

# The First Baptist Church of Worcester

A Welcoming and Affirming Church

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



**July 3, 2011 ..... 10:00 AM**

**HYMN SING ..... David Story**

**INTROIT Bring Us Together, Lord ..... Michael McCabe b. 1941**

**\* HYMN 728 God of the Ages..... National Hymn**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us speak of our vision:

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

Leader: We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart.

**People: We will tell of God's wonderful deeds.**

Leader: We will be glad and exult in the Lord.

**All: We will sing praise to the name of the Most High!**

## **\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Eternal God, you have called us into your service, and we gather this summer morning to praise you for taking the risk of calling such as us to go out into the world with the graceful story of your love. As we raise our songs of praise, we also give thanks for this land in which we live, the heritage of liberty and justice bequeathed to us, and the endless potential for good our country represents. Accept with your accustomed grace these offerings of praise, as we join together in the ancient prayer taught to us by Jesus himself, saying ... Our Father... (depts)...**

**\*GLORIA PATRI 734..... ..Greateorex**

## **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 the worship service. Please speak with an user 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** .....Matthew 16: 13-25 (page 798)

**AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN**

*Following the Affirmation, children are invited to join their worship leader for Children's Worship.*

**DUET** *When Peace Like a River* .....Philip Bliss 1838-1876

**SERMON** *The Invincible Power of a Vision* ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**HYMN 580** *We Are Called to be God's People* ..... Austrian Hymn

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Duet** *Nearer My God to Thee*..... John Coates, Jr. b. 1938

**\* 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 546** *Built on the Rock*..... Kirken den er et

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *God of the Ages*..... Emma Lou Diemer b. 1927

*Donald Mentzer, tenor*  
*Paul Powell, tenor*  
*William Ness, Minister of Music & 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 of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, 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 or to the minister directly. 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.

### **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 Minister Thomas R. McKibbens 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 (e.g. hearing aids).

**THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR...***is in celebration of the birth of Priya Rose Madhav Holl, daughter of Nita Madhav and David Holl. Priya was born on June 13th.*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...** Last week's "*Shake it up Café*" was a huge success, thanks to the combined efforts of four churches: Park Congregational, Wesley United Methodist, Epworth Methodist and First Baptist Church. More than 120 children attended and a host of volunteers made it a very special, educational and meaningful week. If you did not have a chance to see the transformation of the Lee Room into the 1950's era café, you missed a treat for the eyes!

**HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS...** Stop by the table in Gordon Hall following morning worship service to purchase **Hope for Housing Homeless Prevention Cards** to use for your grocery shopping and help to prevent homelessness in Worcester.

## **This Week at First Baptist Church**

**111 Park Avenue**

**Worcester Massachusetts 01609**

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

**TODAY, July 3**      8:45 AM      Childcare opens  
9:00 AM      Bible & Bagels  
10:00 AM      Worship; Summer Church School  
11:00 AM      Fellowship & Refreshments in Gordon Hall

**Mon., July 4**      INDEPENDENCE DAY — CHURCH CLOSED

**Tue., July 5**      8:00 AM      Worcester Interfaith  
1:00 PM      Full Staff  
7:00 PM      Compassionate Friends  
7:00 PM      Social Action

**Wed., July 6**      9:00 AM      Jericho Road

**Thu., July 7**      3:00 PM      milc (Mothers/Infants Lactation Care)  
8:00 PM      AA—Serenity Group

**Sat, July 9**      1:00 PM      Wedding  
7:00 PM      Park CC—Game Night in Gordon Hall

**Sun., July 10**      8:45 AM      Childcare opens  
9:00 AM      Bible & Bagels  
10:00 AM      Worship; Summer Church School  
11:00 AM      Fellowship & Refreshments in Gordon Hall

### **FBC SUMMER WEEKDAY SCHEDULE      Through August...**

...the Church Office is open 9 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday. After Labor Day, return to 9 AM to 5 PM office hours.

...a Custodian will be on duty Tuesday and Thursday evenings for meeting coverage, and for building cleaning and maintenance. On Wednesday evenings, the church is closed.