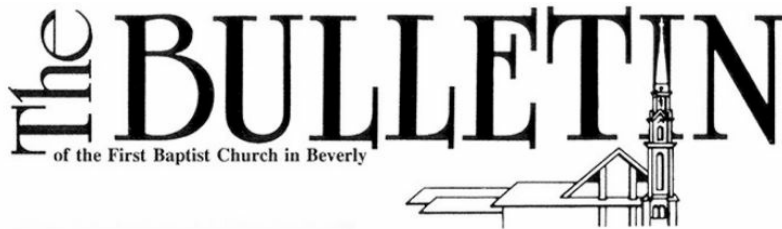


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEVERLY

*A progressive and welcoming Christian community*



*A progressive and welcoming Christian community!*

[Get Involved](#)

[Worship with  
Us](#)

**It's really chilly outside right now, but we are just getting warmed up at FBC Beverly! Read the exciting announcement below regarding not one but \*TWO\* fantastic Student Ministry Interns joining FBC's ranks for the remainder of the program year! We are excited to welcome our own Dr. Esther Chang back from vacation and back to the organ this Sunday! Julie will be picking up our return to the Annual Theme in her sermon this Sunday, helping us continue to consider the ways our hearts can be brave in uncertain times. Read on to learn more about the four NEW events we've added to our calendar!**

## Worship With Us!

Join us for our **Worship Service** this **Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**, either in person or via our **FBC YouTube Channel**.

*Notes for Sunday:*

- The Infant/Toddler room will be open during worship this week.
- Littlest Learners will meet during worship this week.
- The Playground will be open as worship begins to allow our elementary-age and younger friends to enter into the quiet enjoyment of worship in a flexible child-friendly space.
- Our Elementary Class will meet following the Stepsitters children's message time during worship.
- The Youth Pew is available for youth in grades 5-12 to enjoy worship together with peers.
- Youth Class will meet after worship this Sunday in the Youth Lounge.

## "A Moses Story: When God Calls"



Preaching:  
Rev. Julie Flowers

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-14  
& 4:13-17 from The First  
Egalitarian Translation

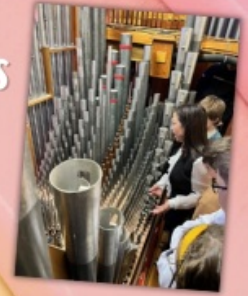


Sunday, January 19, 2025

[Click HERE to join Worship  
via Livestream on Sunday](#)



We are excited to have Esther back on the organ and leading with us in worship this Sunday following a well-deserved vacation!



  
**MY HEART BE BRAVE:  
FEARLESS HOPE IN  
UNCERTAIN TIMES**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN  
BEVERLY 2024-2025

***Middle School Fellowship***

*Sunday, January 19th: Movie Afternoon  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge at First Baptist*

It's a long weekend, and the Middle School Fellowship youth and advisors will be leaning into the relaxing vibes with a laid-back Movie Afternoon in the Youth Lounge! Youth and advisors are welcome to come in cozy clothes, as well as to bring a pillow and blanket or sleeping bag, if they wish, to get comfortable for movie watching. A movie-watching snack and drinks will be provided. As always, friends are welcome!

~~~~~  
***Sr. High Fellowship***

*Sunday, January 19th: Lego Building with the Lego Movie  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge at First Baptist*

Our Sr High Fellowship crew has let it be known that they *love* building some cool Lego creations (and have completed some intricate succulent gardens as well as a Christmas tree already this year!), so this week the group will have the chance to indulge that creative side and get building! Lego sets will be on hand for the group to build together – while watching *The Lego Movie* and pondering how “Everything is Awesome” when you’re part of a team! Dinner will be provided, and friends are welcome!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Click  
HERE to  
view our  
Web  
Calendar

## Introducing First Baptist's Incoming Student Ministers!

### Warmest Welcome!

At the last Church Council meeting of 2024, the Council unanimously supported a proposal from the ministerial staff to introduce a Student Ministry Internship program at First Baptist Beverly. FBC Beverly has historically been a place of learning, growth, and development for students pursuing and exploring a call to ministry, with former student ministers like Rev. Cindy Maybeck, Rev. Scott Cousineau, Rev. Julie Flowers, and Rev. John DeNardo (among others!) going on to ordination and to faithful service of and leadership to and for American Baptist Churches, as well as ABCUSA/UCC Federated churches.

The proposal affirmed by the Church Council at this time would make First Baptist's intention to be a place of teaching and learning for those pursuing a call to ministry more formal, ultimately perhaps leading to the church's becoming an official Field Education site of one or more of the Divinity/Theological Schools in the BTI (Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium). At a time when many churches are experiencing uncertainty about the future and when fewer students are pursuing a call to local church ministry, it feels important that churches like First Baptist Beverly, with much to offer and share, lean into the role of being places of growth, learning, community, and development for those whom God has called to minister.

We are excited, then, to be officially welcoming our first Student Ministers following that Council vote, who will be stepping officially into their roles as Student Ministry Interns for the remainder of this program year!

Please help us officially welcome Kelsey Belis and Jenny Lane into our Student Ministry program! In the coming weeks and months, you will get to interact with both Kelsey and Jenny more regularly in areas and aspects of the ministry and life of First Baptist, as well as see them participate in worship and preach more regularly. Julie and Daniel will serve as their supervisors in these roles and will be working to help nurture, cultivate, and grow the wonderful gifts they already bring to and for ministry – and we will all have the benefit and blessing of learning from them and being moved and enriched by their ministerial gifts, as well.

*Here's a bit more about both Kelsey and Jenny, as we embark on this journey together:*

**Kelsey Belis (they/them)** has been a member of First Baptist Church in Beverly for 4 years. Originally from the coast of Maine, Kelsey grew up with a strong appreciation for community and connection—values that have shaped their approach to life and ministry.



With a degree in Christian Ministries and Biblical Studies, Kelsey brings both academic knowledge and a heartfelt passion for ministry. In addition to their role at the church, Kelsey serves as the director of a Head Start program at a local nonprofit, where they are dedicated to fostering growth and opportunity for children and families in the community.

Kelsey and their wife, Amber, discovered First Baptist Church in Beverly at a time when they were searching for an affirming and welcoming community. Needless to say, FBC Beverly quickly became a place where they felt at home. Outside of work and ministry, Kelsey enjoys spending time outdoors, diving into a good book, and exploring local coffee shops.

As Student Minister, Kelsey hopes to inspire young people—and the entire congregation—to discover and share their authentic selves, challenge their existing worldview, and deepen their faith. They are also particularly passionate about creating a safe and affirming space for queer youth in the congregation, ensuring they know they are loved just as they are; a message Kelsey once found themselves needing.



**Jenny Lane (she/her)** is a current MDiv (Master of Divinity) student at Boston University, where she is focusing her studies on interfaith dialogue and religion, as well as on conflict transformation. For almost two decades, Jenny owned a yoga studio and worked teaching others to become yoga instructors. Her passion in her own spirituality was always rooted in a love of God, and, for Jenny, teaching yoga was a way to mirror God’s call to minister to others in love and to offer unconditional love to as many people as possible.

Jenny is mom to Zyan, who will tell you he is 9 ¾ years-old, but who has an August birthday! They are blending their family with Ben and Ayla Pertler, who is 8-years-old. Jenny and Ben plan to be married this May.

## The Power of Us Introductory Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Join us on Friday, January 17 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel for an introductory meeting to The Power of Us. The Power of Us is a consciousness-raising, social action movement that works for social change through intentional community dialogue. Edith Bross Johns and other Power of Us leaders will introduce us this model of intentional conversation and community building. Through it we connect with friends to share our despair and hope in order to inspire one another

the power of us



for effective social action. Come hear what it's all about and if you would be interested in forming a small group to meet over four meals to work for social change from the inside out. If you haven't done so already, please RSVP ASAP to Doris-Ann Vosseler at [dorisannvosseler@gmail.com](mailto:dorisannvosseler@gmail.com) or text her at 978-210-1047. Please include what dish you will bring to share.

To find out more about The Power of Us, visit <https://thepowerofus.co>.



Save  
THE  
Date

## DINING OUT AT THE CASTLE!

Get ready for another service trip fundraiser! This time, let's enjoy dinner from The Castle Restaurant and Bar in Beverly on Wednesday, January 22nd!

Either dine in, or take out your meal between the hours of 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. and a portion of all sales during that time will benefit our service trippers! So take a night off from cooking, enjoy additional FBC fellowship time, and maybe even play a few tabletop games! All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends! The more, the merrier!

*\*This event is co-sponsored with our FBC Fun Squad - expect the unexpected!*

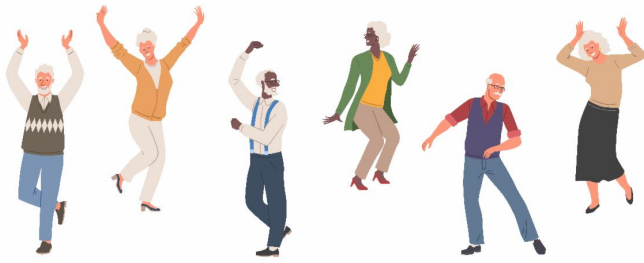


## FBC Women's Fellowship Evening Planned!

Join us for a very special Women's Fellowship event at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Jan 24th at the home of Tracey Armstrong. Our theme for the evening will be *Giving Ourselves Permission*. It may be permission to explore something we are curious about, to take a risk, to accept a circumstance, to grieve, to heal, to practice self care—whatever is needed! We will enjoy good food, great conversation, and a fun time of crafting creative permission slips for ourselves.

**RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) so we have plenty of appetizers and craft supplies to go around.**

## **\*NEW\* "Senior Scaries" Group Lunch Meeting!**



*- we do not stop playing -*  
**BECAUSE WE  
GROW OLD**  
— WE GROW OLD —  
**BECAUSE WE STOP PLAYING**

As beautiful as descriptions like “golden years” making aging sound, the truth is that aging can also be a tricky – and sometimes even a scary! – process. Aging can also bring wisdom, humor, lots of learning, and more! Wouldn’t it be nice to have a place to talk about it all? Thanks to a wonderful idea and suggestion from our own Karen Popadic, now you do! Introducing First Baptist’s “Senior Scaries” group, a group designed to offer those who are reaching retirement age and beyond a group with whom to talk about all the ups, downs, laughs, and cries of getting older. If you’re in that group, you’re invited to come to a first gathering of this new group on January 28th, at noon. The group will meet in the Lounge over lunch (which will be provided for this session!) and hold an introductory session to chat about topics you’d like to have a chance to discuss, presentations you’d like to have, or activities and events you’d like to see this group do together.

***Come and be part of the conversation and help shape this new group’s next steps!***

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### **It's Not Too Late To Pledge For 2025!**

Thanksgiving was late, the number of days in the Advent season were the fewest possible, and the holidays were hectic -- perhaps you forgot to pledge? It's not too late! There is still time to pledge, even at this late minute. If you have a pledge card, now is the time to return it, or if you're at Sunday's worship service, pledge cards are still available in the pew racks and can be placed in the collection plate. An electronic pledge card is also available by clicking ***HERE***. The electronic pledge card is easy to fill out, fast to submit and quickly done.



Church Treasurer John Thomson has been squirreled away in his basement office, working diligently with even more dedication than Bob Cratchit, to put together the most accurate and generous 2025 budget possible in order to meet the needs and challenges that lie ahead for the church, as well as to fulfill the requests and dreams of the many church committees and programs. Pledges are a major part of the income of the church. Every pledge is significant and very much appreciated.

***Click HERE to complete your electronic pledge to FBC for 2025 online!***

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# SR. HIGH FELLOWSHIP

**Retreat to North Conway, NH!  
Fri., 1/10-Sun., 1/12/25**

**What a gift it was for our Sr. High youth and advisors to spend time together in North Conway this past weekend for a Youth Fellowship retreat!**

**From thinking about our different perspectives and personalities and ways we communicate to cooking together, playing games together, singing together, sharing Communion together, and then enjoying a final quick trip to Zeb's General Store, it was a weekend filled with friendship, connections, and so much joy!**

**Thank you to all the Sr. High Advisors for another amazing retreat and to all the youth for making it such a great weekend. We can't wait to keep journeying together!**



# ...the fun continued!





Looking at this week at FBC  
Beverly...

FREE  
EVENT



**BREAKING THE CYCLE:**  
UNDERSTANDING COERCIVE CONTROL  
AND BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

**WED | JAN 15 | 7PM**

Join us for a \*FREE\* transformative evening exploring coercive control and the importance of healthy relationships.

Featuring insights from local community partners, we will explore the challenges of recognizing coercive control and pathways to nurturing respectful relationships.

Register at [thecabot.org](http://thecabot.org)

Come, Let Us Worship

The Weekly  
Worship  
Podcast of  
First Baptist  
Church in  
Beverly,  
Massachusetts



**FBC'S**

**PODCAST**

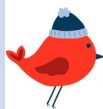
**NEW EPISODE:**

*"Mary Magdalene's 2025 Proclamation."*

Scripture: John 20:11-16 & Luke 24:10-12

Preacher: Jenny Lane

Sunday, January 12, 2025



**Together Again!**

Zoom Coffee  
Hour  
Thursdays  
@ 10am

*Winter*



*Coffee Time*

**WE'RE PRESSING  
PAUSE ON LECTIO  
DIVINA FRIDAY ~ JOIN  
US FOR "POWER OF US"  
POTLUCK & MEETING  
FROM 5-8 P.M.!**



# Word Searchers

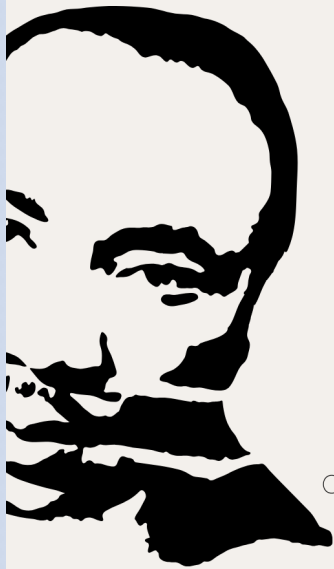
The Word Searchers will gather again this Sunday morning at 11:30 to begin looking at two significant episodes involving a man named Stephen, which together helped to push the early church outward from Jerusalem. Join us as we dig into the stories that are told about this early follower of Jesus in Acts chapters 6 and 7!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, 1/19/25  
AFTER WORSHIP FOR FBC'S...

## YOUTH CLASS



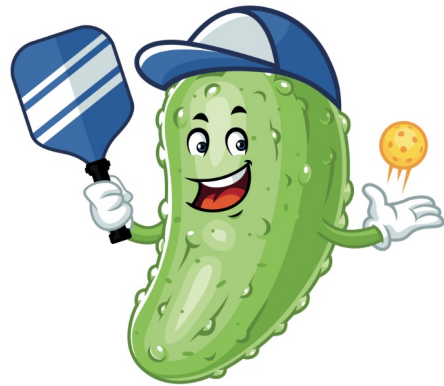
Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to stay immediately after worship!



He was a man  
who had a  
dream

Our Office will be closed  
on Monday, 1/20/25  
in Observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## TRYING TO FIT IN MORE EXERCISE IN 2025?!



JOIN US ON MONDAY NIGHTS @ 7PM  
FOR PICKLEBALL AT FBC!  
IT'S KIND OF A BIG DILL!



FBC'S T3 MEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST  
AT DEPOT DINER ON  
TUESDAY, 1/21 @ 7AM!

*The* **MEN'S**  
*Fellowship*  
**BREAKFAST**

Women's Fellowship Event:  
Friday, 1/24 at 6 pm

GIVING  
**permission**  
OURSELVES

JOIN US SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 26, 2025

# FBC

MID-YEAR MEETING  
IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER WORSHIP



Nativity Scene

**YOUTUBE SHORTS GRAND FINALE- IN CASE YOU MISSED THE FINAL 3 ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



**SUBSCRIBE**

“ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?’ ... God replied, ‘I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.’ —Exodus 3:11&14 ”

## PENCIL IN FBC

January

**17**

Friday

### Power of Us Potluck Dinner & Intro.

Learn more about social change from the inside out from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the FBC Chapel. RSVP to Doris-Ann Vosseler by *email* or text her at 978-210-1047. Let her know what dish you will bring to share at the potluck and learn more about Power of Us *HERE*.

January

19

Sunday

## Youth Class Meets

For those in Grades 5-12, stay after worship to join us for youth class!

January

20

Monday

## Church Office is Closed

Our Church Office will be closed today in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and will reopen at regular time on Tuesday, January 21st.

January

21

Tuesday

## FBC's T3 Men's Fellowship Group Breakfast

This group meets at 7:00 a.m. this month at the Depot Diner for breakfast and a time of fellowship, sunny side up!

January

22

Wednesday

## Save-The-Date: Dining Out at the Castle for a Great Cause

Our next fundraiser for the summer service trip is tonight! Either dine in, or take out your meal from The Castle between the hours of 5-10 p.m. and a portion of all sales during that time will benefit our service trippers! Games & overall merriment are anticipated thanks to the presence of the Fun Squad!

January

23

Thursday

## All Choir Rehearsals Resume

Dr. Esther Chang returns back from vacation and all of our regular choir rehearsals resume as of today.

January

24

Friday

## FBC Women's Fellowship Evening Planned

Join us for a very special Women's Fellowship event at 6:00 p.m. at Tracey Armstrong's home. Our theme for the evening will be Giving Ourselves Permission. We will enjoy good food, great conversation, and a fun time of crafting creative permission slips for ourselves. RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) to ensure we have all the appetizers and crafts we could never need.

January

26

Sunday

## Save-the-Date for FBC's Mid-Year Meeting

Join us immediately following worship for our Mid-Year meeting held in the Sanctuary. *A light lunch will be provided.*

## CONTACT US



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
IN BEVERLY**

Phone: 978-922-3295 (Main)

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