



July/August 2025

# Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham  
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## *From Your Temporary Shepherd*



Pastor Jerrie's last day of worship with us as interim pastor was Sunday, June 22. The picture below shows her opening a parting gift. The next day, she had a successful hip replacement. She is doing well and is in a rehabilitation facility, being pampered and learning to walk again. Her facility has a lovely patio space with lots of flowers where she can enjoy the fresh air and good conversation with other residents. She hopes to go home next week. In the meantime, you may call her or send healing thoughts to her at Mary's Meadow, 12 Gamelin St. in Holyoke, MA 01040. She very much appreciates your prayers and well wishes and sends blessings to us all.

### *Pastor Jerrie*

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney  
[revjsm@gmail.com](mailto:revjsm@gmail.com) | 518-331-0390



## July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm <i>Deacons</i>	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6 10:00 am <i>Worship</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 am <i>Worship</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:00 am <i>Worship</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Christmas in July</i> 10:00 am <i>Worship</i> 11:00 am <i>200th Cmte.</i>	28	29	30	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.*

**From July 6 through August 31, morning worship will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

### July Birthdays

2 Matthew Moore	23 Judy Llewellyn
5 Austin Bell	24 Tom Stefanini
5 Cristina Bell	27 Willow Wilder
5 Ahlea Tucker	28 Edward Zeman
9 Samantha Poole	28 Jerrie Shepard Matney
14 Rocky Wilder	29 Patti Devine
22 Sarah Wilder	31 Diane Halbert



**FBC FACT 40: 1957** Carillon records and a player were installed in the belfry at First Baptist to honor Deacon L.L. Workman for his untiring and devoted service to the church.

## August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>We will collect the America for Christ Offering on August 10, 17, 24, and 31.</i>					1	2
3 10:00 am Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 am Worship	11	12 7:00 pm Exec. Council	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 am Worship	18	19 7:00 pm A&F	20	21	22	23
24 <b>Singing Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Comm Cmte	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 am Worship						

Notes: AA meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon in Reilly Hall.  
 Hope Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays, 3–7 p.m.

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**FBC FACT 41: 1825-45** Seventeen young men from First Baptist Church entered the ministry.

## August Birthdays



3 David Newcomb	17 Robert Hyslop
6 Daniel Rutherford	18 Jillian Kelley
7 June Cooper	19 Jim Wakeman, Sr.
8 Dara Badoo	20 Ceil Robinson
8 Joe Borghetti	20 Erika Velazco
10 Annabelle Rutherford	21 Ryan Watton
10 Izabella Ishagara	23 Tami Beth Long
11 Chestine Kate (CK) Azurin	24 Paul Vaz
12 Catherine Paiva	27 Amanda Sonnenberg
13 Betina Ndzi	31 Coleen Allen
13 Karen Vaz	31 Avril Wallel
16 Aileen Erguiza	

## Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on June 10. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Deacons fund balance is \$1,785.52.
- Children's Day is set for June 15 (also Father's Day) with a cookout. Three Bibles will be given to children completing second grade.
- June 22 will be Pastor Jerrie's last day with us as she prepares for a hip replacement on June 23. The Rev. June Cooper will preach and serve communion on July 6.
- Special summer services will include Christmas in July on July 27 and Singing Sunday on August 24.
- Delivery of items from the food cart will now be done quarterly instead of monthly.
- The America for Christ offering will be taken in August.
- A disclaimer that the service is being recorded and available on YouTube will be added to the bulletin and projected on the screen.
- The balcony computer can be used for a repository of church pictures. Anyone with photos may send them to [fbcframingham@gmail.com](mailto:fbcframingham@gmail.com).
- The Search Committee has interviewed one candidate and is scheduling an interview with another one.
- The 200th Anniversary committee will meet on June 15 to set dates for the big celebration. Jay Reilly is working on a graphic for a logo.
- Those offering prayer requests during the service need to use a microphone. A&F will get another handheld mic for ushers to use.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 pm 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.

## Opportunity to Provide Summer Music

The "professional" choir is taking the summer off. Now is the time for the rest of you to share your musical talent — singing solo or with others or playing a musical instrument — during the Sunday service. Please see Naomi Stanley or Music Director Sarah Russo to sign up to provide special music for worship in July and August.



## Ushering Opportunities

We have openings for ushers for Sundays in July through December of this year. Ushering is a simple and rewarding yet vital service that you can supply during our worship services. If you are interested in helping on one or more Sundays, please tell Diane Halbert when you see her in church or send an email to [halbertdv@gmail.com](mailto:halbertdv@gmail.com). Thank you for serving your church in this important way.

## Pastoral Search Update

The search committee has met with two pastoral candidates who might be a good fit with our church family. You will hear about the results of these meetings soon. Feel free to contact committee members if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will resume in September at 9:45 on Sunday mornings before our worship service. If you are interested, you may speak to, call, or email Rev. Linda McKenzie this summer. Please consider joining the group for a special start to worship.

## Food Wagon for Local Needs

For the rest of the summer, we will be collecting food wagon donations with a focus on kid-friendly meals, snacks, and beverages. The Missions Board is now distributing your kind contributions to food pantries quarterly rather than monthly. Before Pastor Jerrie left, the board gave her a gift card for food supplies to thank her for all she did for the church during her time with us and to help in her recovery from hip replacement surgery.

## Preparations for Our 200th Anniversary Celebration



The doors of the First Baptist Church in Framingham opened to worshipers for the first time in May of 1826. To commemorate this occasion in 2026, 200 years later, we are planning some fitting celebrations. The planning committee chose the weekend of **May 16-17** for a dinner and special service. You will learn more as committee members work on the details for the events. Until then, you will continue to see FBC Facts leading up to next May. Maybe you have some milestones at First Baptist or Park Street Baptist you would like to share in the Facts — they can be personal (baptism, dedication, wedding, etc.), related to the whole church, in recognition of a special person, or whatever fits in the chain of events for the past 200 years. If so, please send them to the church office at [firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistframingham@gmail.com). And make sure to save the dates on your calendar!

**FBC FACT 42: 1987** First Baptist replaced the three front doors of the church.

**FBC FACT 43: 1757** Elders Whitman Jacobs and Noah Adams from Connecticut traveled to Framingham to

## America for Christ Offering

During the month of August, we will be collecting the **America for Christ (AFC)** offering. Generous giving to this offering provides financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Some examples of the positive impact your dollars have had on communities:

- Funding direct assistance to the residents of Youngstown, OH, that included food boxes, meals for children, clothing, and commodities such as diapers, school supplies, and housewares
- Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that delivered lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry to communities in and around Kansas City, KS
- Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and an array of faith backgrounds

Your gifts help thousands through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Watch for additional information from members of our Board of Missions in August.

**FBC FACT 44:** 1948 Phyllis Abbott and Robert Devine were married at Park Street Baptist Church.





Adoniram Judson and Samuel Stillman Associations presents

# Youth Camp for Middle Schoolers

## Reflections

*"For we are God's handwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Ephesians 2:10

Cost:

**\$425**

(You may apply for a scholarship from your association.)

**July 6—July 11, 2025**

**Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center  
17 Royal St., Ocean Park, ME**

Chapel - Outdoor Activities

Beach Days - Bible Study

Crafts - Campfire Vespers

For more information or to request a registration form contact:

Judson Association

Melinda Parry  
zupatree@hotmail.com

Stillman Association

Bonnie Sestito  
abwbonnie@gmail.com

Other association's middle schoolers are welcomed!



## A Day of Community

Saturday, September 27, 2025  
9:00 AM—3:00 PM

First Baptist Church  
8 Lafayette St., Wakefield, MA



**Save the date to be in  
community with women and  
girls across Massachusetts  
through worship, prayer, fellowship,  
spiritual growth, and service.**

If you would be willing to take a quick survey  
for the Beloved Community Ministry, click on  
the QR Code.





## Reading of Frederick Douglass Together

On Saturday, July 5, at 6 p.m., experience the powerful words of Frederick Douglass on Grafton Common. Douglass spoke there on April 30, 1842, after being denied access to any churches or halls around the common. Following the reading, explore the continuing legacy of slavery and racism in America. Discussion groups will be led by **Rev. June Cooper**, Theologian in the City, Old South Church, Boston, and Donna Maria Cameron, President of Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton (UUSGU).

Everyone is invited to this free event, sponsored by Mass Humanities and Mass Cultural Council. Bring a picnic, chairs, and blankets. Water is available throughout the reading. Drinks, fruit, and cookies will be available during the discussions.

For more information, visit <https://www.uusgu.org/>. You also may contact Suzanne Maas at [smaas2410@icloud.com](mailto:smaas2410@icloud.com) or Bette Lotterman at [lottermanb@yahoo.com](mailto:lottermanb@yahoo.com).

Reading  
**Frederick Douglass**  
Together

*What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?*  
First delivered July 5, 1852  
by abolitionist Frederick Douglass

**July 5th - Grafton Common**  
rain location: Grafton Unitarian Church  
3 Grafton Common

6:00 Family activities and music  
6:30 Reading of the speech  
7:15 Discussion to action

sponsors:  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton & Upton | Grafton Public Library

Mass Cultural Council  
MASS HUMANITIES

**FBC FACT 45: 2002** A group of people from First Baptist took a mission trip to El Salvador and helped to rebuild buildings destroyed by an earthquake. A group also went to El Salvador in 2004, 2006, 2010, and 2013.



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## First Baptist Church in Framingham

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