

FIRST  BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF WESTWOOD

808 HIGH STREET · WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090



*The Message*  
*March 2025*

REV. CATHERINE M. MILLER, PASTOR

CHURCH OFFICE: 781-461-1730

EMAIL: [OFFICE@FBCWESTWOOD.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FBCWESTWOOD.ORG)

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From the  
Pastor's Desk

March 2025



## Greetings FBC Westwood & Friends...

*“Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ... Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So, he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ... Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.” After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”* (Excerpts of John 13; New Living Translation)

Some of you may have had the experience of participating in a Christian foot-washing service. It is a joyful gathering. A time of worship including music and prayer. It allows Christians to experience this physical act of humility that Jesus used to express love for His *friends*, us sinners ... and even for an enemy, Judas. Wow!

Women, imagine a sister-in-Christ dipping and drying your feet and men, likewise, imagine a brother-in Christ washing your feet. In his commentary, *The Gospel of John*, D.A. Carlson wrote: “doubtless all of the disciples were extremely embarrassed.” If you read the full account, Peter clearly disapproved! But Jesus’ confident response to their scandalized reactions was: ***“You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”*** Make some time to read the full account in John 13:1-15 and meditate what Jesus did. Ask God to help you understand how you/we are to follow Jesus’ example.

A prayer: Lord God, the Church knows the foot-washing is a symbol of You washing us clean of sin! Now our hearts have turned back to You, we can grow in love toward You *and* one another. Grant the spirit of obedience so that we honor You with authentic Christian love. Make our daily lives meaningful statements for Christ. Amen

***“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*** (John 13:34-35)



# “Let’s Talk” group discussion and Holy Communion Now twice a month!

Hello everyone!

Pastor Catherine hosts an in-person and Zoom Bible discussion twice a month 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 and third Thursday of each month.

**Hope you can join us!**

\*\*\*\*\*

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: March 6, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First & Third Thu, until Jul 3, 2025,

Mar 6, 2025 07:00 PM

Mar 20, 2025 07:00 PM

Apr 3, 2025 07:00 PM

*\*Not meeting on Apr 17<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday*

May 1, 2025 07:00 PM

May 15, 2025 07:00 PM

Jun 5, 2025 07:00 PM

Jun 19, 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-7ztmZbqqdcnOzMDRNnRzLJE\\_hLZ5BtGODT](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcodu-urTwuHdac3InSTEQ_Ezi5BrhXckDa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzosHNeStB6FRpwqGYj4M-7ztmZbqqdcnOzMDRNnRzLJE_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>

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

## GRACE UPON *Grace*

"BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."  
EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

Dear Congregation:

The season of the America for Christ Offering is here again! This year's campaign theme, "Grace upon Grace: Grace in Times of Turbulence," is inspired by Ephesians 4:32 [NIV]: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This passage stresses the importance of letting go of anger and moving forward with love. As Matthew 6:14-15 reminds us, our heavenly Father will forgive us if we forgive others. God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

### AFC 2025 Fundraising Goal

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2025 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2025), which aims to raise \$1,000,000 or more to support American Baptist missions and ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our church's goal is \$1,500.00 to go towards that goal.

### AFC 2025 Promotional Window

ABHMS is allowed to actively promote AFC 2025 through various forms of outreach, including email communications, phone calls, and church visits through March. However, our church can promote AFC 2025 locally throughout the year.

### How to Give to AFC 2025

You can give at the church during our weekly services or make an online donation at [abhms.org/AFC](http://abhms.org/AFC) at any time.

### How AFC 2025 Funds are Used

Gifts to the AFC Offering support American Baptist regions, churches, and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico by funding grants that ABHMS awards for a variety of purposes, including:

- Creating new, innovative ministries
- Developing church leaders
- Aiding children who are impoverished
- Supporting the work of chaplains and spiritual caregivers
- Promoting discipleship
- Preserving critical American Baptist spaces
- Making higher education more affordable through scholarships
- Our church is eligible to apply for grants and our church members for scholarships.
- ABHMS retains no AFC Offering funds for operations or overhead.

AFC 2025 will empower us to provide "Grace upon Grace." I am asking you to join me in giving generously to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

Your Pastor, *Rev. Catherine M. Miller*

Please give today! [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

\* Please make your check payable to *FBC Westwood* and note in the memo section "for AFC", if you are making a donation at a worship service or by mailing to the church office.



## Easter Lilies and Tulips

Anyone wishing to donate one or more lilies or tulips to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday – please fill out the form below.

**The cost this year for lilies is \$10.00 per plant and \$7.00 for potted tulips.**

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

The **deadline** for ordering is **Wednesday morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Lilies or tulips may be given .... (please print)

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

GIVEN BY:

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

GIVEN BY:

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

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of lilies @ \$10.00 per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ # of lilies I would like to donate for a shut-in

\_\_\_\_\_ # of lilies I will take home with me

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of tulips @ \$7.00 per plant

\_\_\_\_\_ # of potted tulips I would like to donate for a shut-in

\_\_\_\_\_ # of potted tulips I will take home with me

Please have your request in the church office by **Wednesday morning, April 9, 2025.**



## White Socks Outreach Project Update

We're pleased to announce that we collected 660 pairs of new socks for our "White Socks" outreach program during the months of December and January!

We will be donating over 300 pairs 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. And we are also donating over 300 pairs to the veterans who are hospitalized or in outpatient treatment at the West Roxbury VA Hospital.

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

Save The Date!

# CHURCH PARTNER NIGHT

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH  
6:30PM - 8PM

PRAYER  
WORSHIP  
FELLOWSHIP

100 Cummings Center, Suite  
221-E, Beverly, MA 01915



First Baptist Church of Westwood has been invited to ***Church Partner Night*** hosted by **Amirah, Inc.** on **\*Thurs. March 20th (6:30-8:00 pm) at their headquarters in Beverly.** The evening will be spent with Amirah staff and extended church family to gather in worship and pray for the women that Amirah serves; for the work Amirah does, and for the year ahead. We will hear from executive director, Dr. Mary Speta, about the intersections between faith and justice, as well as learn about Amirah's upcoming events and volunteer opportunities for churches."

**\* March 20th is also 'Let's Talk' Bible study. More to come on this from the Pastor.**



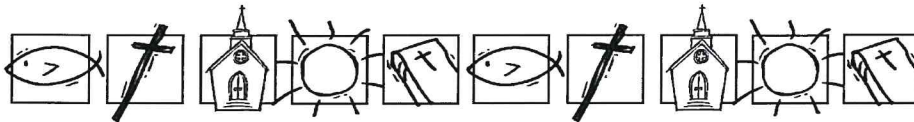
## Friends of Regional Ministries

189 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450

The TABCOM and camp staff want us to know how much they appreciate our church's support of their ministries. They have invited us to attend a regional event or visit the camp to see how that support is being used. They also encourage us to visit

[www.TABCOM.org](http://www.TABCOM.org), [www.Grotonwood.org](http://www.Grotonwood.org), or [www.Oceanwood.org](http://www.Oceanwood.org)

to see how our support is making a difference - a big difference - in the regional and camp ministries.



## TABCOM Archives Work Day Opportunity

Work on the TABCOM archives will start again in March. On **Saturday, March 22nd** we will meet at the archives to continue our work organizing and cataloguing all the material in our archives. We came to a halt this fall, but are now ready and raring to get started again. We start our day at 10:00 am and end around 2 pm. Four hours seems like a enough time to do such meticulous work. We would love to have you join us.



If you need more information or would like to arrange for a group to come and get acquainted with our archives and help with our work, please contact Rev. Diane Badger, [diane.badger@comcast.net](mailto:diane.badger@comcast.net) or Jen Cromack, [jenstenc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenstenc@yahoo.com).

We hope you can join us!





Save the Date

# WHAT'S UP ABWM?

*Regional Meeting*

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES



Western: Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:00pmPT  
Midwestern: Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:00pm CT  
Eastern: Thursday March 27, 2025 7:00pm ET

Free & All women are welcome

Registration required

For more information visit [www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)

It's time for our What's Up ABWM? Regional Meetings! Join other American Baptist women from across the country as we hear from our national, region, association, and local leaders on women and girls' ministries and fulfilling the mission, vision, purpose, and core values. Learn more about our ministry and mission as we seek to share national updates and connect with others within your region. Invite a friend!


## **ABWM Eastern Region:**

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania/Delaware, Philadelphia Baptist Association, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont/New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Region of the South (Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, & Virginia)

**For more information and to register (free):**

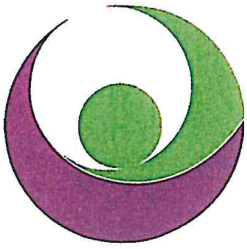
**[www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)**



2024, AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES   
A related ministry of [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

1075 First Ave STE C-210 · King of Prussia, PA · 19406  
(610) 768-2288 · [info@abwomensministries.org](mailto:info@abwomensministries.org)





## CIRCLE OF HOPE

February 7, 2025

First Baptist Church of Westwood  
c/o Friends 808 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear First Baptist Church of Westwood,

Thank you! On behalf of Circle of Hope, thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 which we received on 2/7/2025. Your thoughtful donation makes it possible for Circle of Hope to serve the increasing number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts. With your help we are able to respond to urgent requests within 24-48 hours and provide items needed for health, comfort, and dignity in a moment of deep need.

Your gift will not only help fill basic needs, but also give those living in crisis comfort and hope knowing that they are connected to others in the community. Donors like you help us protect the most vulnerable members of our community. We are so grateful for your compassion.

Your generosity is making it possible for Circle of Hope to continue our mission. Together, we are protecting health and saving lives. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ari Barbanell  
Executive Director  
Circle of Hope, Inc.  
ari@circleofhopeonline.org

Pursuant to IRS requirements, Circle of Hope does not provide any goods or services in exchange for the abovementioned contribution. Donations to Circle of Hope are deductible as charitable contributions in accordance with Federal tax law. Please keep this receipt for your records. Circle of Hope's tax ID number is 26-3478964



## 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.



## 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:*

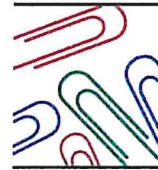
*781-461-0297 or 781-461-1730*

*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)



Sign-up sheets for March and April are posted in the Reception Room for volunteer ushers and greeters. This is your opportunity to volunteer.



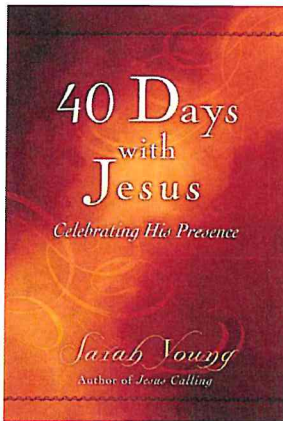
**Words from Wendy**  
(a.k.a. the Financial  
Secretary)

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.

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.

Wendy Lewis



**Lenten  
Daily  
Devotional**  
"40 Days  
with Jesus"

Copies will be available in the Narthex and Reception room beginning on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Or, you may contact the church office at [office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) (or call 781-461-1730) and leave a message.



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.*

*Residents plus staff join in singing hymns, Oldies but Goodies, & participate in prayer. The Ellis community is happy about this new monthly gathering.*



Be sure to change clocks (one hour ahead) before going to bed on Sat., March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sun, March 9<sup>th</sup>.



## 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, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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



## 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.



## 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 March and April 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.

## 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).





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.

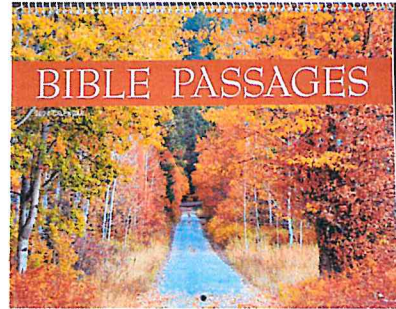


**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
Reception Room & on Zoom



April "Message"

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



### 2025 Wall Calendars

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!



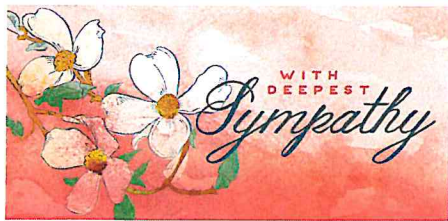
### COLLEGE BOUND IN THE FALL? ALREADY IN COLLEGE?

First Baptist is offering college scholarships to active church members who are pursuing college educations. Awardees will receive their scholarships in two installments – 1<sup>st</sup> half in August and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in January.

Applications must be completed and returned to the church office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Don't delay – call or email today, and we will mail you an application!



Sybil Lohfeld  
 41 Brookview Circle, Apt. 51  
 Norwood, MA 02062



Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth and Joshua Lee, and their family. Ruth and Bob Lee's oldest son, Joshua's brother, **Robert W. "Junior" Lee** passed away on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

The visiting hours will be on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Folsom Funeral Home in Westwood (649 High St, Westwood).

The Homegoing service will be at Folsom Funeral Home in Westwood on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Please keep his mother Ruth and Robert's brother, Joshua, in your prayers.

**Additional note of sympathy.** (An oversight in last month's newsletter.)

Asking continued prayers for Pastor Catherine, her siblings and their entire family as they grieve the sudden loss of one of her older brothers, Frederick T. Bigger, on January 4th. Freddie was 77 years old. The homegoing service was held on January 22nd and he was laid to rest with military honors at Calverton National Cemetery in Wading River, New York.

\*\*\*\*\*



- 3/3 Andy Bolton
- 3/9 Yong Sun Salvi
- 3/11 Dick Brasie
- 3/21 Trevor Cromack
- 3/22 Linda Pelrine
- 3/23 Wayne Smith
- 3/26 Donna Mulhane
- 3/29 Katy Murray, Donna Folsom



- 3/5 Larry & Linn Whitlock,
- 3/30 Ned & Stephanie Salinas