

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

The First Baptist Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Church
111 Park Avenue
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609
March 27, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP



March 27, 2011.....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 Major, BWV 566.....J.S. Bach
1685-1750

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 522** Shall We Gather at the River Hanson Place

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

People: *Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!*

Leader: Then he said to me, *It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.*

People: *The Spirit and the bride say, Come! Let everyone who hears say, Come!*

Leader: And let everyone who is thirsty, come. Let everyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

O God, you are the everlasting spring welling up in us to eternal life. When we remember Jesus speaking to a woman and telling her about her life, we wonder. You know our ins and outs, too! We yearn to worship you in spirit and in truth, but how often we remain dry. Come, Generous God, and quench our thirst! In the name of Christ we offer the prayer he taught: Our Father (debts)...

***GLORIA PATRI 734**Greatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER**..... Faithfulness

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 Exodus 17:1-7 (pg. 56)
John 4:23-26 (pg. 865)

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDRENAshley Ward
(Children who desire to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Children's Message.)

HANDBELL ANTHEM *Give Me Jesus*John Behnke
b. 1953

SERMON *The Secret Life of Water* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 435** *Like a River Glorious* Wye Valley

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Handbell Anthem *How Can I Keep From Singing?*Arnold Sherman
b. 1948

***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 589** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* Maryton

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Out of the Depths, I Cry to Thee, BWV 686*J.S. Bach

**Those who are able may stand.*

First Handbells

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

CCLI #2763143

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A new bell (G2) is rung for the first time today. You will spot it immediately since it is the largest bell we own and it is made of aluminum. It was given in memory of Lynn (Ann Marilyn) Mcmillen, who was a long time member of the Chancel Choir before moving away several years ago.

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 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.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY...Please join us for fellowship in Gordon Hall following the service. You can enjoy refreshments, meet members of this congregation, and learn about the many programs of this church. Gordon Hall is located by exiting the Sanctuary through the double doors near the pulpit. Enter Gordon Hall by the first door on the left in the hallway. **If you are searching for a church home,** we would love to get to know you. Please speak with Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens, or call to speak with him during the week at 508-755-6143. Those with infants and children up to age five are welcome to take them to the **Nursery/Preschool class, in the Nursery.** Please ask one of our ushers to assist you.

HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS...

Please speak with one of our ushers for assistance.



YOUTH GROUP TODAY...at 11:30 AM in the Roy Room. Join us for delicious food, great conversation, brilliant brainstorming for upcoming activities, and wonderful company. See you there!

FORUM TODAY ON PAIN MANAGEMENT...Pain comes in several forms—acute, chronic, and the occasional aches of life. If you or someone you love is suffering from pain, especially chronic pain, join for today's FORUM in Gordon Hall at 11:20 AM to discuss the causes, modifying/exacerbating factors and therapeutic approaches available to address this important health issue, and improve quality of life. *Sponsored by the Health Cabinet.*

MYCHIP TODAY AT FBC...the Masonic Youth Child ID Program (MYChip) provides tools to aid law enforcement authorities to locate and ID a lost or missing child. This FREE program will be held at **11:30—3:30 PM in the Whitney Room** on a first-come, first-served basis. Available for infants through 21 years of age, tapes made in the past can be updated. The program provides a videotape, fingerprinting, tooth print, and cheek swab. This information is not duplicated, and all items are given to the child's family. **For more information, visit www.mychip.org, or contact Dean Stevens (508-885-9537).**

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE...with supper at 5:30 PM (please sign-up!), followed by a study session at 6:30 PM led by Thomas R. McKibbens on *DISCOVERING THE PSALMS: Passion, Promise, and Praise.*

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...meets on Saturday, 8:00 AM @ Friendly's in Shrewsbury (White City Plaza, near Panera). Contact Tom Ward for any questions.

AT PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 3...Professor Lloyd Baugh, SJ, will introduce a film about Christ, *Son of Man*. The event will take place in the Lee Room at 12:00 PM with lunch available at 11:30 AM for \$5.00. For children below the age of 13, the film *You Lucky Dog* will be shown in a classroom on the second floor. **If you plan on attending the luncheon, please inform Pastor Gary at 508-752-2468 or e-mail him at parkchurchucc@juno.com so that enough food is prepared. Everyone is welcome!**

COPIES OF SERMON TEXTS...are available in the Narthex and online at www.fbc-worc.org/sermons.html. An audio version is also available online.

SCROGIN BOOK FORUM NEXT SUNDAY...Join us on **April 3 at 11:20 AM** in the Roy Room to discuss *Home: A Novel* by Marilyn Robinson. All are welcome!

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FORUM...Want to hear a good yarn? Join us for a Storytelling Workshop on **Sunday, April 10** and learn about the craft of Storytelling from Homer to Harrison Ford. Facilitated by Lynne Carroll.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK...is April 10—16, 2011. On **Sunday April 10**, we will honor the many individuals who give graciously of their time and generous spirit in so many ways, e.g. assisting in the kitchen during the coffee hour, or for collations and dinners, answering the telephone in the Church Office, preparing the monthly newsletter, tidying the pew racks, providing transportation, and more!

HOLY WEEK EVENTS...begin with **Palm Sunday on April 17, 2011**, with Baptism during Morning Worship at 10:00 AM. Communion will be served during the **Maundy Thursday service on April 21, 2011**. Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens sermon, *Rocked by the Resurrection!* will be preached during **Easter Sunday Morning Worship on April 24, 2011**, concurrent with an Easter Egg Hunt for Kids and followed by a special Easter Reception during the coffee hour. Please plan to share these experiences with us!

SUNRISE SERVICE...at the Institute Park Gazebo directly across from the church on Salisbury Street will take place at **7:00 AM on April 24, 2011**. Followed by breakfast in the Lee Room at 7:30 AM. *Sponsored by Park Congregational Church—all are welcome!*

MUSIC & ARTS WEEKEND...begins with a *Celebration of Franz Liszt*, an organ concert given by Minister of Music & Arts William Ness on **Friday, April 29, 2011 at 7:30 PM**. During Morning Worship on May 1, the Chancel Choir will premiere the winning piece from our Annual Anthem Competition, *A New Birth*, by Sean Beachy, DMA (based on I Peter 1:3-6a). We also will enjoy a FORUM with Debbie Clarke from UDRUM2, who will lead an interactive drumming event for all ages. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us during this eventful weekend!

PRAYER...

O Lord, convert the world, and begin with me.

~Chinese student's prayer.



Please include in your prayers...


- Our church family, members, and friends
- Each who is considering church membership and/or Baptism
- The Wonderful Wednesdays suppers and study of the Psalms
- The family of Carlton Richards
- The victims of natural disasters, warring societies, accidents
- The new Iraqi and Bhutanese refugees in our midst
- The children and youth of FBC in their transition
- Those who are unemployed, homeless, hungry
- People with life-threatening illnesses
- The people of DISMAS House

HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS...remember to stop by the table in Gordon Hall to purchase Hope for Housing Homeless Prevention Cards to use for your weekly grocery shopping and join the effort to prevent homelessness in Worcester.

AN EVENING WITH GREG MORTENSON...This special evening program sponsored by the New England Conferences of the United Church of Christ and the Worcester Area Mission Society will take place on **Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 6:30 PM**, at Mechanics Hall. Proceeds will provide funds toward a new school in Afghanistan and an afterschool program in Worcester. This event will also include a performance by the Worcester Children's Chorus. A Dessert Reception and Book Signing concludes the evening. *For tickets and more information on the event, visit: <http://macucc.org/events/detail/111>.*

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

508-755-6143 • www.fbc-worc.org

	TUESDAY, Mar. 27, 2011	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare opens
		9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels; Church School
		10:00 AM	Worship
		11:00 AM	Coffee and...;
		11:20 AM	FORUM; Bible Adventures; Baptism Class; MYChip Program
		11:30 AM	Youth Group
Mon., Mar. 28, 2011	1:30 PM	Weekly Staff Meeting	
Tue., Mar. 29, 2011	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles	
	4:15 PM	Chorister Choir	
	5:00 PM	Music Education Class	
	7:00 PM	Finance	
		<i>MUSTARD SEED</i>	
Wed., Mar. 30, 2011	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer	
	5:30 PM	Wonderful Wednesdays Supper (sign up!)	
	6:30 PM	Wonderful Wednesdays Class	
	7:00 PM	Food Addicts in Recovery	
Thu., Mar. 31, 2011	1:30 PM	Literacy Volunteers	
	3:00 PM	milk Support	
	6:15 PM	First Handbells	
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir	
	8:00 PM	AA	
Sat., Apr. 2, 2011	8:00 AM	Men's B'fast Fellowship @ Shrewsbury Friendly's	
	10:00 AM	DA Discussion Group	
Sun., Apr. 3, 2011	8:30 AM	Breakfast; Childcare opens	
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels; Church School	
	10:00 AM	Worship	
	11:00 AM	Coffee and...;	
	11:20 AM	Scrogin FORUM; Bible Adventures; Baptism Class	
	12:00 PM	<i>Son of Man</i> (film presentation—Park Cong.)	
		