

- March 3– Communion
- March 10– Daylight Savings Time Begins (spring forward)
- March 17– Pretzel Sunday
- March 24– Palm Sunday
- March 28– Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
- March 29– Good Friday Service and Lunch NOON
- March 31– Easter Sunday

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## Take Time on Your Lenten Journey

Dear Church Family,

On February 2, crowds gathered at Gobbler's Knob in Young Township, Pennsylvania to see if Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, would see his shadow when he emerged from his burrow at The Groundhog Zoo. To the amazement of the crowd, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow which predicts an early spring.

This is good news for many because this year Easter comes early, March 31. We all like nice spring weather for Easter with flowers, birds singing and the earth springing to life after the cold of winter. In order for us to truly enjoy the fruits of springtime, we must go through the cold and dark days of winter. According to botanist, Scott Woodbury with *Farm Progress Newsletter*, the New England winters help us have a beautiful spring-time. There is a correlation between winter freeze and spring bloom.

Woodbury writes, *"When winters are consistently cold and the ground is frozen for longer periods, spring floral display is at its best. When winters are warmer, and the ground is mostly wet, rather than frozen, early spring flower displays suffer. Bloom quality and plant vigor decline after unusually warm winters."*

*Snow provides an insulating blanket that helps to keep soil temperatures warmer. So, while you may think that lots of snow will mean a later spring, it's usually the opposite. Another good thing about a snowy winter: as the snow melts, it hydrates the soil. This ensures spring*

*bulbs have access to the moisture they need to produce strong roots, lush foliage and big flowers."*

As we work our way through the winter of Lent toward Resurrection Day, we must not hurry to get there. Like winter snow and cold prepares the soil to spring forth with beautiful grass and flowers, these forty days are preparing our hearts to spring forth with spiritual life. If we don't do the hard work of Lent, our Easter will not be as significant. It will be just a day to dress up, take pictures, hide eggs and have family dinner; although nice, but not life changing. If we look inside ourselves, allow God to show us those things that need to change, confess our sins, and work to align our lives with God's word, we will then experience the true joy of Easter.

I know we like to get to the good stuff quickly—that's human nature. But preparation is the key to getting there with our hearts and minds ready to receive all God has for us. Take time on your journey—don't rush. Know that you are walking this road with Jesus. Seek God earnestly, pray deeply, and allow God to do a work in you to his glory. You will arrive at Easter nourished, filled with life and blooming with the radiance of Christ.

May God bless you and your journey,

Pastor Mark

Please submit your prayer concerns and requests using pew prayer cards at Worship Service Sunday mornings or call the Church Office on weekdays. Confidentiality will be honored at your request.

Please pray for the concerns of the following people:

**Danuza-** health concerns (Weliton Damacena's wife) Weliton works for Armstrong Construction

**Alan Finger**—health concerns (Friend of Len Long)

**Bill Goldthwait**— health concerns

**Linda Goldthwait Ryan**—health concerns

**Aaron Johnson**— health concerns (Sarah Woodside's brother-in-law)

**Carmelita Senters**— surgery recovery

**Andy Williamson**—health concerns (Heather's brother)

**Wene Yan** – health concerns (Joan Burkhardt's mother)



First Baptist Church, Lexington  
Discover Christ's Message  
Of Hope & New Life

Come Worship With Us!

- March 24 - Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Liturgy of the Palms
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.
- March 29 - Good Friday Service 12 noon  
with light lunch and Hot Cross Buns
- March 31 - Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.



*The Angel said, "Do not be afraid;  
for I know that you are looking for Jesus  
who has been crucified. He is not here, for He is risen."  
Matthew 28:5-6*

First Baptist Church  
1580 Massachusetts Avenue  
781-862-9050

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark C. Jackson  
Visit our website: [www.fbclexington.org](http://www.fbclexington.org)

## News and Notes

**Toiletries for Bristol Lodge/ Middlesex Human Services** appreciate toiletries for their guests. Please collect toiletries and place your donations in the pink basket on the Missions table. These items, such as the travel types that hotels provide, or in the travel sections of CVS/ Walgreens are so helpful for the shelter recipients.

### *Fellowship Time After Church*

**Thank you to everyone** who has participated in contributing refreshments, serving and cleaning up at fellowship time each Sunday. We all enjoy this time each week and are thankful for all who can contribute!



If you would like to give an arrangement in loving memory or in honor of someone for a Sunday worship service, please call the church office (781)862-9050 or email to [firstbaptist-church1580@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptist-church1580@gmail.com)

# THANK YOU!

4704 wipes, 2272 diapers, 1 baby powder,  
4 diaper creams, 1 baby oil, 1 baby wash.

**A BIG, JOYOUS note of Thanks!** to all who donated to our third Diaper Drive to benefit the new parents supported by Middlesex Human Services. These items were all bundled into Dick Roger's car and trundled over to Waltham to be put to good use immediately. We hope these donations of love warmed your hearts as much as it does the grateful recipients! If more donations come in, it is never too late! They will be sent over as well. Thank you all again for a happy day of giving.



**Pretzel Sunday** will be on March 17th.



**Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th.** Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour the night before!

**Easter lily and tulip order forms are available.** They will be in the bulletin for the next few weeks and also available to be sent via email. Please fill out and return with payment by Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.



### Let us celebrate Church Family Birthdays, Anniversaries and Weddings

#### MARCH

- Mar. 8 - Bob Virgile and Ellie Butler
- Mar. 10 - Marilyn Armstrong & Pastor Mark and Laura Jackson's Anniv.
- Mar. 13 - Joyce Cowan
- Mar. 16 - Janet Irwin & Alison Cunningham
- Mar. 19 - Jacklynn Morgan
- Mar. 21 - Stephen Cupp

- Mar. 24 - Joan Ricketts
- Mar. 31 - Robbie Cunningham

**If you are a member of First Baptist Church and you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please email the church office and update your information. We want to celebrate with you!!!**

**First Baptist Church**  
1580 Massachusetts Ave.  
Lexington, MA 02420

Rev. Dr. Mark C. Jackson, Senior Minister X 201

Grace Choi, Organist and Director of Choral Music X 203

Amy Fish, Administrative Assistant X 200

Tha Moo, Church Sexton -----

Church Office: 781-862-9050

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**Church Office Hours**  
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Mon.– Fri.



Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us.  
Tell your friends to check us out online!



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**FBCL ONLINE**

You can now DONATE ONLINE from our website! Anyone may give a donation to the church from our website via a Pay Pal account or any major credit card.

[www.fbcllexington.org](http://www.fbcllexington.org)

**Flowers on Sundays**

Would you like to give a flower arrangement for the altar on Sundays in honor or in memory of loved ones? Please call the church office (781) 862-9050 or email [firstbaptistchurch1580@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistchurch1580@gmail.com) with your request.

