This was also true in the ancient world, and much of our scripture centered on the experience of individuals and congregations as they found their way to Holy Places to worship and celebrate their faith.

Psalm 84 is believed to be a liturgical account of the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Early worshippers 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. “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 (Holy City). 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)

Quite literally, people found hope for their lives as they gathered for worship. Centuries later, we still journey to the house of the Lord, uniting to worship the one, true God. Today, as before, we gather as hope-filled congregants, anticipating something truly miraculous. In the ancient world, pilgrims may have feared drought, robbery, illness, or any number of outward obstacles on their journey to the House of God. Still, they persevered because their lives, and the fullness of them, depended on their arriving together to worship. As we approach the House of God today, we too might be deterred along the journey. Certainly, we suffer from outward causes such as natural disasters, illness, and war as well as inward obstacles such as fatigue or personal ambivalence. These do not have to be permanent obstacles. When we believe, whole-heartedly, that the fulfillment of our lives depends on uniting with Holy and Creator God, we will become encouraged and skilled at overcoming any obstacle that might otherwise deter us from worship.

My prayer is that we see each week as an opportunity to gather in a spirit of hope and spiritual growth together. My hope is that we see our weekly worship as a gift from God, uniting our diverse lives as one family of faith, leading us to bless one another and the world in ministry and service. My ambition is to bring spiritual insights and encouragement to our services that will focus our lives on what is Holy and of highest priority in our lives. In sharing this blessing together, we will see God, renewed and blessed.

Jason

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			.		1	2
3 <i>10:00 am Worship</i>	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 <i>6:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	8	9
10 Rally Day <i>10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck, games, ice cream</i>	11	12	13	14 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	15	16
17 <i>10:30 am Worship Family Promise Baby Dedication</i>	18	19 <i>7:00 pm A&F</i>	20 <i>7:00 pm Execu- tive Council</i>	21 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	22	23
24 <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	25	26 <i>7:00 pm Deacons</i>	27	28 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	29	30

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.

Worship Time Change

On Rally Day, September 10, start time for worship will go back to 10:30 a.m.



September Birthdays

6 Jon Harris
13 Kathie Zeman

19 Brianna Ndzi
22 Jessica Rose Leblanc

Rally Day - Sunday, September 10

Join us for a fun-filled day as we gather together again following our summer vacation.

Sunday School resumes.

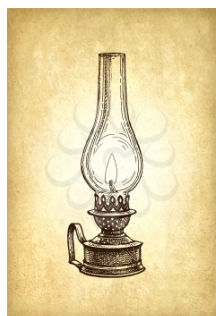
After worship, we will enjoy a potluck lunch in Reilly Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Ice cream will be provided.

Following lunch, the church green will be the home of a variety of games, including Corn Hole and an Egg Toss. Find a partner and we'll see how far you can toss the egg before the "yolks" on you!!



Family Promise Speaker

Danielle Conti, Executive Director of Family Promise Metrowest, will be our guest in the pulpit on September 17 to update us on our partner ministry. The stated mission of Family Promise is to transform the lives of families with children who are facing homelessness by mobilizing a diverse community to provide shelter, education, and comprehensive support. It serves low- and moderate-income local families with at least one child under the age of 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As leader of the organization, Danielle, along with the staff at Family Promise, is committed to working to improve the quality of life for those in need. First Baptist Church is a supporting congregation.



Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.*

Church Notes

Congratulations to Wilson and Belta Ndzi on the birth of Betina Nyah-Wirnyu Ndzi on August 13. Siblings Betsey, Brianna, and Brielle welcome their baby sister.

We celebrated the baptisms (in a swimming pool) of Jubilee Rutherford, Judy Llewellyn, and Scott Llewellyn on August 27.



Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Account balances are doing OK — endowments have helped.
- An AA person will fix the front door.
- Deacons fund balance is \$2,738.36. Deacons will buy more grocery cards to distribute.
- Baptism of Scott Llewellyn, Judy Llewellyn, and Jubilee Rutherford is scheduled for Sunday, August 27, weather permitting.
- Baby dedication for Coraline Dorrough, daughter of Jen Swain Dorrough and Nick Dorrough, will take place during worship on September 17.
- Worship time returns to 10:30 a.m. on September 10, Rally Day.
- Jason will ask the Family Promise Director to speak during an upcoming service.
- The World Mission Offering will be collected October 8, 15, 22, and 29.
- We have had five clients “shopping” at the Baptist Boutique.
- Thank-you notes received for checks sent last quarter are posted on the bulletin board in Reilly Hall.
- We need a new chairperson for the Communications Committee starting next year.
- Pastoral Relations Committee will meet in September.
- Work on obtaining an AED and updating the Church Directory is ongoing.

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.

Church Directory Update

Many thanks to the members and friends of First Baptist Church in Framingham who already provided information for a new directory. Even if you are listed in the last directory, please supply the information requested below. (Additional lines are for other members of the household.)

The deadline has been changed to Sunday, **September 17**.

You may respond in the way that works best for you:

- Drop your completed form in the offering plate or give it to Naomi in church
- Email the information to the church office at firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com
- Send the completed form to the church at P.O. Box 2415 Framingham, MA 01703-2415
- Leave the information in a voicemail on the church phone: 508-872-1176

Please contact Naomi Stanley or the church office if you have any questions. We look forward to including you!

First and Last Name	Member (Yes/No)	Birthday (Month, Day)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Street _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		
Email _____ Email _____		
Phone # (home) _____ (cell) _____ (work) _____		
Phone # (home) _____ (cell) _____ (work) _____		

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