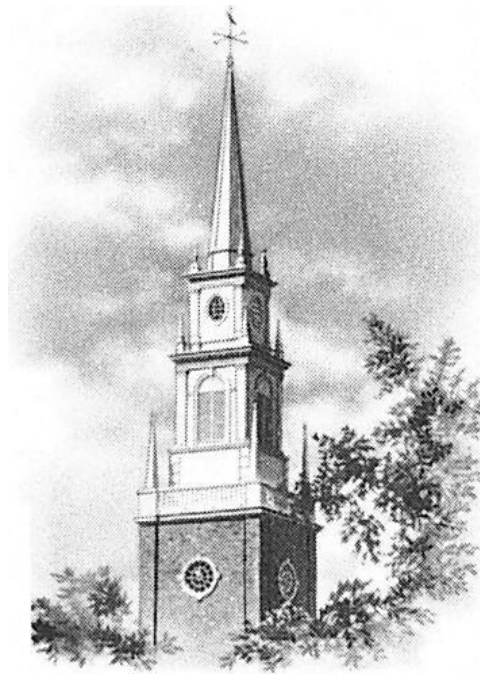


First Baptist Church

November 16, 2008



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
Stewardship Sunday

November 16, 2008 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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Albert Travis
b. 1940

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 31** I Sing the Almighty Power of GodEllacombe

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Brenda Baker
Leader: The extravagant love of God has been poured out upon us; we
have been gifted with all that God has and is.

**All: Let us risk an extravagant worship, worthy of such an
immoderately gifting God!**

***INVOCATION (unison)**

**Generous God, you have given us the very image of yourself in
Jesus Christ. We confess our careful, measured giving of ourselves, our
time, our talents, and our resources. We are quick to guard against
stretching our hours or our budgets. Yet today we pledge our best
efforts to be your faithful people in this place, following the Way
Jesus taught to walk, and asking for new courage to be born within
us. Bless our worship with the fresh air of your Spirit. We pray now
the prayer Jesus taught: Our Father...(debts).**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Kattan

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONYLinda Mosier

ANTHEM Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence..... Gustav Holst
1874-1934

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

I Kings 19:11-15 (pg. 284)..... Heather Kattan

Unison Reading of Psalm 121 (pg. 498) Brenda Baker

Matthew 25:14-30 (pg. 807)..... Thomas R. McKibbens

LET THE CHILDREN COME..... Root
Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight;
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

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.)

SERMON Substance Abuse..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 397 The Gift of Love**..... Gift of Love

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS..... Brenda Baker

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory Festive Bell Flourish..... Lee Barrow
b. 1952

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

***CLOSING HYMN 723 For the Fruit of All Creation**Ar Hyd Y Nos

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE For the Fruit of All Creation Clay Christianson
b. 1949

**Those who are able may stand.*

*First Handbells
Chancel Choir*

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

Faithful Living...Grateful Giving!

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

I Corinthians 4:1-2 NRSV



The First Baptist Church...

- ...is an authentic community of faith
- ...cares for the needs of others
- ...has a global conscience and practices mission action

We need your help to continue our mission...

Return your PLEDGE CARD TODAY!

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 Phyllis and Dr. Richard Whitten, in memory of Phyllis' sister, Allyson Button Phillips. 🌸

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM SPEAKER...Carla Szymanski from the Rachel's Table Food Distribution Service. Join us in the Whitney Room at 11:15 to hear more about their mission to feed hungry families and individuals in the greater Worcester area, and to reduce the waste of nourishing food.

A HEARTFELT THANKS...luncheon in Gordon Hall will be offered by the Sunday School children and church family of The Park Congregational Church following Morning Worship today. Park desires to show appreciation for their new church home in our building, as well as the love and warmth shown to them since their arrival. Come one, come all, as our two church families enjoy a time of thankful fellowship together!



TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER YOUR THANKSGIVING PIE... 


Pies will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 23. All proceeds to benefit the refurbishing of our Mason & Hamlin Piano in Gordon Hall.


CHANCEL CHOIR...will have rehearsal **TODAY at 11:30 AM**. This extra rehearsal ensures all will be well rehearsed for our heaviest month of the year in December.




MOVIE...PIZZA...POPCORN! Today at 12:30 PM for ALL Youth.

Bring a friend, and join us in the Lee Room!

TIME TO MEET OUR NEIGHBORS...Our **Adult Forum on November 23** will not be held in the Whitney Room, Gordon Hall, or the Lee Room. Instead, we will leave FBC for a short walk across Park Avenue for a visit to the  American Antiquarian Society. Ellen Dunlop, the Society's Executive Director, has graciously offered to give us a guided tour through this world famous resource. If you will be joining the tour, please sign-up in Gordon Hall. Also, if anyone will be needing to use the elevator, please let Jean Perkins know in advance [508-755-2875 or jperkins25@aol.com]. Thank you!

THIRTY-HOUR FAMINE & WORCESTER INTERFAITH...A planning  meeting for everyone interested in participating in a **30 Hour Famine**, the World-Vision international youth movement to fight hunger, will be held on Sunday, **November 23**, 2008 at 12:30 PM in the Lee Room. Prior to this meeting we will hold a brief session with Frank Kartheiser of Worcester Interfaith to discuss issues of concern to youth in Worcester. Everyone interested in youth issues is invited to attend and then stay to discuss the **30 Hour Famine**. Please join us!

YOUTH THANKSGIVING PROJECT...The Youth will serve a meal on **Tuesday, November 25, 2008** [4:45 PM—6:30 PM], as part of the Mustard Seed ministry in which FBC participates. **We are also collecting donations of non-perishable food items for Plumley Village, as well as financial donations to purchase the items needed for the meal that we will serve.**  Please make checks out to FBC, and write "Youth Thanksgiving" on the memo line. Food donations can be brought to Sunday School classes, and there is also a basket for donations in the narthex. To sign-up for serving of the meal, please contact Heather Kattan **by Tuesday November 18** so that she may arrange transportation:

[HeatherK@fbc-worc.org, 508-755-6143 x228 or by writing your name on the sheet outside of her office].



FLU SHOTS ON NOVEMBER 30...Thanks to everyone who signed-up! The vaccine will be administered following Morning Worship to those who have signed-up and if we have extra doses, we will make an announcement during the Advent Workshop for other individuals who may be interested in receiving the vaccine. Sponsored by the Health Cabinet. *Keep an eye out for the next edition of the Health Cabinet Newsletter, "Healthy News", for other tips on staying healthy this flu season!*

ADVENT WORKSHOP...Our Annual Advent Workshop will be held on Sunday, **November 30, 2008** directly following Morning Worship. There will be holiday crafts, snacks, and time for fellowship. ALL are invited to join us! ***We do still have openings for craft tables, so if you would like to lead a craft or have another idea, please contact Heather Kattan.***

[heatherk@fbc-worc.org; 508-755-6143 x228; OR JUST STOP HER IN THE HALL!]



This will also be the appearance of this season's **Angel Giving Tree**, decorated with gift tags for children and youth in our community, whose names were received from the Department of Children & Families of Massachusetts. The names provided represent individuals who live in a variety of difficult situations who are not likely to receive the items they want or *need* at Christmas. Please look for the Giving Tree during the Workshop, select a gift tag, purchase one or more of the suggested gifts listed, then return the wrapped gift(s) to the church with the gift tag **securely** attached by Sunday, December 14. The DCF social workers will pick up the gifts and distribute them to the children. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE...It is the responsibility of the First Baptist Church Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of nominees to serve as effective leaders on the boards and committees that are so vital to the life of this congregation. Many church members have already accepted the invitation to assume an important role for the next three-year-term. We are blessed by their willingness to give of their time and talents. Other positions are still waiting to be filled. If you are honored by an invitation to serve, please consider a resounding , "YES!" In addition, if you have suggestions for those willing to serve, pick up a ballot to complete in the Church Office, and be sure it gets to a member of the Nominating Committee!



Annual Christmas Dinner December 14 at 5:00 PM
\$12 Adults · \$6.00 Children under 12 · \$35 Family

Prayer...

As we pray, in like manner, should we live.

~Jo Petty

Please include in your prayers...

- The Bible and Bagels sessions
- The Worcester Area Refugee Ministry
- The Park Congregational Church “Heartfelt Thanks” reception today
- The Music & Arts Committee Thanksgiving Pie Sale for the piano fund
- The family of The Reverend L. Stanley Manierre and Richard Cranford
- Stewardship Sunday
- The Board of Christian Education; the Nominating Committee
- Those with chronic conditions and diseases
- Nancy Burgess, Laura Coe, Alice Hohler, Madelyn Morse, Edmund Bennett, Cheryl Goff, Hillary Bath, Susan Beauregard, Lynn McMillen
- The unemployed
- Those anticipating surgery
- The worldwide economic and political situations



Please Note:

- Prayer Request Cards found in the Pew Rack may be filled out and posted in mailboxes at the Sanctuary and Narthex doors for prayer by Rev. Thomas R. McKibbens, and the Women’s Prayer Fellowship
- The Women’s Prayer Fellowship continues its weekly 9:00—10:00 AM Wednesday meetings.
- The Evening Prayer Fellowship [EPF] will NOT meet during the evenings of Wonderful Wednesdays, or on Thanksgiving eve. The EPF will resume its meeting time Wednesday, December 3, 7:30—8:30 PM in the Roy Room.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING: Sponsored by Elm Park Ministries will be **NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008**, 5:00 PM at the First Baptist Church. Combined Choir rehearses at 3:00 PM. Please join us as Christian, Jewish, and Muslim friends will join together in our common Gratitude to God.

CHRISTMAS TREES: Due to the rising wholesale cost of Christmas trees, our continuing need for more volunteers, as well as competition from large discount stores, **THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WILL NOT OFFER CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE THIS YEAR.** Look for other fund-raising activities sponsored by the Youth Group during the year ahead!

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, November 16 **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**



8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum; BP Check
“A Heartfelt Thanks” reception
 11:30 AM Chancel Choir
 12:30 PM “Movie, Pizza, Popcorn” (Youth Group)

Mon., November 17

7:00 PM Habitat

Tue., November 18

10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Salisbury Belles
 4:00 PM Children’s Choir
 6:30 PM Brd. of Christian Education; First Friends;
 Mothers of Twins; Compassionate Frnds

Wed., November 19

9:00 AM Women’s Prayer Fellowship
 5:30 PM Wonderful Wednesdays!
 7:00 PM Finance Committee;
 Food Addicts in Recovery

Thu., November 20

9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers
 10:00 AM TABCOM
 6:00 PM Nominating Committee
 6:15 PM First Handbells
 6:30 PM AA/Serenity Thanksgiving
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Fri., November 21

3:15 PM Brownies

Sat. November 22

8:00 AM Music & Arts Pie Baking
 10:00 AM TABCOM
 7:30 PM Worcester Chamber Music Society

Sun., November 23



8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum [AAS Tour]
 12:30 PM Worcester Interfaith & Youth/
 30-Hour Famine Planning Meeting
 3:00 PM Combined Choir rehearsal
 4:15 PM Combined Choir refreshments
 5:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The First Baptist Church — 111 Park Avenue — Worcester, MA 01609 — 508-755-6143 — www.fbc-worc.org