



# Baptist Notes

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



Some of you know that I lost my oldest sister, my lifelong best friend, right before Christmas. Then last week I lost another dear friend of 42 years. We met at CYC in Maine in 1983, worked there together for 30 years, and remained friends ever since.

Both of these relationships blessed me in so many ways for decades, and it's difficult to imagine the world, and my life, without them. I also have friends who are struggling this year with life-threatening illnesses. I realize that these things happen more as we get older, but it's still hard to take.

That's one reason I rejoice in this season, as we travel the road on our way to Easter. Jesus' resurrection is vivid testimony that death is not the end of our lives. I know that my sister and my friend are alive in God's kingdom — as whole and wonderful as they ever were on earth. I love to picture my sister, who spent half of her life in a wheelchair, walking and running and dancing with her husband.

Easter, like Christmas, has pretty much been taken over by the secular world. Folks who never darken the door of a church observe Easter; those who do not believe in Jesus observe Easter. Bunnies and eggs and new clothes and Easter baskets are the order of the day. But Christ's people celebrate the *real* story, for it is the very foundation of our faith. Without the resurrection, there is no Christian story. Without the triumph over death, there is no eternal life. Without the living Christ, there is no Good News!

I invite each of you to celebrate the Easter season with your First Baptist family this year. All of it — the Palm Sunday parade, the sadness and betrayal of Maundy Thursday, the cruelty of the crucifixion, and then the amazing joy of the resurrection. We cannot fully grasp the meaning of Easter, nor should we expect to, if we do not follow the cross through the *Via Delorosa*, the Way of Sorrows.

The events surrounding Easter are a perfect opportunity to invite a friend to join you in honoring this holy season. And we know that our loved ones who have gone on before us will join us in this celebration.

I look forward to spending Holy Week and Easter with you all!

*Pastor Jerrie*

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney  
[revjasm@gmail.com](mailto:revjasm@gmail.com) | 518-331-0390

## April 2025

| Sun   | Mon | Tue   | Wed                                | Thu   | Fri                              | Sat |
|---|-----|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----|
|   |     | 1<br>7:00 pm<br><i>Deacons/<br/>Ministry</i>  | 2                                  | 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.<br/>Council</i>         | 9<br>7:00 <i>Lenten<br/>Study</i>  | 10<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                        | 11                               | 12  |
| 13 <b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b><br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i>   | 14  | 15<br>7:00 pm <i>A&amp;F</i>                  | 16<br>7:00 <i>Lenten<br/>Study</i> | 17 <b><i>Maundy<br/>Thursday</i></b><br>7:00 <i>Service</i> | 18 <b><i>Good<br/>Friday</i></b> | 19  |
| 20 <b><i>Easter</i></b><br>7:00 am <i>Sunrise Service</i><br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i><br>11:30 am <i>Photo, egg hunt</i> | 21  | 22  | 23                                 | 24<br>7:00 Choir<br><i>Rehearsal</i>                        | 25                               | 26  |
| 27<br>10:30 am <i>Worship</i>   | 28  | 29<br>7:00 pm<br><i>Deacons/<br/>Ministry</i> | 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.*



### April Birthdays

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5 Alex Poole        | 20 Howard Lewis                  |
| 7 Katie Shea        | 20 Blake Thompson                |
| 8 Marge Oxford      | 23 Robyn Poole                   |
| 10 Aira Erguiza     | 25 Craig Carr                    |
| 12 Catherine Azurin | 25 Deborah Pond                  |
| 12 Ethan Kelley     | 26 Gibson Rowe                   |
| 13 William Perry    | 27 Shirley Ross                  |
| 13 Alex Vaz         | 27 Alan Harrington               |
| 14 Mary Moore       | 27 Rolando Erguiza               |
| 18 Chester Azurin   | 29 Caroline (Harrington) Redfern |
| 19 Martin Acevedo   | 29 Jeffrey Harrington            |

**Join your church family on the front steps after the Easter worship service  
for a new group photo of The First Baptist Church in Framingham!**

## Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on March 11. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- General fund balance: \$14,202.95; Rental property balance: \$21,373.08
- The Robert and Dorothy Phillips Account has been created at Fidelity.
- The church treasurer will make a recommendation about online giving (either Venmo or Tithely) to the A&F board by the April 2025 meeting.
- Deacons Fund Balance is \$1,355.97. The fund was recently used to purchase \$200 in food gift cards.
- We will take the World Mission offering in May. Kelly Rutherford will coordinate it.
- The Food Wagon has been refurbished and moved to the front of the sanctuary. Bridget Mboowa will facilitate donations.
- We will take a congregational picture after Easter Sunday worship.
- Members discussed our practice of putting videos of worship services on YouTube:
  - We will stop recording the time of prayers for celebrations and concerns.
  - A disclaimer will go in the bulletin that we record the services and put them on YouTube.
  - Parents will be asked to sign a release at the beginning of the Sunday School year.
- The Pastoral Search Committee has completed the church profile, and it has been reviewed by Pastor Jerrie. Jay will submit it to TABCOM and schedule a meeting.
- Transition Team (Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, Pastor Jerrie) talked about having a discussion-style worship service, tentatively set as brunch in Reilly Hall on April 27 (Deacons need to approve). It would be a short worship service followed by discussion as we eat together. Those who normally attend on Zoom would be paired with an in-person attendee and participate that way.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

## Active Bystander Training

On Sunday, **April 13, 12:00–2:30 p.m.**, you are invited to attend a training session on being a helpful witness. If you are witnessing harm, you have a choice. Learn how to interrupt harmful situations and generate positive actions. Active bystandership means taking responsible action to help people in need instead of remaining passive and becoming complicit. The more we know how to help, the safer our community will be.

The training is at First Parish in Framingham, 24 Vernon Street. The \$20 fee and registration are due by **April 9**. Scholarships of \$10 are available. For more information, contact Sara Morrison Neil at 508-872-3111 or [office@uuframingham.org](mailto:office@uuframingham.org).

## Easter Events on Sunday, April 20

### Sunrise Service

We will gather at 7 a.m. on the church green (weather permitting; otherwise, service will move inside) to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Join us to praise our risen Lord with song and scripture. This short service (15-20 minutes) will be followed by a light breakfast in Reilly Hall. Breakfast is provided free, but we will accept donations to benefit the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund.



### Easter Offering

The Executive Council voted to use the Easter offering collected on April 20 and April 27 to cover the cost of our new automated external defibrillator (AED). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Church Photo

If you are at worship on Easter Sunday morning, please gather on the front steps immediately after the service for an updated group photo.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Weather permitting, the children of the church will hunt Easter eggs following the service on Easter morning.

### Easter Flowers

To brighten the sanctuary for Easter, you may purchase spring plants. See the order form in this newsletter or pick up one in church. Please return it to Diane Halbert with your payment (cash or check) by **April 13**.

## Brunch Worship on April 27

**Some churches call it Brunch Worship, or Questions and Quiche, or Church Chat.** But whatever the name, it's a time for the congregation to gather and talk in groups of 4-6 people about issues facing the church. This helps inform the pastoral search and gives the church a chance to gather everyone's input.

We have scheduled the first (only?) one for Sunday, April 27. We will gather around tables in Reilly Hall at 10:30 for worship and conversation and potluck brunch. (No sermon!) Zoom participants will join by being paired with an in-person attendee. The Deacons will work out the details at their meeting on April 1, but I hope you all will be able to be there. (Yes, I know it's the Sunday after Easter, but if you're in town, please join your church family in this important opportunity.) Your participation is very needed and valuable.

Questions? Just ask! Thanks to you all from Pastor Jerrie.

# Easter Plant Order



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: Tulip (\$12)\_\_\_\_ Daffodil (\$14)\_\_\_\_ Lily (\$17)\_\_\_\_

In honor of/In memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Submit to Diane Halbert  
by Sunday, **April 13**.  
Cash or checks payable to Diane Halbert

Please take your flowers home after the Easter worship service  
or deliver them to a recipient of your choice.

## Talent Show and Scholarship Fund

Thank you to all who helped with the terrific Millie Levin/Kathie Chute Scholarship Fund Talent Show. We were entertained by rousing group dances and many talented singers and musicians, not to mention bad (dad) jokes and a very Disney group sing. Many thanks to former scholarship recipient Sarah (Zeman) Wilder for traveling down from Maine to participate. We also are grateful to all who provided goodies for the bake sale and articles for the silent auction. We added \$1,037 to the scholarship fund!! Anyone who is applying to college, continuing for another year, or taking any educational course may obtain a scholarship application from Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley, or Ray Zeman, the Scholarship Committee.

Kudos to Kathie Zeman for a wonderful job of organizing, cooking, and performing in a most creative way!



**Remember Our Food Wagon!**

**It is at the front of the sanctuary awaiting your food donations for A Place to Turn.**

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First Baptist Church in Framingham

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## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday**

*10:30 a.m.* Worship Service

**Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday**

*7:00 p.m.* Tenebrae Service in Reilly Hall

**Sunday, April 20 – Easter**

*7:00 a.m.* Sunrise Service on Church Green followed by breakfast

*10:30 a.m.* Easter Worship Service

*11:30 a.m.* Photo on Front Steps and Easter Egg Hunt

**The Easter offering collected on April 20 and April 27  
will go toward payment for an AED.**