

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 Your Temporary Shepherd



Even with Easter a bit later this year, it still seems that we just get a glimpse of the baby in the manger before we enter the special season of Lent. For Christians, the six weeks before Easter are a time of study, repentance, and preparation for the events of Christ's death and resurrection. It is a time of inner reflection, of soul nurture, and of paying attention to our own spiritual growth. It is a season of growing closer to God as we revisit the events that lead us up to Easter.

I welcome the Lenten invitation to be called to more frequent prayer, meditation, acts of charity, sacrifice, an extra measure of kindness and compassion, and the opportunities to open myself up even more to God's leading in my life, and the life of this church.

I hope you will join me on this Lenten journey. In whatever way you choose to do it, allow yourself to be challenged to do something that is not part of your usual routine.

I have suggested a few activities here that you may consider for this season, or even for a lifelong change. The first two on the list are what I grew up with and what I taught to my son when he was young. (Someday I may tell you the story of his oatmeal cookies.) I pray that we may all find ways to walk closer to the Spirit during these days.

- Give up an unhealthy habit.
- Take on a new healthy or loving habit.
- Go through your home or office and discard what you don't use.
- Read one chapter in the Scriptures every day.
- Purchase nothing that is not absolutely necessary.
- Finish a project you've been working on for months/years.
- Every day, write down something for which you are thankful.
- Every day, tell the members of your family that you love them, no strings attached.
- Do whatever you can to heal a past hurt or forgive a past offense.

The world Lent comes from the word *lencten*, meaning spring. But according to Robert Schuler, LENT means LET'S ELIMINATE NEGATIVE THINKING. (Not a bad idea, is it, especially in these times?)

I look forward to spending the Lenten and Easter season with you.

Lenten blessings to you all,

Pastor Jerrie

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney
revjasm@gmail.com | 518-331-0390

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck lunch	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Lenten Study	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 10:30 am Worship	10	11 7:00 pm Exec Council	12 7:00 pm Lenten Study	13 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship	17	18 7:00 pm A&F	19 7:00 pm Lenten Study	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26 7:00 pm Lenten Study	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Talent Show	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.

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 | |



Did you know that our church has a Facebook group? If you are on Facebook, check it out at First Baptist Church in Framingham. You will see updates on special events and services as well as other news related to the congregation.

Executive Council News

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

- A tenant at Pleasant St. is being evicted for failure to pay rent.
- AED placement and training will be finalized at the next A&F meeting.
- Snow-day Zoom worship went well. Looking for a better way to approach hymns.
- So far, \$106 raised (some IOUs outstanding) from sale of items in the storage closet.
- RMMO raised over \$700.
- Pastor Jerrie would still like to have a discussion time for worship but has concerns about involving online worshipers. Perhaps a brunch would work.
- Pastor Jerrie would like the church to create a visual timeline for the church, especially with our 200th anniversary approaching. She will provide some examples.
- The Search Committee will finish the church profile this week for input from Pastor Jerrie. Goal is to submit the profile to TABCOM representative by mid-March.
- The parents of potential candidates for baptism need to be contacted. Pastor and/or Deacons should have a class for the candidates.
- A list of fellowship opportunities will be presented to the congregation (as suggested during hopes and dreams at the Annual Meeting).

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, March 11, 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. Other church members are invited to attend Council and Board meetings as observers. Just let one of us know when you would like to join.

Food Wagon

You may notice that the food wagon has been moved to the front of the sanctuary as we kick off a new targeted program of food donations for A Place to Turn. For the month of March, we are asking you to clean out your cabinets of excess, nonexpired, nonperishable food. Bring anything you want this month. In April, we will start with a new goal. Stay tuned to find out more!



First Baptist Church at 200

We are now thinking about our big anniversary and forming a committee to plan the 2026 celebration. We also are beginning to collect old photos and other artifacts from our past. If you would like to be part of the planning committee or have any treasures to share, please talk to Linda Devine.

Lenten Preaching Series

During Lent we will be looking at Jesus' parables, the stories he told. Jesus was a superb story teller, and the Scriptures have preserved many of his stories. They have lessons for us as well as for those who heard them in person.

There are five Sundays in March! We begin the month with the story from Luke of Jesus' temptation — actually his temptation to avoid the cross. We go from there to an intro to the parables, with "Stories Jesus Told." The schedule for March is below.

March 2	"Coming Face to Face with the Enemy" Celebration of Communion	Luke 4:1-13
March 9	"Stories Jesus Told"	Matthew 13:10-17
March 16	"Everything Old Is New Again"	Luke 5:36-39
March 23	"Getting What We Deserve"	Matthew 20:1-16
March 30	"When You're Invited ..."	Luke 14:15-24

Pastor Jerrie will be away on April 6 for her sister's memorial service, and Pastor Linda M. will be preaching. When Pastor Jerrie returns, it will be time for Palm Sunday and Easter! The April schedule, including Holy Week events, will be in the April newsletter.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the Building



Our new AED has arrived! The cabinet to hold it, as well as signs for it, will be hanging on the wall in Jefferson Hall very soon. Naomi Stanley will provide information and hold training on the use of the AED in an emergency. The information sessions will include a video on the proper use of the AED as well as the parts that make it work. Naomi also will give guidance and advice on what to do in case of an emergency.

If you are interested in seeing or learning more about the AED, please contact Naomi or Linda Devine to add your name to the list.

We will then set the date and time for training. If you have already been trained and certified in the use of the AED, that is great! Please come to show your support. You can tell people how easy it is to use. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please speak to Naomi in church, by phone (508.963.7715), or by email (naomi.stanley@comcast.net).



Fellowship Opportunities

Some of the items presented during Hopes and Dreams at the Annual Meeting indicate that people would like more fellowship opportunities. Here are a few suggestions:

- ⇒ Women's Prayer Breakfast (usually held on Saturday mornings)
- ⇒ (Board) Game afternoon/night
- ⇒ Movie afternoon/night
- ⇒ Crafting afternoon/night
- ⇒ Sharing of a hobby or a collection with your church family during coffee hour

There will be signup sheets in Reilly Hall starting March 2 for you to express your interest in attending or coordinating these events. Please feel free to add your own suggestions. If there is enough interest in one or more of these prospects, we will go ahead and schedule something.

Pastoral Search

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey from the search committee. Your responses were important in identifying the qualities that we would like in our next pastor and are included in the church profile. Committee members are now reviewing a draft. Pastor Jerrie also is looking at it to provide her observations from her time as our interim pastor. After we incorporate any changes, the committee will do a final review and send the profile to TABCOM. It will then be available for pastors who are considering a change in ministry. The committee will provide updates of progress on the search, which should now begin moving more quickly.

You Can Be a Star !!



Our Annual Talent Show will be held after lunch on **Sunday, March 30**. This event is always a lot of fun but more importantly is a major fundraiser 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 for the Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Kathie Zeman if you are interested in participating in a group activity. We are currently formulating ideas for this group act. No special talents are required — just your enthusiasm and willingness to do almost anything. You won't regret it!!

Pull-Tab Collection Program


To help the Shriners help children, we will be collecting tabs from soda and beer cans in containers at the back of the sanctuary. Occasionally, tabs may be on vegetable or soup cans too. The program collects only aluminum tabs, though, so be sure that the tabs you collect do not attract a magnet. For questions about the program, please see Dave or Diane Newcomb.

What is the Pull-Tab Program?

The pull-tab program at Aleppo Shriners in Wilmington, Massachusetts was founded several years ago and as a way for the public to help raise funds for the humanitarian and life-saving services provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children. In Eastern Massachusetts, tabs are collected by many different organizations and collected at the Shrine Center in Wilmington, Massachusetts. The tabs are redeemed at a recycling center and the proceeds benefit the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. Donations range from small baggies and jars to 40 lb. bags like the one below.


What is the Children's Transportation Fund?

Funds generated in the pull-tab program are used to transport children and their parent or guardian, to a Shriners Hospital for Children Hospital. Volunteers from local shrine organizations use specialized vans, small buses and automobiles and give freely of countless hours of their time providing transportation to and from doctor's visits. One very important mode of transportation this fund pays for are the life-saving med-flights transporting children from all over the world to a Shriners Hospital when their life is in the balance. These specialized med-flights cost tens of thousands of dollars, but when a child's life hangs in the balance, money is no object. We are committed to providing the best care for children in our specialty areas of Orthopaedics, Burn Care, Spinal Cord Injury, and Cleft Lip and Palate, regardless of a family's ability to pay.



FACT: It takes more than 1,600 tabs to equal one (1) pound.

FACT: The Aleppo Shrine Center has processed over 20 TONS of pull-tabs collected from throughout Eastern Massachusetts.




Local Shriners load over 900 pounds of pull-tabs to be recycled.

How Can I Help?

You can help by saving aluminum can pull-tabs and bringing them to the Shrine Center in Wilmington with the proceeds going to the Transportation Fund.

You can also encourage community awareness of the tab program by getting groups such as schools, church groups, boy and girl scouts, family members and businesses in your area to participate.

For More Information Call:
Aleppo Shrine Center
99 Fordham Road, Wilmington, MA 01887
978-657-4202
or log onto: www.AleppoShriners.com



FPM Neighborhood Night at Jack's Abby

You can support [Family Promise Metrowest](#) by enjoying a good meal at Jack's Abby in Framingham. On Thursday, **March 6**, the restaurant is hosting a Neighborhood Night to support the Team Framingham runners' fundraising efforts for FPM. When you dine in and mention you're there for FPM, 20% of your check will be donated to help families facing housing insecurity.

Although you may go to Jack's Abby at any time that day, from 6–8 p.m., you can meet the Team Framingham marathon runners: Christian Martinez, Maria Martinez Anzola, Di Summer, and Tara Foynes. Plus, you'll have the chance to purchase raffle tickets for exciting prizes! Contact [Amy](mailto:amy@familypromisemetrowest.org) (amy@familypromisemetrowest.org) for more information.

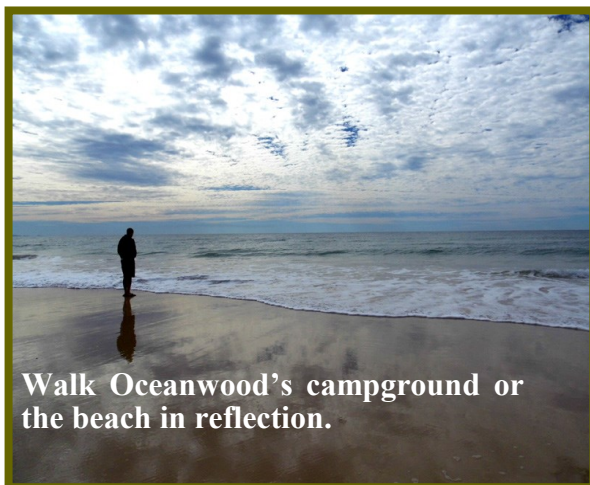
To make a donation to FPM at any time: [Donate Today and Help Build Brighter Futures!](#)

May 16-18, 2025

Refresh Your Soul at Oceanwood through

The Surroundings

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."



Walk Oceanwood's campground or the beach in reflection.

Fellowship

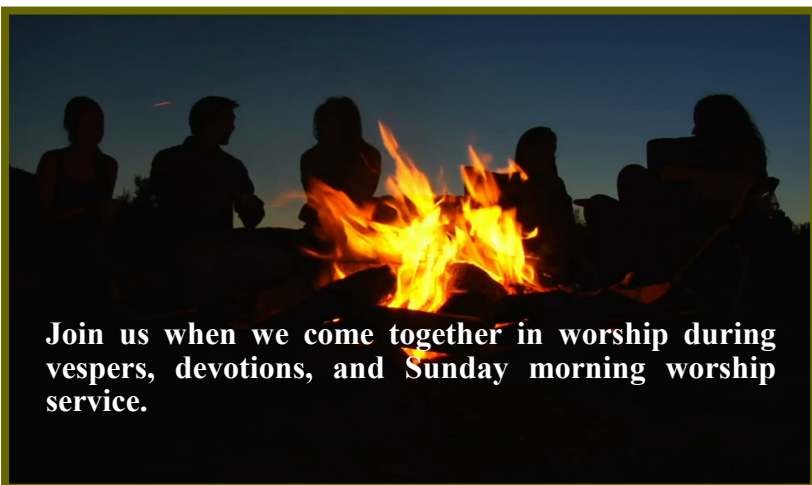
"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"



Join us in fellowship around meals, hanging out in the common room, playing games, etc.

Worship

"Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!"



Join us when we come together in worship during vespers, devotions, and Sunday morning worship service.

Acts of Kindness

"Give to him who asks of you..."



Oceanwood is a beautiful 100 acre property that could use help with various tasks. There is something to do for everyone: raking, cleaning, organizing pictures, etc.

MetroWest Symphony Orchestra: Spring Concert at FSU

On Sunday, **March 16**, 2:00–3:30 p.m., enjoy a concert at the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center at Framingham State University. The music will take you from the early nineteenth century right through the twenty-first. The earliest-written piece is Franz Schubert’s beautiful, sonorous *Concerto for Arpeggione*, which is named for and was written for a six-stringed ancestor of today’s modern cello. Soloist Seth MacLeod will play the version for cello and string orchestra.



A worldwide favorite, Charles Gounod’s opera *Faust* (1859) has ballet music as well as song and story. The ballet music was added to the opera 10 years after its first performance. Aaron Copland’s *Quiet City* was originally composed as incidental music for a play by that name by Irwin Shaw. It is now best known as a piece of music separate from the play. And, commissioned on behalf of the MSO, Richard St. Clair’s new piece *Hello!* for Orchestra celebrates the collaboration of the Metrowest Symphony with Framingham State University.

Aspire Women’s Event

The poster for the Aspire Women's Event features a pink and purple gradient background. At the top is the Aspire logo, a stylized 'A' inside a circle. Below it, the text reads: "1 night – 3 hours Just for Women An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music". The event is led by Barb Roose, an Author & Bible Teacher. The event is on Friday, March 28, 2025, at Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Rd., Uxbridge, MA 01569. The show starts at 7:00 PM, with panel time at 6:30 PM and doors opening at 6:00 PM. The poster also features three circular portraits of women: Kay Dodd (Comedy), Laura Williams (Music), and another woman (likely related to the panel). A call to action encourages attendees to come early for a 15-minute panel time with three ladies based on Colossians 2:6-7, called "Deeply Rooted". Advance tickets are listed as General Admission - \$25, VIP/Reserved - \$35. For groups of 10 or more, attendees should call the Aspire office at 480-812-1100 to register as a group leader and receive group leader incentives. VIP/Reserved includes reserved seats and a snack bag. Tickets can be purchased at 480-812-1100 or online at ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com. The poster concludes with the text "We hope you can join us as we celebrate 10 years with ASPIRE" and logos for Compassion and EFP Extreme Faith Productions.

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

Author & Bible Teacher
BARB ROOSE

**FRIDAY
MARCH 28, 2025**

**VALLEY
CHAPEL**
14 HUNTER RD.
UXBRIDGE, MA 01569

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

Come early and join us for
a 15 minute panel time with
all 3 ladies based on
Colossians 2:6-7 called
"Deeply Rooted"

ADVANCE TICKETS
General Admission – \$25
VIP/Reserved – \$35
For groups of 10 or more, please call the Aspire
office at 480-812-1100 to register as a group
leader and receive group leader incentives.
VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats
and a snack bag

Comedy by
KAY DODD

Music by
LAURA WILLIAMS

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 EFP Extreme Faith Productions

In case you haven’t signed up yet, here’s a reminder about a special event for women coming up on Friday, **March 28**. All women from church and beyond are invited to the gathering in Uxbridge for this evening of music, comedy, and teaching that speaks to the hearts of women. It promises to inspire, encourage, and remind them of God’s love and purpose for their lives. The sponsor, Aspire, was born out of the desire and need for women to enjoy a night out, with fellowship and spiritual growth.

Please talk to Pastor Linda McKenzie (lindamckenzie102@gmail.com) if you’d like to participate. An incentive is available to groups of 10 women or more.

Hospice Volunteering

West River Care is a local agency that serves individuals in the community and is looking for compassionate individuals who can offer support and comfort to patients and families facing end-of-life challenges. Volunteers are a vital part of hospice care, providing companionship, respite for families, and a compassionate presence during difficult times. You could make a meaningful impact by helping out. Contact Carmela Nahary at cnahary@westrivercare.com, 781-707-9578 (office), or 860-634-7198 (cell) for more details or materials. West River Care is located at 57 Wells Ave., Suite 20, Newton, MA 02459.

Valentine Match

How did you do with matching up the Biblical couples? Most of the matches are easy or easy to look up. So to avoid giving you the answers outright, Pastor Jerrie provides the Bible citations where you can find them.

Delilah	Judges 16	
Gomer	Hosea 1:2-3	
Mary	If you don't know this one, you need to go to remedial Bible school!	
Rebecca	Genesis 24:66-67	
Sapphira	Acts 5:1	
Eve	You know this one too, right?	
Rachel	Genesis 29:11	
Bathsheba	2 Samuel 11:2-4	
Sarah	Genesis 17:15-16	

Here are the men to choose from:

- Jacob
- Isaac
- Abraham
- David
- Joseph
- Sampson
- Ananias
- Adam
- Hosea

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703

