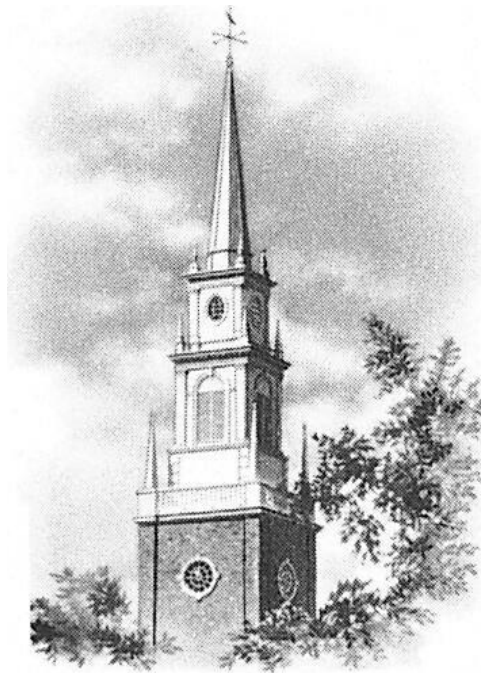


# *First Baptist Church*

*July 13, 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

**July 13, 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** Two variations on *New Songs of Celebration Render* .... James Biery  
b. 1956

**\*HYMN 8** *New Songs of Celebration* ..... *Rendez à Dieu*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *Prayer Is An Egg*..... Jelaluddin Rumi  
1207-1273

## **\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Our Parent God,  
May Your Presence be respected,  
May Your Vision be accepted,  
May Your Creation intention be reflected in our lives and institutions.  
Give us each day what we need.  
Forgive us when we fail You as we forgive those who fail us.  
Do not put us on trial.  
Stand with us in the time of trial.  
For Your Vision, Your power, and Your glory are forever. Amen.**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Call to Giving**  
**Offertory Solo** *Wondrous Love* ..... Philip Maue

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**..... David Goff & Mark Hecox

*(Children who would like to participate in Summer Sunday School are invited to join the group in the Lee Room following the Message.)*

**\*HYMN 104** Hidden Christ, Alive for Ever ..... Rustington

**SOLO** *O Be Joyful in the Lord (Psalm 100)* ..... Leo Sowerby  
1895-1968

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (p. 794)

**SERMON** *Seeds* ..... Michael Harvey

**\*HYMN 424** How Can I Keep from Singing.....Endless Song

**\*BENEDICTION** i thank You God for most this amazing day ...e. e. cummings  
1894-1962

**POSTLUDE** Improvisation on the Eighth Psalm Tone .....Everett Timcomb  
1884-1968

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

*Scott Taylor, baritone  
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

**ABOUT OUR GUEST MINISTER:**

**M**ichael Harvey is the Executive Director of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts. That means first of all that he is a pastor to the American Baptist clergy and their families. He came to this position after 38 years of being a pastor in rural Kentucky and in urban Chicago. Michael is a graduate of Berea College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He has led workshops and conferences on Dialogue, Prayer, Marriage, and Biblical Studies. Michael is married to Paula, and they and their daughter, Stephanie, and her grandmother, Joyce, attend the First Baptist Church in Worcester.

## **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.

**PRAYER...**The Prayer Pyramid will pray for your prayer requests in the summer interim when the Prayer Fellowships are not in session. You may place Prayer Request cards in any of the Prayer Mail Boxes placed outside the Sanctuary doors or in the Church Office entry way. You may also call the Church Office (508-755-6143) or Eleanor Brockway (508-753-7827) with any prayer requests you may have.



**REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP...**Join your friends, and perhaps make a few new friends, following the service in Gordon Hall!



**BIBLE & BAGELS...** continues on Sunday at 9:00 AM throughout July in the Lee Room, with a study on the Gospel of Mark. Come us as early as 8:45 AM to enjoy coffee and BAGELS!

**MURALS FROM MARK...** continues in the Green Room at 9:00 AM with youth and children creating murals from the Gospel of Mark.

**THE HEALTHY NEWS...** current issue is now available. Pick up a pink copy in the Narthex or in the Health Cabinet area near the Roy Room.

**SOCIAL ACTION AND W-A-R-M...** (Worcester Area Refugee Ministry) needs a few volunteers to transport 3 adults and 3 children (car seat is available) to their home following worship service & fellowship. Please speak with Warren Jones (978-368-1310) or Anne Puffer.

**SOCIAL ACTION AND HOPE FOR HOUSING...** Food cards will be sold in Gordon Hall every Sunday throughout the summer. Please stop by our table to pick up our "homeless prevention food cards" for local shopping, and consider buying extra cards to take along on your vacation. Both Shaw's and Stop & Shop have locations all over the Cape and elsewhere in New England; Big Y markets have locations in western Massachusetts. Thank you for helping to prevent homelessness!

**SUMMER WORSHIP...** Beginning **July 27**, our Sunday Worship Service will be held in Gordon Hall through the month of August, providing greater comfort during the warmer months, and permitting routine cleaning and maintenance of the narthex and sanctuary areas. Sunday Worship will continue to meet at 10:00 AM.

**GARDEN FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL...** The Floral Arts Committee encourages the gardeners among us to consider sharing the beauty of their gardens during the summer months. We welcome any arrangement, and ask that you use your own vase and bring it with you on Sunday before worship. The vase should be placed on the Chancel in July, or in Gordon Hall in August.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE...** for Carroll C. Parker will take place on Saturday, July 26, 11:00 AM, in the Davis Chapel.



**PICKITY PLACE REMINDER...** Those of you who signed up to join with the First Baptist Church outing on **Wednesday, July 16**, are reminded that we will depart from the Church parking lot promptly at 12:30 PM (carpool). Please make your check (\$22.00) payable to The First Baptist Church and write "Pickity Place" on the memo line. *Don't forget to offer a bit of gas money to your driver!*

**SAVE THIS DATE!...** The First Baptist Church Health Fair on October 18, 2008, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM! Sponsored by the FBC Health Cabinet. Invite your friends. We plan lots of fun, free health screenings and information, and much, much more! Additional information will appear in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. Contact Robin McFee or Jinny Smith for the details.



## ~FBC RECEPTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED~



There are several openings for volunteers at the Reception desk in the Church Office at First Baptist.

The volunteer receptionist is responsible for greeting and directing visitors, answering the phone, and generally helping out where possible. Every day is different!



Some days are busy and the time flies by; other days are more relaxed, so it's nice to bring something to read. You may volunteer for as little as one morning or afternoon per month, or more frequently.

If you would like to volunteer occasionally but are unable to commit to a regular schedule, you might consider being on the "On Call/Substitute List."



Please contact Pat Czerny 508-755-6143  
or e-mail [patc@fbc-worc.org](mailto:patc@fbc-worc.org).

**F**irst Baptist Church helps to welcome new refugee families and individuals into the Worcester community. Here is a list items which you could donate (and receive tax credit if you desire):

- ☹☹☹ Table and chairs for kitchen area *OR* a dining room table
- ☹☹☹ Dishes, bowls, and glasses
- ☹☹☹ Dish towels
- ☹☹☹ Spoons, knives, forks, cooking tools, etc.
- ☹☹☹ Pots and pans
- ☹☹☹ Bed mattress (single or double, including air mattresses)
- ☹☹☹ Bed frames if available.
- ☹☹☹ Pillows, pillowcases, sheets, blankets, and other bedcover
- ☹☹☹ Towels & washcloths
- ☹☹☹ Chairs for bedrooms
- ☹☹☹ Sofas or sofa beds
- ☹☹☹ End tables
- ☹☹☹ Clothing for adults, youths and children
- ☹☹☹ Playthings for children & youth



**Other ways you could be helpful include the following:**

- ☹☹☹ Drive a refugee family from Providence airport to their Worcester apartment (or host apartment temporarily with other refugees).
- ☹☹☹ Help locate an available apartment or temporary host apartment until one can be found.
- ☹☹☹ Drive a family to and from a store or on a short tour of the neighborhood.
- ☹☹☹ Tutor a refugee mother whose child is too young for daycare. This can be learning functional English (e.g. names of items in the apartment, or neighborhood, store, etc.)
- ☹☹☹ Mentor a refugee working mother, who has need for managing her work, family, and maintenance of the domestic needs.
- ☹☹☹ Provide transportation to and/or from FBC services and, if there is a small child, use FBC child car seat.
- ☹☹☹ Provide a welcome hot meal to be delivered to the apartment (using ethnic foods like lentils, beans & rice, or perhaps a fruit and vegetable tray).
- ☹☹☹ Help move furniture or household items from a donor's home to the apartment where refugees are to arrive from the airport, or help take to a storage facility.
- ☹☹☹ Donate money toward first month's rent, discount mattresses, or low-cost items from used furniture shops.

**T**hank you on behalf of the FBC Social Action Committee and its growing refugee family friends from various countries. Warren Jones will coordinate your participation and provide a tax credit form. **Please contact Warren at 978-368-1310 or 520-907-5385.**

## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, July 13	8:45 AM	Bible & Bagels
	9:00 AM	Murals from Mark
	10:00 AM	Worship
	<i>Summer Sunday School</i>	
Mon., July 14	6:00 PM	Habitat ReStore
	7:00 PM	Habitat Family Partners
Tue., July 15	9:00 AM	Staff Planning Meeting
	1:30 PM	Habitat Sudbury Outreach
	6:00 PM	First Friends Board of Directors
Wed., July 16	9:00 AM	Staff Planning Meeting
	<b>Office Closes at NOON</b>	
	Staff outing departs at 12:30 PM	
Thu., July 17	7:00 PM	Compassionate Friends
	7:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., July 18	8:30 PM	Elm Park Ministries
Sun., July 20	8:45 AM	Bible & Bagels
	9:00 AM	Murals from Mark
	10:00 AM	Worship
	<i>Summer Sunday School</i> Blood Pressure Check	

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