

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 1, 2012

10:00 AM

**PRELUDE** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ..... Emma Lou Diemer b. 1927  
*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* ..... James Biery b. 1956

\* **HYMN** 242 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*..... Kingsfold

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: For everything there is a season,

**People: And a time for every matter under heaven:**

Leader: A time to be born and a time to die;

**People: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

Leader: A time to break down, and a time to build up;

**People: A time to weep and a time to laugh;**

Leader: A time to keep and a time to throw away;

**People: A time to be silent and a time to speak;**

Leader: A time to love and a time to hate;

**People: A time for war and a time for peace.**

Leader: God has made everything suitable for its time.

**People: God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.**

Leader: God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before the divine.

**People: What God does endures forever.**

\* **INVOCATION (Unison)**

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever: the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray... Our Father...(debts)

*\*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.*

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory** Jubilation on *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.....Dennis Janzer b.1954

\* **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**

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE** *Luke 2:20-40* (p.833)

**COMMUNION MEDITATION** *“They also serve who only stand and wait”*

Thomas R. McKibbens

\***COMMUNION HYMN 218** *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* ..... *Go, Tell it*

**A SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

The Passing of the Bread\* and Wine

The Passing of the Peace and “Blest Be the Tie”

\* **HYMN 409** *God of Our Life* .....Sandon

\* **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals, Op. 101*..... Sigfrid Karg-Elert

1877-1933

Stephanie Harvey, soloist  
William Ness, Minister of Music and Arts

*\*Gluten-free communion wafers are provided for those who require an alternative to traditional bread.*

## **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 here 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.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT IS THIS FRIDAY @ 7:00 PM** in Gordon Hall...Coordinators Joe Nolet and Tom Ward have been working hard to bring this first time event to our church. There is considerable talent lined up, and you will not want to miss it. First Baptist Church members and the community are invited to this free, concert-style event coordinated by an experienced program/event planner. A variety of performers of all kinds are signed-on: folk, poets, blue grass, jazz, classical, pop, and ending with a concert by folk singer Jack Rollins.



The First Baptist Church **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2012. Committee chairs and designated Church Staff are asked to prepare their submissions for the **2011 Annual Report**, due by Sunday, January 22, 2012. Send by e-mail to [patc@fbc-worc.org](mailto:patc@fbc-worc.org).

**PRAYER...** "If your knees are shaking, kneel on them."

~ Charles L. Allen

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

- \* First Baptist Church's clergy and staff
- \* The First Tuesday Fellowship at Briarwood
- \* Open Mic Night
- \* Each person who is in a care facility and their caregivers
- \* Those who are chronically ill
- \* Thanks for the church programming throughout Advent and Christmas
- \* The Hope for Housing grocery card ministry

**REMINDER...** The Prayer Fellowships will resume their regular schedule on Wednesday, January 4, 2012! If you would like to be added to the prayer list, please complete a prayer card located in the pew racks and deposit it in the Prayer Mail Boxes just outside the Sanctuary doors.

**\*\*\*ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY\*\*\***

January 8—Scrogin Book Forum: *Times Pendulum*, led by Frank Puffer

January 15 — Adult Forum: Dr. 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 Soc.

**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](mailto:tward@oxps.org)

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### **Calling all Alumni/Alumnae of FBC**

#### **2012 is our Bicentennial Year**

How far back can you go? Where are our "lost sheep" and all those who once were here but have moved away?

Our Bicentennial Events for the weekend of **October 12-14 2012** are being planned now and we are looking to distribute information widely and early.

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.

Please tell us if you know the names and whereabouts of past members, clergy, staff, volunteers and friends who would be interested in knowing about our week-end of celebration, looking back and looking forward. Please send any names and addresses or phone numbers you have to Lynne Carroll, via the FBC Office or email her at: [lynnecarroll@aol.com](mailto:lynnecarroll@aol.com)

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!*

**HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS** ...please remember to purchase them, which will benefit Hope for Housing Homeless Prevention. 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.

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR...**There are many available dates for flower donations.

## This Week at First Baptist Church

111 Park Avenue  
Worcester Massachusetts 01609  
508-755-6143      [www.fbc-worc.org](http://www.fbc-worc.org)

### Happy New Year!

<b>TODAY, Jan. 1, 2012</b>	9:30 AM	Child Care
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship/Communion
	11:00 AM	Coffee
<b>Mon., Jan. 2, 2012 — New Year's Day Church Closed</b>		
<b>Tue., Jan. 3, 2012</b>	1:00 PM	Full Staff Meeting
<b>Wed., Jan. 4, 2012</b>	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship (resumes) Jericho Road Worcester
	5:30 PM	<b>Open Mic Set-Up</b>
	7:00 PM	Park C.C. Bible Study
		Food Addicts in Recovery
<b>Thu., Jan. 5, 2012</b>	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	8:00 PM	AA
<b>Fri., Jan., 6, 2012</b>	10:00 AM	MA Baptist History Society
	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
	7:00 PM	<b>Open Mic Night (Free Event!)</b>
<b>Sat., Jan., 7, 2012</b>	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast Fellowship (offsite)
<b>Sun., Jan. 8, 2012</b>	8:30 AM	Breakfast/Childcare
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels/Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:15 AM	Scrogin Forum
	11:15 AM	Coffee and...