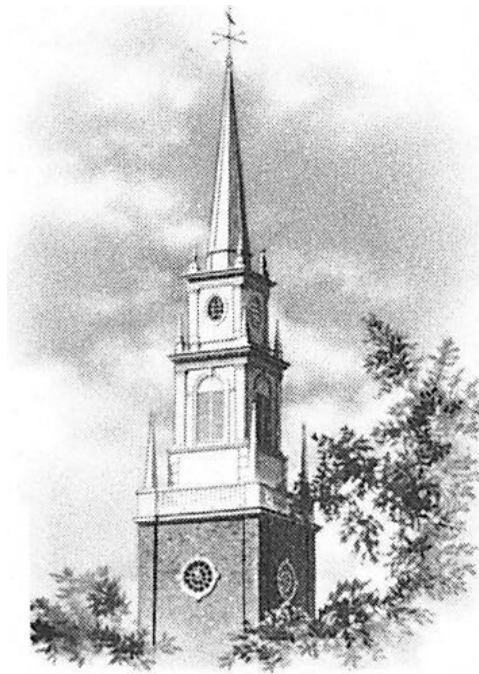


# *First Baptist Church*

*October 5, 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

## Communion

October 5, 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** Theme and Variations on *Mit Freuden Zart* ..... Scott Withrow  
1932-1993

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 56** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above..Mit Freuden Zart

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Brenda Baker

Leader: God is worthy of all honor and glory, praise and adoration.

**People: We are gathered as the people of God, to offer praise and thanksgiving to God, to confess our sin, to pray for the world, and to rededicate ourselves as God's servants.**

Leader: Then let us join together in the worship of God, to whom belongs blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might forever and ever.

**\*INVOCATION AND CONFESSION**

**People: Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised. Great is your love as shown in Christ Jesus. We would praise you without ceasing, for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts find no rest until they rest in you.**

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**People: Holy One, you have created us with eyes to see, ears to hear, and minds capable of understanding your message to the world through Christ. Cleanse us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash us thoroughly from our sins. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. [Silent Prayer]**

Leader: God's love for us is proved in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught:

**ALL: Our Father...(debts).**

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

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

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**UNISON Reading of Psalm 19:1-14 (p. 433)**

**Matthew 13:10-17 (p. 794)**

*Jesus gives a mysterious answer to the question of why he spoke to them in parables.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Anthem** Sanctus from *St. Cecilia Mass* ..... Charles Gounod  
Don Mentzer, tenor 1818-1893

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**LET THE CHILDREN COME** (please remain seated) ..... Dix

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;

Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.

Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

**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 MEDIATION** *The Seventh Inning Stretch*..... William R. Herzog

**\*HYMN 699** Let Us Break Bread Together ..... Let Us Break Bread

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We offer the right hand of fellowship to the following individuals:

Kabura Chekanao—Gerald Kagoma—Martha Ndiokubwayo—Cordell Rogers

**A SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Prayer of Thanksgiving ~ Sanctus..... Eleanor Daley—b. 1955

The Passing of the Bread & Wine ~ Bread of Heaven ..... Peter Neidmann—b. 1960

~ Benedictus from *St. Cecilia Mass* Charles Gounod

The Passing of the Peace ~ "Blest Be the Tie"

**\*HYMN 708** Go Forth for God..... Geneva

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Moderato maestoso..... Charles Gounod

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir*

*William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

## **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 floral arrangements are dedicated in loving memory of Elisabeth B. and Chester F. Caswell.

**OUR GUEST MINISTER...**The Rev. Dr. William R. Herzog is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Andover Newton Theological School and is widely respected for his Biblical scholarship, his popular teaching style, and his outspoken commitment to justice. He graduated from Harvard University (1966) before receiving his M.Div. at the American Baptist Seminary of the West (1969) and his doctorate at Claremont Graduate School (1976). In addition to his work in New Testament, Bill is interested in the relationship of baseball, religion and American culture, co-editing a collection of essays entitled *The Faith of Fifty Million: Essays on Baseball, Religion and American Culture* (2002) [Today's Scrogin Forum selection]. Bill is a life-long member of "Red Sox Nation". Join us at 11:15 in the Lee Room for the Scrogin Great Issues Book Forum.



**BIBLE & BAGELS...**Our Sunday Bible Study for “grown-ups” continues!



**Bible & Bagels Session #1 meets on Sundays at 8:00 AM**

**Bible & Bagels Session #2 meets on Sundays at 9:00 AM**



Choose either class session (the topic is identical) enjoy a bagel, and join us in the Lee Room. The study focus is on the Book of Exodus.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING...**during the 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels class



will be led by our Field Education Student, Brenda Baker. She will lead a children's class called, *Caring for God's Creation*.

This Biblically-based resource provides children with an introduction to issues concerning the environment and the problem of toxic chemicals in everyday life, and provides practical solutions. Bring your children in grades one through six to Bible & Bagels at 8:45 AM, where they can grab a bagel and then head upstairs to the Youth Lounge for this informative and enjoyable class!



**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY...**Led by Michael Harvey each Wednesday at 6:30



PM in the Krueger Room. We hope you will join us as we continue the series *Living a Joyful Life*. This week's topic is entitled: *Living with Joy*.

**INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION...**Anyone interested in learning more



about membership in The First Baptist Church of Worcester is invited to attend a two-week Information and Orientation Class led by Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens on October 12 and 19, immediately following the Sunday Worship service. The class will meet in the Roy Room (on the lower level, near the restrooms) at 11:15 AM.



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WELCOMES HEATHER & DAVID KATTAN...**Our

The First Baptist Church  
WELCOMES  
Heather & David Kattan

MY NAME IS:

new Minister of Education & Youth, The Rev. Heather Kattan, together with her husband David, has just relocated to Jefferson (Holden), and is already at work planning exciting activities to fill out the program year. Please help Heather and David feel welcome and to get to know you by picking up and wearing a nametag during our fellowship time in Gordon Hall for the next four Sundays. Nametags will

be available by each Gordon Hall entrance. Please take one, print your name, wear it, and—don't forget to introduce yourself!

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS STARTS OCTOBER 15!...**Please plan to join us each Wednesday evening from October 15 through November 19. We will begin with supper at 5:30 PM in the Lee Room, followed by vespers and a choice of the following sessions:

- God and Undeserved Suffering (class led by Thomas R. McKibbens)
- Inner Spirituality & Faith (class led by David Siddle and Rodney Ferris)
- Children's offering (TBD)

**Be sure to look for next week's insert in the bulletin for all details!**

**UPCOMING ADULT/SCROGIN FORUMS:**

- TODAY — Scrogin Forum: *The Faith of 50 Million: Baseball, Religion, and American Culture*, Hodge Evan and Herzog, eds.
- October 19 — Linda Jordan: *Healing vs. Curing*. Sponsored by the Health Cabinet.
- October 26 — CANDIDATE'S FORUM

**FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE...**We will be in the front of Gordon Hall after worship every Sunday selling grocery cards. Remember - you will get the full value of that card at the grocery store – but the store contributes 5% of your total purchase to Hope for Housing! Hope for Housing will then give that 5% to the Central Mass Housing Alliance and they in turn will use it to provide prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness. Please purchase and use these homeless family prevention grocery cards for **ALL** of your own shopping.

**HEALTH FAIR...**at First Baptist Church on Oct 18, 2008, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, sponsored by the FBC Health Cabinet. **REMINDER:** HeartScreen America is providing free screening for 6-8 children/teens on a first-come, first-served basis. **Pre-registration is necessary.** E-mail Robin McFee [tweetydoctor@aol.com] or call Jinny Smith [508-393-8659].

**The Committee of Ushers and Greeters**



If you would enjoy meeting and greeting our visitors and friends, we have a place for you! There are several vacancies to fill on our very important and enjoyable Committee of Ushers and Greeters. Team members are on duty before and during services every five weeks. If you have a conflict with your assigned date, you may



easily swap dates with someone from a different team. Please consider helping to welcome those who worship with us at The First Baptist Church. We need your help. **For details and other information, contact Eleanor Brockway at 508-753-7827.** We appreciate your participation!

## Prayer...

*Prayer is practicing the presence of God.*

~Jo Petty

We solicit prayers for:

- Our church at work in this world
- Pastor Thomas McKibbens, Field Education Student Brenda Baker
- Welcome to our new Minister of Youth & Christian Education, Heather Kattan
- The Music & Arts Committee, the Health Cabinet
- The upcoming Information & Orientation classes
- All who are alone or lonely
- Those with mental health issues, families in crisis
- The Butler family on the loss of Tammy's mother Reba Ide
- Students of our Church School and their different school experiences this week
- Victims of crime, war, disaster, accident
- The Prayer Fellowships as they begin their ninth year
- Cynthia Fischer, Stanley Manierre, Nancy Burgess, Mary Johnson, Betty Woodbury, Robert Hohler
- Those who are hospitalized, in rehabilitation, or anticipating surgery
- Those who are chronically ill or frail
- Those who are traveling



The Women's Prayer Fellowship and the Evening Prayer Fellowship meet on Wednesday at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM, respectively. Please plan to come and join with us in the Roy Room...and bring a friend!

*Given the global conflicts and the violence around us,*

## Isn't it time to declare yourself a **Baptist Peacemaker?**

Join with other individual Baptists from around North America who have dared to declare themselves **PEACEMAKERS** and are working through the network of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to embody Jesus' beatitude, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*" As a member of the BPFNA, you will receive bi-monthly issues of the award-winning journal *Baptist Peacemaker* that will update you on peacemaking in Jesus' name. You will also be supporting the work of a distinctly Baptist voice for peace rooted in justice. *This fall, BPFNA is looking for 1,000 Baptists committed to peacemaking to join us in our movement.*

### **Won't you be one?**

To become a member, send a gift of no less than \$40 (and more if you can!) to:  
BPFNA, 4800 Wedgewood Dr., Charlotte NC 28210 or visit [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org) to join online.

 Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, October 5	8:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session I	
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session II	
	10:00 AM	Worship	
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Scrogin Forum	
	11:30 AM	Music & Arts Committee	
Mon., October 6	12:00 PM	Elm Park Ministries	
	5:45 PM	Buildings & Grounds	
	7:00 PM	Habitat	
Tue., October 7	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers	
	10:00 AM	Full Staff Meeting	
	1:00 PM	Salisbury Belles	
	4:00 PM	Children's Choir	
	7:00 PM	Social Action Committee; Benevolence	
Wed., October 8	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship	
	6:30 PM	Midweek Bible Study; Habitat	
	7:00 PM	Food Addicts in Recovery	
	7:30 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship	
Thu., October 9 — <b>Newsletter Deadline for November Issue</b>	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers	
	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee	
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous	
Fri., October 10	3:15 PM	Brownies	
Sun., October 12	8:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session I	
	9:00 AM	Bible & Bagels Session II; Caring for God's Creation	
	10:00 AM	Worship	
	11:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Forum;	
		Information & Orientation Class	
Mon., October 13 — <i>Columbus Day, Office Closed</i>			

**The First Baptist Church—111 Park Avenue**  
**Worcester, MA 01609**  
**508-755-6143**  
**[www.fbc-worc.org](http://www.fbc-worc.org)**