



# Baptist Notes

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



The Psalms in our Bible are a remarkable source of spiritual insights, personal victories and ongoing struggles. They are some of our best “windows to the soul” of faithful and sincere people of faith. We have just begun the Lenten Season, a time for personal reflection and focus on our spiritual lives, and I turn to the Psalms for insight and encouragement. One of the Psalms associated with the Lenten Season is Psalm 51, categorized as one of the seven *penitential* (I was wrong and I want to change) Psalms. It opens with a plea to God for mercy, to forgive, and to cleanse the soul, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my *transgressions* (rebellion).” It moves with a confession, “You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.” As the prayer continues, it states a timeless hope for all faithful before God, “Create in me a clean heart; restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”

I believe the Christian faith is about community, striving together to share and encourage the truth of God in an ever growing and complex world, as well as times of personal reflection and introspection. The early Christian Church, in its wisdom and emphasis on a relationship with Holy God, built times into the church calendar year to encourage additional focus, and if needed, action, to straighten out and re-establish our faith lives. The seasons of Advent and Lent are two such times. During Lent, sometimes people will “give-up” something or “give-to” something to enhance the moment and aid in the season’s Holy (set apart) spirit. My encouragement to us all is to first identify something we want to change before God. Then, confess our need for and dependence on the Holy Spirit to lead us. Finally, when appropriate, give testimony to the change in us and the victory of more of God’s spirit and less of a rebellious spirit in our lives.

*Jason*

## Let’s Update the Church Calendar for 2020

At least once a year, we meet to update the church calendar with all the events that take place in the building. We will gather on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Reilly Hall for anyone who needs to put something other than the usual activities on the calendar. Examples include a yard sale, basket-making party, car wash, or movie night. If you are planning events that need to go on the calendar, please join the meeting or talk to Linda Devine or any other member of the Executive Council.



## Church Rummage/Yard Sale Save the Date - Saturday, May 2

Start thinking about cleaning out your attics, garages and the basement. We will be having a yard / rummage sale on Saturday, May 2. We need your donations to make this sale a success. We will be accepting all sort of household goods and clothes. Look under the bed and behind the door - for your discards could be someone else's treasure.

For more information contact Kathie Zeman or Linda Devine.

## Calling All History Lovers

First Baptist Church in Framingham has been a presence in the local community for nearly two centuries and has much to show for its mission here. Over the years, church historians have kept careful records and collected countless keepsakes to ensure that future generations know all about the church's past. Our current historian, Jimmy Wakeman, has worked hard to continue the legacy. Now, he would love to have your help in organizing the many materials he has inherited from previous generations. He is looking for people who can help him sort and catalog the precious information.

If you can help for any amount of time, please contact Jimmy Wakeman or Linda Devine.

## Tuesday Night Bible Study Starts March 3

We will be studying the Parables found only in the Gospel of Luke:

- March 3 Luke 15: 1, 11-32
- March 10 Luke 16:19-31
- March 31 Luke 14:25-33
- April 14 Luke 16:1-13
- April 28 Luke 18:1-8
- May 6 Luke 10:25-37
- May 12 Luke 12:13-21

Please join us for a light supper at 6:30 p.m and Bible study beginning at about 7:15 p.m.

## Church Notes

We offer our sympathies to Beulah Novinger and her family upon the recent death of her daughter, of Stella Chapin.

## March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 First Sunday in Lent</b> 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship  <i>Potluck Lunch</i>	2	3 6:30 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	4	5 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	6	7
<b>8 Second Sunday in Lent</b> 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Missions Meeting	9	10 6:30 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	11	12 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	13	14
<b>15 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	16	17 7:15 pm A&F <i>Meeting</i>	18 7:00 pm Executive <i>Council</i>	19 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	20	21
<b>22 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Light Lunch <i>followed by Talent Show</i>	23	24	25	26 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	27	28
<b>29 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting	30	31 6:30 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>				

Notes: AA meets : Monday evenings at 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. in the Children's Room  
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at Noon in Reilly Hall  
 Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in Reilly Hall

Hope Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

*All calendar entries are subject to change*

### Save the Dates: Holy Week Activities

Sunday, April 5	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 9	Maundy Thursday Service
Sunday, April 12	Easter : Sunrise Service, Worship, Easter Egg Hunt

### March Birthdays

3 Joseph Paiva	19 Betty Temple
4 Carolyn Reilly	25 Marilyn Medler
7 Ethel Luton-Campbell	28 Laura Reilly
8 Neil Halbert	31 Diamond Campbell
12 Naja Arianna Allen	





Grab your sneakers, strollers, and leashes and help us raise funds to end family homelessness in our Metrowest community. With a new afternoon start time, enjoy lunch with Montilio's Pizza Truck, music, crafts, fun provided by Apex Entertainment, and an invigorating walk through Natick Center. All ages are welcome.

**Where: Natick High School, 15 West Street**

**When: Sunday, April 5**

**What Time: Registration and fun begin at 12:30 pm, walk begins at 1:30 pm**

**Who: Walkers of all ages. Dogs are welcome too!**

**How: Registration is now open!**

## Let's Help Clean the Earth on Earth Day



Framingham's Earth Day coordinators want to team up with First Baptist Church on **Saturday, April 25**. We are invited to help with the "hard" recycling that people take to the Earth Day celebration. The festival runs from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., so you are welcome to participate for one, two, three, or all four hours – whatever works with your schedule. We can tag-team so that everyone has a chance to visit all the other booths, shows, and exhibits too. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone looking for community service hours!

Our main job will be to direct people to place their recyclables in the proper bins. We also will have handouts to educate them on reducing their footprint on our earth. Between now and then, all of us can save up our own recyclables for the big day. Batteries, light bulbs, Brita filters, wine corks, CDs/DVDs, printer cartridges, and Keurig cups are among the many items we can give a new life.

Please talk to Linda Devine to volunteer to help clean the earth.

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First Baptist Church in Framingham

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## *You Can Be A Star !!*



Our Annual Talent Show will be held after lunch on **Sunday, March 22, 2020**. 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 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 required, just your enthusiasm and willingness to do almost anything. You won't regret it!!