



THE FLAME

“...I REMIND YOU TO FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY, BUT A SPIRIT OF POWER, OF LOVE AND OF SELF DISCIPLINE.”—2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7(NIV)

Beloved Church Family,

Praise God for the recent arrival of spring—its warmth and sunshine are truly a blessing to us all.

Lenten Journeys

Easter was only eleven days, while the Lenten season feels much longer to me, perhaps because of the depth of reflection it invites. If you are willing to share—by conversation, text, or email—I would love to hear about your own Lenten journey and how it culminated in your Easter experience.

For me, the season was a blessing. Using the devotional *The Secret Place*, I was able to spend intentional time reading, reflecting, and praying. The Scripture passages and reflections printed offered, from a variety of perspectives, were deeply enriching and helped prepare my heart for the additional services of the Easter season. A gift for which I am grateful.

If, during or following the Lenten season, you have noticed a lack of spiritual vitality, I invite you to reach out to either Pastor Geoff or myself. We are open and eager to connect, listen, and walk alongside you.

Moving Forward

Please take time to carefully read this issue of *The Flame*. It highlights multiple opportunities for fellowship, as well as ways to financially support the first ABC National Missionary Offering, *America for Christ*. I believe—and have experienced—that spiritual renewal often comes through active participation in the life of the church. My hope and prayer are that this will be true for each reader.

Ownership

Imagine the following scenario: You arrive early to help host July 4th hospitality at the church. A friend greets you and asks ‘why are you here?’ Would your immediate response be ‘because this is my church?’

What leads someone to say, ‘this is my church.’ From my perspective, it comes down to ownership—investing in the life and mission of the church. It means sharing in our calling as a church family: encouraging one another to imitate Jesus in our daily lives, participating in programs, seeking opportunities to serve, as we invest our time, talents, and resources to build up the life of the church.

Moving through the coming months and into the summer season, I invite each reader to prayerfully reflect on your sense of ownership and investment in our church family.

Prayerfully and with love,

(781) 249-3721

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JOIN US IN WELCOMING BACK

THE WOODEN PROJECT BAND

The Wooden Project is a bluegrass/folk band made up of veterans of the local music scene. They play a variety of acoustic instruments including fiddle, mandolin, banjo upright bass and guitar



When:

Sunday, April 26th 3 to 4:30pm

All Ages Welcome Free Will Donations are Appreciated

Where:

First Baptist Church of Hingham 85 Main St Hingham MA 02043

781-749-2516 Fbc.hingham@verizon.net

Kindness is in Bloom

Spring is here, and so is your chance to help our community flourish. All April long, every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sold at our selected Stop & Shop gives back \$1 to our organization. Carry this bag. Grow some good!

STOP&SHOP

stopandshop.2givelocal.com

Community Bag Program

mothers day

Everyone is invited to join us for brunch after church service on May 10th!

Fourth of July Hospitality 9am - 12pm

Our Community Pick-Up Choir
Will be singing on the lawn with
Rev Dr Geoffrey Dana Hicks

Please join us in our 'Joyful Noise'

Email fbc.hingham@verizon.net for more info



TABCOM ANNUAL GATHERING

BUILDING BRIDGES

Ephesians 2:19-22



Friday Preacher

Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel

TABCOM

TABCOM Executive Director

Keynote Preacher

Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd

Pastor of Greater

Framingham Community Church

Saturday Plenary

Rev. Kelly Fassett

UniteBoston

May 1-2, 2026

First Baptist Church

111 Park Ave., Worcester, MA

The TABCOM Annual Gathering will be held May 1–2, 2026, at the First Baptist Church of Worcester, 111 Park Ave, Worcester, MA 01609.

This year's theme is **“Building Bridges.”**

Grounded in Ephesians 2:19–22, the 2026 TABCOM Annual Gathering invites us to reflect on our shared identity as members of God's household. We are reminded that we are no longer strangers, but one body in Christ—built together with Christ as our cornerstone.

In a time when divisions can feel strong, this gathering calls us to unity, reconciliation, and deeper connection across cultures, generations, and communities. Together, we will explore what it means to truly live as a people who build bridges—within our churches and beyond.

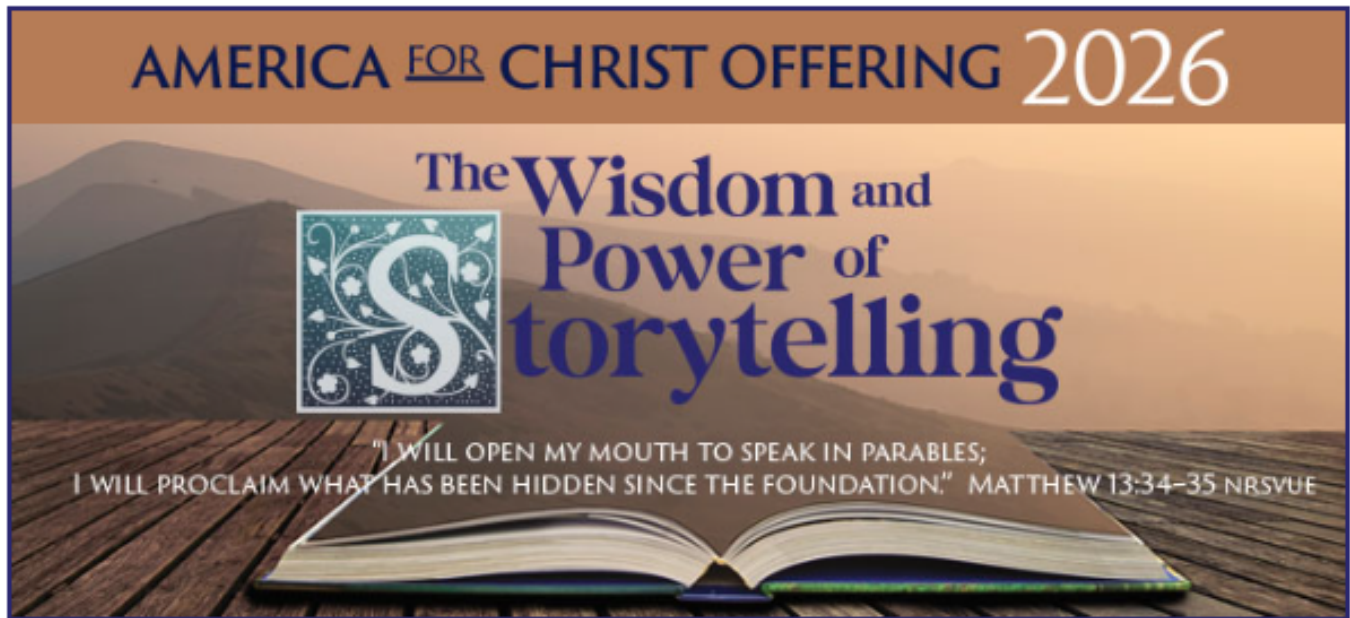
We are honored to welcome UniteBoston's own **Rev. Kelly Fassett** as our plenary speaker, **Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd** as this year's keynote preacher, and **Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel** who will be our Friday night preacher.

Hosted by the **First Baptist Church in Worcester**, the Annual Gathering will include inspiring worship, meaningful teaching, and opportunities for fellowship and connection.

We will also celebrate church anniversaries, recognize ordination milestones, and give thanks for the shared ministry we hold together as American Baptists in Massachusetts.

Come and be part of what God is building—**one house, many nations, united in Christ.**

MISSIONS:



[Give to AFC 2026 Now!](#)

Carry on the legacy of good works with your giving!

Each year, American Baptists come together through the America for Christ (AFC) Offering to support ministries that bring healing, hope, and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The 2026 America for Christ Offering invites congregations to reflect on how faith is shared, remembered, and lived out across generations. Through worship, learning, and service, churches help carry forward a shared story of how generosity and action help shape God's work in the world.

How AFC Gifts Make an Impact

Contributions to the America for Christ Offering help support a wide range of ministries, including:

- Leadership development for pastors, chaplains, and laity
- Community-based ministries that address hunger, housing insecurity, and economic hardship
- Justice-focused initiatives responding to systemic inequities
- Faith formation and discipleship across generations