



# Baptist Notes

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



March 24 is Palm Sunday this year. In the Christian tradition, this is the day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem — an entry that would be his last into the city. It was just days before the trial and crucifixion of our Lord. Chapter 12 of John brings this day into focus as Jesus prepares himself and his disciples for the journey. He begins the journey on a young colt, on which no one had ever sat, and proceeds along the road where some lay their praise, palm branches, and garments, while others sneer and plot. Jesus chooses a young, sure-footed animal for the journey:

*On the next day, the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cry out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel." And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."*

Of all the lessons we learn in church, one of the most important is how to ride a donkey. **Jesus rode in peace, not contention and assault. Jesus rode in humility**, and this rivals the plots, scheming, and conniving of those committed to his death. **Jesus paid a very high price** — his breath was extinguished on our behalf. We are privileged to worship together during Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Celebration. We will explore more of the journey, a journey that begins in humility and sacrifice for every person. In spiritual preparation, we ask, "How do I respond to my Creator's passion for my life?" This question is personal and includes differing circumstances for us all, but guiding principles include gratitude, acceptance of responsibility, and whole-hearted responses to the needs around us.

As we honor this Holy season in our church and lives, my hope is that we all take a reflective look at how we can apply the passion and whole-hearted effort that Jesus gave to all people in the circumstances of our lives.

*Jason*

## Invitation to Farewell Gathering for Pastor Jason

As Pastor Jason announced at the annual meeting in January, he will soon be leaving the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Framingham to become Executive Director of the Massachusetts Baptist Charitable Society. His last Sunday with us will be Easter, March 31. We will gather after worship on Palm Sunday, March 24, to express our thanks for his 12+ years of ministry with us. Please join your church family and friends for a special fellowship time — including cake! — and a chance to say farewell. Fortunately, Pastor Jason will remain a member of FBC and will return to worship with us sometime after we hire a new settled pastor.

### March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck	4	5	6	7 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8	9
10 10:30 am Worship	11 7:00 pm Missions	12 7:00 pm Exec. Council	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship	18	19 7:00 pm A&F	20	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Farewell	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Service	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter 7:00 am Sunrise Service 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt						

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.*

### March Birthdays



- |    |                      |    |                  |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Rachel Thompson      | 24 | Sebron Rowe      |
| 3  | Joseph Paiva         | 27 | Marisa Rowe      |
| 7  | Ethel Luton-Campbell | 28 | Laura Reilly     |
| 8  | Neil Halbert         | 31 | Diamond Campbell |
| 12 | Najay Allen          |    |                  |

## Make a Joyful Noise

Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy praising and worshiping in church? We want YOU to join our choir! We rehearse Thursday evenings at 7 and lead worship on Sunday mornings. If you're interested or just curious, see Sarah Russo — or better still, come join us on a Thursday night! All parts are welcome.



## Executive Council News

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

- A/V proposal: Henry Mboowa has presented three options for a new setup. A&F will discuss and choose one at the board's meeting on February 20. The most expensive option runs about \$2,600.
- Hearing loop: A&F will not look further into this. The board will determine if audio enhancement is possible with the new A/V setup and possibly be Bluetooth enabled. In the meantime, those with hearing issues can log into the Zoom (from the sanctuary) and hear that way.
- Jay will meet with Gemini Sign on 2/15 to get a new quote to replace the two signs that were damaged and to upgrade the posts.
- The total for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was \$1000. Thank you!
- Those arriving late to worship service should enter quietly. Jay will remind ushers to hold them at the entrances during prayers.
- Pastoral Search Committee is complete: Cathy Azurin, Judy Llewellyn, Ethel Luton-Campbell, Henry Mboowa, Wilson Ndzi, Jay Reilly, Ceil Robinson, Robert Rowe, and Tom Stefanini. Jay has been in contact with TABCOM about a possible interim pastor.
- The Easter offering will be administered by A&F for the new A/V system.
- Judy Llewellyn will coordinate Easter flowers. Ordering information will go in the next newsletter and then in the bulletin.

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

## Church Notes

Sincere sympathies to Maryann Markmann and Mike Eser on the passing of Maryann's son, Michael Markmann, on January 30. A memorial service for him was held at the church on February 24.

## Pastoral Search Committee

On February 25, church members voted, with gratitude, to approve a Pastoral Search Committee consisting of Cathy Azurin, Judy Llewellyn, Ethel Luton-Campbell, Henry Mboowa, Wilson Ndzi, Jay Reilly, Ceil Robinson, Robert Rowe, and Tom Stefanini. This group will use resources from The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts as guidance. The first order of business is to hire an interim pastor to lead the congregation after Pastor Jason leaves on March 31 and before a new settled pastor begins. The committee will update us along the way and may ask for our opinions and preferences for a new pastor. Please be thinking about the future of our church as well as your wishes for its direction and be sure to respond if members of the committee seek your help.

## Easter Events



### Easter Sunday, March 31

#### 7:00 am on the Church Green

(Weather permitting; service will move inside if weather is inclement.)

We will gather together to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Join us to praise our risen Lord with song and scripture. This is a short service (15-20 minutes). Then head inside for a light

breakfast (quiche, muffins, fruit salad, etc.). Breakfast is provided free, but we will accept donations that benefit the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund.

### Easter Offering

The Executive Council voted to use the Easter offering collected on March 31 and April 7 for a new audiovisual system in the sanctuary. 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 Judy Llewellyn with your payment (cash or check) by March 24.

# Annual Talent Show

Our Annual Talent Show will be held after our potluck lunch on Sunday, April 7, 2024. This event is always a lot of fun, but what's more important is that it is one of the major fundraisers for the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Please think about sharing your talents (whatever they may be) or just being part of the audience. Desserts and snacks will be on sale at intermission, and we will take a free-will offering.

## Family Promise Walk

Our church supports Family Promise Metrowest, whose mission is to transform the lives of families facing homelessness by providing shelter, education, and comprehensive support. It serves low- and moderate-income families with at least one

child under age 18 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Together, they work toward a future of stability and independence. Proceeds from the Walk support the mission of Family Promise and all the families it helps. Those who choose not to walk may make a donation.

If you are interested in sponsoring, helping plan the walk, coordinating a team, or supporting the walk in other ways, please contact [Amy Miller](#) to get involved. Registration for the Walk, which starts at Natick High School, will open on March 15.



## American Baptist Women's Ministries Virtual Gatherings

During March, Women's History Month, ABWM curates a virtual gathering every Monday at 12:00 pm ET. Special guests will be Rev. Dr. Cheryl Price (March 4), Rev. Kathryn Choy-Wong (March 11), Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil (March 18), and authors Joy Skjegstad and Heidi Unruh (March 25). Visit [www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events) to register.

## Easter Plant Order



Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of/In memory of (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost at (TBD) each \_\_\_\_\_

Submit to Judy Llewellyn  
by noon on Sunday, March 24.  
Cash or checks payable to Judy Llewellyn

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

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## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday**

*10:30 a.m.* Worship Service

*11:30 a.m.* Farewell Gathering for Pastor Jason

### **Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday**

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

### **Sunday, March 31 – 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 March 31 and April 7  
will go toward a new audiovisual system in the sanctuary.**