

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.



January 15, 2012

10:00 AM

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* BWV 547 J. S. Bach 1685-1750

* **HYMN** 621 *For the Healing of the Nations* Regent Square

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lindsay C. Comstock

Leader: Dr. King's work reminds us that we must work together for the common good; laws must establish justice for all; but hearts must change for the Beloved Community to flourish.

People: **We will do the work of justice for all; we will open our hearts to an ever-expanding vision of community. We will trust the Spirit of God to guide and move us between the present and the anticipated Realm of Justice.**

Leader: Dr. King's vision inspires us: "*We are tied together in a single garment of destiny caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.*"

People: **We will work for a world where lives are enriched by difference; where people work together in Shalom for the good of the whole. We will work for a nation where persons will be judged solely upon the content of their characters.**

Leader: Dr. King's words challenge us: "*... injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*"

People: **We will listen to the cries of the poor; we will stand in solidarity with those who suffer oppression; we will take as our own the hopes of all who long for full human life; we will create in our midst the Beloved Community with room for all, justice for all, joy for all, Shalom for all. We will listen to the voice of the Christ, who stirs among us still.**

**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.

*** INVOCATION (Unison)**

God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us. Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you. Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us the more excellent way that your love requires. Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope. Whenever we forget those who have gone before us or act as if we were the first to follow in the Way, allow us to recognize our arrogance. May the witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. encourage us to be dreamers for Jesus' sake. Amen..... (Debts)

*** GLORIA PATRI 734.....** Creatorex

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 Deuteronomy 24: 17-22 (p. 158) Prakriti Rai
Mathew 25: 31-40 (p. 807) Warren Jones

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN Thomas R. McKibbens, Lindsay C. Comstock

ANTHEM *Thy Wisdom, Lord, all Thought Transcendeth.....* Archibald Davison b.1883

SERMON Opening Doors: An American Tradition..... Prof. Richard Ford

*** HYMN 587** Make Me a Channel of Your PeacePrayer of St. Francis
(Stanza 1, Choir Refrain All, Stanza 2 & 3 with refrain. All)

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

Offertory Anthem Rejoice in the Always..... John Redford 1486-1547

*** 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 596** Help Us Accept Each Other..... Beck

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *If You Will Only let God Guide You* Craig Phillips b.1961

Chancel Choir
William Ness, Minister of Music and 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 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.

OUR GUEST MINISTER TODAY IS...Professor Richard Ford, Research Professor in Clark University's *Department of International Development, Community, and Environment*, and co-founder of Clark's *Program for International Development and Social Change* in the early 1970s. He has carried out field research in Africa for more than 35 years, working in 35 countries. Prof. Ford has written several books, field guides, articles, handbooks, and case studies focused on community-based development.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR...are given in celebration of and to welcome our new Minister of Christian Education and Youth, the Rev. Lindsay C. Comstock.

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR...is in celebration of the birth of Mercy Kagoma, daughter of Martha Ndiokubwayo and Gerald Kagoma, born January 4, 2012.

NEW MEMBER CLASS... Anyone interested in learning more about membership at FBC is invited to join Senior Minister, Thomas R. McKibbens for a two-Sunday class on January 22 and 29. The classes will meet after worship service in the Pastor's Study, located at the end of the hallway on the right, beyond Gordon Hall.

PRAYER... "Thanksgiving for God's love for all humanity and our response to lead lives of hope and faith." ~ Thomas Ward

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

- * The Rev. Lindsay Comstock as she begins her ministry at FBC
- * Our Church's Education program and Youth Ministry
- * Betty Bennett, Ned Bennett, Heather MacNeill
- * Abby's House Emergency Shelter
- * The family of Chet Caswell, Jr.
- * Those with dementia, cancer, heart , diabetes, fibromyalgia problems and more
- * Those with substance abuse problems
- * Those seeking employment and financial stability
- * Our church as it reaches toward its 200th anniversary

ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY

January 15 — Adult Forum: Prof. Richard Ford, expert on refugee topics

January 22— Adult Forum: Rev. Lindsay Comstock to lead the discussion

January 29 — Adult Forum: Rev. Robert Batchelder, Worcester Area Mission Society

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. Being an usher/greeter is a wonderful way to volunteer and to welcome visitors and church members! Please contact Ruth Bergstrom ASAP if you are interested, by phone 508-853-1289 or e-mail: rbergstrom@charter.net.

Men of all ages - Mark your calendars: Men's Saturday Breakfast dates are, Feb. 4th, Mar. 3rd, Apr. 14th, May 5th, June 2nd. at 8:00 A.M.

122 Diner

1392 Main Street

Holden, MA (located across from Wachusett High School)

Any Questions: Contact Tom Ward @ tward@oxps.org

2012 IS FBC'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION YEAR...and events for the weekend of **October 12-14 2012** are being planned. The weekend will be full of music of all sorts, strolls down memory lane, forays into the archives and plans for the future. You'll definitely want to be there! You should have received a letter in the mail describing the events planned during the October 2012 week-end. In addition, a reservation card was enclosed with the letter, with a request for you to complete and return to First Baptist Church for planning purposes. *Please reply!* Also, let us know of names and whereabouts of past members, clergy, staff, volunteers and friends who would be interested in knowing about our weekend of celebration, looking back and looking forward. Please send names and contact information to the FBC Office at info@fbc-worc.org or call the office: 508-755-6143.

HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS ...please remember to purchase cards, available after worship service in Gordon Hall. Central Mass. Housing Alliance receives 5% of the purchase value of each grocery card that you purchase. Thank you for your continued support in preventing family homelessness.

DONATIONS FOR NEW REFUGEE FAMILIES... Rev. Warren Jones continues to serve new families who are resettling into the Worcester area. There is an enormous need for curtains, shades, blinds, rods, linens, towels, furniture, household goods and clothing. If you have something to donate, you may either bring to the church and drop it off in the Church Office or contact Rev. Jones to discuss the best arrangement for a donation of large quantities which will be picked up promptly!



The First Baptist Church **Annual Meeting** is Sunday, February 19, 2012. Submissions for the report from Committee chairs and designated Church Staff are due by next Sunday, **January 22nd**. This year, the reports will be available one week prior to the annual meeting, on Sunday Feb. 12th, to allow time to be read before the meeting. The printing of the reports will begin Feb. 6th. Please contact Pat Czerny with any questions.

This Week at First Baptist Church

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

TODAY, Jan. 15, 2012	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
	10:00	Worship Service (Guest Minister, Rev. Dr. Ford)
	11:15	Coffee and Adult Forum; Youth Group meeting
	11:20	Young Musicians Choir
Mon., Jan. 16	<i>MLK Jr. Birthday—Church Closed</i>	
Tue., Jan. 17	10:00 AM	Staff
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00	Choristers
	6:00	Mass. Brain Injury Assoc.
	6:30	Health Cabinet
	7:00	Benevolence Mother's of Twins
Wed., Jan. 18	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship
	12:00 PM	Staff Christmas Luncheon
	5:00	Habitat
	7:00	Food Addicts in Recovery
	7:00	Worcester Interfaith; Evening Prayer Fellowship
Thu., Jan. 19	9:00 AM	Staff Planning Meeting
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:00	Worcester Interfaith
	7:30	Chancel Choir
	8:00	AA
Fri., Jan. 20	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
	7:00	Serenity Christians Singles Worship/Coffee House
Sun., Jan. 22	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
	10:00	Worship Service
	11:15	Coffee and...



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
Thank you in advance!