

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
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From the Pastor



He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. —Matthew 28:6

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the month of April—a sacred and powerful season in the life of the Church. As we continue our Lenten journey, our hearts are being prepared for the hope, victory, and joy of Resurrection Sunday. This is a holy time, inviting us to reflect deeply on Christ’s sacrifice and to rejoice in the promise of new life.

Before anything else, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who participated in and supported my Pastoral Installation Service on March 8th. That day was a beautiful and sacred moment in the life of our church, and I was deeply moved by your presence, your prayers, and your love. I am truly honored to serve as your pastor, and I thank God for the privilege of walking this journey of faith together with you.

I also want to celebrate the joy we experienced at our Talent Show on March 22nd. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to gather, laugh, and appreciate the many gifts within our church family. Moments like these remind us that fellowship and joy are essential parts of our life together.

That same day, we were blessed by our Youth Service, and I want to extend a special thank you to the young people who served so faithfully: Najay Allen (Scripture Reading), CK Azurin (Audio/Visual), Ivette Badoo (Worship Leader), and Miracle Lewin (Usher). Your leadership, willingness, and presence continue to inspire us and remind us that God is at work in and through the next generation.

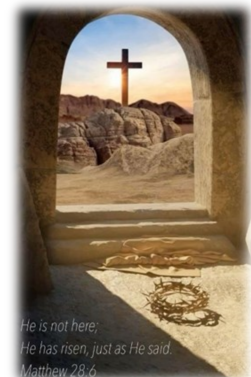
As we move through April, we will observe some of the most meaningful days in our Christian calendar:

- **Maundy Thursday.** We will gather for a special service as we remember the Last Supper and Christ’s commandment to love one another.
- **Good Friday.** I will attend the service at Greater Framingham Community Church at 7:30 PM, and I invite you to join as we come together with the wider community to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ.
- **Easter Sunday.** We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with joy and thanksgiving, proclaiming that death does not have the final word!

I also want to remind you of our Wednesday Evening Bible Study, which continues to be a meaningful time of learning, reflection, and spiritual growth. I encourage you to join us as we gather around God’s Word, ask questions, and grow together in faith.

Looking ahead, we are honored that our church will host the TABCOM Stillman Association Meeting on April 11th. All are welcome to attend, and this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our wider Baptist family and participate in the work God is doing beyond our local congregation.

Later in the month, I will attend the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM) Gala on April 18th, along with some of you. I look forward to this time of celebration, connection, and honoring the beautiful diversity within our Baptist community.



*He is not here;
 He has risen, just as He said
 Matthew 28:6*

As we walk through this sacred season together, my prayer is that we will be drawn closer to Christ, more deeply rooted in His love, and more committed to living out His call to justice, grace, and compassion. April reminds us that, even in the darkest moments, resurrection is coming.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to serve, love, and support one another. I am grateful for each of you, and I thank God daily for this church family.

With love, hope, and resurrection joy,
Pastor Robyn

Rev. Robyn Monique Mars
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April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Throughout the month of April, we will collect an offering to work toward our goal of raising \$2,000 for a new freezer for A Place to Turn (APTT).</i>			1 7:00 pm Bible Study	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Service	3 Good Friday 7:30 pm Service at Greater Framingham	4 11:00 am 200th Anniv. Comm.
5 Easter 7:00 am Sunrise Service 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Eggs, Photo	6	7	8 7:00 pm Bible Study	9 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 2:00 pm Stillman Meeting
12 10:30 am Worship/APTT 11:30 am 200th Comm.	13	14 7:00 pm Executive Council	15 7:00 pm Bible Study	16 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18 5:00 pm Gala in Stow
19 10:30 am Worship/APTT Mission Moment	20	21 7:00 pm A&F	22 7:00 pm Bible Study	23 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship	27	28 7:30 pm Deacons	29 7:00 pm Bible Study	30 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	31	

Notes: AA meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon in Reilly Hall. *All calendar entries are subject to change.*
 Holy Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays, 3–7 p.m.

Multicultural Gala

On Saturday, **April 18**, enjoy a gala and silent auction of the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries in Stow to support local refugees and immigrants. We can take a group and pay one price for a table. Please let Pastor Robyn know if you would like to support this ministry together.

FBC FACT 172: 1847 The First Baptist Church building was painted inside and out, interior plastering and papering were done where necessary, new windows were installed, and the foundation was repaired to prevent further settling.



April Birthdays

5	Alex Poole	20	Howard Lewis
8	Marge Oxford	23	Robyn Poole
12	Catherine Azurin	25	Deborah Pond
13	William Perry	26	Gibson Rowe
13	Alex Vaz	27	Alan Harrington
14	Mary Moore	29	Caroline (Harrington) Redfern
18	Chester Azurin	29	Jeffrey Harrington
19	Martin Acevedo		



Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on March 10, 2026. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- All four units in our rental property are rented, three of them to Family Promise. Three leases will be up soon, and we expect to slightly increase the rent.
- Spring cleanup needs to be scheduled to include decluttering of balcony areas.
- A&F has entered into a contract with MMR to replace the three columns that were not recently replaced and to make other repairs to the outside of the building. Work should begin in July 2026 for a total cost of \$96,000 with monies coming from our endowment (Fidelity).
- Right Hand of Fellowship for Lois Adams, Chester Azurin, and Victor Griffiths is scheduled for Palm Sunday.
- Maundy Thursday will be a traditional service. The Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. will be followed by a light breakfast.
- The Food Wagon is collecting boxed items, especially cereals and canned fruit.
- The World Mission Offering (WMO) scheduled to be taken April 12, 19, 26 and May 10 will now be taken later in the year. These dates will be used to collect an offering to go toward our 200th anniversary mission project, the purchase of a freezer for A Place to Turn food pantry.
- We will create a pictorial directory for the 200th anniversary. People can submit pictures, or we will take pictures after the Easter service. We will also take a new church picture on Easter.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Kelly Rutherford, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, Cheryl Perry, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Robyn.

FBC FACT 173: 2026 The Reverend Robyn Mars was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church on March 8.



Photos on Easter Sunday

After we celebrate the resurrection of Christ on April 5, we will gather on the front steps of the church to update our all-church picture. Also, you and your family may have your picture taken to be included in the new pictorial directory. If you already have a photo you would like to be used for the directory, please email it to Kathie at kczman@gmail.com or the church email address.

WE WANT YOU

We will be taking single or family photos on Easter or submit your own!
firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com

to be a part of the 2026 FBC Photo Directory!

See Kathie Zeaman or Francesca Cerutti-Harris for more info!

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 several audience participation acts, terrific magic (thanks, Dave!), many wonderful singers, a very inspirational dance from Pauline, a heartfelt poem from Cheryl, and even a visit from some cute but technically challenged Martians. We also are grateful to all who provided goodies for the bake sale. We added \$900 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 of the Scholarship Committee.



Food Wagon Reminder



Remember that, for the spring months, the suggested donations for the FBC Food Wagon are cereals, boxed foods such as mac and cheese, rice mixes and sides, and apple sauce. As always, any type of donation is greatly appreciated, and the need for items such as diapers and wipes is ongoing. If you prefer to contribute funds via check or Venmo, just note that your gift is for the food wagon. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Stillman Annual Meeting at FBC in Framingham

All are invited to the annual business meeting of the Samuel Stillman Association (part of TAB-COM) on Saturday, **April 11**, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is "Opportunity Knocks." According to Galatians 6:10, *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.* First Baptist Church in Framingham is honored to be chosen to host this important yearly gathering.

200th Anniversary in May

We are just a month away from celebrating the 200th anniversary of our church! Thanks to everyone who supported our terrific silent auction, which raised \$1,100 to support 200th anniversary events. Memorabilia (mugs and notecards) is still available for purchase.

You have probably already marked your calendar for the bicentennial buffet dinner on Saturday, **May 2**, at 5 p.m. at Plymouth Church and the special service at our church on **May 3**. You will see historical displays and a booklet of information about the church's history at these events. We are still seeking organizations and individuals to highlight in the booklet through ads and patron notes to help offset printing costs. If you know a local business that might purchase an ad or would like to place a note of well wishes yourself, please use the form on the next page. Please also email the church office (firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com) or let Linda Devine know about the contacts you make to avoid duplicate requests.

Our Church in the Framingham House Tour

On Sunday, **May 17**, the Framingham History Center will host its Framingham House Tour, which always attracts hundreds of attendees. We are thrilled that the Center has chosen First Baptist Church in Framingham to be the public building on the tour this year as we celebrate two centuries in the town/city. We will welcome visitors from noon to 5 p.m. and need volunteers to help steer them through the building and answer questions as they tour our church home. If you would like to participate for any portion of that time, please tell Kathie Zeman or Francesca Cerutti-Harris.

Free Recliner

Cathy Azurin is giving away an electric recliner that is in good condition. If you are interested, you may text her at 508-617-0924.



First Baptist Church in Framingham

PO Box 2415 Framingham, MA 01703

www.firstbaptistframingham.org

200TH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR BOOKLET AD SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name _____ Organization _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Yes, I would like to place an ad or note of congratulations and well wishes in the 200th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet for the First Baptist Church in Framingham.

<u>Ad Type</u>	<u>Size (in.)</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Back cover ad*	5x8	175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside front cover ad*	5x8	175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inside back cover ad*	5x8	175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page ad	5x8	150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Half page ad	5x3 ^{7/8}	125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter page ad (horizontal or vertical)	2 ^{3/8} x3 ^{7/8}	75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eighth page ad	2.45x1.935	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron listing	—	Donation

* If you select one of these options, please indicate a second choice in case another origination responds first.

Please select one of the following and respond by **April 11**:

- I will send the ad electronically (jpg, png, or pdf) to firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com.
 I have enclosed hard copy of the ad with this form.

I would like to attend the 200th Anniversary Dinner _____ (no charge)
of guests

Amount enclosed _____

Make checks payable to First Baptist Church in Framingham, earmarked **200th Anniversary**. You also may pay via Venmo.

For more information, email firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com or call 508-872-1176.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP!

FBC FACT 174: 1955 The men's softball team at Park Street Baptist Church won the championship in the Framingham Council of Churches League.

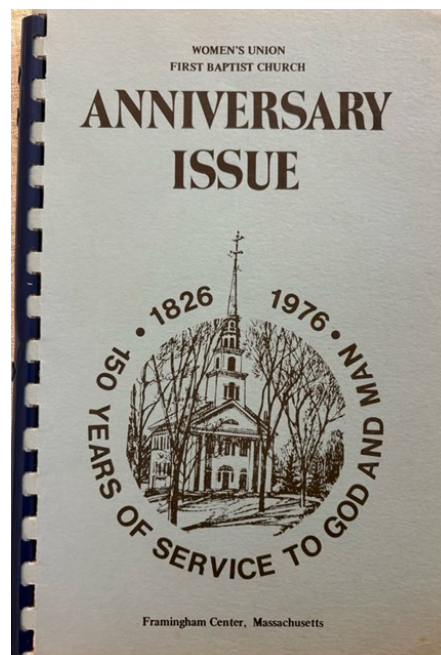


THE PARK STREET BAPTIST CHURCH SOFTBALL TEAM was presented with the Framingham Council of Churches trophy at Cochituate Ball Park last night, where a benefit game was played. This is the first year that the trophy has been officially presented. In order to retire the trophy a team must win it three times. Pictured above (left to right): front row, Carl Cox, Arthur Chapin, Raymond Withe, who is Church League president, vice-president of the Council of Churches, Paul Devine, manager of the Park Street team, Frank Coffin. Back row, Arthur Grant, Richard Chapin, Richard Devine, James Devine, James Wignot, Ian Pynigar, Charles Patter and Lloyd Mielt.



FBC FACT 175: 2020 The steeple at First Baptist Church was painted in November.

FBC FACT 176: 1976 For the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church, the Women's Union published a booklet that included a brief church history and 63 pages of recipes from church members.



First Baptist Church in Framingham

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HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

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

Sunday, April 5 – Easter

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 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 will go toward the church's mission to purchase a new freezer for A Place to Turn food pantry.