

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



*The Message*  
*November 2024*

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From The  
Pastor's Desk

November 2024

Blessed 200<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary!  
First Baptist Church of Westwood

*To God be the glory!!*

People of God, we are blessed to bear witness to this milestone marking *200 years* of service in the mission of God's Gospel. I look forward to celebrating a high time of worship and a sacred time of re-dedication of the membership as we enter the 201<sup>st</sup> year of First Baptist Church's existence. It clearly pleased God, the *Master Orchestrator*, to bring us together in this moment in time to grow us up together in Christ's love and to prepare this church to be an even greater blessing in the world today. I'm excited to receive others who God will lead to worship God here and make FBC their church home also. I smile when considering how God orchestrates *His* perfect will in our spheres of time and geography.

Timely are the words of the Apostle Paul recorded in **Acts 7:24-27**:

*"The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor He made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and He allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us."*

Just think, wherever life began for us we were destined to know Christ's saving grace, newness of life, and each other! We were to become His lighthouses of hope in Westwood where over two centuries, former generations were placed here to do the same thing. They believed the power of The Gospel. It was worth being taught, lived out, passed on. They answered God's high calling in Christ, laying His foundation here, keeping the doors open through prayer and sacrifice, enabling others to find peace and eternal life also and **to fight the good fight of faith!**

**A prayer for the First Baptist Church Westwood of today:** “Lord, we ask that that You pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us in full measure. Lord, build this vineyard into a place where people are free to worship, grow and serve. Lord, open our eyes to truly understand where You are at work and building Your Church at this moment in time. Make our church a place that can be called home by all people. Make us a light in Westwood whose glow is seen much farther away! Lord, grant Your people here courage and opportunity to reach out to friends, colleagues, neighbors with the love of Christ.”<sup>1</sup>

May we never forget **Psalm 127:1** “*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.*”

### **Find Us Faithful**

(Hymn by Jon Mohr)

*“O may all who come behind us find us faithful;  
may the fire of our devotion light their way.*

*May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe  
and the lives we live inspire them to obey.*

*O may all who come behind us find us faithful.”*

Happy Anniversary and peace to us all!  
*Pastor Catherine*

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* (Adele Ahlberg Calhoun)

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

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808 High Street | Westwood, MA 02090 | 781-461-1730 | office@fbcwestwood.org | www.fbcwestwood.org  
Rev. Catherine M. Miller, Pastor

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**WARRANT FOR THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING  
OF  
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WESTWOOD**

*The Fall Quarterly Church Business Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Westwood will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024, held right after the morning worship service.*

*The meeting will be held in the Reception room at 808 High Street, Westwood, MA.*

*There will be either a zoom or live streaming option, please call the office for the link.*

- 1. To hear reports from the various council members regarding the upcoming budgets.*
- 2. Trustees update*
- 3. To hear and act on any other business that may legally come before the meeting.*

*Victoria M. DeVoy  
Clerk*

# 200th Anniversary

First Baptist Church  
808 High Street  
Westwood, Mass.



Saturday  
November 2, 2024  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

# Open House

Tours of our historic meeting house and campus.

Program displays

Kids' crafts

Face Painting

Pony rides

Refreshments

For more information contact the church office.

[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)

781-461-1730



# “Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion monthly where she will present a topic for us to reflect upon and there will be open discussion for sharing and learning from each other, with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

We'll close with The Lord's Supper, so bring your bread and juice!  
The sessions are held in the Reception room and on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.  
We meet on the first Thursday of each month.

**Hope you can join us!**

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For those attending by Zoom, Rev. Catherine M. Miller is inviting you to the scheduled event.

Topic: Let's Talk: Bible Study & Holy Communion w/ Pastor Catherine

Time: Nov 7, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Thu, until Jul 3, 2025, 9 occurrence(s)

Nov 7, 2024 07:00 PM

Dec 5, 2024 07:00 PM

Jan 2, 2025 07:00 PM

Feb 6, 2025 07:00 PM

Mar 6, 2025 07:00 PM

Apr 3, 2025 07:00 PM

May 1, 2025 07:00 PM

Jun 5, 2025 07:00 PM

Jul 3, 2025 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ\\_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbgqdcn0zMDRNNrZLJE\\_hLZ5BtGODT](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbgqdcn0zMDRNNrZLJE_hLZ5BtGODT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9Pyl3PKEydXFVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k1OBxoEcM>

# Blessing Baskets 2024



How many families can  
we help this  
Thanksgiving?

Please join FBC Westwood as we work with the Kouri Team (Keller Williams Real Estate) and Neroli Mercato restaurant in Westwood to provide Thanksgiving meals for local families by contributing Blessing Baskets. Every year, The Kouri Team of Keller Williams Boston SW joins a nationwide initiative to collect baskets to help local families with their Thanksgiving holiday meal 🍁

FBC Westwood's 2024 goal is to donate 10 Blessing Baskets.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in our Reception room for specific items needed. Please check out the list and consider donating a few items for our baskets.

The deadline to donate items is Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.



## What is in a Blessing Basket?

- A Basket to hold the Goodies (no bags please)
- \$20 Gift Certificate for family to buy a Turkey (Stop & Shop, Target, Wegmans, Walmart)
- Cans of corn, green beans & cranberry sauce
- Box of Stuffing
- Box of Mashed Potatoes
- Packet or can of gravy
- Can of cream of mushroom soup
- Box of muffin/biscuit mix
- Non-perishable Dessert (your choice)
- If you would like to add Extras:
  - Additional Food
  - Laundry Detergent
  - Games
  - Toys
  - Toiletries
  - Paper Goods



# POINSETTIAS ORDERS

Anyone wishing to order one or more poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday (Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>), please fill out the form below. The cost this year is \$7.00 per plant. The poinsettias will be in a 6" pot.

Please be specific as to how you would like the wording to appear in the Christmas Sunday Bulletin.

**The deadline for ordering is Wednesday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Please Print.

**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (please circle one):

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GIVEN BY:

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**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (please circle one):

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GIVEN BY:

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**IN MEMORY OF /HONOR OF /THANKS FOR** (please circle one):

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GIVEN BY:

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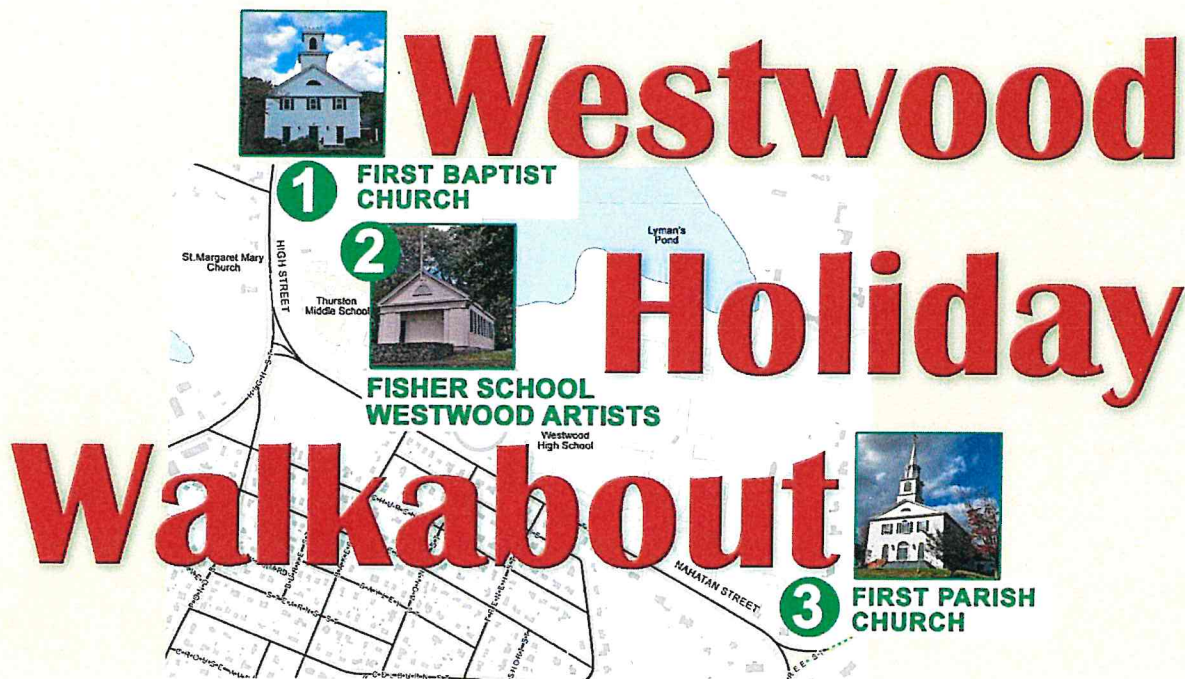
\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of poinsettias @ \$7.00 per plant = \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

\_\_\_ I would like to donate my plant(s) to a shut-in

\_\_\_ I will take my plant

**Please have your request to the church office by Wednesday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## Second Annual



## Saturday, December 7

- 1** **First Baptist Church Holly Fair**  
808 High Street, 9 AM – 2 PM
  - Local vendors, attic treasures, baked goods, jewelry, and crafts.
  - Hot lunch will be available.
- 2** **Westwood Artists' December Marketplace  
Historical Society Fisher School**  
830 High Street, 10 AM – 3 PM
  - Local artisans in a unique 1-room school house setting.
  - Hand-crafted jewelry, photography, painting, watercolor, pastels, pottery, ceramics, felt, collage, baby knits.
- 3** **First Parish Church Christmas Fair**  
252 Nahatan Street, 9 AM – 1 PM
  - Local vendors, holiday wreaths, silent auction.
  - Hot soup and chowder, take-out from the kitchen.

*And the Mass Appeal Boston a capella singers will be back performing at each site!*

September 2024  
Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries (MBMM)  
Allelon Conference: Building Bridges



Pastor Catherine & other Pastors with new  
General Secretary of ABC-USA,  
Gina Jacobs-Strain (center-green dress)



←Rev. Shelton Miller worshipping in song  
with Rev. Mar Imsong



Rev. Michael Harvey →



*Thank you for the surprise acknowledgement of  
Pastor's Appreciation Sunday, Oct. 13th!  
God bless you!*



# CHRISTIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE (CYC) 2024 @ OCEANWOOD

(article from October's TABCOM NOTES)

This summer, 47 high school students, along with 50 staff, gathered in Ocean Park for the 2024 Conference. Once again, it was two unforgettable weeks of faith, fun, and fellowship. We built a Christ-centered community, embracing the diversity of our students and staff as we journeyed together in faith.

Each day, students participated in dynamic classes, uplifting chapel services, and activities designed to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus. We

worshipped, studied, and laughed together, all while deepening our discipleship. From engaging Bible studies to leadership training, CYC prepared students not just to survive, but to thrive in their faith, even when the world throws challenges their way. It was a time of growth and joy!

We also faced malicious mosquitos, slippery bathroom floors, and deep mud puddles, amidst constant orbeez battles. Many days, the heat soared or the rain poured. There was even an alien invasion that included the kidnap of a time-traveling Ann Hasseltine as well as all of Camps Hasseltine and Judson. Dancing ensued. Definitely, no shortage of fun.

As always, we couldn't have done it without the support of our broader CYC community—parents, pastors, alumni. We are also grateful to Oceanwood and the OPA for hosting us. Thank you for sending your teens, praying for us, and standing with us as we continue to grow in this important ministry.

*\*One of our very own at FBC Westwood, Jennifer Cromack, volunteered this year at CYC. It was her 7th year teaching at the conference. Jen is one of many New England Baptist Youth Conference (now known at CYC) alumni from our church. Thank you, Jen!*



# CYC REFLECTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE MINISTER MARY DAY HAMEL

In August I had the unique experience of spending two weeks with the Christian Youth Conference at our [Oceanwood Camp](#). In previous years, I have “visited” CYC, but this was much more of an immersion! I taught classes each day and participated in many of the regular Conference activities. CYC began in 1915 and is rich in history and tradition, but has continued to evolve and grow to meet the needs of the current day.

CYC is a three-year experience for high school students, that “builds a solid foundation of faith and prepares teens for a life of discipleship.” This is not your average youth camp, though there is no shortage of fun! CYC is designed for young people who are ready to “go deep” with their faith and develop the foundation they need to face the challenges of young adulthood in today’s world. Many CYC graduates continue in Christian leadership development by returning as cabin staff. A significant number of leaders in our churches are CYC alumni.

The young people I met at CYC were flat-out amazing: committed, caring, insightful. They have a unique experience developing a community with an impressively diverse group from all around New England. The only thing more amazing than the teens was the faculty and staff. Not a more dedicated group can be found anywhere! I am so grateful for the leadership of our own Rev. Melinda Parry (FBC Wakefield), CYC Dean. Our Oceanwood staff did a great job hosting the Conference!

I hope you will go to the CYC website <https://cycop.org/> to learn more about this marvelous ministry, see the photos and testimonies, and learn how you can get involved. Most of all, I encourage you to begin now prayerfully considering the young people in your life (and your church) who would benefit from this life-changing experience.

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American Baptist Home Mission Societies

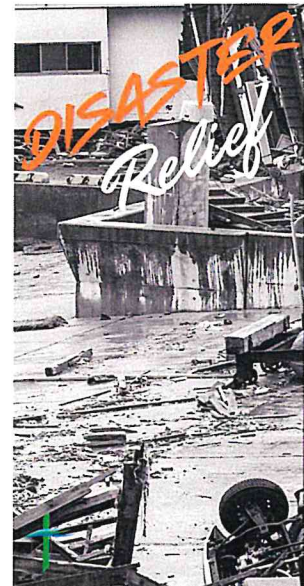
## RELIEF FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON

The American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) is providing emergency relief to the southern states affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

To be a blessing to someone in need, you can donate:

- Online - <https://abhms.networkforgood.com/projects/230028-southern-storms-2024>
- Or by check - Make your check payable to FBC Westwood and note on the memo line "ABHMS -Hurricane relief".

*\*100% of the monies given will go to disaster relief efforts in the affected areas\**





## Donation requests from The Westwood Food Pantry

1. Please do not travel to the stores just to pick up donated items- instead we suggest that you purchase a few donation items during your regular shopping trip, especially if they are on sale.
2. You can bring your items to worship on Sunday.

### Suggested items:

- Canned Soups -especially Progresso (Vegetable types, Clam Chowder, etc)
- Canned Vegetables (Peas, Corn, etc.)
- Canned Baked Beans
- Canned Fruit (Pineapple, Fruit Cocktail, Peaches, Pears, Mandarin Oranges, etc.)
- Canned Beef Stew, Hash, Chili with Meat)
- Spaghetti Sauce (small 24 -25-ounce jars)

### Other "Always Needed" Popular Items

- Health & Beauty Aids (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste etc.)
- Diapers
- L or XL Depends
- Cleaning Products (dish detergent, laundry detergent, etc.)
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Canned **White** Albacore Tuna in water
- Canned Chicken (5-ounce cans or small pouches)

### Volunteers:

At this time they have all the volunteers they can use, but their needs may change at any time. If you or your high school or college-aged student is interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please email [westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com).

(Sorry, but they are unable to accept volunteers younger than 9th grade.)

### How to Apply:

The Westwood Food Pantry is available to all residents of Westwood who are experiencing temporary or long-term food insecurity.

To request assistance from the Westwood Food Pantry or to set up a client visit, please email them at [westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodfoodpantry@gmail.com) or call them at 781-269-2008.



## Pull-Tabs for Shriners Hospital

Are you aware that for years we've been collecting pull-tabs from beverage cans – and we're still doing it? Why? Here's the story.

Shriners Hospitals in Springfield and Boston have been collecting pull-tabs or “pop-tops” from beverage cans since 1989, recycling them, and putting the money toward programs that directly benefit children. The pull-tabs are the only pure aluminum part of the beverage can, and there are approximately 1,200 to 1,400 tabs in one pound. Since the program's inception, about a half-million pounds of aluminum tabs have been collected and recycled.

We donate the tabs to the Shriners' Burns Hospital – Boston. Neil Patterson coordinates this project, and Ken Shaw delivers the tabs to the hospital. There is a plastic jug in the Reception Room at church where you can leave the tabs you have removed from beverage cans.

Their website reminds us that Shriners' Children's Hospitals are “always here for our patients, regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status”.

**You can help a Shriner help a child. Donate pull-tabs for recycling.**





Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday of the month, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, don't forget to turn your **clocks back 1 hour** before going to bed on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## The Pastor Will Be Off

Pastor Catherine will be off the following days during November:

Tues, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>;  
Wed, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> & Thurs, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>;  
Mon, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Wed, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>



(for in-person, calls, or Zoom)

### Tuesdays:

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### Wednesdays & Thursdays:

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*For an appointment call:*

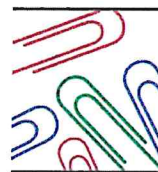
781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730

ext. 12

*or email:*

[pastor@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:pastor@fbcwestwood.org).

(if you call when she isn't there,  
you can leave a message)



## CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Besides visiting Donna in the church office, she can be reached by phone at 781-461-1730 or by emailing her at

[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)

**Face masks are required in the church office.**



Donna will be out of the office on the following dates:

Fri, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>;

Thurs., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> & Fri, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>;

Fri, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>; and Tues, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>





## Sunday Worship Services

Please check out our website, [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org). We post Livestream links and videos of our worship services there, plus other news and devotional materials.



## Boy Scout Troop #3 Ever So Humble Pie Company Fundraiser

Pies will be available for pick up on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the church's front parking lot.

*A message from Troop 3 Scouts and leaders:*

*We want to thank the members of FBC for your continued support of our troop all year long and special thanks for participating in the pie fundraiser.*

*We were able to raise over 800 dollars for the troop which will help us to supplement costs of trips and other activities.*

*Thank you!*

# 200<sup>th</sup>



## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Save the dates!!

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, First Baptist Church of Westwood will be 200 years old.

Come celebrate with us during morning worship on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Join us the day before (Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>) for our Open House - see flyer included in this newsletter.



## Choir Rehearsal

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9:20 a.m.





## Crafters' Group

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of this month as we work on items for December's Holly Fair.

Our meeting dates are  
November 13<sup>th</sup>  
November 20<sup>th</sup>

We meet in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).



## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a great time to enjoy catching up with

others and having some goodies, too, following morning worship.

Join us for Coffee Hour each Sunday following worship in the Reception Room.

We are looking for additional helpers to host a Sunday. Wouldn't you like to host one? Sign-up sheets for November and December are posted on the bulletin board in the Reception room.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Thompson at [kleethompson65@gmail.com](mailto:kleethompson65@gmail.com) or the Church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) or call 781-461-1730.



## Digital version of the Sunday Bulletin

We produce a digital version of the weekly Sunday bulletin that is

formatted so that it can be easily read on a cell phone, tablet, or computer. This is being emailed to people a day or two ahead of the service. It can be helpful when watching the worship service online or simply to find out what's happening at FBC that week. If you wish to be added to the email list to receive the digital bulletin, please contact Donna Metcalf via email at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org).



You are invited to join our Prayer Chain. This is a small group of FBC folk who email one another with prayer concerns of the larger church community and then include those concerns in their prayers. This is beyond the all-church prayers shared by the Pastor. If you would like to join The Prayer Chain, please contact Sunny O'Malley.





**Church Council  
and Staff meeting**  
hybrid (Zoom & Reception Room)

November 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm

## Salem Radio Boston



### Christian Radio Station

Tune in to AM 590 WEZE -  
"The Word" channel on Saturdays @  
5:15pm and enjoy our Pastor's  
prayer/inspiration program,  
*Be Still*, a family-oriented radio  
outreach sponsored by  
FBC Westwood!  
Livestream & podcasts at  
<http://wezeradio.com/radioshow/be-still>.

**NewsLetter  
DEADLine**

Material for December's "Message"  
is due to the church office by:  
**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Information can be emailed to:  
[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)



**December 7, 2024  
9AM – 2PM  
Fellowship Hall**

We are excited about our upcoming Holly Fair! If you are interested in helping at any of our tables please contact Vickie DeVoy at [rwdvmd@gmail.com](mailto:rwdvmd@gmail.com).

Can you bake? We will be looking for people to bake items for the Baked Goods Table.

Do you have items that you've come across during your summer and fall cleaning that you'd like to donate to our Attic Treasurers? We are accepting items now until Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. We can use just about anything that is in good, clean condition at this table. *(However, please note: we cannot accept T.V.'s, computer equipment, dehumidifiers, typewriters or air conditioners.)*

**Flyers for the Holly Fair will be available in the Narthex mid-November for church family to distribute in local stores, share at club meetings or hand out to friends and neighbors.**



**Traditional service of  
"Lessons and Carols"**

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.**

**In our Sanctuary**

**Mark your calendars.  
Bring your family and friends!**

**Feature presentations by our  
Chancel Choir and  
Westwood Ringers;  
join in congregational carol  
singing, and hear selected  
readings related to the Christmas  
story.**



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*Join us as we celebrate the birth of  
Christ at our  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary**