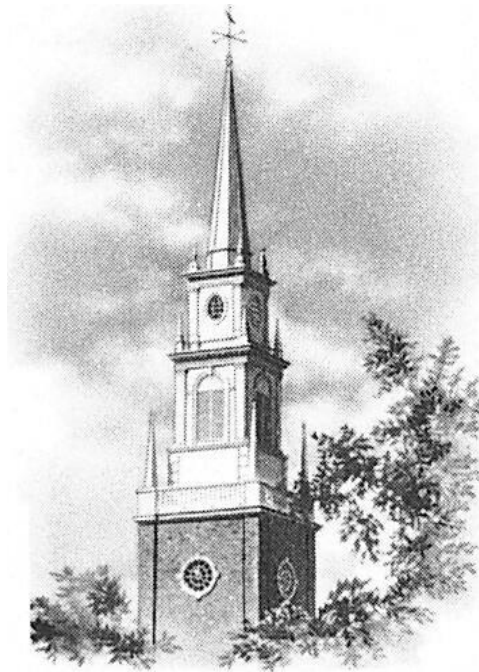


First Baptist Church

March 1, 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

March 1, 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 *Prelude in E flat* Guy Ducharme

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 1** God Is Here! Abbot's Leigh

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Heather Kattan

Leader: We come to this place seeking something...something better than ourselves; something that gives life meaning; some relationship that reaches deep into our souls to fulfill us; maybe even something to which we cannot put a name.

People: But we come seeking...and even more important, we are sought by one who gives us worth and meaning and value and love.

Leader: So, today, let us enter into this time of worship with hearts and minds that are open to the one who has laid down his life for us, who stands at the throne of God in support of us, and who reigns in power for us. Come, let us worship.

***INVOCATION (unison)**

Great Creator, you have blessed us by making yourself known in the wonder of the world around us! In time and seasons, in family and friends, even in birth and in death, we feel the rhythm of your love surrounding us. We give thanks for your boundless energy, flowing through and to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for the creativity and courage that spring from your power at work within us. Therefore, it is with confidence that we seek your presence for this hour of worship. Bring us home to your heart, O God, and bring us to a new awareness of your infinite care as we pray the prayer Jesus taught: Our Father...(debt).

***GLORIA PATRI 734** Creatorex

A SERVICE OF DEDICATION

**We welcome the parents of
Samuel Joseph Alves and Samuel Patrick Gordon
as they present their sons in dedication.**

BLESSING (Unison):

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord’s face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

**May the Lord’s countenance be lifted up upon you,
and give you peace. AMEN.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Kattan

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS..... Thomas R. McKibbens

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory *Come Walk with Me*Eleanor Daley
b. 1955

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

I Peter 3:13-22 (pg. 985)..... Heather Kattan

Unison Reading of Psalm 25:1-9 (pg. 436)

Mark 11:20-25 (pg. 824)..... Brenda Baker

Jesus tells Peter, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

LITTLE CHILDREN, WELCOMEKoleda

Little children, welcome! Earth is yours to live in;
arms of love protect you, little children, welcome!
We, the church of Jesus, we will help your growing,
Jesus’ love enfolds you, little children, welcome!

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.)

COMMUNION MEDITATION *Letting Go Enough to Forgive*

Brenda Baker

(Continued)

***COMMUNION HYMN 695** As We Gather at Your Table..... Beach Spring

We Welcome the Following New Members:
Angela & Brian Alves
Marilyn & Rev. Donald Crosby
Craig Holt

A SERVICE OF COMMUNION... Thomas R. McKibbens and Brenda Baker

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

SanctusEleanor Daley

The Passing of the Bread and Wine

Agnus Dei.....Eleanor Daley

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

***CLOSING HYMN 715** Now Let Us from This Table Rise..... Tallis’ Canon

***BENEDICTION**..... Brenda Baker

POSTLUDE *Agnus Dei* Kenneth Meek
1908-1976

**Those who are able may stand.*

Chancel Choir
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

ABOUT TODAY’S MUSIC: All of today’s selections are from Canadian composers born in the last century. Kenneth Meek immigrated to Canada from England in 1914. He was educated in Canada, and worked in Ottawa and Kingston before serving on the faculty at McGill University in Montreal. Guy Ducharme served as an organist in Quebec City. Eleanor Daley is an active church musician serving at the Fairlawn Heights United Church in Toronto. She is widely known for her sensitive choral compositions for both mixed choir and treble voices.



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.

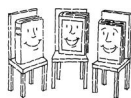
LARGE PRINT BULLETIN AVAILABLE...with the Order of Service. Please speak with one of our ushers to receive a copy!

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangements are given by Tammy and George Butler, in remembrance of Barbara and Gordon Butler.✝

SUNDAY EDUCATION...We offer a variety of worship and learning opportunities for children and youth. Following the Children's Message, children are invited to attend a Children's Worship session upstairs in the Green Room. At 11:15 AM, we have Church School classes for all ages on the second floor. For more information, please speak with one of our ushers, or the Rev. Heather Kattan.☪

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

SCROGIN BOOK FORUM TODAY...The topic is FACING LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES, and we come together to discuss our reading of Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life, by Philip Simmons. Everyone is welcome to join us at **11:15 AM in the Roy Room**.



A "WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS" REMINDER...Please assist our Kitchen Administrator with menu planning **by placing your name on the sign-up sheet** in the Church Office (or call 508-755-6143 to do so) **by MONDAY each week you plan to come for the 5:30 PM meal**. If you KNOW that you are coming for supper, WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW! *The cost for the meal is \$5.00. Thanks so much for your cooperation!*



THE 30 HOUR FAMINE...our lock-in at the church occurred this past weekend, where with a small group participating in a fast and learning more about those around the world who endure hunger as part of their daily lives. Stay tuned for a report on our experience of being hungry together!



A COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR ALL...Want to do something **HANDS ON** to help out those who are homeless and hungry? Here is the perfect answer...join us to make sandwiches and participate in a worship service held by the Worcester Fellowship at Worcester Common on **Sunday, March 8, 2009!** Come to the kitchen next to the Roy Room after Morning Worship (11:15 AM) to make sandwiches and discuss how God calls us to help our neighbors. Then we will go to the Common to hand out the sandwiches and some socks to those who come to the service. PLEASE SIGN-UP on the sheet posted outside Heather's office, or contact Heather Kattan to let her know that you plan to participate: **[heatherk@fbc-worc.org]**. This opportunity is open to youth, children, parents, and **ANYONE** who wishes to take part!



SIGN UP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRET FRIENDS...By popular demand, this springtime tradition resumes at FBC! Sunday School Secret Friends will run from **March 15 through April 26, 2009 [note change of ending date]**, with a small party at the end for the **big REVEAL**. If there are any Church School children interested in participating, please write your name on the sign-up sheet posted outside Heather's office. Adults who are interested in participating should contact Heather Kattan via e-mail or phone, so she may keep your name a secret *and enhance the surprise!*



[heatherk@fbc-worc.org] [508-755-6143 x228]

JOIN US ON A MINI-TOUR...The Benevolence committee would like to help you put a face on some of the good works you do! We are planning a **MINI-TOUR** to four sites we support as a part of our Benevolence Budget. On **March 22, 2009**, as the **ADULT FORUM** for the day, we are inviting you to join us on a bus to visit *Jeremiah's Inn*, *The Kathleen Burns Prep School (YOU Inc.)*, *Friendly House*, and *Dismas House*. We will leave the church at 11:30, and complete the tour by 4:00 PM. A lunch will be part of the program. Details will follow as they are completed. The tour is open to youth and adults—all are welcome!



FORECLOSURE CRISIS BRIEFING...A community briefing on Worcester's foreclosure crisis will be held at First Baptist Church on **Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM**. This event is sponsored by the Worcester Area Mission Society, and panelists will provide federal, state, and local perspectives. Of special interest to the members of the First Baptist Church will be a presentation by Matthew Wally, who heads the Community Loan Fund. First Baptist Church is a leading investor in the Loan Fund, which plays a key role in foreclosure prevention lending and the property receivership program.

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week to continue making your food shopping card purchases! When cards are used at local grocery stores, the store will contribute 5% of the total purchase to Hope for Housing to give to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, for use in prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness.



WORCESTER CROP WALK...Organizational meeting Sunday March 22, 2009, 12:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St. Worcester. For directions go to www.trinityworc.org or call 508-753-2989. Amy Porter from Church World Service will attend. The CROP [Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty] Walk, held annually in October, is sponsored by Church World Service [CWS]. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised go to the local food banks, and the rest goes to disaster relief and combating poverty throughout the world. The CROP Walk is the oldest continuing walkathon in the United States. All over the U.S. in cities and towns, concerned citizens gather in an effort to eradicate poverty and hunger. All are welcome to participate, either through walking or sponsoring, regardless of religious affiliation.

Prayer...

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

~Psalm 51:10

Please include in your prayers...

- Pastor Thomas McKibbens and the FBC Staff
- Wonderful Wednesdays!
- The Baptism Class
- The Volunteer Reading program
- The First Tuesday Fellowship at Briarwood
- Arlene Alexander, Marijane Jones, Lynn McMillen, Constantine Mourginis, George McDermott, Betsy Minott
- Those with chronic illnesses or terminal illnesses
- Those confined to home or care facilities
- Those recovering from surgical or medical procedures
- President Obama and our nation
- The homeless, the unemployed, and those with financial problems



The Evening Prayer Fellowship will not meet for the duration of Wonderful Wednesdays, but will resume **April 8 at 7:00 PM** [NEW TIME!] in the Roy Room. Men and Women are invited!

“Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me.”
Psalm 51:10

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Sun., Mar. 1, 2009	8:00 AM & 9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels
	9:00 AM	Baptism Class
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Scrogin Forum
Mon., Mar. 2, 2009	5:45 PM	Buildings & Grounds
	7:00 PM	Habitat
Tue., Mar. 3, 2009	9:30 AM	Literacy Volunteer Reading [ESL]
	10:00 AM	Full Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee; Health Cabinet Compassionate Friends
Wed., Mar. 4, 2009	WONDERFUL WENDESAYS	
	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer; Jericho Road
	5:30 PM	WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS SUPPER
	6:30 PM	WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS
	7:00 PM	Park Congregational; Food Addicts in Rec.
Thu., Mar. 5, 2009	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers; Literacy Vol. Reading
	12:00 PM	Hope for Housing
	7:00 PM	Benevolence Committee
	7:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., Mar. 6, 2009	8:00 AM	Worcester Interfaith Board
	9:00 AM	NAEP
	1:30 PM	Worcester Interfaith
	3:15 PM	Girl Scouts
Sat., Mar. 7, 2009	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at KP's in Holden
	10:00 AM	Worcester Interfaith
Sun., Mar. 8, 2009	8:00 AM & 9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels
	9:00 AM	Baptism Class
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Forum; Community Service Project

The First Baptist Church
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508-755-6143
www.fbc-worc.org