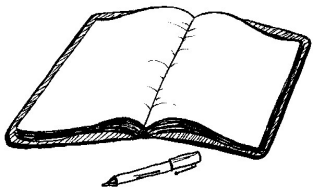

Baptist Notes

September 2026

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
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From the Pastor

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? —Isaiah 43:19

Dear Beloved FBC Family,

Grace and peace to you in this invigorating month of September!

As summer begins to come to a close and the familiar rhythms of fall return, I find myself excited about what lies ahead for our church family. I pray that each of you had opportunities this summer to rest, enjoy time with family and friends, make some wonderful memories, and simply breathe. Rest is a gift from God, but there also comes a time when God calls us to rise, reconnect, and prepare for the new thing He is doing among us. September feels like that kind of season. Throughout the summer, we have been learning more about the Holy Spirit and what it means to allow the Spirit to shape our character, guide our choices, and transform the way we live and love. Now, as ministries resume and we gather more fully together, my prayer is that we don't simply return to "business as usual." Instead, may we return refreshed, renewed, and open to where the Holy Spirit wants to lead us next.

As we look ahead, September brings several opportunities for us to reconnect, learn, worship, and enjoy being together:

- **Return of Bible Study – Wednesday, September 9th.** I am excited for us to gather again around God's Word. Bible Study gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and grow together in faith. Whether you have participated before or have never joined us, there is a place for you at the table.
- **Rally Day, Sunday School, & BBQ – Sunday, September 13th.** Rally Day is always an exciting time as we welcome children, youth, teachers, and families back for another year of Christian education. Following worship, we will enjoy our church BBQ together—and I must admit, I am especially looking forward to tasting the different foods everyone brings! In a church that celebrates being "One House, Many Nations," what better way to enjoy our diversity than around a table filled with good food, laughter, fellowship, and love?
- **Return of Youth Sunday – Sunday, September 27th.** I am delighted that our Youth Sundays will resume and continue on the fourth Sunday of each month. Watching our young people participate in worship, read Scripture, usher, sing, lead, and serve reminds us that they are not simply the church of tomorrow—they are an important part of the Church today. I pray that we will continue encouraging them, making room for their gifts, and helping them discover the ways God is calling them to serve.

September also marks a new beginning for many of our children and young adults. Some are returning to familiar classrooms, some are beginning at new schools, and others are stepping onto college campuses and beginning an entirely new chapter of life. To every student in our church family: **We are praying for you.** May God give you wisdom as you learn, courage when things are difficult, good friends to walk beside you, and confidence to remember who you are and Whose you are.

And to our teachers, school staff, administrators, parents, grandparents, and everyone helping our young people navigate another school year—we are praying for you, too. May God grant you patience, strength, wisdom, and grace for every day ahead.

Church family, September is not simply about returning to our routines. It is an invitation to **begin again**. God is still building us together. The Holy Spirit is still moving among us. There are still people to love, neighbors to serve, relationships to build, young people to encourage, and new possibilities waiting for us.

So as we enter this new season, let us do so with open hearts and great expectation. Let us ask, "Holy Spirit, what new thing are You doing among us—and how can we be part of it?"

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us as we continue being **Built Together in Christ: One House, Many Nations.**

With gratitude, joy, and great expectation,

Pastor Robyn

Rev. Robyn Monique Mars
PastorFBCFramingham@gmail.com | 781-526-4241

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ***Election Day***	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
6 *10:00 am Worship*	*7* ***Labor Day***	*8* *7:00 pm* *Exec. Council*	*9* *7:00 pm* *Bible Study*	*10* *7:00 pm* *Choir Practice*	*11*	*12*
13 ***Rally Day*** *10:30 am Worship* *11:30 am Potluck Picnic*	*14*	*15* *7:00 pm* *A&F*	*16* *7:00 pm* *Bible Study*	17 *7:00 pm* *Choir Practice*	*18*	*19*
20 *10:30 am Worship*	*21*	*22*	*23* *7:00 pm* *Bible Study*	*24* *7:00 pm* *Choir Practice*	*25*	*26* *2:00 pm* *Worship* *Dance*
27 *10:30 am Worship*	28 *7:00 pm* *Deacons*	*29*	*30* *7:00 pm* *Bible Study*			

Notes: AA meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon in Reilly Hall.
Holy Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays, 3–7 p.m.

All calendar entries are subject to change.

Worship time will revert to 10:30 a.m. on September 13.

September Birthdays

3	Castiel Donovan	22	Wilson Ndzi
5	Leyla Velazco	22	Jessica Rose Leblanc
6	Jon Harris	24	Diane Newcomb
13	Kathie Zeman	28	Brielle Ndzi
19	Brianna Ndzi	30	Robert Rowe
21	Betsy Ndzi		

Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on August 11, 2026. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- The city filled in some potholes; a new quote will be needed for the remainder of work.
- We have lost a tenant at Pleasant St. and will offer the apartment to Family Promise.
- Stewardship campaign will start in November.
- Rally Day is September 13. Potluck and/or cookout?
- Communion will be served on September 6, but we will not have a potluck lunch that day.
- A Place To Turn (APTT) is having a diaper drive and especially needs large-size diapers, pullups, and wipes.
- APTT will have a Ride & Stride fundraiser on Sunday, September 27.
- FSU Career Services Center supplies career wear to students going on job interviews and particularly needs men's clothes.
- Pastor's page on the website will be updated quarterly.
- Pastor Robyn will be attending the Metrowest Leadership Academy from September to June.
- Pastor Robyn proposed implementing a new ministry that removes barriers to worship (such as language and hearing disability) and helps ensure that every person who enters FBC in Framingham can fully participate in learning about the Gospel. Initially, this project would operate under our Communications Ministry while we evaluate its effectiveness. If it is successful, she would recommend establishing a new Accessibility & Hospitality Ministry, dedicated to making our worship services welcoming and accessible to people of all languages and abilities.
- The TABCOM MissionWorks gathering will be held on October 3.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, September 8, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Kelly Rutherford, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, Cheryl Perry, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Robyn.

Opportunities with American Baptist Women

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of Massachusetts provides inspiration and service in our region, inspiring women to grow in faith, build friendships, and support missions in Christ's name.

Like many organizations, the ministry has faced challenges since the pandemic. It is now without a President and Mission Coordinator, making its future uncertain. We believe God still calls women to lead, serve, and encourage one another, and we invite the women of your church to consider becoming involved—not only by attending meetings, but also by serving in leadership roles. Whether you have years of experience or simply a willing heart, your gifts and talents can make a meaningful difference.

If you have ideas for the future of ABC of Massachusetts or would like to participate, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Naomi Stanley at **naomi.stanley@comcast.net** by September 30.

Rally Day
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Join us for a fun-filled day as we gather together again following our summer vacation.

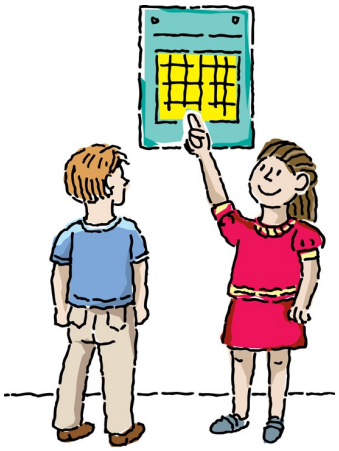
Sunday School resumes.

After worship, we will enjoy a barbeque lunch. Hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, beverages and condiments will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. There is sign-up on the sheet in Reilly Hall where you can indicate what your contribution will be. Not sure what to bring? Here are some suggestions: potato salad, pasta salad, green salad, cole slaw, baked beans, deviled eggs, chips, watermelon, cookies or brownies.

Christian Education for All
Starts on Sunday, September 13

9:45 am	Sunday School for adults
10:45–11:30 am	Sunday School for children/youth (Starts after "Time for Children" in the service.)

Class	Location	Teacher/s
Up to Kindergarten	Nursery	Annette Stefanini
Grades 1-5	Reilly Hall	Kathie Zeman
Grades 6-12	Jefferson Hall	Tom Stefanini, Rob Rowe, Chandra Robinson
Adults	Jefferson Hall	Rev. Linda McKenzie



Sunday School SCHEDULE

The fourth Sunday of the month will continue to be Youth Sunday. There will be no Sunday School, and children will stay in worship with their parents. **New this year**, all classes will focus on the same scripture each week. Pastor Robyn will also preach on that scripture. Families are encouraged to discuss the scriptures together during the following week.

Looking for an easy way to be a little more involved in the life of the church? The Christian Education Team is looking for an additional adult to help out in the children's room during morning worship. All you need to do is go downstairs with the children following Children's Time. Either Annette Stefanini or Diane Halbert will join you. Then, just spend time with the kids while the service continues in the sanctuary. Need more information? Speak with Annette, Diane, Pastor Linda, or Pastor Robyn. There is a sign-up sheet outside the Children's Room.

Diaper Drive with APTT

Help Keep MetroWest Babies Clean, Dry, and Healthy!

Our congregation is partnering with The Diaper Project at A Place To Turn (APTT) to help local families during our **Fall Diaper Need Awareness and Action Campaign**.

Did You Know?

- 1 in 2 families in the U.S. experiences diaper need.
- Up to 3,000 families in Natick and Framingham alone struggle to buy diapers.
- A family needs about $50 to $80 a month for diapers per child—an average of 49 diaper changes per week over 3 years.
- Government-assistant programs don't cover the cost of diapers.
- Many parents are forced to reuse diapers or leave children in soiled diapers longer than appropriate. This can adversely affect the health and welfare of infants, toddlers, and their families.
- Many families have to decide whether to spend money on food, medicine, or clean babies. At least 28% of parents expressing diaper need reported skipping meals to afford diapers.
- Without diapers, babies cannot attend daycare or early childhood programs.

We are setting a goal to donate 2,000 diapers from FBC! Here are t**hree ways YOU can help:**

1. Donate diapers or baby wipes
    - Sizes 4, 5, and 6 are especially needed.
    - If your babies have outgrown their previous size, we welcome opened packages!
    - Place your donations in the food wagon in the FBC sanctuary anytime in September.
2. Make a donation by cash, check, or Venmo. Mark your FBC donation "Diaper Project," and the Missions Board will take care of the shopping for you.
3. Make a secure online donation directly through A Place To Turn's donation page. Please indicate that your gift is restricted to The Diaper Project so it directly supports diaper purchases for local families.

Every diaper and every dollar stays here in MetroWest, helping children in our own communities. Thank you for your support!

The APTT Ride & Stride for Food

The Ride & Stride for Food is a community-powered movement uniting people in New England around one shared goal: ensuring everyone has reliable access to food.

Walk, run, or ride on Sunday, September 27, and turn every mile into meaningful impact for local nonprofit partners working on the front lines of hunger relief. You can join or support A Place To Turn's team! Register before September 8 with code TEAMAPTT2026 to receive a 50% discount at registration. Not able to Ride and Stride on September 27? You can still be part of the event by donating to our team!

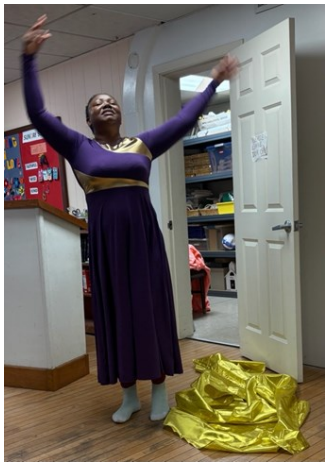
Find more information at https://ride.threesquaresne.org/APTTRide OR use the QR code below.

Need for APTT Community Food Program Volunteers

The Community Food Program of A Place To Turn (APTT) is seeking volunteers to help with the community markets for the individuals and families it serves. You can volunteer at the Pelham Life-long Learning Center at 103 Second Street in Framingham on the second Sunday of every month from 12 to 2 p.m. or the Marlborough Public School, 32 Mechanic Street in Marlborough on the fourth Thursday of the every month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in helping, either on a regular basis or as your schedule allows, contact Haley at Haley@aplacetoturn-natick.org. Any amount of time you are able to dedicate would be greatly appreciated and make a real difference.

Worship Dance with Pauline on September 26



At our talent show, Pauline Lewin performed a beautiful, moving dance. She will now share her talent by teaching a worship dance class.

What exactly is a worship dance? It is a form of prayer and worship expressed through choreographed or spontaneous movement, often incorporating elements of Scripture and spiritual themes. It serves to deepen worship, acting as a ministry that facilitates spiritual breakthrough and engages congregational praise, featuring flowing, symbolic motions.

We will meet on Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m. Everyone – all ages – is encouraged to join in. For questions or more information, talk with Pauline or Kathie Zeman. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. Hope to see you there!

Celebrating Our Church Family: New Pictorial Directory

As we continue to celebrate 200 years, a fresh church pictorial directory is on the way, and it will be a beautiful snapshot of our growing, diverse, multigenerational community of members and friends. More than just a collection of photos, the directory helps us stay connected—putting names to faces, welcoming new members, and strengthening the sense of belonging that makes our congregation feel like home.

If you have not already submitted a picture, don't worry. Please see Kathie Zeman, and she will help you. Participation is encouraged for everyone, whether you've been here for decades or just recently started attending.

The finished directory will serve as a practical resource and a meaningful keepsake, capturing this moment in our church's story. It's a reminder that our community is built not just on shared beliefs, but on the people who show up, support one another, and grow together. Let's make this directory a vibrant reflection of the church family we cherish.

Send pictures to Kathie Zeman at kczeman@gmail.com by October 31, 2026. Preferred file formats are jpg or png.

The hope is to have the new directory ready by Christmas!

World Mission Offering Results

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the World Mission Offering (WMO) in July. We collected $797. Your gifts to the WMO support Global Servants through International Ministries. Through established ministries and disaster relief, Global Servants invite people to be disciples of Jesus Christ; proclaim God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life; and equip the global body of Christ to engage in God's mission. You can learn more about their work and opportunities to get involved at https://internationalministries.org/

First Baptist Church in Framingham

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