

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 8, 2012

10:00 AM

**PRELUDE** *Andante in D Major* .....Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

\* **HYMN** 128 Spirit, Working in Creation..... In Babilone

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On that first day, when time began:

**People: You gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.**

Leader: On that first day at the Jordan River, when redemption began:

**People: You spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of baptism, and came up to words of hope.**

Leader: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

**People: You call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.**

\* **INVOCATION (Unison)**

Holy God, we have gathered on this Lord's Day with the prayer that you would create a new and ordered place within us. Sweep over the wild and choppy waters of our hearts, and speak light into the dark corners of our minds. Illumine our understanding, that we may hear your voice clearly. May the dove of your Spirit name us and call us as your devoted followers. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World...Our Father, who art in heaven.... (Debts)

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

**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.*

**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 1: 4-11 (p.812)

**CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN**

**ANTHEM** *Say, where is He born* .....Mendelssohn  
*There Shall a Star from Jacob*..... Mendelssohn

**SERMON** *The Watermark* ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\* HYMN 239** *When John Baptized by Jordan River* ..... Rendez Á Dieu

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**Offertory** *Anthem O Love, How Deep* ..... Everett Titcomb 1884-1968

**\* 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 241** *When Jesus Came to Jordan* ..... Munich

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Allegretto in D minor* .....Mendelssohn

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 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.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY...**are given by Kimball Woodbury in remembrance of his wife, Betty Woodbury, and their parents.

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th ...**

**...WE WILL WELCOME REV. LINDSAY COMSTOCK...** our new Minister of Christian Education and Youth. She looks forward to her first meeting with the youth after the Adult Forum.

**...OUR GUEST MINISTER...**will be Dr. Richard Ford, formerly a professor at Clark University and an expert on refugees. Dr. Ford will also lead an Adult Forum on the subject of the Bhutanese refugees, following morning worship.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST...**FBC has purchased a table for 10 at the annual MLK Breakfast at Quinsigamond College on Monday, **January 16**. If you would like to purchase a seat at the table, please see Tom McKibbens or Jean Perkins. The cost per person is \$25, and seats are limited.

**PRAYER...** "Prayer is something we learn to do. We are not born knowing how to pray. We, like the disciples, must learn to pray." ~ Charles Stanley

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

- \* Our church as it launches into a new calendar year
- \* The weekly staff meeting
- \* Building and Grounds Committee, Music and Arts Committee, and the Governing and Finance Boards
- \* The Skein of Knitters and their outreach
- \* The two Prayer Fellowships
- \* All who are chronically ill
- \* Care givers
- \* Children and youth, as they seek spiritual guidance
- \* Our nation as it searches for good and wise leadership
- \* Peace, justice and equality for all peoples

**\*\*\*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 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](mailto:rbergstrom@charter.net).

## 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 weekend 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: [lynnehcarroll@aol.com](mailto:lynnehcarroll@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 stop by the table in Gordon Hall following worship service to purchase Hope for Housing *homeless prevention cards* to use for your weekly grocery shopping, and join the effort to prevent homelessness in Worcester. Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance receives 5% of the purchase value of each grocery card.

**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, and other household goods and clothing. If you have something to donate, you may either bring to the church and drop off in the Church Office, or call the church office (508-755-6143) to discuss the best arrangement for a donation of large quantities.

# This Week at First Baptist Church

111 Park Avenue

Worcester Massachusetts 01609

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

<b>TODAY, Jan. 8, 2012</b>	8:30 AM	Breakfast/Childcare
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels/Church School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:15 AM	Scrogin Forum
	11:15 AM	Coffee and...
<b>Mon., Jan. 9</b>	1:00 PM	Staff
	5:45 PM	Building and Grounds
	6:00 PM	Music & Arts
<b>Tue., Jan. 10</b>	10:00 AM	Skein of Knitters
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles
	4:00 PM	Choristers
	5:00 PM	Bicentennial Committee
	7:00 PM	Joint Governing/Finance Boards
	7:00 PM	Park C.C. Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship
<b>Wed., Jan. 11</b>	5:30 PM	First Friends Board of Directors
	6:00 PM	First Friends Workshop
	7:00 PM	Food Addicts in Recovery
	8:00 PM	AA
<b>Thu., Jan. 12</b>	4:30 PM	WCMS Rehearsal
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	8:00 PM	AA
<b>Fri., Jan. 13</b>	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
<b>Sat., Jan. 14</b>	7:00 PM	Park C.C. Game Night
<b>Sun., Jan. 15</b>	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service; (Guest Minister, Rev. Dr. Ford)