



Baptist Notes

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

508-872-1176

firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com

www.firstbaptistframingham.com

From the Pastor



The Pastoral Search Committee is excited to share that we have hired the Reverend Jerrie Shepard Matney to serve as our interim pastor. She will join us on May 12. See below for her greeting to us.

Hello, all you good people!

I am delighted to be invited to serve as your church's interim pastor for the next few months. This is work that I love to do, and it is always a privilege to be the bridge between your previous pastor and your yet-to-be-discovered pastor. I am confident that we will have a wonderful time together in ministry.

Just a few words of introduction for now, with more to come:

I have been doing interim ministry since 1995 (almost 30 years!). This followed an 11-year pastorate in western New York, where my son grew up. He now lives in Plymouth with his wife and my two grandsons, who will be 10 and 8 this summer. I have two older sisters, in upstate New York and Virginia. We are best friends, though we don't see each other as often as we'd like.

I am a native New Yorker and moved to Mass. in 2009 — purchasing my first house after 30+ years of church housing. After 15 years, I'm still discovering the joys (mostly) and challenges of home ownership. But I love my little house in Chicopee and have wonderful neighbors. (Gardening season is soon upon us — an added joy!) I live somewhat by the seasons: Winter is puzzles and needlework, summer is garden and beach, and every season is reading.

I'm really looking forward to working with you all and getting to know you. I hope you will feel that I'm available to you, even though I'm an hour or so away. I've served other churches at that distance and more, so this is not a new adventure in that respect. During Covid, I served a church in Rhode Island, totally on Zoom! (That really was an adventure, but it went surprisingly well.)

My first Sunday with you will be May 12, and I'll set up a schedule of when I plan to be at the church. But I will definitely be reachable by phone and email, and I invite you to reach out whenever you need to.

I leave you, for now, with these beautiful words from the prophet who saw good in the midst of challenging days:
For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future with hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Be safe — be well — be blessed!

Pastor Jerrie

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney

May 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------|--|-----|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <i>10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck</i> | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Mothers Day <i>10:30 am Worship World Mission Offering</i> | 13 | 14 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i> | 15 | 16 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 17 | 18 <i>12:00 pm MCI Event</i> |
| 19 <i>10:30 am Worship World Mission Offering</i> | 20 | 21 <i>7:00 pm A&F</i> | 22 | 23 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 24 <i>7:00 pm Hope Bible Baptist</i> | 25 |
| 26 <i>10:30 am Worship World Mission Offering</i> | 27 Memorial Day | 28 <i>7:00 pm Deacons</i> | 29 | 30 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 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.

May Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Christine Brown | 11 Brian Halbert |
| 1 Judith Richardson | 12 Elaine Kelley |
| 4 Anne Cerutti | 13 Xavier Allen |
| 4 John Moore | 13 Gabriel Erguiza |
| 4 Evan Harris | 14 Jim Wakeman, Jr. |
| 6 Joan Reilly | 15 Vinton Allen |
| 6 Sarah Thompson | 18 Frances Carr |
| 6 Chris Monaco | 20 Kim Philipp |
| 8 Francesca Cerutti-Harris | 25 Adele Williams |
| 10 Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit | 28 Janie Harris |



Church Notes

The family of Pat Travis, who passed away on March 31, was grateful for the involvement of the people of First Baptist Church, especially at the end of her life, and sent this note:

We wish to thank you for your prayers, love, and support during this difficult time. You were a very special part of both our parents' spiritual lives! May God continue bless you!

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2024. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- The first-floor front apartment of the rental property has been renovated, and a new Family Promise tenant is expected to move in 4/12/2024.
- The Easter offering, designated for updates to the church's audiovisual system, totaled \$894.
- The new Route 9 sign will be one sided; the Pleasant St. sign will be double sided. A&F will evaluate the quotes that have been received. There is a higher cost for granite columns.
- New audiovisual system is up and running. We now are looking for more people to run the system on Sunday mornings.
- Deacons donated \$500 from the Deacons Fund to Pearl Street Café (where Salvation Army program moved to).
- Visitor cards will be placed in the pews again after having been removed during COVID. Because we now have no full-time pastor, we need a way to get info on new visitors.
- The Board of Missions has scheduled the following special offerings: May – World Missions, August – America for Christ, October – One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Happy Birthday Baby received a grant from MutualOne Bank.
- A [First Baptist Church in Framingham YouTube channel](#) has been created, and videos of old worship services can be viewed there.
- Pastoral Search Committee has interviewed one candidate and is in the process of setting an interview with a second candidate.

Next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 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, and Diane Halbert.

Other church members are invited to attend Council and Board meetings as observers.

Pastoral Search Committee

Now that the Pastoral Search Committee has found an interim pastor, the group will prepare the information needed to search for our next settled pastor. In the near future, members will be asking for your input regarding the skills and qualities that you think are important for our search. Please keep this transition time in your prayers as we seek the individual who is right for our church family.

Talent Show and Scholarship Fund

Thanks to all who helped with the terrific Millie Levin/Kathie Chute Scholarship Fund Talent Show. We enjoyed listening to many talented singers and musicians, being impressed by girls doing math, watching Evan make shrimp scampi, and seeing the way Janie creates her beautiful ceramics as well as groaning to many bad jokes and being entertained by Steve and the kids doing a very spirited dance to The Macarena. We also appreciate everyone who provided goodies for the bake sale. We added \$872.50 to the scholarship fund!

Anyone who is applying to college, is continuing for another year, or is taking any educational course may obtain a scholarship application from the Scholarship Committee: Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley or Ray Zeman.

As Cheryl shared with us in *The Story of Rindercella*, remember that “The storl to this mory is: If you ever go to a **bancy fall** and want to have a **prandsome hince lall in fove** with you, don’t forget to **slop your dripper!**”



Easter Thanks

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and special thanks to Judy Llewellyn for ordering them and Diane Halbert for picking them up. We also appreciate your generosity in the Easter offering. We collected nearly \$900 to use for updating our audiovisual system in the sanctuary that enables us to provide Zoom access and project parts of the service on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. We are now able to save recordings of services to be viewed on YouTube. Look for them on the [First Baptist Church in Framingham YouTube channel](#).

If you were in the sanctuary on Easter morning, chances are you also posed for a photo on the front steps after the service. Visit the church [website](#) to see all the smiling faces!



Conference of American Baptist Women of Massachusetts

The Spring Conference of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of MA will take place on June 1 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in North Attleboro. Connect with women and girls throughout Massachusetts to engage in meaningful dialogue and activities. Register soon — the deadline is May 25 — using the registration form on the next page. The cost includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and conference expenses.

Spring Conference

Saturday, June 1, 2024
9:30am – 3:00pm
First Baptist Church
75 Park St., North Attleboro, MA

Name: _____ Age (if AB GIRL): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church Name: _____ Association: _____

Please Check One:

AB Woman's Registration: \$40

AB GIRLS Registration: \$25

Checks should be made payable to **AB Women's Ministries of MA**
Please mail your Registration Forms & Payment to:
Nahomi Stanley, Treasurer, 258 Glen Meadow Rd., Franklin, MA 02038

I have dietary restrictions that you should be aware of, and they are listed below.

AB Women's Ministries of MA reserves the right to use photos taken of members for publicity, including but not limited to posting on our website & in print/email promotional materials. Consent is given for using names and photos by AB Women's Ministries of MA; it is expressly understood that names and photographs will not be used for any other purpose without further written consent.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Deadline: May 25, 2024



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703

