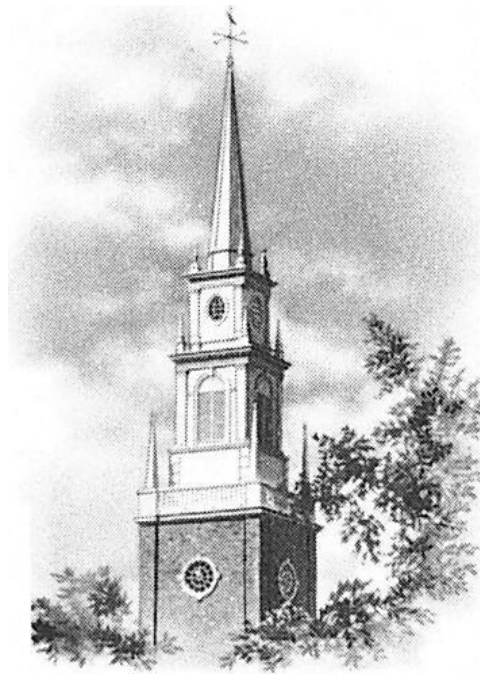


# *First Baptist Church*

*November 23, 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

## ◆◆ *Thanksgiving Sunday* ◆◆

**November 23, 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** Introduction and Variations on .....Jan Bender  
*We Praise You, O God* 1909-1994

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 721** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
.....St. George's, Windsor

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

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

**People: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to God, and bless his name.

**All: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations!**

**\*INVOCATION (unison)**

**Eternal God, we gather with a voice of praise. For wind and starlight, for mountain and field, and for all the wonders of earth and sea and sky. For those who share our homes and sustain us with their love, for those who stand beside us in difficult times, for all those whose influence on our lives has made us better and more mature — we give thanks. But most of all, we praise you for yourself — for the will that brought the world into being and broods upon it day by day, for the gift of Jesus to the world with every expression of grace, and for your Spirit, whose presence sustains us day by day. Accept this offering of our praise, and guide us till we give you our loyalty no less readily than our thanks. In the spirit of Christ we offer the prayer he taught: Our Father...(debts).**

**\*GLORIA PATRI 734**.....Greatorex

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**THANKSGIVING LITANY** (see insert) ..... Brenda Baker

**ANTHEM** I Will Give Thanks.....Emma Lou Diemer  
b. 1927

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (pg. 702)** ..... Heather Kattan

*Those in exile must have heard Ezekiel's words as very good news. God is a shepherd as we are sheep, and God will take care of God's own. This became a lifeline for people far from home.*

**MUSIC & ARTS DEDICATION** (see insert)

**Matthew 25:31-46 (pg. 807)**.....Rachel Levine

*Christ's message to his followers is clear: 'Inasmuch as you do it unto the least of these, you do it unto me.' Our response to human need reflects our faithful commitment to walking the Way of Christ.*

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM** A Song of Thanksgiving.....Mark Patterson  
b. 1969

**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** *The Critical Criterion* ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\*HYMN 724** Sing to the Lord of Harvest .....Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory** Is Any Afflicted? ..... William Billings  
1746-1800

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES**

**\*CLOSING HYMN 726** We Praise You, O God ..... Kremser

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Now Thank We All Our God, BWV 657 .....J.S. Bach  
1685-1750

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

Children's Choir

Chancel Choir

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

## THANKSGIVING LITANY

Let us pray for the hungry.  
(Silence)

Gracious God, we remember those who do not know the source of their next meal. We pray for those who live in nations where crops have failed, where food cannot be distributed, where poverty limits choices to filling but non-nutritious foods. Help us end hunger. God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are thirsty.  
(Silence)

O God, in your presence we recall those who are thirsty for clean, abundant water for drinking, cleaning, and cooking. Grant us the will to bring water to those in need. God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for strangers who need welcome.  
(Silence)

Welcoming God, your people of old valued hospitality. May our church be a haven of refuge for all who seek you. May our homes, our neighborhoods, and our nations be places of welcome to those who look for freedom and a new start. God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those without the basic necessities of shelter and clothing.  
(Silence)

God, bless the work of Habitat for Humanity and the volunteers who seek to build affordable homes; bless those who offer shelter to the homeless; bless those who make and give quilts and recycle clothing. God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those in prison.  
(Silence)

God of transformation, bring new life to those in need of a new start, and bring a desire to your churches to minister to those imprisoned. God of life,

**Hear our prayer.**

O God made known in the living Christ, help us to see you in the faces of those in need.

**Amen!**

## **MUSIC & ARTS ROBE AND FOLDER DEDICATION**

**The First Baptist Church—November 23, 2008**

Choirs, trumpeters, priests, ministers, bell ringers, and acolytes have worn robes for centuries in Christian worship. Old Testament descriptions are given for the vestments priest were to wear as they served in the temple. A robe distinguishes a choir member in their holy function from other worshippers in a sacred place—not to say they are better, but that the choir has taken added responsibility to lead in worship with the Pastors. To put on a robe is to take on responsibility of a sacred call to sing and play only to the glory of God. Wearing a vestment is an individual decision of each choir member to accept the call to serve in God's sanctuary—by doing so we focus our collective attention on the holy work of God in this place. As the psalmist states for all to praise:

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.**

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

**Know that the LORD is God.**

**It is he that made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Our Chancel choir enters into the courts of heaven every Sunday singing in a visible and audible manner. We desire to follow the Psalmist's command that all should give praise with lifted voice.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.**

**Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

In so doing we follow simple yet powerful directions to involve our breath, which is life itself in acknowledging the presence and power of God, the three in One. We also give thanks for the music folders which grace our robes in unity and purpose. To behold beauty is a gift that is freely given to each of us in our lives. These gifts add to our appreciation of the visible and invisible nature of music and sound in this place. In II Chronicles 5 a description is given of the temple Solomon built to hold the Ark of the covenant where the trumpeters and singers assembled to give praise to God.

**Now when the priests came out of the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to their divisions), all the levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kindred, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with one hundred and twenty priests who were trumpeters,**

Choir: *The trumpeters and singers were as one,*

*to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord.*

Choir and Bell ringers: We thank you for these abundant gifts of folders and robes to grace your sanctuary. May we use them in humility and thankfulness for your grace given to us as we sing and ring to your glory. We acknowledge your presence and stand in awe of your gifts to us in music, space, creativity and appreciation. May we serve in sacred responsibility to offer praise and thanksgiving at each service;

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader: Let all the people say: **AMEN.**

*From Psalm 100 and II Chronicles 5.*

## **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...**Special thanks to Sylvia Caswell for creating today's Thanksgiving display. ✨

### **TODAY'S ADULT FORUM...TIME TO MEET OUR NEIGHBORS:**

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 meet Jean Perkins in Gordon Hall following this morning's service.


**INTERFAITH THANKGIVING SERVICE...**This evening at 5:00 PM, sponsored by the Elm Park Ministries. *Combined Choir will rehearse at 3:00 PM. Please bring a non-perishable food item.* Join us as Christian, Jewish, and Muslim friends join together in our common gratitude to God.

**PICK-UP YOUR THANKSGIVING PIE TODAY IN GORDON HALL...** The Music & Arts Committee sold 40 pies to raise funds toward the restoration of our Mason & Hamlin in Gordon Hall. Many, many thanks for everyone's hard work and for all who supported this project. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**THIRTY-HOUR FAMINE & WORCESTER INTERFAITH...**A planning meeting for everyone interested in participating in a **30 Hour Famine**, will be held **TODAY** 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 **THIS 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. We will collect donations through November 30, 2008. Many thanks for your support!

**ADVENT WORKSHOP...**Our Annual Advent Workshop will be held on Sunday, **November 30, 2008** directly following Morning Worship [there is no Sunday School or Forum on this date]. There will be holiday crafts, snacks, and time for fellowship. ALL are invited to join us!

 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. Please look for the Giving Tree during the Workshop, select a gift tag or two, purchase one or more of the suggested gifts listed, then return the wrapped gift(s) to the Church Office 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!

**FLU SHOT REMINDER...**Flu shots for those who signed-up in advance will be given on **Sunday, November 30 in the Krueger Room** following Morning Worship. Please wear a short-sleeved shirt/blouse, or one which has easy to roll up sleeves. We are no longer taking names, however if there is any vaccine available after we have completed the list, we will try to accommodate you. Sponsored by the FBC Health Cabinet.



**HANGING OF THE GREENS:** Come and join us on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26** at 9:00 AM for the annual ***Hanging of the Greens***.

Christmas greenery, wreaths, and other decorations need to be placed throughout the church. Refreshments will be provided to help fuel the workers!



**COLLECTING YOUR OLD TOWELS AND SHEETS...** please drop any off at the Custodians office. Thank you!

**PASSAGES OF LIFE: A GROUP FOR WOMEN  
(AGES 50 – 65)**



Life certainly has its many phases and stages. And we are finding that what used to be very characteristic of certain stages back in the 1960's and 1970's are very different in many ways in the year 2008. Statistics prove that we are, indeed, living longer and the roles that were once considered typical for women do not always apply today. Gail Sheehy wrote about many of these ideas in her 1976 book entitled *Passages*. Yet, in a more updated and recent version of this, entitled *New Passages: Mapping Your Life Across Time*, Sheehy shares incredible insights and stories as to how we, and those around us, have experienced changes in those roles and expectations of our life phases and stages.

If you think that you would be interested in joining a 4-6 week discussion group about this book and these life topics (for all or part of this discussion) please **contact Brenda Baker, FIELD EDUCATION INTERN**. Once we see how many women would be interested in participating we will determine whether this will be an offered during Wonderful Wednesdays in the Spring (Feb. 25 – April 1) or on a Sunday.

**Contact Information:**

By Phone: Church (508) 755-6143x234 Cell (919) 749-5899  
Email: [Brendab@fbc-worc.org](mailto:Brendab@fbc-worc.org) [Brendabaker37@aol.com](mailto:Brendabaker37@aol.com)

**JOIN US THIS SEASON**



Please come to a Christmas Choral Evensong Service of Lessons and Carols on December 21, 2008 at 5:00 PM. The featured work this year is *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten with harpist Lira Cady. Conducted by William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts.



**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY for The Annual Christmas Dinner  
December 14 at 5:00 PM.**

**\$12 Adults — \$6.00 Children under 12 — \$35 Family**

### Prayer...

*Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise.*

~Psalm 95:1-2

### Please include in your prayers...

- The Adult Forum tour of the Antiquarian Society
- Worcester Interfaith and youth
- The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Congratulations to Laura Coe and David Blair on the birth of Ruby
- Edmund Bennett, Nancy Burgess, Katherine McKibbens, Mary Johnson, Cheryl Goff, Lynn McMillen, Ingeborg Kojalo, Virginia Young, June St. Amand, Madelyn Morse.
- Those suffering with cancer, heart trouble, Alzheimer's, diabetes, fibro-myalgia, and other chronic diseases
- The gatherings of family and friends this Thanksgiving season
- Our world in its economical crisis
- Those who are bereaved



### Please Note:

The Women's Prayer Fellowship and The Evening Prayer Fellowship will NOT meet November 26, but will resume at their regular meeting times on Wednesday, December 3, in the Roy Room.

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**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!



**A PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY...**The seventh annual GOODS FOR GUNS program will be held this year on **Saturday, December 6** at the Worcester Department of Health and Human Services on 35 Meade Street and on **Saturday, December 20** at the Worcester Police Headquarters, 911 Lincoln Street, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM each day. The GOODS FOR GUNS program offers Worcester residents the opportunity to turn in unwanted or unneeded guns. Through our sponsoring partners, we are able to offer gift certificates in return, together with educational materials regarding gun safety, responsible ownership, and prevention of gun violence. Help us to make this holiday season a safe and blessed one for our community.

## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

### TODAY, November 23 — THANKSGIVING SUNDAY



- 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

Mon., November 24 7:00 PM Habitat

Tue., November 25 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting  
1:00 PM Salisbury Belles  
4:00 PM Children's Choir  
6:30 PM Habitat  
7:30 PM Deacons

### ***YOUTH GROUP at MUSTARD SEED***

Wed., November 26 9:00 AM The Hanging of the Greens  
**OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:30 PM**

**Thu., November 27 — HAPPY THANKSGIVING, OFFICE CLOSED**

**Fri., November 28 — OFFICE CLOSED**

Sat. November 29 11:00 AM Memorial Service for L. Stanley Manierre

**Sun. November 30 — First Sunday in Advent**

- 8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:15 AM Advent Workshop, Angel Giving Tree;  
Flu Shots

*Rehearsal for "Angelic Mission Impossible" follows Advent Workshop  
No Sunday School, Adult Forum, or Youth Group*

**The First Baptist Church  
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