

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

**The First Baptist Church**  
A Welcoming and Affirming Church  
111 Park Avenue  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609  
February 13, 2011

## MORNING WORSHIP

February 13, 2011.....10:00 AM

*Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode.*

*Nursery care is available for children during the worship service.*

*Please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.*

**PRELUDE** *Songs Without Words: Faith, Op. 102, no. 6*..... Felix Mendelssohn  
1809-1847

*Allegretto (mvt. II) from Symphony no. 7, Op. 92 . Ludwig van Beethoven*  
1770-1827

**\*HYMN 546** *Built on the Rock* ..... Kirken Den Er Et

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from *Psalm 40:1-3*)

Leader: I waited patiently for the Lord, who inclined to me and heard my cry.

**People: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

Leader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**ALL: Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.**

**\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

In your presence, O God, and in the company of your good people, we offer you our praise and thanksgiving, for the joys of friendship, the calling of our faith, and the assurance of your presence. As we stand in the midst of your mercy and grace, we are mindful of those who dwell in places short of mercy and with scant signs of grace. But you are the God who gives courage and freedom for the task to which we are called. We thank you for the firm foundation of Christ, who taught us to pray: Our Father (debts)...

**\*GLORIA PATRI 734** ..... Greatorex

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER**..... Faithfulness

*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!*

**MUSIC SELECTION** *Prelude on Rhosymedre* .....Ralph Vaughan Williams  
1872-1958

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE** Matthew 7:15-29 (pg. 788)....Lynne Carroll

**AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN** .....Heather Kattan  
*(Children who desire to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Children's Message.)*

**SERMON** *What is Good About Christianity?* ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\*HYMN 424** *How Can I Keep from Singing?* ..... Endless Song

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory** *Minuet from L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2* ..... Georges Bizet  
1838-1875

**\*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 405** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* .....Solid Rock

**CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY** *Allegro energico e pesante* from  
*Concerto Grosso No. 1 for string orchestra with piano obbligato*.....Ernest Bloch  
1880-1959

**\*BENEDICTION**

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

*New England Youth Chamber Ensemble  
Connie Drexler, Musical Director  
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts  
CCLI #2763143*

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**ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND YOUTH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

Under the direction of Connie Drexler, the New England Youth Chamber Ensemble is a youth orchestra made up of about thirty young people from the age of ten, through college-age. The orchestra is based at Thayer Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Massachusetts, at Atlantic Union College.

NEYCE plays concerts for churches, schools, and civic organizations. Their concert repertoire is taken from a variety of great classical and sacred music composed in the Baroque period up to the present time. A number of talented young performers that are members of the orchestra are featured in the concerts as soloists. The concerts are lively and interesting and appeal to young and old alike.

NEYCE performs throughout New England, and has had concert tours to California, Jamaica, Iceland, Northern New England and Canada.

## **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 of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew rack. We are honored by your presence and hope you will return whenever you are able. The congregation of First Baptist Church, believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, embraces persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. We welcome everyone to participate in the membership, life, worship, and activities of this church.

**IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY...**Please join us for fellowship in Gordon Hall following the service. You can enjoy refreshments, meet members of this congregation, and learn about the many programs of this church. Gordon Hall is located by exiting the Sanctuary through the double doors near the pulpit. Enter Gordon Hall by the first door on the left in the hallway. **If you are searching for a church home,** we would love to get to know you. Please speak with Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens, or call to speak with him during the week at 508-755-6143. Those with infants and children up to age five are welcome to take them to the **Nursery/Preschool class, in the Nursery.** Please ask one of our ushers to assist you.

### **HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS...**

Please speak with one of our ushers for assistance.

### **CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY...**

are given in memory of Helen and Joe Miller, by Bruce Long.



On **March 4-6, 2011**, our youth group will participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. We're getting a crash course in global hunger by fasting for 30 hours while raising money to help feed and care for hungry kids and their families around the world. But, we need your help! We'd like the whole church to be involved in our Famine. **Here's how you can help us rewrite history...**

1. **Pray.** Ask God to bless our students as they make this sacrifice and "love hungry".
2. **Participate.** We need volunteers to help with our Famine Weekend!
3. **Give.** Support our students' fundraising efforts and help them to change lives. Every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for one child for a month! Visit our table in Gordon Hall beginning February 20 during the coffee hour, or just ask a member of the Youth Group!

### Questions?

Call 508-755-6143 x228 or e-mail [heatherk@fbc-worc.org](mailto:heatherk@fbc-worc.org)

**"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry ... ?" —Isaiah 58:6-7 (NIV)**

[www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) • 1.800.7.FAMINE

**World Vision®**

*Building a better world for children*

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach those still persecuted by today's causes of poverty and injustice. Established by our faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

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### **TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

8:30 AM: Breakfast; Childcare Opens

9:00 AM: Bible & Bagels; Church School

10:00 AM: Morning Worship; Children's Worship (approx. 10:20 AM)

11:15 AM: **FBC Annual Meeting** (lunch)

11:20 AM: Bible Adventures

**Youth Group: See bulletin announcements or the posted schedule.**

**ANNUAL MEETING TODAY...**immediately following Morning Worship. A light luncheon will be served.

**ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT...**All newly elected and returning FBC Board & Committee members meet for the first time **THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011, beginning at 6:00 PM** with a light dinner, followed by the Moderator's briefing and breakout sessions. ***If your name appears on the ballot posted for 2011, please plan to be present.***

**FORUM NEXT SUNDAY...**plan to join us on **Sunday, February 20, 2011**, to hear a presentation about the mission and accomplishments of ***Spirit of Hope, Inc.***, from Founder and President Pamela Riedy.

**YOUTH GROUP ROCK CLIMBING AT CENTRAL ROCK...**Meet at 11:20 AM in the lobby outside the Lee Room with a signed permission slip and \$20.00 to defer the cost of lunch and admission. We will then depart for Central Rock Gym in Worcester. Wear comfortable clothing! Lunch will be provided.

**PRESENTATION ON THE 30 HOUR FAMINE...**during Adult Forum on **February 27, 2011**. The Youth Group will present their vision and detail the service projects they will complete during their participation in the Famine on March 4—6. Please join us at 11:20 AM to learn how you can support this year's effort!

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING...**Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, heart failure or kidney failure. It takes only five minutes to check your risk. A free screening is scheduled **next Sunday** in the Library following Morning Worship. *Sponsored by the Health Cabinet.*

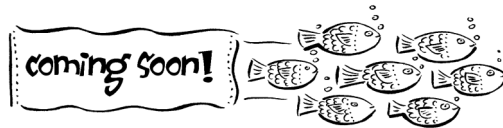
**HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS...**remember to stop by the table in Gordon Hall to purchase Hope for Housing Homeless Prevention Cards to use for your weekly grocery shopping and join the effort to prevent homelessness in Worcester.

### FORUMS IN MARCH:

- ☞ March 6: *The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith, Revolution, and the Birth of America*, by Steven Johnson
- ☞ March 13: Presentation on Nagaland, India by Rev. Mike Harvey
- ☞ March 20: Storytelling Workshop
- ☞ March 27: Pain Management

**YOUTH BAPTISM CLASS...**Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens will offer a class preparing youth for baptism on Sunday mornings, **March 20 & 27 and April 3 & 10, at 11:00 AM** in the Youth Lounge. Any youth in grade 7 or above is welcome to participate. Baptism is planned for **Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011**. Please let Tom McKibbens know if you plan to attend.

**COPIES OF SERMON TEXTS** are available in the Narthex and online at [www.fbc-worc.org/sermons.html](http://www.fbc-worc.org/sermons.html). An audio version is also available online.



Ash Wednesday Service—Wednesday, March 9

Wonderful Wednesdays—March 9 thru April 6

Volunteer Appreciation—April 13

Holy Week Events—Week of April 17

Music & Arts Weekend—April 19 thru May 1



**PRAYER...**

*Give thanks to the God of heaven; his love is eternal.*

~Psalm 136:26 GNT

**Please include in your prayers...**

- Our church family today as we meet for our Annual Meeting
- Moderator Thomas Grisso, our ministers and staff
- The Church School at work
- Those unable to be with us today because of illness
- People suffering from chronic illness; those undergoing medical procedures; those awaiting test results
- Members of the Worcester School Committee and the Superintendent: Help them to work well collaboratively with a goal to educate all children
- Families and individuals who are in crisis
- The afflicted in Haiti, Egypt, the Middle East, and other areas in strife
- Those victims of natural disasters—snow, typhoon, earthquake, flood, etc.
- The All-Committee Night at FBC
- The Central Baptist Association
- Older people who are alone in this seasons of blizzards and ice storms

**THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS...**in the pew racks are for your use in naming prayer concerns. The Senior Minister and the Prayer Fellowship will pray for each concern. Simply “mail” the cards in any of the *Prayer Mailboxes* located just outside the Sanctuary.

## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

508-755-6143 • [www.fbc-worc.org](http://www.fbc-worc.org)



TODAY, Feb. 13, 2011	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare opens
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels; Church School
	10:00 AM	Worship
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>
	11:20 AM	Bible Adventures
Mon., Feb. 14, 2011	12:00 PM	Elm Park Ministries
	1:30 PM	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tue., Feb. 15, 2011	9:00 AM	Montessori Rehearsal
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:15 PM	Chorister Choir
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT</b>
Wed., Feb. 16, 2011	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer
	9:30 AM	JRW Steering Committee
	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer; Food Addicts in Recovery
Thu., Feb. 17, 2011	10:00 AM	CBMM
	1:30 PM	Literacy Volunteers
	3:00 PM	milc Support
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:00 PM	Habitat
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	8:00 PM	AA
Fri., Feb. 18, 2011	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
Sun., Feb. 20, 2011	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare opens
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels; Church School
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Coffee and... ; BP Screening
	11:20 AM	Forum; Bible Adventures; Youth Group

**Mon., Feb. 21, 2011—PRESIDENT'S DAY—Office Closed**