



First Baptist Church of Arlington  
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Rev. Peter Beckwith, Interim Pastor  
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*“Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.”*  
(Great Is Thy Faithfulness, verse 2, copyright 1923)

Before I was a believer, people who tried to show me God by looking at nature never helped me in the least. However, since I’ve come to know and love God – I see His hand absolutely everywhere! The color of a flower, the intricate architecture of a tree, the majesty of a mountain or a seashore. The complexity of an ecosystem as it works together to produce life!

When Paul posts pictures of the churches in Arlington, when Daphne or Sara share the latest pictures of lush colorful flowers or lake-side scenery, when Marge points out a wonderful sea-side get-away, Cathy shares amazing pictures of beautiful ducks in flight: I see God’s wonderful hand in it all! Some of our church family will fly away soon to summer retreats – others will find peace and quiet in a nearby park. When Debbie and I lived in Arlington, we did so enjoy strolls around the reservoir, over by Spy pond, up in Menotomy Rocks Park or the pleasant stroll around McClennen Park, just to name a few.

As covid restrictions are relaxing, do take some time to venture out into the fresh air. Do take some time to quietly walk and notice the beauty in small things around you. Do take time to whisper prayers of gratitude and appreciation as you behold the handiwork of our loving God. “Good job on those gorgeous flowers, God! I love that color!”

We are blessed here in New England to have four very distinct and interesting seasons. They “join with all nature in manifold witness” to God’s great faithfulness!

Why not intentionally go out, spend time appreciating and soaking in God’s grace and faithfulness that is testified to in the beauty around us!

Happy Summer!

Blessings,  
Peter Beckwith, Interim Pastor



The righteous man walks in his integrity; **His children are blessed after him.**  
PROVERBS 20:7

**Summer Office Hours**   
Starting the week of **June 14**, the office will begin its summer hours. The church office will be open on **Mondays** only, from **9 am to Noon**.



**Luke: “Gospel of Reassurance”**  
**Wednesdays 7 pm** (on Zoom)



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## Worship Leaders:

June 6 - Sara Buttrick  
June 13 - Takang Children  
June 20 - William Ware  
June 27 - LaShae Doughty  
July 4 - Laura Wilczewski  
July 11 - Gabrielle Pierre  
July 18 - Frank Shelton  
July 25 - William Ware  
August 1 - Open  
August 8 - Janice Weber  
August 15 - Yvonne Akwo  
August 22 - Gabrielle Pierre  
August 29 - Paul Chudigian

## Tech Team:

June 6 - Screen Share: John Rogers  
Chat/ Mute Monitor: William Ware  
Producer/Host: Mark Jones  
June 13 - Screen Share: John Rogers  
Chat/ Mute Monitor: William Ware  
Producer/Host: Paul Chudigian  
June 20 - Screen Share: Gabrielle Pierre  
Chat/ Mute Monitor: Laura Wilczewski  
Producer/Host: William Ware  
June 27 - Screen Share: Catherine Jackson  
Chat/ Mute Monitor: Debbie Beckwith  
Producer/Host: Ian Jackson



## A Request to Everyone from Our Pastoral Relations Committee

*“It was He who gave some to be... pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the full-ness of Christ... From Him the whole body... builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)*

A Pastor or a Ministry Staff Member is asked to fill many roles within the church. From delivering the message on Sundays, to visiting and caring for the congregation, to providing leadership and guidance, they meet many critical needs. They are with us on some of the most important days of our lives, including baptisms, weddings, and even funerals. Through this work, ministers get to know their congregations well, and often form strong bonds of friendship, deeply rooted in Christian love. So it is hard for us when they move on to another church or into retirement.

We have been blessed to have had many wonderful ministers. While we will continue to cherish the relationships we have formed with past ministers, it is important for us to allow the next ministers who follow them opportunities to grow into their role with our full support.

The American Baptist Code of Ethics instructs us as a congregation in some ways to deal with this transition. This is to ensure that the congregation is able to develop a spiritual bond with each new minister, just as we have with those that have come before. We are thankful to God for the wonderful ministers He has provided us in the past. We grieve when they leave us, because of the significant roles they have played in our spiritual lives.

One of the most difficult challenges a church family faces after any ministry staff leaves is when there is a need for spiritual counsel, when a loved one passes on, or someone is getting married. Maybe hopes were that a particularly loved minister would be there to help us through that time. It is natural for us to have that desire. After all, we knew him or her well; we were familiar with their ways of doing these things, and we feel those spiritual bonds so strongly.

The Code of Ethics clearly states that a former pastor or ministry staff member should not continue to provide for ministry after they have left their positions. Primarily, this will help our former ministers to bring closure to their past ministries – moving on to the new calling God has for their lives. But additionally, it will allow us to build important new bonds with the new ministers who lead us going forward.

With respect to this, we are requesting that our members please refrain from seeking out former pastors or ministry staff for spiritual counsel or asking for assistance with funerals, weddings, etc. Change is difficult, but it is also the path to what God has in store for us next.

Should you have any concerns regarding this policy, please feel free to contact your **Pastoral Relations Committee** members: Mark Jones, Chair; Bill Ware, Cathy Jackson, Judy Quimby and (new member) Yvonne Mbi.

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# FIRST BAPTIST Arlington

819 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA 02476

[info@firstbaptistarlington.org](mailto:info@firstbaptistarlington.org)

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## Announcements:

- ◆ **All-Church Prayer Meeting** - Wed June 2, July 7, and August 4 at 7 pm
- ◆ **Bible Studies** - “**Luke: Gospel of Reassurance**” Wed evenings at 7
- ◆ 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 September Newsletter is Sunday, August 22, 2021.
- ◆ **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.

Pastor Peter loves serving our church! He also places time with Debbie at a very high propriety. So Peter does his very best to take days off (Tuesdays and Fridays) and to also take his vacations. June 22-28 and August 9-22). When Peter is on vacations- please contact the Deacons (Bill Ware and Marge Shelton, co-chairs) with any emergency needs. Also, if you need to contact the Pastor and it's not an emergency, please try to be aware of Tuesdays and Fridays - so Peter can enjoy uninterrupted time with his dear wife! Debbie will thank you!

## June 2021

Wednesday, June 2	7 pm, <b>All-Church Prayer Meeting</b> on Zoom
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	10 am, <b>Communion Worship Service</b> in church and on Zoom
Wednesday, June 9	7 pm, “ <b>Luke: Gospel of Reassurance</b> ” begins on Zoom
Thursday, June 10	10:30 am, <b>Women Bible Study</b> begins on Zoom
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service</b> in church and on Zoom
	<b>CHILDREN/YOUTH CELEBRATION</b>
	11:30 am, Board of Property and Finance
Wednesday, June 16	7 pm, “ <b>Luke: Gospel of Reassurance</b> ” begins on Zoom
Saturday, June 19	10 am, Board of Deacons
<b>Sunday, June 20</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service</b> in church and on Zoom, <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>
	11:30 am, Board of Christian Education
<b>Tuesday, June 22 to Monday, June 28 Pastor Peter's Vacation</b>	
Wednesday, June 23	7 pm, “ <b>Luke: Gospel of Reassurance</b> ”
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	10 am, <b>Worship Service</b> in church and on Zoom
Wednesday, June 30	7 pm, “ <b>Luke: Gospel of Reassurance</b> ”

HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!