

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
 PO Box 2415 ~ Framingham, MA 01703-2415
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From the Pastor



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
 —Micah 6:8

Dear Church Family,

March promises to be a meaningful and joyful month in the life of our church. As we move into this new season together, I find myself especially grateful for the ways God continues to guide and strengthen our church family. It is a blessing to walk this journey of faith with each of you.

We have now entered the season of Lent, a sacred time of reflection and preparation leading us toward Resurrection Sunday (Easter). Our Lenten theme this year is **Journey to the Cross: A Path of Justice and Grace**. Throughout these weeks, we will walk together with Christ toward the cross, reflecting on what it means to live lives shaped by justice, mercy, and grace. I pray this season will deepen our faith and draw us closer to God and closer to one another.



One of the highlights of this month will be my **Pastoral Installation Service on Sunday, March 8, at 3 PM**. This service marks an important milestone in our journey together, and I look forward to celebrating with you as we formally dedicate this ministry and this church to the work God has called us to do. Your presence and prayers mean so much to me, and I hope you will join us for this special and joyful occasion.

March is also **Women's History Month**, a time to recognize the faith, courage, and leadership of women throughout history and within the life of the church. It feels especially meaningful to me that I was **ordained during the month of March**, and I am reminded of the many women who paved the way so that I—and so many others—could answer God's call. Their witness encourages us to continue building a church where all people are welcomed and where everyone can use their gifts in service to Christ.

I am encouraged by the wonderful spirit surrounding our **Wednesday night Bible Studies**. The conversations have been thoughtful, honest, and engaging, and it has been a joy to learn and grow together as we seek to hear God's story through Scripture. I look forward to even more participation in the weeks ahead as we continue exploring the Bible together.

Thank you to the youth who helped lead our **Youth Service on February 22**. I am grateful for **Evan Harris**, who led worship; **Miracle Lewin**, who served as usher; and **Chylé Rivera**, who also served as usher. Your willingness to serve blesses our church and reminds us that the future of the church is bright and full of promise. I also want to offer a heartfelt apology to **Ivette Badoo**, who was prepared to read Scripture, and **CK Azurin**, who was assisting with the audiovisual, and her participation was not acknowledged during the service. I regret these oversights and will strive to do better going forward. Each person's contribution matters, and I am grateful for all who serve so faithfully.

Looking ahead, I am excited for our **Talent Show on March 22**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the gifts and creativity within our church family. Gatherings like these remind us that fellowship and joy are an important part of our life together.

As we move through March, we will also observe **St. Patrick's Day**, remembering the faithful witness of St. Patrick, who carried the Gospel across cultural boundaries with courage and love. His example reminds us that faith is meant to be lived and shared with others.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude to **all the leaders of our church**. So much of what happens in this church takes place quietly behind the scenes. Your dedication, faithfulness, and willingness to serve keep our church strong and vibrant. I thank God for each of you.

March is a month of new beginnings—a time of reflection, growth, and hope. As we continue this journey together, I thank God for the blessing of being your pastor and the privilege of serving alongside you.

Pastor Robyn

Rev. Robyn Monique Mars

PastorFBCFramingham@gmail.com | 781-526-4241

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck Deacons/Ministry Auction Awards	2	3	4 7:00 pm Bible Study	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Daylight Saving 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Installation	9	10 7:00 pm Executive Council	11	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:30 am Worship: Rev. Dr. Hamel Preaching 11:30 am Missions Board	16	17 7:00 pm A&F	18 7:00 pm Bible Study	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Lunch & Talent Show	23	24	25 7:00 pm Bible Study	26	27	28 11:00 am 200th Comm.
29 Palm Sunday 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am 200th Comm.	30	31				

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



March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Joseph Paiva | 24 Sebron (Phoenix) Rowe |
| 7 Ethel Luton-Campbell | 27 Marisa Rowe |
| 8 Neil Halbert | 28 Laura Reilly |
| 12 Najay Allen | 31 Diamond Campbell |



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Executive Council News

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

- Family Promise is looking for a client to move into our Pleasant St. apartments. All four units are rented.
- Spring clean-up needs to be scheduled to include decluttering of balcony areas before we open our church for the Framingham History Center House Tour on May 17.
- The Deacons Fund recently helped with rental assistance and bought gift cards for Pastor Robyn to distribute.
- Each Deacon now has a Shepherd's List.
- Valentine card making for distribution to an adult day program in Natick was a success. Sunday School children especially liked making personal cards with the information provided (likes dogs, likes flowers, etc.).
- For the Food Wagon, the Board of Missions is now requesting boxed items, especially cereals.
- We will be creating a pictorial directory for the 200th anniversary. People can submit their own pictures, or we will take pictures after the Easter service (April 5). We will also take a new church picture on Easter.
- Pastor Robyn would like us to consider journaling, especially as we are about to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the church.
- For the 200th Anniversary, TJ's (in Ashland) has been chosen to cater the dinner, Geoffrey Hicks is confirmed to provide music at dinner, invitation letters and letters to ask businesses to advertise in anniversary booklet are in draft form, and Annette and Tom Stefanini have planned dinner table centerpieces (to be made by Sunday school classes).
- Pastor Robyn will be away March 9-14. Members may contact Jay Reilly or other Deacons for pastoral emergencies during this time.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 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, Diane Halbert, Cheryl Perry, and Pastor Robyn.

Church Note

We recently received a postcard from Lorna Mailhoit, who now lives in Florida, about her trip to visit daughter Tami in Texas. Here's her message to the church: "Hope everyone is well. Trying to write this on the road. Spent the whole week with Tami. Tell everyone I miss them all!"

FBC FACT 155: 2020 First Baptist Church replaced an old rotting pillar by the front doors with structural fiberglass. The project took almost a year.



March Evening Bible Study

Pastor Robyn will be leading a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for the month of March. The theme is *In the Beginning: Meeting God in Genesis*. To join the group, just let Pastor Robyn or Ray Zeman know so that you can get the Zoom link.

Date and Topic	Scripture	Think About It
March 4 God Brings Order Out of Chaos	Genesis 1:1–5 Genesis 1:6–13 Genesis 1:14–25	Genesis begins by showing us who God is and how God works. Not just creation—but God creating with intention and order.
March 11 <i>No Bible Study</i>		
March 18 When Trust Breaks	Genesis 3:1–13	Sin begins with distrust in God.
March 25 Judgment and Mercy Together	Genesis 3:14–24	Even in judgment, God shows mercy.

New Food Wagon Requests

For March, April, and May, the suggested donations for the FBC Food Wagon are cereals, boxed foods such as mac and cheese, rice mixes and sides, and applesauce. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated; these are only suggestions. Diapers and wipes are an ongoing need. Donations are delivered to either the Rams Resource Center at Framingham State University or to A Place to Turn in Natick. If you prefer to contribute funds via check or Venmo, just note that your gift is for the food wagon. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support!



FBC FACT 156: 1762-92 About 30 people, not affiliated with any church, were baptized in Framingham.

Pastor Robyn's Installation

Be sure to be in the sanctuary for the installation of Pastor Robyn on Sunday, March 8, at 3 p.m. The theme is *Anointed to Serve*, and supporting scripture is Isaiah 61:1-3. Following the service, you are invited to enjoy a feast in Reilly Hall as you congratulate our pastor and greet participants and visitors.



The First Baptist Church
in Framingham

INSTALLATION
Service

 Rev. Robyn Monique Mars
Pastor

Anointed to Serve ~ Isaiah 61:1-3

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AT 3 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN FRAMINGHAM
1013 WORCESTER ROAD., FRAMINGHAM, MA 01703

 Rev. Leroy Mahoney
Guest Preacher

New FBC Facebook and Instagram Pages

On Facebook and Instagram, we have switched from a private group to an organization page. For now, both the original and new sites are available. If you are on social media, search for *First Baptist Church in Framingham* to see updates on church information and add your own related content.

Talent Show ~ Sunday, March 22

(Following worship, light lunch provided)

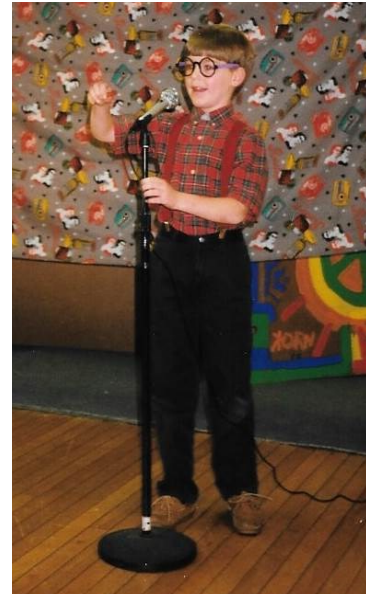
Who Knows What You Will See This Year!!



Scholarship recipient Sarah Zeman at the 2000 show

Think about sharing your talents (whatever they may be) or just be part of the audience. Desserts and snacks will be on sale at intermission, and we will take a free-will offering for the Scholarship Fund.

The Scholarship Fund honors the memory of Millie Levin, a very active Park Street Baptist Church mother and youth advisor, as well as the memory of young college student Kathie Chute, who loved to work with the Park Street youth.



Scholarship recipient Brian Halbert at the 1999 show

Updates on 200th Anniversary Planning

Your 200th Anniversary Committee has been hard at work planning celebrations of our church's two centuries in Framingham. Thank you to everyone who donated to and bid on all the wonderful offerings in our silent auction. We expect to raise about \$1,000 to support 200th anniversary events but will know for sure at noon on March 1. You may submit bids online until midnight on February 28 and in person right after worship on March 1. In the two months before the big celebration weekend, remember that you may continue to purchase memorabilia (mugs and notecards), make donations to purchase a freezer for A Place to Turn, submit and read "200 Facts," and get involved in multiple other ways.

As you know, we will host a bicentennial buffet dinner on Saturday, May 2, at 5 p.m. at Plymouth Church. Official invitations go out in April. We also will be the public site on the Framingham History Center House Tour on May 17 from noon to 5 p.m. In the meantime, we are planning displays and creating a booklet of information about the church's history. We are seeking organizations and individuals to highlight in the booklet through ads and patron notes. If you know a local business that might purchase an ad or would like to place a note of well wishes yourself, you may use the attached form. Please email the church office (firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com) or tell Linda Devine about the contacts that you make so that we do not ask anyone twice.

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!

Valentine Card and Pen Pal Projects

The Board of Missions hosted an opportunity on February 1 to make Valentine cards for guests of the Elder-Well Adult Day Program in Natick. Many thanks to those who helped to bring a smile to the faces of those guests. The program manager, Olivia Weinstein, let us know how much your creativity and thoughtfulness were appreciated and invited us to be pen pals with the guests:

Oh my goodness, the Valentine's cards were absolutely wonderful. Our guests truly loved them, and there were many smiles! We can't thank you enough for thinking of us and sharing so much joy and positivity with our center. It was such a thoughtful gesture. We appreciate your kindness so much! Thank you also for sharing our resources; we are so grateful. We'll keep an eye out if anyone from your congregation reaches out to be an ongoing Pen Pal!



Why Become a Pen Pal?

At Elder-Well, we know that even small gestures can have a powerful impact. Becoming a pen pal offers a meaningful way for your group to serve, encourage, and build intergenerational bonds... one letter at a time!

Many of our guests are living with memory loss or limited social interaction, and your kind messages can bring them comfort and joy.

How It Works

Your group creates uplifting handwritten notes, cards, or drawings for the guests who attend Elder-Well. We share your group's messages with our guests and in return they create their own notes, drawings, or cards to send back. Starting a simple, meaningful exchange to build relationships over time.

Interested in Participating? Contact Us!

☎ 508-655-2536 ✉ info@elderwelladultday.com 📍 12 Washington Street, Natick, MA 01760

About Elder-Well® Adult Day Program:

Elder-Well® offers non-medical, social day services for older adults who need memory support or feel isolated at home. Our program provides supervised care, engaging activities, nutritious meals, and a safe, supportive setting that encourages independence, connection, and purpose.

Learn more on our website
elderwelladultday.com

SCAN ME 

Elder-Well® Adult Day Program Natick | 12 Washington Street, Natick, MA 01760

Elder-Well® is a registered trademark owned by Spend The Day Franchising, Inc. Each Elder-Well® Program is an independently owned and operated business. National toll-free number: 1-866-821-4333

FBC Pictorial Directory

Remember that we will soon create a new church pictorial directory. Before Easter arrives, families and individuals may submit pictures to Kathie Zeman, kczeman@gmail.com. Preferred formats are jpg and png. If you don't have one, we will take one on Easter Sunday, April 5. We encourage everyone to participate, whether you've been here for decades or just recently started attending.

Stillman Annual Meeting at FBC in Framingham

The annual business meeting of the Samuel Stillman Association will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Framingham. We are pleased to be the setting for this important yearly gathering.

Aspire for Women



Aspire
1 night – 3 hours Just for Women
An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



**FRIDAY
MARCH 20, 2026**

VALLEY CHAPEL
14 HUNTER RD.
UXBRIDGE, MA 01569

7:00PM SHOW
6:30PM PANEL TIME
6:00PM DOORS OPEN

Comedy by
MICHELLE MILLER MCNAIR



Music by
LINDSAY McCAUL



Come early and join us for a 15 minute panel time with all 3 ladies based on Hebrews 12:1-2 called **“Running the Race”**

ADVANCE TICKETS
General Admission – \$30
VIP/Reserved – \$40
Group tickets for 10 or more – \$25
VIP/Reserved Groups for 10 or more – \$35
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats and a snack bag

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100** or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

We hope you can join us as we celebrate 10 years with ASPIRE

Compassion | Extreme Faith Productions

We remind the women of the church to join like-minded women from around the commonwealth at Aspire on Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge. For more information or to go as a group, see Pastor Linda McKenzie (lindamckenzie102@gmail.com).

FBC FACT 157: 1996 Linda Devine and James Stone were married at Park Street Baptist Church in June.



Multicultural Gala

On Saturday, April 18, we are invited to enjoy a gala and silent auction by 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.



2026 ANNUAL GALA & SILENT AUCTION "From Welcome to Belonging"

You are Invited

Join us for an elegant evening of celebration, storytelling, music, dance and solidarity as we gather to support immigrants, refugees, and New Americans across Massachusetts.

Saturday, April 18, 2026

5:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Cash bar available

Wedgewood Pines Country Club

215 Harvard Road, Stow, MA 01775

Why This Gala Matters

Proceeds from the 2026 MBMM Gala will support:

- Immigration legal clinics & asylum assistance
- Youth, family, and after-school programs
- Leadership development for ethnic clergy
- Emergency support for newly arrived families

Program Highlights:

- Reception & Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Community Stories & Impact Reflections
- Cultural Performances/Music Dance
- Honoring Partners & Champions of Welcome

Ways to Support the Gala

1) Host a New American to Attend the Gala

Help welcome immigrant and refugee families by making it possible for them to attend.

- \$600 – Table of 8
- \$300 – 4 tickets
- \$150 – 2 tickets

Recognition:

- Name listed in program
- Table signage (for full table)

3) Premier Community Partner – \$2,500

For churches, organizations, or individuals able to offer leadership support.

Recognition:

- Logo on MBMM & ACE websites and event materials
- Name recognized during the event

2) Community Giving Levels

For those who wish to support the mission, with or without attending.

- \$1,000 – Community Champion
- \$500 – Community Ally
- \$250 – Friend of the Community
- \$100 – Supporter

Recognition:

- Name listed in program and website

4) Individual Tickets

\$75 per person

PLEASE RSVP



Together, we advocate, celebrate, and empower New Americans to thrive.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703

