

The First Baptist Church

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



The Rev. Gregory Sakal, *Bridge Minister*
The Rev. Dr. Rick Chrisman, *Interim Minister*

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

10 November 2025

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church:

The month of November brings with it thoughts of the coming holiday season. It is also a time of reflection, as the current year approaches its close. Where have we been? What have we done? And what lies ahead?

The year has been one of transition. Our much-loved pastor Matt has taken his leave, after shepherding our church for ten years. Pastor Greg was called to provide a “Bridge”, which continues to the present, and the Rev. Dr. Rick Chrisman has joined us as our Interim Minister, to shepherd the community through a period of reflection, the development of a church profile, and shortly to come, a search for a new “Settled Pastor”.

Even during this period of change, the vibrant life of our community has, with your support, continued to thrive. Our Sunday worship services, enriched by our excellent music program continue to strengthen us in our Christian journey of faith. We have supported one another through times of deep loss, and rejoiced with one another, celebrating the milestones in our lives. Our Micro Pantry continues to provide much-needed support to those in our area who are experiencing food insecurity.

Beyond the walls of our beautiful church building, the on-line presence of our worship services gives us the opportunity to share our faith and worship with friends beyond our local area. There is a lot of time and talent that takes place behind the scenes to make this all happen.

In short, our community life is rich beyond measure, filled with God’s blessings and Grace, even as we face the challenges that the future will inevitably bring. What makes this all possible is the generosity of our community. Each of us, in our own way, contributes unstintingly of our time, and talent...and of course, treasure.

This year, more than ever before, we invite you to consider prayerfully what you are willing and able to contribute to our common life. The gifts we give bear abundant fruit that will nourish not only our lives, but the lives of those in and around our communities.

Enclosed, you will find a pledge form, which I invite you to fill out after reflecting on the bounty of love and community that God has given to us. On the Sunday of Christ the King (23 November), we will all be invited to make our commitment to First Baptist Church for the coming year. The gifts you provide will multiply in abundance, growing our lives in the richness and grace of Christ, as we continue to do our part to bring Christ’s Kingdom into full fruit.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Pastor Greg *Rev. Rick*

Pastor Greg and Rev. Rick

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