

May 2020



First Baptist Church of Medford
34 Oakland Street
Medford, MA 02155
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The First Baptist Church

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Carillon



THE PARSON'S TALE

Martin Rinkart was a Lutheran pastor who lived and ministered in the city of Eilenburg, Germany in the early 1600s. While the Pilgrims in Massachusetts colony were only just arriving, Europe was engaged in one of the longest and bloodiest conflicts the world had yet seen, *The Thirty Years War*. The city of Eilenburg was overrun three times in the course of those years. According to certain records in 1637 there was an outbreak of disease, and Pastor Martin was the only minister surviving in the city. During that year he performed around 4000 funerals. That is around 75 funerals a week, every week for a year. Among the funerals Pastor Martin officiated was one for his wife. He was living through who can only be called hell. It was from this hell of disease, war, and fear that Pastor Martin penned the words that we remember him for today.

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.*

MATTHEW ROBERT RASURE, Minister
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On the web: www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

These words have graced Thanksgiving celebrations in this country for decades, but, they are far better suited to a situation more like today than they are national holidays. As our lives, our families, our worship, and our country reel from the painful blows of COVID-19, these words are an anthem of defiance for God's people.

I am not talking about trying to trick ourselves into believing that things are not as bad as they seem, because—let's be frank—things are very, very bad. However, we believe in our fundamental core that the power of God's love is greater than the power of fear. This is the message of Easter and the Empty Tomb. Christ is our king, and this truth subverts every other narrative we think is important. The dramas of world politics, the dramas of national security, and the dramas of our individual lives are all swallowed up in the greatest drama of all—the story of God's love and care for the world. In this story the hungry are fed, the weary are comforted, and all fears are laid to rest, because God's people are ready to rise to the occasion.

Pastor Martin knew this was true a long, long time ago. Now is the time for each of us to live into this truth more and more.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Matt".

SUNDAY SCHEDULE (Suspended for May 2020)

9:30 a.m. Church School for all Ages. Child care is provided until 12:15

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

~11:15 a.m. Make and Learn for Children in Grades 1-5, 2nd and 4th Sundays
(Children leave during the second hymn)

Youth Group for Grades 6 and older, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Following worship, there is Fellowship in Memorial Hall, provided by volunteers

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 —GOOD SHEPHERD
SUNDAY

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure

Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47; Psalms 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25;
John 10:1-10

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020—FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure

Scriptures: Acts 7:55-60; Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020—SIXTH
SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure

Scriptures: Acts 17:22-31; Psalms 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020—ASCENSION OF
THE LORD

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure

Scriptures: Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53



SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020—THE DAY OF
PENTECOST

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; Psalms 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

**MOMENTS IN HISTORY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MEDFORD
May Moments**

1820 After much interest by a few friends who were in favor of a Baptist church in Medford in 1818 and 1819, the first baptism took place in the Mystic River on May 3. (This is one of the oldest bits of our church history.)

1973 The Monday Evening Bible Classes ended because Pastor Herman Gerrish moved to Maine.

1975 Special recognition was made of Marjorie Skillin's more than 20 years of service in various capacities of Christian Education-not only here at FBC, but also in the Adoniram Judson Association, and in the Boston Baptist Bible Sunday School Association.

1976 Geneva Curry, one of our women, was honored at House Party (a statewide American Baptist Women's event) in May of 1976. Geneva was one of three women who in **1947**, were the "architects" of the Scholarship Fund for the benefit of Massachusetts Baptist girls.

1978 "Alive in Christ" was the theme adopted at the May planning session. This was used as motivation for all programs and church projects for the year. Also in May, after their successful trip to West Virginia, the Youth Alliance sponsored an "Evening of Appreciation" for the church community for the congregation's support for the trip.

1994 For the second time the Women's Federation and the Zeta Alpha Sunday School class combined to present a May Mother and Daughter Banquet. Rev. Jean Duecker rededicated the officers of both groups. Carmela and Jennifer Quick led devotions, and we were entertained by a barber shop quartet of terrifically good, harmonizing voices.

These historical moments are excerpts from the monthly articles for the Carillon by our last church historian, June Sturgeon.

**HOW TO CONNECT ELECTRONICALLY
DURING SUSPENSION OF IN PERSON
MEETINGS AT FBC MEDFORD**

We are meeting in real time on ZOOM and FaceBook Live.

The ZOOM and FaceBook links below will work for ALL of the Prayer Meetings and Worship Meetings. There is now a password for all Zoom log ins: 7813963811.

Tuesdays at noon: Quaran-Tunes with Rev. Matt. Bible reading and a song. The first week it was "Bare Necessities" complete with cartoon.

The Prayer Meetings are on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 8:00-8:20 p.m.

The Worship service begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

+ By telephone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 781-396-3811#, and then # again
+ By computer/phone/device through the ZOOM app, <https://zoom.us/j/7813963811>
+ On FaceBook
Live: www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMedford

If you need help connecting electronically, please leave a message at the Church Office at 781-396-3811 or email Rev Matt at minister@firstbaptistchurchmedford.org. If you are willing and able to help someone else set up ZOOM or to access FaceBook, also contact Rev. Matt. See videos of previous online meetings and all of the latest updates at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstChurchMedford/posts>

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FBC UPDATES EMAIL LIST

If you would like to receive the FBC Updates by Email, which are currently sent out on Wednesdays and Fridays, please visit www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org

In the third section down you can subscribe to the email list and you will receive all future communications from the church by email.



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Nancy Dixon | 15 Debra Beckwith |
| 2 Loralee Hurley | 17 Bruce Cox |
| 4 McFall Kerbey | 18 Amanda Biggins |
| 6 Lauren Enoksen | Steven Taylor |
| 7 Jack Stone | 23 Lauri Phillips-Stanley |
| 8 Leah Baker | 24 Kymberli MacDonald |
| 9 Barbara Drauschke | 27 Rev. Kyoung Ho Sohn |
| Beverly Mattatall | 28 Douglas Rogers |
| Stephen Rogers | 29 Ronald Drauschke |
| 11 Jason Barnes | Katherine Fazio |
| 12 Fred Drauschke | 31 Larry Day |
| 13 Joan Union | Ronald Day |
| | Michele Sacco |

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**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER FOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

In case of an emergency requiring immediate assistance from the church or minister, please call or text 781-350-4067. This phone number is on the church’s answering machine, as well. This local Medford number will direct to Rev. Matt’s cellphone or to the phone of whomever is on call should he be away.

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PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of pastoral care, or know of someone who is, or are interested in baptism or church membership, please speak to Rev. Rasure, or to Ruth Kline or Ken Tarr, Co-Chairs of the Diaconate.

**UNITED BAPTIST WOMEN OF
MEDFORD NEWS**

We have regretfully decided to cancel our UBWM Banquet, which was scheduled for May 20. Given the state of emergency, and the limited contact that may be allowed when some of the social distancing is lifted, it seemed wise not to continue to plan for this event. We don’t know when the board will meet. It will depend on when in person meetings are allowed. At that time we will start to plan for next year’s events.



At our March meeting, the board decided to donate \$200 to International Ministries for work in Haiti (Nzunga/Khomi). The 10 Birthing kits are almost ready to mail to the Congo. Each kit includes a lightweight flannel blanket, a knit hat, a baby nightgown, and a piece of plastic sheeting. Thanks to Pat Latham who ordered the baby nightgowns, and thanks to Debbie Williams and Joan Union who provided the knit hats. Thanks to Bev Tobey who donated towards the cost of the nightgowns. If you’d like to make a donation to help with the cost of these kits, please contact Barbara Drauschke.

Stay safe, and continue to stay at home.
Bev Mattatall, UBWM President

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**ANNUAL REPORTS WERE DUE
MARCH 15**

Annual reports from all committee chairs and leaders of groups should cover activities from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. If you have submitted your report, please do so as soon as possible. A date for our Annual Meeting will be set once the state of emergency is lifted and in person meetings are again possible.

**RETIREMENT OF DR. CRANDALL AND
FORMATION OF A DIRECTOR OF
MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Dr. Nancy Crandall has announced her intention to retire from her position as Director of Music at the First Baptist Church of Medford. She has served here since 2006. A celebration of her ministry is being planned by the Diaconate, and details will be shared with the congregation as soon as plans can be made.

A search committee was formed to begin looking for our next Director of Music. The committee is led by Rev. Rasure, and includes the following members:

Ruth Kline, representing the Music Committee, Pat Latham and Darlyne Rogers, representing the Diaconate, Bev Mattattall and Douglas Rogers, representing the Choir.

The committee will provide an update when there is information to share.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

We want to thank the congregation for their faithful support during this difficult time. We have authorized the loan of \$15,000 from the Howe Fund to ensure the ability to meet expenses. At this point, we have not had to use that money because of your faithful support. Please mail your pledges and donations to the Church Office, 34 Oakland Street, Medford, MA 02155, Attention: Financial Secretary.

We pray that you are staying well and safe—your needs come first. If we can be of any help, please be in contact with me or Rev. Rasure, and we will try to help in any way we can.

Tentatively we will schedule the next Finance Committee meeting virtually on Monday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Fred Drauschke, Co-Chair

**DONATING TO FBC USING YOUR BANK'S
AUTOMATIC BILL PAY**

It's simple and it's free! Even though your pledge donations to **First Baptist Church** aren't technically "bills," you can still set it up to have your bank send one-time or recurring gifts to **FBC**. **Here are some guidelines to help you get this set up with your bank.**

1. Follow the directions on your bank's website to set up a new bill or payee
2. If given a choice, choose to pay a company rather than a person.
3. In the space for "Company Name" enter: **First Baptist Church.**
4. In the space for "Company Address" enter:
Attn: Financial Secretary
34 Oakland Street
Medford, MA 02155
5. In the space for "Company Phone Number" enter: 781.396.3811
6. In the space for "Account Number" enter your first initial and your last name, for example: MRASURE
7. After you have set up First Baptist Church as a biller, it is added to your list of bills or payees and you can select it at any time and enter a payment amount and a payment date
8. You will also have the option of setting up automatic or recurring payments (this adds greater convenience but is not recommended if there is a risk of overdrawing from your account)

Bill Pay is usually a free service of your checking account, but some banks charge a monthly fee for their bill pay service which can be waived depending on account balance, etc.

The church is not charged any fees for receiving a donation through your bank's bill pay service, so what you donate is what will appear on your annual giving statements.

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SPRING FLING CANCELLED

We made a hard decision in mid-March to cancel the 41st Annual Spring Fling/Senior Citizens Dinner, which was to be held on Sunday, May 3. Considering the health risks to people over 60 years of age, it seemed too risky to continue planning the event this year. We hope to hold it in May 2021.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Barbara is still working on collecting information about our church school and Christian Ed workers to be placed on file in the Church Office. If you have not turned your paperwork in, please see Barbara soon.

We will recognize our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 7, during the worship service and at a special coffee hour after church, even if it's a virtual event! If you have a young person graduating this spring, please let Diane Tobey know as soon as possible.



Vacation Bible School will be Monday, July 27 to Friday, July 31 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The cost is \$15/child. The theme is "Rocky Railway—Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." Enough materials have been ordered for 20 children. This curriculum from Group Publishing has the same format we have used and liked for several years. We will need helpers and teachers, please save the date and let Barbara know if you can help.

The Board hopes to meet next on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. at 34 Oakland Street.

Diane Tobey & Tricia Voner, Co-Chairs



SYMPATHY TO...

The family of Rose Brooks who died on April 17. She was the mother of Eleanor Haynie and grandmother of Jennifer Haynie. She had lived in Charlestown for most of her adult life, and had been a resident of Coutryard Nursing Care Center in Medford during the past year.



INTERESTED IN MISSIONS?

We need to revitalize our Mission, Outreach and Social Concern (MOSC) Board. Presently there are two members: Marie Paul and Chuck Shepherd. In order to do the work necessary to spread the word about the four annual offerings: America for Christ, World Mission, Retired Minister and Missionary and One Great Hour of Sharing, to continue our work with the Medford Family Shelter on Central Ave, to decide about where our mission dollars will be donated, and many other things, we need to recruit people who have a heart for mission.

For the time being, the Board of Christian Education has been taking on the MOSC duties. Barbara Drauschke has information about being a TABCOM Mission Advocate, from a workshop she attended in January. She also picked up quite a bit of material on Missions there, which she would be happy to share with others. Mission advocates receive information from TABCOM about missionaries visiting in our area, upcoming mission trips, and act as a liaison between the local church and TABCOM.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help. If you would like to join MOSC, please speak to Ruth Kline, Chair of the Nominating Committee soon, so that your name can be added before our upcoming Annual Meeting.

The Carillon is published monthly from September through June. The deadline for material for the Summer issue is May 20. Copies are available by e-mail, by first class mail, or can be picked up on the first Sunday of the month. Thanks to Margo McCole for helping with the production by running off the paper copies. It's a big help!