

# Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham  
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## From Your Temporary Shepherd



*“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”*

I agree with M.L. Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*, in this sentiment about the fall season. On the way to Framingham, I see more color every day emerging on the trees. As I drive east on the Pike, there’s a hill shortly before the Palmer exit that will soon be bursting forth with glorious color. I feel blessed to live in this part of the country, where “leaf peepers” come from miles around to enjoy the foliage.

Fall brings with it a new season, in the church and in our lives. Harvest time brings an abundance of food in our gardens and local markets. The cooler weather has us wondering where our winter clothes are and raises concerns (for homeowners) about getting the furnace checked, planning for insulation, and eventually stockpiling ice melt and other winter supplies.

These concerns lead me to ask similar questions in the church — not so much about the building, as I know A&F members have those issues under control. But what about other questions: Are we using all of the resources available to us, in terms of the gifts that the members bring to this community? Are we being intentional about raising children in the faith, even if we’re not Sunday School teachers? Are we adequately reaching out to those outside the church who are in need? Are we faithful about inviting others to be a part of this congregation? Are we remembering to live in the Spirit throughout each day?

These questions and others are on my mind as we turn a page into a new season and a new church year. As others are looking at this church, including potential pastors and future members, it is important that we be at our best, to the ability that God gives us. There is a pastor out there just waiting for God, and the search committee, to call them here. As an interim pastor, I always have this on my mind. And in my prayers.

The invitation to join us in worship — and to invite others — is always there. Everyone is graciously welcome!

Blessings abundant in this glorious season!

*Pastor Jerrie*

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney  
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## October 2024

| Sun  | Mon | Tue                               | Wed                              | Thu   | Fri | Sat  |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----|--|
|  |     | 1<br>7:00 pm<br><i>Deacons</i>    | 2<br>7:00 Bible<br><i>Study</i>  | 3<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                   | 4   | 5  |
| 6<br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i><br>11:30 <i>Potluck Lunch</i> | 7   | 8<br>7:00 pm <i>Exec. Council</i> | 9<br>7:00 Bible<br><i>Study</i>  | 10<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                  | 11  | 12   |
| 13<br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i><br><i>OGHS Offering</i>      | 14  | 15<br>7:00 pm <i>A&amp;F</i>      | 16<br>7:00 Bible<br><i>Study</i> | 17<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                  | 18  | 19   |
| 20<br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i><br><i>OGHS Offering</i>      | 21  | 22                                | 23<br>7:00 Bible<br><i>Study</i> | 24<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                  | 25  | 26<br>8:00 am<br><i>MissionWorks in Lowell</i> |
| 27<br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i><br><i>OGHS Offering</i>      | 28  | 29<br>7:00 pm<br><i>Deacons</i>   | 30                               | 31 <b>Halloween</b><br>7:00 Choir<br><i>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.*

### October Birthdays



- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Emylee Poole          | 18 Kelly Rutherford |
| 6 Sarah Russo           | 20 Gregory Zeman    |
| 11 Cayden Kyle Azurin   | 21 Connor Reilly    |
| 11 Ernesto Velazco      | 22 Tawanna Lewis    |
| 14 Bridget Blake-Mboowa | 27 Arianna Lewis    |
| 15 Karen Reilly         | 31 Daniel Stearns   |
| 17 Steve Robinson       |                     |

### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in October



On October 13, 20, and 27, we will be collecting the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering during worship. One Great Hour of Sharing supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA and provides emergency relief and funds for the development projects that address chronic needs. Please give as generously as you are able.

## **Executive Council News**

Executive Council met via Zoom on September 10. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- The tenant at Cherry Road (parsonage) has left.
- Church cleanup day is not scheduled yet. A list of projects will be out soon.
- More volunteers are needed to run the audiovisual equipment for Sunday morning services. Contact Francesca Cerutti-Harris or Henry Mboowa to volunteer to help.
- Deacons will be reviewing Shepherd Lists at their next meeting.
- We will be making a donation of some items in the Balcony Boutique to the FSU Business Readiness program.
- Al Harrington will deliver items in the Food Cart to a local pantry. Everyone is encouraged to donate.
- Dave and Diane Newcomb are collecting can tabs for the Shriners. We will put out a collection receptacle and advertise the project.
- The Pastoral Search Committee will be distributing a survey/questionnaire to members and regular attendees for their input regarding the selection of our next pastor.
- Pastor Jerrie will be spending more time in Framingham (Wednesday night and Thursday).
- Pastor Jerrie would like to include conversations as a part of worship. These would involve breaking into small groups and discussing questions about issues in Framingham, traits we are looking for in a new pastor, etc.
- World Communion Day is Sunday, October 6.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, October 8, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Lecia Shronce, Naomi Stanley, Judy Llewellyn, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Jerrie.

## **Pastoral Search Committee Update**

The Pastoral Search Committee has prepared a short survey you will receive in October. We are looking for your input as we prepare a profile of our church family and community to submit to American Baptist Churches (ABC). This profile will help them identify candidates who would be able to support and grow our church family and missions.

To find the best match, we need everyone's feedback. This means that all members of your family should complete a survey and let us know your preferences, future vision, and ways our next pastor can contribute to our spiritual growth as a church and as individuals. It is important for us to hear from all age groups. Once you receive the survey, please complete and return it in a timely manner. And as always, keep this interim time and our search in your prayers.

Jay Reilly (chair), Cathy Azurin, Judy Llewellyn, Ethel Luton-Campbell, Henry Mboowa, Wilson Ndzi, Ceil Robertson, Robert Rowe, Tom Stefanini

## Church Notes

Join Kate Russo (Sarah's daughter) at the Harmony & Hope Music Festival in Norfolk on Friday, October 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. for a free musical celebration. The event will be at the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Norfolk ([ebcnorfolk.org](http://ebcnorfolk.org)) at 63 Rockwood Road. A singer-songwriter and recording artist, Kate will share her music ministry and love of Jesus Christ along with her talented family. Also, the EBC Youth Ensemble will present jazz with a modern touch. "Come lift your voices and raise your hearts!"

## MissionWorks 2024

Crossing Boundaries: Intercultural Ministries in the Mission of God

MissionWorks, TABCOM's premier mission event, is happening on Saturday, October 26, at Calvary Baptist Church, 60 Hastings St. in Lowell. The event is filled with excellent speakers, inspiring worship, and a variety of workshops that will be of interest to us at First Baptist. For more info, visit the [TABCOM website](#) and sign up for \$50 before October 6 (and \$60 after that). This is always a rich experience, and it would be good to have a group from our church in attendance

## Habitat for Humanity Auction and Gala



The banner features the Habitat for Humanity logo on the left, celebrating 40 years of service. The central text reads "RAISE THE ROOF! Live Auction & Gala" with a house-shaped graphic above it. Below the graphic are three circular icons: a green house icon with "60" (HOMES BUILT), an orange house icon with "500" (PLAYHOUSES BUILT), and a yellow house icon with "50" (HOMES REPAIRED). A circular photo on the right shows a family of four standing in a doorway. The bottom text says "Raise the Roof on almost 40 years of building homes, communities, and hope!"

Celebrate 40 years of [Habitat for Humanity](#) at the

### **RAISE THE ROOF Live Auction & Gala**

Friday, November 1, 2024, at 5:30 PM

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA

Through our programs — Affordable Home Builds, Home Repair, and Operation Playhouse — we have helped over 600 local families and veterans while strengthening our wonderful communities! Through shelter, we empower.

**[Purchase](#) RAISE THE ROOF Auction and Gala Tickets Today!**



## Family Promise: A Night of Hope & Illusions

Join us on **Thursday, October 24**, at the **Verve in Natick** for our [Keeping the Promise](#) event, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Tickets are now on sale.

In 2023, Family Promise Metrowest served 110 families and 208 children, and we are on track to exceed those numbers in 2024. Your support is vital to ensure we can continue to provide services to families experiencing or facing homelessness in the Metrowest area.

## Community News

### *Framingham Farmers Market*

The Farmers Market on the Framingham Centre Common takes place on Thursdays from 3 to 6:30 p.m. until October 10. It includes a wide variety of fresh produce, community artisans, food trucks, and baked goods.

### *Framingham Library Costume Swap*





### *Volunteer Opportunities at the Callahan Senior Center*

The Callahan Center staff coordinates volunteer opportunities for Framingham's 55+ residents and younger people who would like to engage with people 55+. The program helps seniors by assisting them at home or at the Callahan Center with a variety of tasks like programs attendance; resident outreach; assistance using electronics; guidance on local resources available; help with yard work, sewing, crocheting, light gardening, and minor home repair projects; transportation; and translation of documents or information.



Please contact Roberta Ho at the Callahan Center for more information:



### *Free Narcan Kits and Training*

**FREE NALOXONE (NARCAN) KITS & TRAINING**

Starting August 13th, the Framingham Public Health Department will distribute FREE Naloxone kits and provide training.

 Location: 188 Concord Street  
When: Every Tuesday  
Time: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. 

**WHY CARRY NALOXONE?**

- Prevent Overdoses:** Naloxone can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives.
- Be Prepared:** Bystanders can take immediate action in emergencies.
- Protect Loved Ones:** Crucial for homes with opioid prescriptions, seniors, and youth.

**Naloxone can be the difference between life and death.**

Be aware. Be prepared.

Carry Naloxone and Save Lives.

**CONTACT**

Framingham Public Health Department

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Framingham's next Repair Cafe will be Sunday, October 6, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Scott Hall, 24 Vernon Street in Framingham.

Volunteers at the Repair Café help fix many items for *free*. They specialize in clean, mendable clothing; lamps; small appliances; computers and other electronics; bikes; batteries; toys; jewelry; and sewing machines. They also will have a station for sharpening knives, scissors, and garden tools. If you know what parts are needed for your job, you can save time by getting them in advance. Donations are accepted.

For more information, visit [TransitionFramingham.org/repair-café](http://TransitionFramingham.org/repair-café). To volunteer, go to [tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer) or call/text Alex at 508-379-3971. This event is an all-volunteer project of the Framingham Rotary Club with support from Transition Framingham.