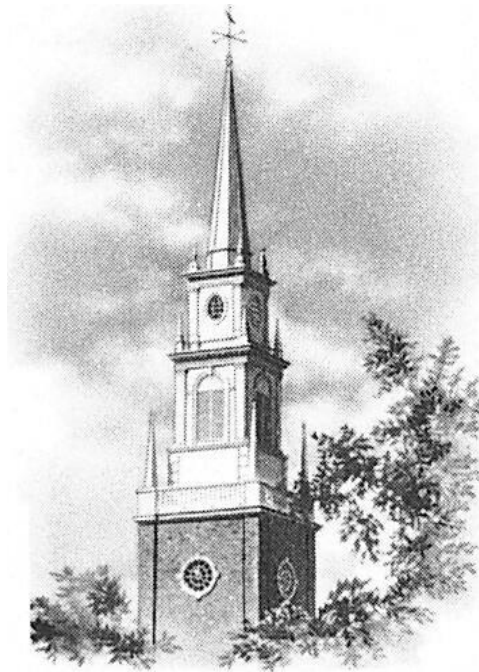


First Baptist Church

January 18, 2009



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church
Mission Statement

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

Morning Worship



January 18, 2009..... 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 Two settings of *Rock of Ages*..... Lee Bristol, Jr.
1923-1979

Dale Wood
1934-2003

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** Come, Let Us Dream (insert) Gift of Love

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Heather Kattan

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.*

All: 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.

***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. We pray as he taught: Our Father... (debts).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Brenda Baker

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

I Samuel 3:1-10 (pg. 215)..... Brenda Baker

Sing the Psalter: Psalm 139 (unison response)

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain

Search me, O God, you know me com - plete - ly.

Be my sure guide, my hope and stay.

Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

Music: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

John 1:43-51 (pg. 863)..... Heather Kattan

LET THE CHILDREN COME China

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN..... Heather Kattan

(Children who would like to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Message.)

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

SERMON *Singing in the Night*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect PeaceSamuel Sebastian Wesley
1810-1876

***Doxology 34**.....Old Hundredth

***Prayer of Dedication**

***CLOSING HYMN 384** Rock of Ages.....Toplady

***BENEDICTION**..... Thomas R. McKibbens

POSTLUDE Toccata from *Suite Gothique*.....Léon Boëllmann
1862-1897

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUES 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.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE & PROGRAMS

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.✠

HEARING AIDS AVAILABLE DURING THE SERVICE...If you would like to take advantage of our hearing aids, please speak with one of our ushers, who will explain this simple yet effective device.

LARGE PRINT BULLETIN AVAILABLE...with the Order of Service. Please speak with one of our ushers to receive a copy.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's floral arrangements are given by Sue and Wen-Yeng Wen, in loving memory of Sue's parents, Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Liu, and for Wen-Yeng's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chi Wen.✠

COFFEE AND...Join with the family and friends following the service today in Gordon Hall. Be sure to take time to welcome those among us who are new!

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM...Our own David Siddle will share thoughts to ponder from the sermons of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please join us in the Whitney Room at 11:15.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SERVICE...The congregation of the First Baptist Church, Worcester, is cordially invited to the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 717 Main Street, Worcester this evening at 5:00 PM.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE PAST DUE!...We are missing reports for the following committees/departments (as of this printing):

- Nominating Committee (ballot)
- Social Action Committee
- Board of Christian Education
- Board of Deacons
- Board of Finance
- Public Relations
- Stewardship Committee
- Treasurer's Report



Please submit your report via e-mail (Cindyj@fbc-worc.org), fax (508-797-3313) or hard copy to Cindy Johnson. Thank you very much!



YOUTH GROUP...CHANGE OF PLANS! Unfortunately, we are unable to meet with the youth group from Wesley UMC today. Instead, join us in the Lee Room at 12:30 PM for food and games. See you there!

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP...Our first Family Fellowship of 2009 will take place on Sunday, January 25. We will get together to go bowling and to get to know each other better. ALL ARE INVITED...please stay tuned for more details!

YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROJECT...On Wednesday, January 28, the Youth Group will go to volunteer at the Victory Center and hand out groceries to help our neighbors in need. We welcome anyone who would like to join with us on this project. Meet at FBC at 4:45 PM. We will return approximately at 8:20 PM, depending on traffic. *Please write your name on the sign-up sheet outside Heather's office by Sunday, January 25 so transportation may be arranged.*

THE ANNUAL MEETING...is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2009, in Gordon Hall. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the cost of \$5.00 per person, with the meeting following. If you plan to attend lunch, please call the Church Office to make a reservation. Thank you!

ALL-COMMITTEE NIGHT! Following tradition, all newly elected FBC committee members meet with their committee for the first time on the Tuesday following the Annual Meeting. This will take place on **February 10, 2009**, beginning with a light dinner at 6:00 PM (donation requested), followed by a briefing with the Moderator, and then breaking out into meetings by committee. If your name appears on the posted ballot for 2009, please mark your calendar and plan to be present at your **FIRST** meeting of the year!

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM...Classes to prepare candidates for baptism will begin on February 22, 2009 at 9:00 AM in the Youth Lounge. Families having a candidate for baptism should speak with Tom McKibbens. The classes will run for six weeks, culminating with baptism on Palm Sunday. Mark your calendars, and see you then!

SUNDAY USHERS—HELP WANTED...As the New Year begins, there are vacancies on our teams of ushers. We need your help to fill them! This is a very pleasant and important part of our Sunday service. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Eleanor Brockway at 508-753-7827. Thank you!

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week and continue making your card purchases!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—PEW TIDYING! Would you be willing to donate approximately 1 hour, about once every 4-6 weeks, to be part of a small group that ensures our pews are tidied after our Sunday service? You may do this following the Sunday service, or come to the church any time during the week when the church is open. This is truly a “low maintenance/high reward” volunteer service that makes a noticeable difference to those who worship in our beautiful sanctuary. Please contact Pat Czerny if interested [508-755-6143 x224].

MORE “TEA”...Three Cups of Tea author Greg Mortenson is scheduled to speak on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the Nevins Hall Memorial Building, 150 Concord Street in Framingham. Doors open at 9:30 AM and the program begins at 10:30 AM. Free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. In case of inclement weather, call 508-532-5570 after 7:30 AM for cancellation information [www.framinghamlibrary.org].

VALENTINE REMBRANCES...Please help us continue the tradition started by The Graduates of giving homemade cookies and fruit to our nursing home and shut in church members for VALENTINE’S DAY! We are looking for some CARING INDIVIDUALS who would be willing to bake cookies, donate money for fruit, help to package these items, or help to deliver them to one or two of our 35 shut-ins.



If you are willing to help in any of the above ways, please sign-up in the Church Office OR contact Jean Tait or Jean Mills to let us know. **We will package these items on Friday, February 13 at 10:00 AM**, and they will be delivered after that time. Thanks in advance for your participation!

Jean Tait (508-852-4629)/Jean Mills (508-829-4551)

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE...You are cordially invited to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at an Ecumenical Prayer Service on **Friday, January 23, 2009, 7:00 PM at Assumption College, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 500 Salisbury Street in Worcester.** The Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D., Catholic Bishop for the Diocese of Worcester, The Right Reverend Gordon P. Scruton, Episcopal Bishop for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and The Reverend Margaret G. Payne, Lutheran Bishop New England Synod, presiding. Assisting will be Reverend Gregory Christakos, Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Leaders of song - Assumption College Chapel Choir, Ms. Jane Shivick, Director and Dr. Frank Corbin, Accompanist.

A reception will immediately follow in the Atrium of the Janet and Richard Testa Science Center. Please respond by January 20, 2009 if you plan on attending to Sandy Bousquet at sbousquet@assumption.edu or call 508-767-7322.

Sponsored by the President's Office, the Ecumenical Institute,
and Campus Ministry of Assumption College.



PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

111 Park Avenue. Worcester

SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

(from our heart to yours!)

Delicious

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, February 21, 6:00 PM

GORDON HALL

ADULTS: \$8.00 CHILDREN 3-12 yrs. \$5.00; under 3 yrs. Free

BASKET RAFFLE!

(each basket promises to be filled with LOVE)

FOR RESERVATIONS*, see any Park Sunday School teacher OR

Prayer...

*You are my God, so be merciful to me;
I pray to you all day long,
Make your servant glad, O Lord,
because my prayers go up to you.
You are good to us and forgiving,
full of constant love for all who pray to you.*

~Psalm 86:3-5

Please include in prayer...

- Pastor Thomas McKibbens; Minister of Music & Arts William Ness
- Heather Kattan, Brenda Baker, Cindy Johnson
- The weekly staff meeting
- Those who are scheduled for surgery
- Evelyn Carlsen, Philip Heywood, Phyllis Whitten, Cheryl Goff, Alice Hohler
- Each who is alone, lonely, or bereaved; the frail
- People of the Middle East, Iran Afghanistan, warring communities in Africa
- Those confined in care facilities or homes; caregivers
- The unemployed
- Those suffering from chronic disease such as cancer, fibromyalgia, arthritis, back pain, emphysema



Do you have a prayer request? Simply complete a prayer request card located in the pew rack and then post it in one of the three Prayer Mailboxes located outside the Sanctuary.

**COMING
SOON!**

**Wonderful Wednesdays!
February 25, 2009**

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, Jan. 18, 2009 10:00 AM Worship
 10:15 AM Park Congregational
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum; BP Check
 12:30 PM Youth Group
 5:00 PM Martin Luther King, Jr. Service
 at Emmanuel Baptist Church

Mon., Jan. 19, 2009 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., Jan. 20, 2009 9:30 AM Literacy Volunteers
 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting
 11:30 AM Staff Christmas Luncheon
 4:00 PM Children's Choir
 7:00 PM Board of Christian Ed; Benevolence;
 Mothers of Twins



Wed., Jan. 21, 2009 9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship; Jericho Road
 12:30 PM Music Guild
 7:00 PM Park Cong.; Food Addicts in Recovery;
 Intercollegiate Bible Study
 7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

Thu., Jan. 22, 2009 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers; Literacy Vol. Reading
 6:15 PM First Handbells
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anon.

Fri. Jan. 23, 2009 9:00 AM NAEP
 3:15 PM Brownies

Sun., Jan 25, 2009 10:00 AM Worship
 10:15 AM Park Congregational
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum
 12:30 PM Family Fellowship
 5:00 PM Habitat

The First Baptist Church
111 Park Avenue — Worcester, MA 01609
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