

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 29, 2012

10:00 AM

PRELUDE Fantasy on *Immortal, Invisible* Douglas Floyd Smith 1952-2004

* **HYMN** 48 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* St. Denio

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Lindsay C. Comstock

Leader: Let the servant church arise,

**People: a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

Leader: We have no greater mission than to serve, in full obedience
to our Lord:

People: to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

* **INVOCATION (Unison)**

Gracious God, you strengthen what is weak; you give relief to the poor; you give hope to the fearful; you give peace to the sorrowful. Look upon our needs this day. Open our hearts in gratitude for the good news we proclaim, and keep us faithful in your service and joyful in your presence, so that we may hold fast to your goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. In the spirit of Christ we offer the prayer he taught.... (Debts)

* **GLORIA PATRI** 734 Greatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

*** 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 Isaiah 61: 1-4 (p. 603-604)

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN Rev. Lindsay C. Comstock

ANTHEM *Carillon* Dean Wagner b. 1961

SERMON *Repairing the City, the Worcester Way* Rev. Robert Bachelder

*** HYMN 623** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* Wareham

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Anthem *Aria* Noel Rawsthorne b. 1929

*** 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 615** *Community of Christ* Leoni

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Carillon* Leo Sowerby 1895-1968

First Handbells
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 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.

GUEST MINISTER...Rev. Robert Bachelder joined WAMS in 1984 and serves today as Minister and President. He was educated at Dartmouth and Yale Divinity School, worked in the investment division of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust, and served churches in Pangbourne, England and Shrewsbury, Massachusetts before coming to WAMS. He has been active in numerous church and civic organizations, serving as president of Worcester Community Housing Resources and the Higgins Armory Museum and as an officer of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and United Way of Central Massachusetts. He has written widely in the field of economics and ethics, and is included in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*.

ADULT FORUM TODAY... Rev. Robert Bachelder, Worcester Area Mission Society.

NEW MEMBER CLASS...Please join our Senior Minister, Thomas R. McKibbens today in the Pastor's Study, immediately following worship service, to learn more about membership at First Baptist Church!

PRAYER... "I think the act of praying is huge, the act of consideration of another human being and his /her life; a moment to wonder what he/she is going through and to care, is paramount. " ~ River Jordan

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

- * Our Sunday morning Bible Study and its leadership
- * The Mustard Seed Ministry and its volunteers
- * Our ministers, Thomas McKibbens, Lindsay Comstock, William Ness
- * The family of Edmund "Ned" Bennett
- * Betty Bennett, Heather MacNeill, Kenneth Swenson, Walter Kojalo, Toni Stacey
- * Those with dementia, cancer, heart diabetes, fibromyalgia, Parkinson's, stroke
- * Those anticipating treatment or an operation
- * The unemployed and the underemployed, the homeless, the hungry
- * Victims of natural disasters; victims of war and fire
- * Those dealing with substance abuse, depression, anxiety, loneliness

Men of all ages - Mark your calendars: Men's Saturday Breakfast @ 8:00 AM
Feb. 4th, Mar. 3rd, Apr. 14th, May 5th, June 2nd
122 Diner
1392 Main Street
Holden, MA (*across from Wachusett High School*)
Any Questions: Contact Tom Ward @ tward@oxps.org

YOUTH CAMP...All youth (ages 14-19) who are interested in attending IMMERSE 2012 (National Gathering of American Baptist Youth) in Washington, DC on July 24-28. Please contact Lindsay at LindsayC@fbc-worc.org. Worship, fellowship, service, fun! Don't miss out!

PARENTS' MEETING... Parents of children (birth – 5th grade) are invited to join our Minister of Christian Education and Youth, Lindsay Comstock in the Lee Room immediately following worship on February 5th. Join us as we dream about the future of Children's Ministry here at First Baptist! For more information, feel free to contact Lindsay at lindsayc@fbc-worc.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 others who would be interested in knowing about our celebration events. Call the church office 508-755-6143 or e-mail to info@fbc-worc.org.

HOSPITAL PHONE SYSTEMS ...The phone system for the UMass & Memorial Hospitals is in transition and they are currently unable to provide us information regarding our church members who are admitted. If you know of someone in the hospital, please leave a note or call the church office: 508-755-6143 with information.

HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS ...please remember to purchase cards, available after worship service in Gordon Hall.

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 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 at (520) 907-5385 to discuss the best arrangement for a donation of large quantities.

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 historical event with a reception following in Gordon Hall.

CALL FOR MORE USHERS AND GREETERS... There are several vacancies for ushers and greeters, to replace those who recently retired. Please contact Ruth Bergstrom



The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 19, 2012. The printing of the reports will begin Feb. 6th, and will be made available on Feb. 12th, one week prior to the annual meeting, to allow time to be read before the meeting. The reports will also be available online, prior to Feb. 12th. 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. 29	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
	10:00	Worship Service
	11:15	Coffee and...; Adult Forum New Member Class Young Musicians Choir
Mon., Jan. 30	1:00 PM	Weekly Staff Meeting
Tue., Jan. 31	10:00 AM	Conference of Baptist Ministers
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00	Chorister Choir
Wed., Feb. 1	9:00 AM	Jericho Road Women's Prayer Fellowship
	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship
	7:00	Food Addicts in Recovery
Thu., Feb. 2	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
	8:00	AA— <i>Serenity Group</i>
Fri., Feb. 3	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
Sat., Feb. 4	8:30 AM	Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the 122 Diner
Sun., Feb. 5	8:00 AM	Breakfast; Childcare
	9:00	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
	10:00	Worship Service & Communion
	11:15	Coffee and... Scrogin Book Forum