

Baptist Notes

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



Happy Summer, everyone! I will admit to having mixed feelings about this season, as I'm not a fan of hot weather. I'd be glad for high 70s and low 80s throughout these months. There are some things I do like, however — the beach, my gardens, my porch, the longer light, and the foods of summer, especially ice cream, corn on the cob, and lobster!

In New England, worship attendance always takes a dip in the summer, as folks travel or move to summer homes. Most programs, such as S.S., choir and many meetings, take a break till fall. This was different from the churches in the south, when I lived in Tennessee and Kentucky for a decade. Summer was revival time and “all-day-singing and dinner-on-the-grounds.” There were many things I liked about this style. Although I didn't adopt most of the theology, the spirit, music, and prayers often fed my soul.

This is a convoluted way of wishing you all a good summer, whether you'll be close to home or venturing far away. I wish you new adventures and safe travels. And please be kind to others and be a good tourist. (I grew up in a tourist town and found many of the tourists to be very rude. When I told my mother this, she promptly reminded me that they were my “bread and butter.”)

Also, if you attend worship in other communities, please bring back a bulletin or printed newsletter, if available. I always like to see what other churches are doing in their worship and church life.

Speaking of worship, I often do a sermon series in the summer. This year we will be spending the “Summer with the Psalms.” Some of these are familiar to us, in their poetry and refrains. Many served as the hymns of Israel, in good times and bad. There are Psalms of lament (personal and national); Psalms of nature, history, thanksgiving, and confession; and Psalms of meditation and reflection.

Some of our most beloved verses are from the Psalms — “The Lord is my Shepherd,” “I will lift up my eyes,” “Be still and know that I am God,” to name a few. I've chosen a variety for July and August, and you'll find a worship schedule in this newsletter. I encourage you to add them to your summer reading. There are 150 Psalms, so if you read two Psalms a day starting July 1, you'll be done by September 13. But if you read three a day, you'll end by August 19. You get the picture.

Happy reading — happy summer — be safe — be well — be blessed!

Pastor Jerrie

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney
revjasm@gmail.com | 518-331-0390

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>7:00 pm Deacons</i>	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	5
7 <i>10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Search Committee</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>10:00 am Worship</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Pastoral Relations Committee</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>10:00 am Worship</i>	29	30	31			

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.

**From July 7 to September 1, worship will begin at 10 a.m.
On Rally Day, September 8, start time will go back to 10:30 a.m.**

July Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 2 Matthew Moore | 24 Tom Stefanini |
| 5 Austin Bell | 27 Willow Wilder |
| 5 Christina Bell | 28 Edward Zeman |
| 5 Ahlea Tucker | 28 Pastor Jerrie |
| 9 Samantha Poole | 29 Patti Devine |
| 14 Rocky Wilder | 29 Tom Swan |
| 22 Sarah Wilder | 31 Diane Halbert |
| 23 Judy Llewellyn | |

Summer Music

The “professional” choir is taking the summer off. Now is the time for the rest of you to share your musical talent — singing solo or with others or playing an instrument — during a Sunday service. Please see Naomi Stanley or Music Director Sarah Russo to sign up for the opportunity to provide special music for worship in July and August.

August 2024

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

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 David Newcomb | 17 Robert Hyslop |
| 6 Daniel Rutherford | 18 Jillian Kelley |
| 7 June Cooper | 19 Jim Wakeman, Sr. |
| 8 Dara Badoo | 20 Ceil Robinson |
| 8 Joe Borghetti | 20 Erika Velazco |
| 10 Annabelle Rutherford | 21 Ryan Watton |
| 10 Izabella Ishagara | 23 Tami Beth Long |
| 11 Chestine Kate (CK) Azurin | 24 Paul Vaz |
| 12 Catharine Paiva | 27 Amanda Sonnenberg |
| 13 Betina Ndzi | 31 Colleen Allen |
| 13 Karen Vaz | 31 Avril Wallel |
| 16 Aileen Erguiza | |



Church Notes

Be sure to congratulate Bridget Blake Mboowa and Henry Mboowa on the birth, on June 11, of James Henry Mboowa. He weighed 8 lbs., 6.7 oz. and was 21" long, and he has already been to church!

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Here are meeting highlights:

- A&F will not meet in June or July; next meeting will be August 20 (unless needed earlier).
- Reminder: All speakers need to use a microphone (children did not use one on Children's Sunday). Deacons also should step forward and use the mic for the Prayer for the Elements.
- Visitor/prayer request cards are in process.
- Deacons will look into reinstating the Fellowship Circle during the singing of *Blest Be the Tie* at the end of Communion.
- World Missions Offering total was \$634 (goal was \$600).
- Francesca Cerutti-Harris is updating Facebook posts; website is up to date.
- Pastor Jerrie will be holding cottage (parlor) meetings of 6-8 people, about 1 hour, for a meet and greet.
- Pastor Jerrie will be on vacation August 10–18.
- Worship time will change to 10:00 am on July 7, 2024.
- Executive Council will not meet in July.

Next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, August 13.

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.



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING

On August 11, 18, and 25, we will collect the America for Christ offering during worship. Your gifts to America for Christ affect thousands of people through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Two-thirds of received offerings are directed to the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and one-third are directed to the ABC regional office of our church.

"Summer with the Psalms"

Pastor Jerrie has set the following worship schedule for July and August:

July 7	PSALM 34 — Alphabet Praise
July 14	PSALM 139 — How Big Is God?
July 21	PSALM 19 — The Language of God
July 28	PSALM 119 — Keeping Our Steps Steady
August 4	PSALM 121 — Lift Up My Eyes
August 11	<i>Pastor Jerrie on vacation</i>
August 18	<i>Pastor Jerrie on vacation</i>
August 25	TBD
September 1	PSALM 122 — I Was Glad...

NOTE: I have omitted beloved Psalm 23, as Pastor June Cooper preached a beautiful message on it shortly before I arrived. I have also left a "to be determined" to make room for a suggestion any of you may have for a favorite or unfavorite Psalm.

MY SCHEDULE: I will be house/pet sitting for friends in Maine July 14–20. This will not involve a Sunday, and I will be in work mode. My vacation will be August 10–19, and I will not be in work mode, except for emergencies. I will be in Ocean Park both times, so if you're in town then, feel free to give me a call!

Christian Youth Conference at Ocean Park

Calling all teens ages 14 to 18!

Spend an exciting two weeks at Camp Oceanwood this summer, August 4 to August 17. Enjoy the outdoors with fellow teenagers who combine faith with fun and fellowship! The theme this summer is "Keep It Simple," based on Deuteronomy 4:9-10. During Christian Youth Conference (CYC) 2024, we will remember the simple message of the gospel and discover how God conveyed that message to his people through the prophet Micah in the Old Testament.



To learn more about this adventure, get more details, and register, visit [Christian Youth Conference At Ocean Park ME](#). Generous assistance with the camp fees is offered, so all campers are urged to apply online and participate in this summer activity. First Baptist Church in Framingham also has a campership fund managed by the Board of Deacons/Ministry. If you have questions, contact Rev. Steven Tremble at 508-699-2434. We hope to see you there!

Deadline to Apply for Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund

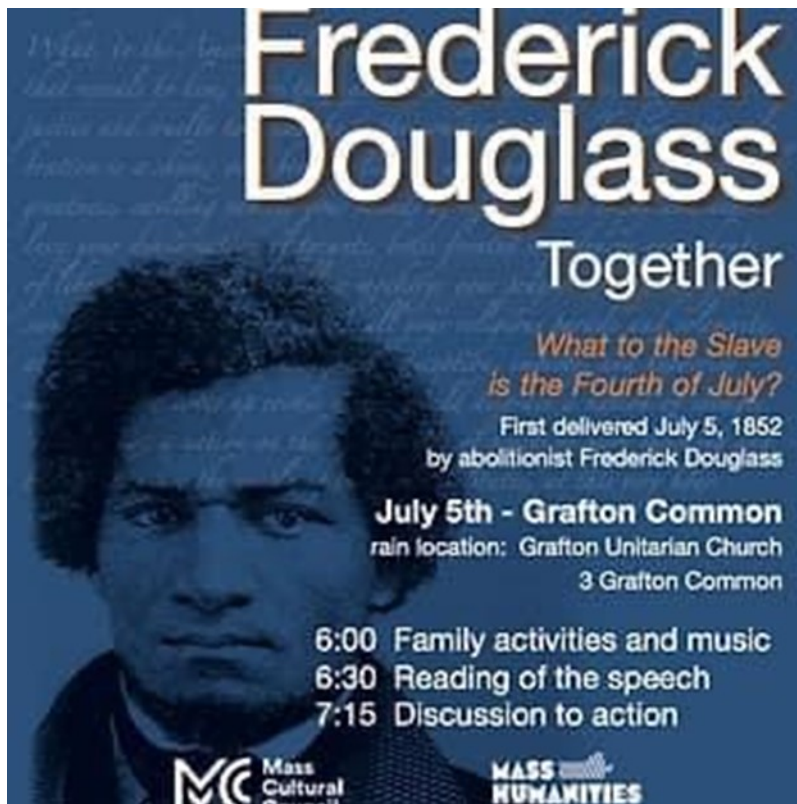
FBC's Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund assists anyone who is applying to college, continuing for another year, or taking any educational course. The Scholarship Committee needs to see applications by Thursday, August 1, so that we can equally divide the funds among all applicants. You may obtain a scholarship application from Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley, or Ray Zeman.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee will be meeting over the summer to collect information and develop a church profile to submit to American Baptist Churches (ABC) Valley Forge. We will distribute a questionnaire to the congregation to assist us in preparing the profile. This way, you all can have input on specific qualifications for candidates and the areas of our church life that you feel are crucial to the future of First Baptist Church in Framingham. Having an accurate profile will ensure that the names and resumés of any candidates sent to us for consideration will be a good match.

Please keep this search in your prayers and feel free to share your thoughts with anyone on the committee: Cathy Azurin, Judy Llewellyn, Ethel Luton-Campbell, Henry Mboowa, Wilson Ndzi, Jay Reilly, Ceil Robinson, Robert Rowe, and Tom Stefanini

Reading of Frederick Douglass Together

A poster for an event titled "Frederick Douglass Together". The background is a portrait of Frederick Douglass. The text on the poster includes: "Frederick Douglass Together", "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?", "First delivered July 5, 1852 by abolitionist Frederick Douglass", "July 5th - Grafton Common", "rain location: Grafton Unitarian Church 3 Grafton Common", "6:00 Family activities and music", "6:30 Reading of the speech", "7:15 Discussion to action", and logos for "Mass Cultural Council" and "MASS HUMANITIES".

Frederick Douglass Together

What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?

First delivered July 5, 1852
by abolitionist Frederick Douglass

July 5th - Grafton Common
rain location: Grafton Unitarian Church
3 Grafton Common

6:00 Family activities and music
6:30 Reading of the speech
7:15 Discussion to action

Mass Cultural Council
MASS HUMANITIES

On July 5 at 6 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton (UUSGU) is hosting its third gathering to experience the moving words of Frederick Douglass in his July 5, 1852, famous speech, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" The event on Grafton Common explores the continuing legacy of slavery and racism in discussions with special guest **Rev. June Cooper**, Theologian in the City, Old South Church, Boston, and Donna Maria Cameron, President, UUSGU and retired founder of Attleboro Community Academy. On April 30, 1842, Douglass was initially denied access to any church or hall on the Common to speak. He persevered and was finally heard.

Everyone is invited. Bring a picnic, chair, and blanket. Water is available throughout, and drinks and cookies will be served during the discussions. For more information, visit www.uusgu.org.

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