

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



*The Message*  
*February 2025*

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

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From the  
Pastor's Desk

February 2025



**Greetings,  
First Baptist Church Westwood & Friends**

Believers experience great happiness and great heartache. We are immensely blessed in Christ while confronted by life's uncertainties. Yet, "*in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*" (Romans 8:37)



GOD is "a very present help in trouble." But He permits trouble to pursue us, as though He were indifferent to its overwhelming pressure, that we may be brought to the end of ourselves, and led to discover the treasure of darkness, the unmeasurable gains of tribulation. We may be sure that He who permits the suffering is with us in it. It may be that we shall see Him only when the trial is passing; but we must dare to believe that He never leaves the crucible.

Our eyes are prevented from beholding Him whom our soul loves. It is dark—the bandages blind us so that we cannot see the form of our High Priest; but He is there, deeply touched. Let us not rely on feeling, but on faith in His unswerving fidelity; and though we see Him not, let us talk to Him.

Directly we begin to speak to Jesus, as being literally present, though His presence is veiled, there comes an answering voice which shows that He is in the shadow, keeping watch upon His own. Your Father is as near when you journey through the dark tunnel as when under the open heaven!

—*Daily Devotional Commentary*.<sup>1</sup>

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1)

Pray believing!  
*Pastor Catherine*

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<sup>1</sup> Lettie B. Cowman, *Streams in the Desert* (Los Angeles, CA: The Oriental Missionary Society, 1925), 26–27.



## “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: Feb 6, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Thu, until Jul 3, 2025, 11 occurrence(s)

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-7ztmZbgqdcnOzMDRNnRzLJE\\_hLZ5BtGODT](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbgqdcnOzMDRNnRzLJE_hLZ5BtGODT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83516637472?pwd=EvL6pkHvrpuOfst9PyI3PKEyeXfVak.1>

Meeting ID: 835 1663 7472

Passcode: 618284

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



## White Socks Outreach Project

Thank you for your generous donations to our “White Socks” outreach program during December and January!

If you haven't had a chance, and would like to donate, we are accepting donations through January 31<sup>st</sup>. The white crew socks will be given to the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program which has numerous clinic sites to help provide for those experiencing homelessness. They are always in need of new socks – for warmth, for comfort, and for good health. Once again this year, we will also be donating 50% of the donated socks to the West Roxbury V.A. Hospital for our veterans who are hospitalized or in outpatient treatment.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in making this project a success again this year!



Carol A. visiting with Shirley M.



Sanctuary decorated with poinsettias



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service*





## 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.**





## 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.



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.



(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:*

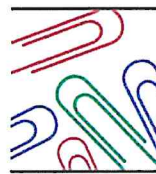
781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730

*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

The church office is available:  
Mon-Fri from 8:00 am- 1:30 pm

Donna can be reached by  
calling

781-461-1730 or

emailing

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

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



Sign-up sheets for February and March are posted in the Reception Room for volunteer ushers and greeters.

This is your opportunity to volunteer.





**Sunday, February 2, 2025**  
**Following worship**  
**In the Reception room**  
**& on Zoom**

2024 Annual Reports are available in the Narthex and Reception Room, or a copy can be mailed to you upon your request.

A luncheon will follow morning worship and precede the annual meeting. Both will be held in the Reception room.

An R.S.V.P. is required by all who plan on attending in order to arrange for sufficient seating. Contact the church office by emailing [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) or by calling 781-461-1730.

If you'd like to participate in the meeting on Zoom, email the church office for the link ([office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org)).



**Words from Wendy**  
(a.k.a. the Financial Secretary)

Offering envelopes have been distributed to those who requested them. Let me know if you would like envelopes.

Please note that donations made in the green envelopes go to the Fellowship Fund, not your pledge. I would prefer that you not use staples or tape on your envelopes or checks.

Statements of giving will be mailed by January 25.

Donations of items you purchase for coffee hour or church use that you are not reimbursed for are considered charitable donations. Give me the receipts and I will record them on your statement. The value of these donations cannot be put toward your pledge.



You are invited to join the Chancel Choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings before worship, on the Sundays we sing in church (usually every Sunday except for the first, Communion Sunday). We meet in the Sanctuary at 9:20 a.m.

## ***Joyful Song & Prayer at The Ellis Senior Residence***

*Pastor Catherine and Jan Randlett host service and times of musical fun for residents at The Ellis Rehab & Nursing Center, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, starting at 2:00 p.m. located at 135 Ellis Ave in Norwood, MA.*

*They kicked off the fellowship there in November to celebrate Thanksgiving. Twenty residents plus staff joined in singing hymns, Oldies but Goodies, & participated in prayer. The Ellis community is happy about this new monthly gathering.*



## **Crafters' Group**

The Crafters' Group meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in room 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. We work on items for December's Holly Fair.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or speak with Carol Ahearn.



## **Coffee Hour**

What a great time to enjoy catching up with others and having some goodies, too.

We are looking for additional helpers to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. Wouldn't you like to host one? Sign-up sheets for February and March are posted in the Reception Room.

Have questions? Speak with one of the Church Council members, contact the Church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) or call 781-461-1730 and leave a message.



## **Did you know?**

On Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of every month), parishioners have the opportunity to help those in need by making a donation to the Fellowship Fund (Pastor's Discretionary Fund). Envelopes (labeled "Communion Fund") are in the pews on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding this fund, please see Pastor Catherine.

## 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).



**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
Reception Room & on Zoom



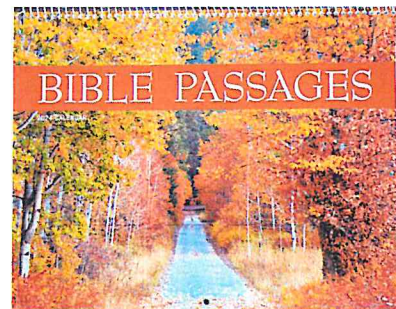
### March "Message"

Material for next month's "Message" is due (to the church office) by  
**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**



If it's easier for you, we accept PayPal payments on our website for offering or other donations. Just click on the "donate" button on [www.fbcwestwood.org](http://www.fbcwestwood.org).

*We also offer another donation method, using Venmo. Here is our QR code that you can scan.*



### 2025 Wall Calendar

Bob & Brian Folsom have provided 2025 wall calendars and date books for our church family. They are available in the Narthex and Reception Room. Please take one. Thank you, Bob & Brian!



From the Church Staff

Dear FBC Westwood Church family,  
Thank you so much for the thoughtful words and gifts, and your ongoing kindness.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday.

Joanne (campus cleaner)

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To my Church family,  
Your generous Christmas gift and the words of appreciation mean so much. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Wishing everyone a happy & healthy 2025!

Thank you, again.  
With appreciation,  
Donna Metcalf

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Dear FBC Westwood members,  
Thank you all for the generous gift. Much appreciated with my eleven grandchildren!

Again, thank you to all and a Happy New Year.

Rick Alden (Sexton)

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Dear Friends,

I want to express sincere thanks to my entire church family for your most generous Christmas gift.

Through the years, it has been such a blessing to have all the love and support from so many.

As we enter yet another year, may the Lord continue to keep us in His grace.

With much appreciation,  
Jan Randlett

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I am so grateful for the Church's thoughtful Christmas gift. It continues to be a pleasure to be a part of FBC Westwood's caring and generous community.

Wishing you all the very best in this New Year.

Dan Moore

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Thank you very much for the Christmas gift!! I also thank you for your kindnesses and prayers of support throughout the year!

Pastor Catherine

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