



7 February 2023

First Baptist Church of Arlington  
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Rev. Peter Beckwith, Interim Pastor  
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*"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



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.



## 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!



## 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.

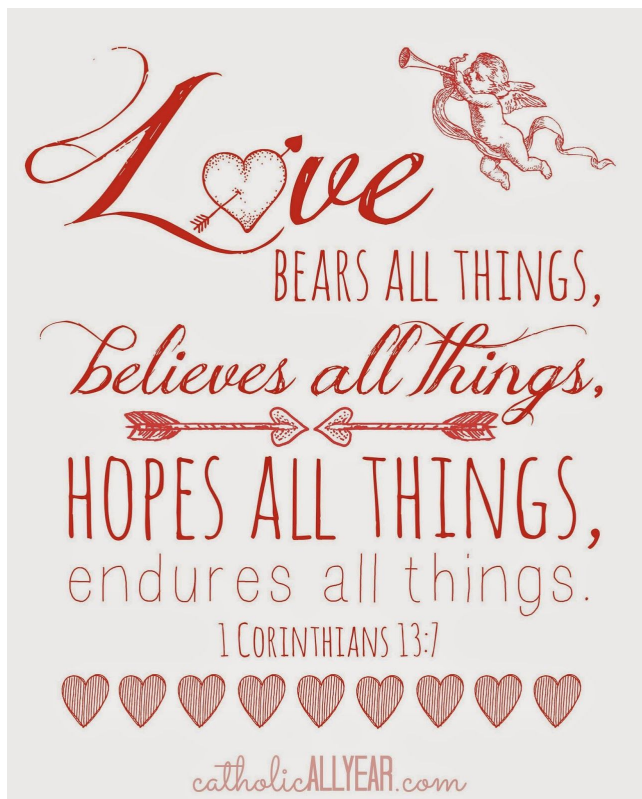
Moms are now skilled chefs, preparing healthy meals for their little ones. Families in arid regions have access to water, even during long dry spells. More children are attending school each day, ready to learn and dreaming big. Refugee families are settling into new homes and jobs, far from the conflict 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](http://www.churchworldservice.org)**



- 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)
- 5) Click on “Join”

# FIRST BAPTIST Arlington

819 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476  
info@firstbaptistarlington.org  
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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, <b>All-Church Prayer Meeting</b> on Zoom 6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts
Thursday, Feb 2	7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
Saturday, Feb 4	4-5 pm, Cub Scouts
<b>Sunday, Feb 5</b>	10 am, <b>Communion Worship Service</b> 11 am, Coffee and Fellowship 11:20 am, Organizational Meetings
Wednesday, Feb 8	6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts
Thursday, Feb 9	7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
Friday, Feb 10	6-8 pm, Pinewood Derby
Saturday, Feb 11	10 am, Board of Deacons Noon-5 pm, Pinewood Derby
<b>Sunday, Feb 12</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service</b> 11 am, Coffee and Fellowship 11 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
<b>Sunday, Feb 19</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service, BLANKET SUNDAY</b> 11 am, Board of Christian Education 11 am, Coffee and Fellowship
Monday, Feb 20	Presidents' Day - Office closed
Wednesday, Feb 22	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:45 - 8:45 pm, Boy Scouts
Thursday, Feb 23	7:30-9:15 pm, Mystic Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, Feb 26</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service, 1st Sunday of Lent</b> 11 am, Coffee and Fellowship

