

First Baptist Church of Arlington 819 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington MA 02476 ♦ 781-643-3024

Rev. Peter Beckwith, Interim Pastor pastorpeter@aol.com (207) 409-0997 www.firstbaptistarlington.org



"Before Abraham was born, I Am!" (John 8:58)

Dear FBCA Church family,

Last fall, our Bible Study group had a wonderful study through the "I Am" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. When Jesus says the words above (John 8:58), He is actually saying that He is God! For a person to declare that they are God is blasphemy, so when the religious leaders heard Jesus say those words, they were so angry that they picked up stones to stone Jesus to death!

It is a radical thing to say that you are God. Jesus did it many times. Every time in the Gospel of John when Jesus says "I Am... (the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World, etc.), He is actually declaring the different aspects of His character as God - here with us!

It was such a blessing to study these passages together in our Bible Studies last fall, that I have felt led to preach through many of Jesus' "I Am" statements during this upcoming season of Lent. To prepare for this series, I have a suggestion: would you consider reading through the Gospel of John on your own? While you are reading, please look for the answer to this question: "Who is Jesus... based on what He said about Himself?"

I would be interested in what God shows you through such a study!

Looking forward to the answers you discover!

Living in victory in Christ Together,

Pastor Beckwith Interim Pastor



*PRAYER REQUESTS:

All our home bound, our country, Ukraine, Cameroon, Haiti, Nigeria

Iran (women in prison), people of Burma

Roy Brunner, Norma's brother Stanley (heart attack), Principal Mark McAneny (rehab)

Jean Butler's sister (hospice) and niece Karen (cancer)

Bill Ware's niece Judy, Eugene Ware (recovery)

Bill's brother Jimmie (knee surgery on Feb 23)

Bill's sister-in-law Christine (covid)

Agnetta Wilson's father Lemuel Spence,

sister Nancy Spence

Jamie Sobin (Agnetta's son-in-law), Tricia

Lena Bryant (health concerns)

Silvana (Lena's mother-in-law)

Milburn Stevens (Lena's godfather, MS)

Jean Farnsworth, Herb and Jean's 25 yr, old friend Gabrielle's mom Sylvia, Joan Weiss (lung cancer)

Gabrielle's friends, Sandy and Obeda (health)

Simone (prayers for her mother and family in China guidance for new vocation), Katie Hayashi, Noah

Victoria (Nell and Jon's granddaughter)

Brenda Cox, Brenda's friend Joanna (heart issues)

Dan Kirkwood's niece in AZ (incurable cancer)

Usui Tetsuro and family (working in Burma for I year, prayers for him and his family)

Pamela D' Andre (Norma's missionary friend in Ukraine)

*Please call or email the office for any changes or additions to these prayer requests. Thanks.



Sermon Topics for February 2023

February 5 - "Jesus Holds Everything Together" Col 1;15-20

February 12 - "Look at Me, I'm SO Religious!" Col 2:16-3:4

February 19 - Guest Preacher

February 26 - Guest Preacher



Pastor Peter's Schedule

Pastor Peter can be reached at pastorpeter@aol.com and his cell phone is (207) 409-0997. Peter will be available on **Mondays**, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, unless it's an emergency.

Pastor's Visits

If you, or someone you know would like to have a visit from the Pastor, please call him and he will be happy to come!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 7 Linda Mahoney February 18 Henry Weber

Jacob Buttrick

Caroline Jackson February 29



Worship Leaders:

Feb 5 - William Ware

Feb 12 - Sara Buttrick

Feb 19 - Gabrielle Pierre

Feb 26 - JaniceWeber

Greeters:

Feb 5 - William Ware, Janice Weber Agnetta Wilson

Feb 12 - Catherine Jackson, Janice Weber Agnetta Wilson

Feb 19 - Catherine Jackson, Marjorie Shelton William Ware

Feb 26 - Marjorie Shelton, William Ware Janice Weber

Ushers:

Feb 5 - John Buttrick, Laura Wilczewski Feb 12, 19 - Simone Kondor, Marjorie Shelton Feb 26 - Frank Shelton, Sharon Ware

Tech Team:

Feb 5 - Screen Share: Ian Jackson Producer/Host: Janice Weber

Feb 12 - Screen Share: Paul Chudigian Producer/Host: Laura Wilczewski

Feb 19 -Screen Share: William Ware Producer/Host: Julius Takang

Feb 26 - Screen Share: John Rogers Producer/Host: Marjorie Shelton

All-Church Prayer Meeting First Wednesdays of the Month

Anyone can join the All-Church Prayer Meeting on Zoom, and even if we meet physically in church, it will also be on Zoom. Send your prayer requests by email or by calling the church office. This would be an opportunity for those who have prayer requests to join in and we will pray for you. Our next meetings will take place on Wednesday February 1 at 7 pm. See you there!





This is a picture of our sanctuary before the addition.

Can you spot what's wrong with this picture?

If you would like to know the answer, see Paul Chudigian.

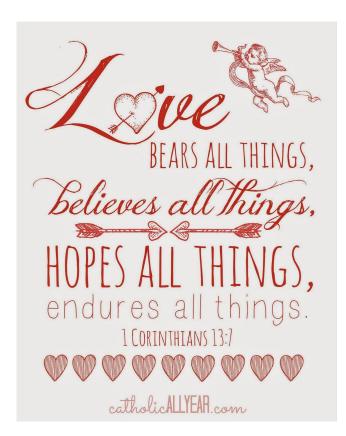
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The Right Hand of Fellowship

On Sunday, January 1, 2023, the Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to **Megane Mbi** and **Ryan Mbi**.

Congratulations to our new members!







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Blanket Sunday Church World Service

Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. To do that, we come alongside families and communities, helping them to make that vision a reality.

Moms are now skilled chefs, preparing healthy meals for their little ones. Families in arid regions have access to water, even during long dry spells. More children are attending school each day, ready to learn and dreaming big. Refugee families are settling into new homes and jobs, far from the conflict that forced them to flee.

You are a part of this vision.

Together, we're going to keep pushing and keep fighting until people everywhere have the tools, education and opportunity they need.

We will receive the CWW Offering On Sunday, February 19, 2023.

www.churchworldservice.org

Organizational Meetings

will take place on Sunday, February 5 and 12, at 11:20 am.

Meeting on **February 5**: Ushers, Board of Property and Finance, Music, Trustees, Flower, Deacons, and the Board of Christian Education.

Meeting on **February 12**: Church Council, Auditors, Nominating, Historical, and Memorial and Gifts committees.





Neighbors Serving Neighbors

We are collecting non-perishable food items to donate to Arlington EATS. Please bring in your donations and place them in the plastic bin in the Sanctuary. Thank you.



Flowers

Anyone wishing to have flowers for our worship service on Sundays, in memory of or in honor of, may call the church. Flowers can be ordered though the church, or you can provide your own.



Orders must be placed two weeks before the date. All available dates.



Coffee Servers

Coffee Servers are needed for the fellowship time following the morning worship service. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Banquet Hall. Thanks to all those who have signed up.



Ushers Needed

Since we have gone back to full worship in the sanctuary, we need two ushers every Sunday to welcome worshippers, hand out bulletins and take the collection.

You will need to be at the church by 9:45. It is not a hard job, and you do not have to an adult to do it. Young people and teenagers are welcome. You are providing a service to our Lord. Please consider volunteering and see me to sign up.

Thank you, Marge Shelton

Condolences

The congregation would like to extend Christian sympathy to Scott Copley and family, on the death of his 100 yr. old grandmother, Rosalie Martel, in Fall River, in January 2023. Let us keep the family in our prayers.

Lot us keep the family in our prayers.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help edit videos to be posted on Facebook, webpage and (soon) Arlington Public Access TV. Edits must be made on an Apple of Mac computer. Thanks.

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Statement of disclosure on recording worship services

Please be aware that in order to share music and the Message on our church Facebook page, on our web site and on Arlington Public Access TV, we do record our weekly worship services. For your information, we never share the children's story or the prayer time publicly in this manner.

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Instructions for connecting with our live services:

From your regular home phone:

- 1) Call: 1-646-876-9923
- 2) When asked for the Meeting ID, enter church phone #: 781 643 3024
- 3) THEN, press the "#" sign
- 4) When asked to enter the password, enter 781 643 3024 (yes, the same as the ID)
- 5) THEN, press the "#" sign once again (During the prayer sharing time, if you want to share, then press *9)

Smart Phone People:

- 1) Download the "ZOOM Cloud Meeting" App
- 2) Follow the prompts to sigh up (ZOOM is free, so don't upgrade)
- 3) For a meeting, open your ZOOM App select "Join"
- 4) When prompted, enter the "Meeting ID" (it's the church phone #) 7816433024
- 5) When prompted, enter the password: 7816433024 (yes, the same as the ID)

People using their computers:

- 1) Enter this link: https://zoom.us/j/ 7816433024
- 2) Click on "Join a Meeting"
- 3) When prompted, enter the "Meeting ID" (it's the church phone #) 7816433024
- 4) When prompted, enter the password: 7816433024 (yes, the same as the ID)
- Click on "Join"



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Announcements:

- ♦ All-Church Prayer Meeting Wed February 1 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- ◆ The church and Pastor Peter are on **Facebook.** You can friend him at "Peter Beckwith"
- **→ Prayer requests** and **announcements**: please email or call the church with any prayer requests or announcements. Deadline for the March Newsletter is Sunday, February 19, 2023.
- **Tithes & Offerings:** For those who are able to continue to give, please mail your checks to our collector, Janice Weber, 29 Crescent Hill Ave., Arlington, MA 02474-2501.

February 2023

Wednesday, Feb 1 7 pm, All-Church Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts

7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal Thursday, Feb 2

Saturday, Feb 4 4-5 pm, Cub Scouts

Sunday, Feb 5 10 am, Communion Worship Service

> I Iam, Coffee and Fellowship 11:20 am, Organizational Meetings

Wednesday, Feb 8 6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts

7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal Thursday, Feb 9

Friday, Feb 10 6-8 pm, Pinewood Derby Saturday, Feb 11 10 am, Board of Deacons

Noon-5 pm, Pinewood Derby

Sunday, Feb 12 10 am, Worship Service

I Iam, Coffee and Fellowship

II am, Board of Property and Finance 11:20 am, Organizational Meetings

Wednesday, Feb 15 6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts

Thursday, Feb 16 7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

Sunday, Feb 19 10 am, Worship Service, BLANKET SUNDAY

II am, Board of Christian Education

I Iam, Coffee and Fellowship

Presidents' Day - Office closed Monday, Feb 20

Wednesday, Feb 22 Ash Wednesday

6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts

Thursday, Feb 23 7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

Sunday, Feb 26 10 am, Worship Service, 1st Sunday of Lent

I Iam, Coffee and Fellowship

