



Baptist Notes

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



“There's a haze on the far horizon,
The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod —
Some of us call it autumn,
And others call it God.”

I always think of this poem (the second verse of *Each in His Own Tongue* by William Herbert Carruth) when fall approaches. The changes in the natural world are stunning, especially in this part of the country. I am drawn to praise God for the beauties of creation every time I leave the house.

It is a season of change. Another major change is...SCHOOL. From pre-K to grad school, kids and adults are headed to school of some kind. While I love the “first day of school” photos that appear on my screen, I am always amazed by the rapid growth of children. (“How can this be??? She was just a baby!” Some version of this goes through my head every time.)

A good friend has a dramatic story of her daughter's birth. I remember it as well as if it were yesterday. But now this little baby is going off to college! Did 18 years actually go by that quickly? Apparently so. Seeing her and her siblings grow up and seeing my own grandsons suddenly become 8 and 10 years old is a stark example of how quickly time passes — and the older I get, the faster it goes.

This is a good reminder, first of all, to cherish every stage of life — to embrace each season as it comes, with its joys and wonders and challenges. Life is filled with changes, and celebrating them instead of resisting makes the journey much more joyful.

It's also a reminder that God is with us every step of the way, from before we are born to our final earthly goodbye. This is comfort, love, and reassurance that, in the midst of growth and change, we have One who goes with us always.

Last Sunday, I remarked that we who grew up in this country have never lived under kings. But we have lived under presidents. There's a sweet piece I often put in the bulletin when school begins, but this year it will go better in the newsletter. No matter who you are, or how important you are, it can be an anxious time when kids head off to school.

I leave you with this as I pray for a good year for everyone — parents and children alike.

Be safe — be well — be blessed,

Pastor Jerrie

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WRITTEN WHEN TAD BEGAN SCHOOL

“World, take my son by the hand — he starts school today.

It’s all going to be strange and new to him for awhile, and I wish you would sort of treat him gently. You see, up to now, he’s been king of the roost. He’s been the boss of the back yard. I have always been around to repair his wounds, and I’ve always been handy to soothe his feelings.

But now things are going to be different. This morning he’s going to walk down the front steps, wave his hand, and start on a great adventure that probably will include wars and tragedy and sorrow.

To live in this world will require faith and love and courage. So, World, I wish you would sort of take him by his young hand and teach him the things he will have to know.

Teach him, but gently, if you can....Teach him that for every scoundrel, there is a hero; that for every crooked politician there is a dedicated leader; that for every enemy there is a friend.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick.

Teach him the wonders of books. Give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him that it is more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Teach him to sell his brawn and brains to the highest bidders, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Teach him gently, World, but don’t coddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

That is a big order, World, but see what you can do. He’s such a nice little fellow.”

— Abraham Lincoln

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>10:00 am Worship</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	6	7
8 Rally Day <i>10:30 am Worship with Communion</i> <i>11:30 am Potluck, games</i>	9	10 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i>	11	12 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	13	14
15 <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	16	17 <i>7:00 pm A&F</i>	18 <i>7:00 pm Bible Study</i>	19 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	20	21
22 <i>10:30 am Worship</i> <i>11:30 am Cottage Mtg.</i>	23	24	25 <i>7:00 pm Bible Study</i>	26 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	27	28
29 <i>10:30 am Worship</i> <i>11:30 am Cottage Mtg.</i>	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.

On Rally Day, September 8, worship start time will go back to 10:30 a.m.



September Birthdays

3	Castiel Donovan	22	Wilson Ndzi
5	Leyla Velazco	22	Jessica Rose Leblanc
6	Jon Harris	24	Diane Newcomb
13	Kathie Zeman	28	Brielle Ndzi
19	Brianna Ndzi	30	Robert Rowe
21	Betsy Ndzi		

Church Notes

We are saddened to learn of the passing of our friend Tom Swan on August 30. He joined FBC in Framingham in 2012 after having been a decades-long member of FBC in Natick. A memorial service is being planned.

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, August 13. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Expenses are as expected. All properties are rented.
- Old signs along Pleasant Street and Route 9 have been removed, and we are putting down a deposit for the new signs. They will have interchangeable plates for summer/regular worship times. When we have a permanent pastor, we will add the pastor's name to the sign.
- Deacons Fund will make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund
- Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, to include teacher dedication during worship, and we also will celebrate the Lord's supper. Sunday School starts this day. Following the service, we will enjoy a potluck lunch as well as ice cream and games.
- Al Harrington will now deliver items in the Food Wagon at the back of the sanctuary to a food pantry.
- We will be adding a section to the newsletter to include local events and items of interest.
- The Pastoral Search Committee is working on a questionnaire to be distributed to the congregation in September.
- Pastor Jerrie would like to hold two more one-hour cottage (possibly Zoom) meetings of about 6–8 people.
- Pastor Jerrie needs more input to start a Bible Study, possibly on Wednesday nights.
- Worship time will change to 10:30 am on September 8.

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.

September Worship Schedule

Following is the worship schedule for September:

September 1	Psalm 100 — A Joyful Noise (last of the summer Psalm series)
September 8 RALLY DAY GRANDPARENTS DAY COMMUNION	Ephesians 4:11-16 — The Blessings of a Teaching Church
September 15	Ephesians 3:14-21 — A Moment in Time
September 22	Matthew 16:13-20 — Five Pretty Circles
September 29	TBA

Also, I will hold a Bible study on Wednesdays, September 18 and 25. Bulletins and Friday notes will have details. And for your calendars: MISSION WORKS will take place October 26 just up the road in Lowell.



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 treats will be provided!

Lawn games on the Church Green!

Pastoral Search Committee Update

Well, summer has certainly flown by! The Pastoral Search Committee has been moving ahead and has prepared a questionnaire/survey that we will distribute soon to members and other friends who are regular participants in our church life. Your input will be important, so when you receive the questionnaire, please give it careful thought. Your responses will help us prepare a profile of our church. You also will be able to let us know the important qualities, talents, and background that you would like us to look for in identifying our next pastor. We are seeking someone who can help us grow as a church, bring us closer to Christ as individuals, and lead us forward.

If you have any questions about the process, you may speak to any member of the committee. And please keep this time of transition for our church in your prayers.

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

Wagon for Local Food Pantries

We have a wagon at the back of the sanctuary where you can donate goods for food pantries. They accept nonperishable products — peanut butter, formula, cereals, boxed and canned vegetables and fruits, soups, beans — and toiletries such as toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. Al Harrington will distribute your contributions on a regular basis. Please be as generous as you can.



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 will go on sale on September 5th. You also can get involved today by:

- **Donating an auction item.** By donating an item, you are helping FPM families. Here is a [link to our Sign-up Genius](#) for ideas or to sign up for a specific item.
- **Sponsoring our event.** When you or your company sponsors KTP, it helps ensure every dollar raised directly supports the families in our programs.

To **get involved**, contact **Shannon O'Brien**.

In 2023, FPM 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

Blood Donor Center

The American Red Cross will open a brand-new Blood Donor Center in Framingham on September 8. This fixed donation site offers residents a local place to make lifesaving donations of blood and platelets. This is important because platelets can be collected only at fixed sites and are needed by cancer patients, accident and burn victims, heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients, and those fighting sickle cell disease. Platelets have a short shelf life of five days. The new center at 150 Worcester Rd. (Route 9), Suite #4, is open Monday: 7:30–3:45 pm; Tuesday & Wednesday: 11–7:15 pm; Sunday: 7–3 pm.

City Job Openings

The Mayor of Framingham is advertising for four residents to serve on the Framingham Traffic Commission. One-year, two-year, and three-year seats are available on the nine-member commission. The deadline to apply is September 30.

The Mayor also is seeking three volunteers to serve on the Keefe Technical High School Committee. The city encourages women and bilingual candidates to apply, recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives in shaping a comprehensive educational environment. The deadline to apply September 22.

For more information on items about the City of Framingham, visit [framinghamma.gov](https://www.framinghamma.gov). You also will find a link there to sign up for a weekly email from Mayor Sisitsky.

New Traffic and Parking Regulations in Framingham

New traffic and parking regulations take effect on September 1. One major change prohibits all vehicles with a commercial license plate from parking on city streets overnight and on Sundays. “No driver shall park or stand any commercial vehicle or trailer or semi-trailer (vehicles displaying a government-issued commercial license plate) between 11 p.m. of one day and 6 a.m. of the following day, Monday through Saturday or any time on Sunday.”

Get Out and Vote!

State primary elections take place on September 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The national election will be November 5.

Adventures in Lifelong Learning

Framingham State University and the Framingham Public Library offer free four-week courses on Zoom for adults 60+. The fall session starts October 8, and registration is due by October 4. Offerings are “Jane Eyre: Strange, Epochal, and Eerie,” “Rise Up! An Introduction to Indigenous Music in North America,” “Voting in America: How ‘Democratic’ Is Our Republic?” “Women, Art, and Society,” and “What’s in an Age? Stories from the Edge of Anthropocene.” For details on the five courses, call 508-215-5127 or visit bit.ly/Adventures2024-mailing-list.

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