

The First Baptist Church of Worcester

MORNING WORSHIP



We are a community of believers who seek to grow in our faith and understanding as we live the Way of Jesus Christ.

February 19, 2012

10:00 AM

PRELUDE *Mysterium and Tremendum on Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
1. *Mysterium: Bread of Heaven* 2. *Tremendum: Strong Deliverer*
Kenneth Logan b. 1957

* **HYMN 411** *How Firm a Foundation*.....Foundation

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Isaiah 35) Lindsay C. Comstock

Leader: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"

People: **Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

Leader: For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

People: **The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.**

ALL: **A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way!**

* **INVOCATION (Unison)**

Holy God, you are most generous with your grace and most intimate in your care. We come to you along the familiar way of worship, approaching you through accustomed hymns, readings, music, and prayers. God of our lives, jolt us awake to what we are doing. Do not allow familiarity to breed nonchalance. Startle us again with the miracle of it all, and make room in our hearts for renewed wonder and adoration. In the spirit of Christ we offer the prayer he taught... Our Father... (debt)

* **GLORIA PATRI 734** Greatorex

**Those who are able, may stand.*

Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode. Nursery care is available for children during worship service. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Mark 2: 1-12 (p. 813)

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN Lindsay C. Comstock

ANTHEM *For this Cause* Harold Friedell 1905-1958

SERMON *Treasure the Interruption* Thomas R. McKibbens

*** HYMN 638** O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come Canonbury

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Anthem *We Walk by Faith* Peter Pindar Stearns b. 1931

*** Doxology** Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** HYMN 501** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM Rhondda

*** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* Peter Pindar Stearns

Chancel Choir
Scott Taylor, baritone
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUE STATEMENTS

INCLUSION *We welcome all in Christ's love.*

FREEDOM OF FAITH *Individual interpretation of God's Word and freedom of expression are cornerstones of our faith.*

SERVICE *We seek to be a Christ-like presence in the world.*

SPIRITUAL GROWTH *We encourage all to seek Christian growth.*

WE WELCOME YOU...to the Morning Worship at First Baptist Church. If you are a visitor, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate or give to an usher. We believe that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all persons, of any age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as integral members of God's family.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY...Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in Gordon Hall following the service. If you are searching for a church home, we would love to get to know you. Please speak with a Minister or call during the week at 508-755-6143. Those with infants and children up to age 5 may take them to the Nursery/Preschool class. An usher will be happy to assist you with directions to rooms in the church building, and with any special needs.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR...are given by an anonymous donor.

CALL FOR MORE USHERS AND GREETERS...for worship services! There are several vacancies to fill for ushers and greeters, to replace those who have recently retired. Please contact Ruth Bergstrom if you are interested, by phone 508-853-1289 or e-mail: rbergstrom@charter.net.

HOSPITAL PHONE SYSTEMS ...The phone system for the UMass and Memorial Hospitals is still in transition. If you know of someone in the hospital, please leave a note or call the church office: 508-755-6143 with information.

PRAYER...“The feeling remains that God is on the journey too”

~ Saint Teresa of Avila

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

- * The Staff meeting, our ministers and staff
- * Our annual meeting and luncheon today
- * Our Moderator, Thomas Grisso
- * Parentless youth who are challenged by adult responsibilities
- * The unemployed
- * Those recovering from a stroke and their families
- * People facing surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, medical tests
- * Betty Bennett, June St. Amand, Jean Jones, Virginia Smith, Judith and Donald Fugere, and Margaret Daley
- * Those with cancer, heart, diabetes or other chronic diseases
- * Dismas House
- * Victims of civil strife; people facing foreclosure
- * Celebration for the 125th anniversary of Park Congregational Church
- * The family of Earle Perkins

HOPE FOR HOUSING CARDS ...You are now able to purchase CVS gift cards along with the grocery cards—available after the worship service. The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance receives 5% of the purchase value of each card that you purchase. Thank you for your continued support!

PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH...invites First Baptist to join in the celebration of their Church’s 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, **February 26th**, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary. Political dignitaries and special clergy have been invited to this historic event, with a reception following in Gordon Hall.

BAPTISM CLASS...A five-Sunday baptism class will be offered for anyone interested in learning more about baptism and church membership. Anyone aged 12 and above is invited to be a part of the class, led by Thomas R. McKibbens and Lindsay C. Comstock. The class will meet in the Youth Lounge at 11:15 AM on **February 26, March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. Please let Tom or Lindsay know if you plan to attend.

ADULT MISSION TRIP: Do you love urban ministry? Do you enjoy working with children? Consider joining us this summer (August 5 - 11, 2012) in New York City as we partner with Metro Baptist Church for Clue Camp 2012. Clue Camp is a mystery themed summer camp for the children of Hell's Kitchen. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Comstock by calling the church office or emailing LindsayC@fbc-worc.org.

YOUTH CLEAN-UP DAY: On Saturday, February 25, 2012 (10 am - 2 pm), the Youth will gather in the Youth Lounge for a day of cleaning and organizing. Lunch will be provided.

YOUTH WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE: Just a reminder that the Youth will meet in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-7:30 pm for Bible study during the Wonderful Wednesdays series. (On February 22nd and March 28th we will join the larger group.)

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

5:30 PM Dinner* in the Lee Room


6:30 Service (Feb 22 only) and Speaker Series

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| February 22 | Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) |
| February 29 | <i>"Forgotten Ministers of First Baptist Church."</i>
Thomas R. McKibbens, Senior Minister |
| March 7 | <i>"The Return of the Chaos Monsters."</i>
Gregory Mobley, Professor of Christian Bible |
| March 14 | <i>"What Was Worcester Like in the First Quarter of the 19th Century?"</i>
William D. Wallace, Executive Director,
Worcester Historical Museum |
| March 21 | <i>"The Future of Religious Faith."</i>
Tom Ashbrook, NPR Journalist & Host of "On Point." |
| March 28 | <i>"Cutting Edge Ministries: What Can We Do About Human Trafficking?"</i> Lindsay Comstock,
Minister of C.E. & Youth |

*Please call the Church for dinner reservations or sign up in the church office. The cost is \$6.50 per person for dinner. There is no charge for the lecture series only.

This Week at First Baptist Church

111 Park Avenue
Worcester Massachusetts 01609
508-755-6143 www.fbc-worc.org

TODAY, Feb. 19	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare	
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School	
	10:00	Worship Service	
	11:15	Annual Meeting and light lunch	
Mon., Feb. 20		President's Day — Church is Closed	
Tue., Feb. 21	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles	
	6:00	All Committee Night	
Wed., Feb. 22	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship	
	5:30 PM	Wonderful Wednesday Dinner	
	6:30	Ash Wednesday Service	
	7:00	Food Addicts in Recovery	
Thu., Feb. 23	6:00 PM	Habitat	
	7:30	Chancel Choir	
	8:00	AA	
Fri., Feb. 24		(No Girl Scouts—Worcester School Vacation Week)	
Sat., Feb. 25	10 AM—2 PM	Youth Clean-up day with Lindsay	
Sun., Feb. 26	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare	
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School	
	10:00	Worship Service	
	11:00	Fellowship in the Lee Room *	
		(* Park C.C. Anniversary Reception set-up in Gordon Hall)	
	11:15	Baptism Class in the Youth Lounge	
	11:20	Young Musicians	
	3:00 PM	Park C.C. 125th Anniversary Service (Sanctuary)	