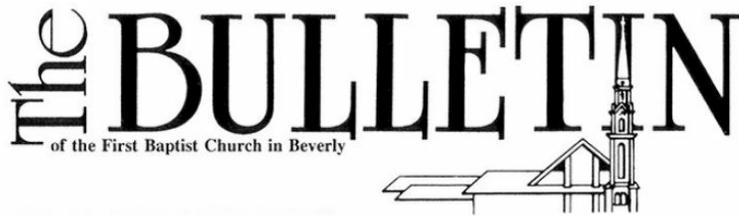


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEVERLY

A progressive and welcoming Christian community

Lent officially begins today, Ash Wednesday, and our friends at St. Peter's Church have welcomed us to Worship with them at 7:00 pm this evening. If interested in attending please note that they *are* wearing masks to Worship.



A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

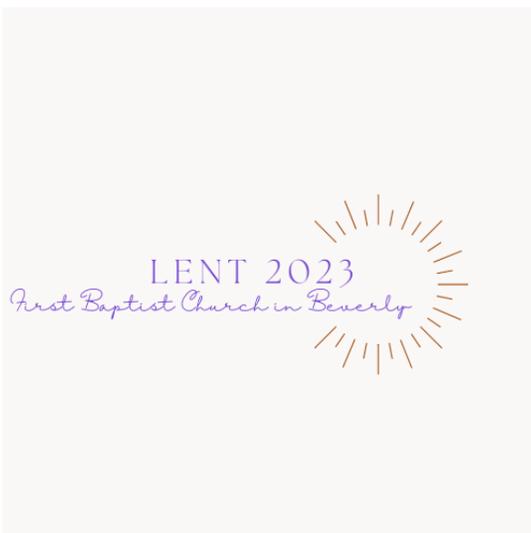
Get
Involved

Worship with
Us

Worship With Us!

Join us this Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Beverly for Worship at 10:00 am.

Lent is officially here this week! Learn more as we roll out our Lenten theme to guide us in our journey together over the next six weeks.



"TRANSFORMATIVE ELEMENTS OF LENT: FIRE CONTROL"

Matthew 3:4-12



Dr. Daniel Johnson, Preaching

Sunday, February 26, 2023

YouTube Channel Link for
Worship/Videos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to
view the **NEW**
Lenten Calendar!

Our Theme: The Transformative Elements of Lent

Lent is a season of reflection, preparation, and, perhaps most of all, of transformation. Lent is a time in the ebb and flow of the church year that is set aside to change us, to ready us, and to open us to what is yet to come: the recreation of life and the rebirth of hope, the triumph of God's love through Resurrection, which we will celebrate together on Easter Sunday morning. Lent is a season of church life whose elements are designed to help us to prepare for this transformation: through our moments of worship, the taking on and trying of new spiritual practices, the creating of communal artwork together, and in times of personal reflection, contemplation, and prayer, we find our hearts opened in new ways to God's Spirit at work, and we find ourselves being transformed in and through this Spirit.

This Lenten season, we are invited to consider the transformative powers of Lent and of the life and teachings of Jesus through a lens that will find us exploring the elements woven into God's creation all around us and which are lifted up and celebrated in elemental theories that have developed in wide and varied areas and cultures around God's world.

These elements, which can appear, at first glance, to be unchanged and unchanging – fire, earth, air, water, metal, wood, and space – are, upon closer inspection, both transformative (they can enact change or transformation) *and* being transformed themselves (they can be changed and formed anew or in different ways) in ways that can help us to consider our own lives of faith and our own Lenten journey.

This Lent, you are invited to join with the First Baptist family as we explore, together, the ways in which we are transformed by the stories of our faith and by the incredible way in which the Easter moment brings the many elements of our lives and of our creation together to change the world – and our hearts – forever.

Special thanks to the Lenten Worship Planning Team who helped to create this year's Lenten Theme: Lydia Ames, Kelsey Belis, Pam Constantine, and Bryan Vosseler. Thanks, also, to the members of the Spiritual Life Team for their work readying the Labyrinth for our Lenten series and for use each Sunday before worship. The Labyrinth will be open each Sunday from 9-10 a.m.

NEW Lenten Book Study Class starting with Julie



THE GOSPEL OF PETER

*A new Lenten Book
Study Class led by
Julie on Thursdays
at 7:15 pm*

A Lenten Book Study Class is starting on *The Gospel of Peter*; Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. throughout Lent (beginning on Thursday, March 2nd). This class will be taught by Julie and participants will have the opportunity to explore the non-canonical *Gospel of Peter* together in this class. *The Gospel of Peter* is a Gospel that was written contemporaneously with the four canonical Gospels with which we are familiar and was used by early Christian communities following Jesus' time. Perhaps its most intriguing feature is that, unlike the four canonical Gospels we use today, it describes not only the moments before and immediately following the Resurrection but, also, the moment of the Resurrection itself. Participants in this class will have the opportunity to read this unique piece together and to consider it in and through the lens of our faith, as well as in conversation with the canonical Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. *Please let Julie know by*

Tuesday, February 28th if you would like to sign up for this class. The class will be held in-person at First Baptist but a zoom access option can be provided as needed!

Fellowships will meet at their regular times this week – Middle School meets from 4:00-6:00 pm and Curious Creatures are stopping by to visit with us.

Senior High meets from 6:00-9:00 pm for a Reverse Scavenger Hunt as well as dinner.

Time to order your Easter Lilies and Tulips

Easter lilies and tulips are now available to order at FBC! Cost is \$9.25 for lilies and \$8.00 for tulips; Orders are due to Pat by Sunday, March 26th. You can sign up in the church office, contact Pat at phaight@fbcbeverly.org or call the church office at 978-922-3295.

The flowers, in memory or in honor of a loved one, will decorate our Sanctuary during our Easter Sunday Service and will be available to take with you after the service on April 9th. If you prefer, you can donate your flower(s) to be gifted to members of the First Baptist Church family who are not able to join us for worship as often as they would like in person but who are still very much a part of our FBC Family!

Place orders with Pat by Sunday, March 26th

\$9.25 for lilies and \$8.00 for tulips

ORDER YOUR
*Easter Lilies &
Tulips*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY



A Baptism Class opportunity will run during Lent for youth in grade 8 and above who are interested in learning more about baptism and the church, and are considering the decision to be baptized on Easter Sunday. The class will be scheduled at a time that works for those interested. This is a class for learning and discerning and coming to the point of making a decision about baptism; it is NOT expected that youth will already know for certain if they wish to be baptized when the class begins. Additionally, if there are adults in the church family who wish to learn more about making the decision to be baptized, they can also reach out to Rev. Julie Flowers to express an interest and get the ball rolling so that we can start aligning schedules for the class.



ESCUELA DE ACCIÓN PROFÉTICA



Put Relationships First: Launching the ECCO School of Prophetic Action!

While we often focus first on personal transformation during Lent, Lent can also be a time to prepare for broader social transformations, in which whole communities might experience the inbreaking of God's kin-dom of love, justice, and peace. With this in mind, we invite you to join Daniel Johnson and other religious leaders from across Essex County for the *ECCO School of Prophetic Action* on Wednesdays in March. This opportunity to connect with ECCO leaders will also teach the principles of community organizing through a faith-based perspective, and lead participants through the community organizing cycle. ECCO will dive into base building and how to create people power. Through deep intentional listening, attendees will learn how to build organizing relationships, develop new leaders, and build powerful teams that will give us the power to win campaigns and strengthen our local congregations. All are welcome, regardless of your previous experience with ECCO organizing. *Register by clicking here.*

When and where will the trainings take place?

When: 6-8 PM Wednesdays March 8, 22, and 29. Requested to attend all three training sessions.

Where: ECCO congregations across our network. Exact locations to be shared soon.

[Register Here](#)

A Picture of the Week Ahead

 **Together Again!**

Zoom Coffee
Hour
Thursdays
@ 10am

Winter



Coffee Time

Coffee Hour Zoom
Link

Lectio Divina
continues tonight
with Daniel at 5:00
pm.

Join us in the
Lounge or via
Zoom!



Lectio Divina Zoom
Link



Word Searchers

The Word Searchers will reconvene this Sunday, February 26, at 11:30 am, in the Office Wing Conference Room. This week we will set our sights on John 7:1-36, in which Jesus encounters a variety of people who are trying to figure out what to make of him. Join us as we seek to understand the sometimes cagey, sometimes cryptic, sometimes confrontational ways that Jesus deals with them all.

Worship Ensemble Continues to Rock at their rehearsal this Sunday!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SING-A-LONG

MEETING ON
FEB. 26TH!

WITH ESTHER
CHANG!

GATHERING
SUNDAYS
RIGHT AFTER
WORSHIP





FBC Beverly's

Parents' Night Out ~A fun night for all!

(Typically the 1st Friday of each month from 6:00-8:30 pm.)

SAVE-THESE-DATES!

- Friday, March 3rd
- Friday, April 14th
- Friday, May 5th
- Friday, June 2nd



Note: Our next Youth Class meets on Sunday, March 12 after Worship w/the "J Squad!" (also known as Jerry and Julie!)

“

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with [b]the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:11-12

”

PENCIL IN FBC!

February

22

Wednesday

Invitation to Worship at St. Peter's Church for Ash Wednesday

The service begins at 7:00 pm and they are wearing masks for services.

February

Choir Rehearsals

23

Thursday

Bell Choir rehearses from 6:00-7:00 pm followed by Sanctuary Choir rehearsal from 7:30-8:30 pm.

February

26

Sunday

Labyrinth Set Up in Chapel to Walk

Walk the Labyrinth from 9:00-10:00 am now available every Sunday during Lent in the Chapel.

February

26

Sunday

Esther's Sing-A-Long Group Rehearses

Esther's Elementary-aged group gathers to rehearse this week!

February

26

Sunday

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 11:00 am.

CONTACT US



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY**

Phone: 978-922-3295 (Main)

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY

221 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

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