

November 2024

# Baptist Notes

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



Greetings, everyone!

For the interim pastor's column this month, I share with you two things in this pumpkin season and as we look ahead to Thanksgiving. I came upon the first one, *Transformation*, a few years ago, and it remains a favorite. It may be familiar to you, but I've lost track of the source.

### TRANSFORMATION

**"Being a Christian is like becoming a Jack-O-Lantern. God picks you up from the pumpkin patch, takes you in and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up to a new life, touches you, scoops out all the 'yukky' stuff — seeds of doubt, hate, greed, and meanness. God then carves you a new face with a big, broad smile and puts his light inside you for all the world to see! So let your light shine before all people. And smile!"**

The second is from *Out of the Ordinary*, a Thanksgiving blessing from the beautiful words of Joyce Rupp, who is a sister of the Servite Order and the author of numerous books on spirituality and prayer. If you're not familiar with her works, I highly recommend them.

### A THANKSGIVING BLESSING

**"May an abundance of gratitude burst forth as you reflect on what you have received.**

**May thanksgiving overflow in your heart and often be proclaimed in your prayer.**

**May you gather around the table of your heart the ardent faithfulness, kindness, and goodness of each person who is true to you.**

**May the harvest of your good action bring forth plentiful fruit each day.**

**May you discover a cache of hidden wisdom among the people and events that have brought you distress and sorrow.**

**May your basket of blessings surprise you with its rich diversity of gifts and its opportunities for growth.**

**May all that nourishes and resources your life bring you daily satisfaction and renewed hope.**

**May you slow your hurried pace of life so you can be aware of, and enjoy, what you too easily take for granted.**

**May you always be open, willing, and ready to share your blessings with others.**

**May you never forget the Generous One, who loves you lavishly and unconditionally."**

This is my prayer and blessing for you, my friends, in this very special season.

Be well — be safe — be blessed,

*Pastor Jerrie*

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney  
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## November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>ABW Retreat in Westwood</i>
3 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck	4	5	6 7:00 pm Bible Study	7 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8	9 9 am–3 pm ABWM Mission Day
10 10:30 am Worship Stewardship Dedication	11	12 7:00 pm Exec. Council	13 7:00 pm Bible Study	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship Stewardship	18	19 7:00 pm A&F	20 7:00 pm Bible Study	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22	23
24 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:30 am Worship Ingathering	25	26 7:00 pm Deacons	27	28 Thanksgiving	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.

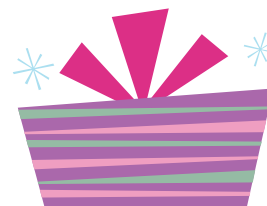
*All calendar entries are subject to change.*

**Daylight Saving Time ends November 3.**

**Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!**

### November Birthdays

2 Robby Rowe	19 Reshima Samuel
10 Marcus Vaz	22 Blake Thompson
11 Ernesto Velazco	23 Olivia Zeman
14 Catherine Tucker	24 Mary Ann Markman
17 Linda McKenzie	27 Zoey Zeman
18 Ivette Badoo	



### Stewardship Drive

The FBC annual Stewardship Campaign kicks off this year in the first full week of November. Please watch for a pledge commitment letter in your mailbox then. After you read your letter, take time to consider your financial support for The First Baptist Church in Framingham for the coming year. You also will see presentations during worship on November 10 and 17. Pledge commitments are due **December 1, 2024**.

## Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on October 8. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- The house on Cherry Road (parsonage) is expected to be rented as of 11/1/2024 on a one-year lease.
- Cleanup day is not scheduled yet, but a list of projects has been created and will be reviewed by A&F.
- A stewardship letter will go out the week of November 4, and presentations will be made in worship on November 10 and 17. Pledge cards will be due back on December 1.
- Visitor cards for the pews have been sent to the printer.
- The Thanksgiving Ingathering of nonperishable food items is scheduled for November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Donations will go to A Place to Turn.
- Pastoral Search Committee will distribute a survey/questionnaire to members and others for their input regarding the selection of our next pastor.
- We will sponsor 10 children at Christmas through the DCF Wonderfund again this year.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, November 12, 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.

## Church Notes

We wish God's blessing on Lorna Mailhoit as she moves away to be with family. Thank you, Lorna, for all you have done through our church and our community to make a difference in the lives of people who need and appreciate your kindness. We will miss you!

### Join the Choir for Advent and Christmas

Do you love to sing?  
Not sure about joining the choir?  
Not ready for a long-term commitment?

Then think about joining the choir as we prepare music for Advent and Christmas. Speak with our Director of Music, Sarah Russo, or any choir member to find out more — OR — just come to rehearsal. We meet on Thursday night at 7:00 in Reilly Hall.

Hope to see you there!!



## Pastoral Search Committee Update

Recently, the search committee emailed a survey asking for your input on the qualifications and background you'd like to see in our next pastor and on the qualities and activities you think are important at our church. **Please return your survey by Sunday, November 10.** The completed surveys will help us compile information that American Baptist Churches (ABC) in Valley Forge can use in selecting candidates who are possible matches for our church family.

Please *prayerfully* consider your answer to each question so that the committee can identify the pastor who will help us each grow spiritually, lead us in worship, and guide our church into the future. We would like to have *every* individual in your household, including any youth who can understand the questions, complete the survey.

You may complete the form using one of these three methods — whichever is easiest for you:

1. Fill it out on your computer (it will not work on your phone), SAVE when you are finished, and email it to [firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com) with the subject line "Pastoral Search Survey."
2. Print the form, answer the questions with a pen, and place your completed survey in one of the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or in Reilly Hall during fellowship time. You also may mail it to the church office.
3. Pick up a printed copy at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday and return your completed survey to one of the designated boxes.

The sooner you return the completed surveys, the sooner the search committee can move on to the next steps in the search. Remember that we need all input by **November 10**. If you have any questions, please speak with Jay Reilly in person, by phone (508-314-0669), or by email ([t\\_reilly3@verizon.net](mailto:t_reilly3@verizon.net)). Thank you!

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

## Thanksgiving at First Baptist Church and Around Town



Every year at Thanksgiving time, we remember to appreciate our bounty and share it with those who are not as fortunate. On Sunday, November 24, you will be able to add to a Thanksgiving Cornucopia at the front of the sanctuary. Please bring 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 collect a Thanksgiving offering on November 24 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 church sanctuary for Christmas with pretty poinsettias. Although it is not yet time for you to place your order, please be thinking about the number of plants you would like to purchase. We will have more information on the price per plant and deadline for ordering in the coming weeks.



## 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. More details to come later. Thank you for your help in bringing joy to foster children this year!

## ABWM Mission Day at Our Church

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of Massachusetts will be holding its annual Mission Day event at First Baptist Church in Framingham on Saturday, **November 9**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is so convenient for us that we hope to see many of our church's women and girls at the event. Cost for the day is \$30 for women and \$20 for girls.

If you would like to attend, please complete the form below and send it with a check made out to AB Women's Ministries of MA for the appropriate amount to Naomi Stanley, Treasurer, 258 Glen Meadow Rd., Franklin, MA 02038 by Sunday, **November 3**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if girl) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Community News

### *Veterans Recognition Dinner*

Celebrate our local veterans at a buffet dinner on Sunday, **November 10**, from 5 to 7 p.m. Catered by Ristorante Bella Costa, the dinner will be at Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Road in Framingham. Guest speaker will be Steve Scott of Team Rubicon, a veteran-led humanitarian organization that assists communities before, during, and after disasters and crises. To reserve a seat, RSVP to Rev. Dr. Debbie Clark at [debbie@openspiritcenter.org](mailto:debbie@openspiritcenter.org) or 508-877-2050 by **November 3**. Also contact her if you have questions about the celebration.



The event is sponsored by The Plymouth Church in Framingham, Edwards Church UCC Open Spirit Center, and Framingham Rotary Club. It also has received generous support from MutualOne Bank. Please join them in honoring our veterans.

### *Time to Vote*

Election day is almost here! If you are a Framingham voter and have not already cast a ballot, you may vote in person early on **November 1** at the Memorial Building from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or at the McAuliffe Library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Official voting day is Tuesday, **November 5**, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at your assigned location. Voters will consider their choice for the next president of the United States as well as several other officers and five ballot questions. Be sure to educate yourself on the candidates and issues before you cast your ballot.

### *Framingham Mayor's Newsletter*

Mayor Charlie Sisitsky sends a weekly newsletter about all the local happenings to subscribers. To receive the *City of Framingham Newsletter* in your email box every Sunday, sign up [here](#). You also may visit the city [website](http://www.framinghamma.gov) ([www.framinghamma.gov](http://www.framinghamma.gov)) to learn about local events, construction, recycling, and city job openings.



## THANKSGIVING QUIZ

Here are some hymns, Bible verses, and sayings on the theme of Thankfulness. Can you fill in the blanks? The list of fill-in words is on the bottom. Note that one of them is used twice.

1. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with \_\_\_\_\_." (Ps. 100:4)
2. "God is \_\_\_\_\_, God is good, and we thank Him for our food."
3. "Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of \_\_\_\_\_ home."
4. "Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and \_\_\_\_\_."
5. "Thanks be to God! He gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:57)
6. "My God I thank thee, who hast made the \_\_\_\_\_ so bright."
7. "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His \_\_\_\_\_." (I Ch. 16:8)
8. "Thanks to God for my \_\_\_\_\_, thanks to all thou dost provide."
9. "Be joyful always, pray constantly, give thanks in all \_\_\_\_\_." (I Thess. 5:16-18).
10. "He took bread, and gave thanks, and \_\_\_\_\_ it, and gave it to them." (Luke 22:19)
11. "Thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good \_\_\_\_\_ which He gave thee." (Ps. 92:1)
12. "Give thanks with a grateful \_\_\_\_\_, give thanks to the Holy One."
13. "We gather together to ask the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_."
14. "We plow the fields and \_\_\_\_\_ the good seed on the land."
15. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of \_\_\_\_\_." (James 1:17)
16. "Count your blessings, \_\_\_\_\_ them one by one."

LAND	CIRCUMSTANCES	GREAT	REDEEMER	VOICES
PRAISE	HEART	NAME	BROKE	VICTORY
SCATTER	LIGHTS	EARTH	BLESSING	HARVEST

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