



# BOW LAKE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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blfwbc.org

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May 4, 2025



Hello Friends!

We are 2 weeks out from Easter and our Lord is still risen! I am grateful that we got to hear the testimonies last Sunday from Adult and Teen Challenge...it is such a perfect follow-up from Easter's message of hope. We see the hope an empty tomb provides in a theoretical sense and then we get to experience the hope an empty tomb provides in the way God is transforming lives in a real way before our very eyes. God surpassed human expectations on Palm Sunday, He did so on Good Friday, He did so on Easter morning, and we see He continues to do so in the world today.

This Sunday we will be starting a short 3-week series looking at the comprehensive healing that Jesus provides. It will be based on the deep searching question that Jesus asks a particular invalid at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5, "Do you want to be healed?" We will see that man's response is not great but Jesus heals him anyway. We will see the man's response continues to be poor yet Jesus continues to minister to him. This man's response is the natural human response in so many ways and leads us to wonder if maybe, no, he did not want to be healed.

My next thought is to wonder if maybe we tell God the same thing sometimes. "Being healed will be too hard." "There is too much change/responsibility." "I'd rather be in my comfortable brokenness than healed in uncertainty." But if we trust Jesus with our eternity, we should be able to trust Him with our here and now as well. It's another example of God continuing to exceed human expectations and I am excited to begin this series with you on Sunday. Blessings to you all!

Pastor Robin

# NEWS, UPDATES AND REMINDERS



If you want to hold an event or use the Church building for an event, please contact Sue Higgins or Martha English. The request will be reviewed by the trustees and we will let you know what else needs to be done for your event. No use of the building will be available without proper clearance by the trustees. Reminder: There is no food or drink allowed in the sanctuary and the balcony is completely off limits

Need someone to pray for you or someone you know? Please visit our website ([BLFWBC.org](http://BLFWBC.org)) at any time and submit your request by clicking on the appropriate button on the left side of the web page and filling in your information. Please indicate if you want your request to be held in confidence by our prayer group or shared with the congregation.



Please remember to pray for the people of Ukraine. With all that is going on in the world today, it is easy to forget that those courageous people continue to fight for freedom!

Refreshments after Worship in the Idlepines Room. Please sign up to do refreshments one week soon.



Camp Sentinel Scholarships are being considered now. If you have a child to send to camp, see Louise Matteson





## HELP FOR LOCAL HOMELESS

See the following link for ways you can help support the homeless shelter in Rochester, "Home For Now".

<http://www.homelesscenterforstraffco.org/help-for-now.html>



## Kitchen Supplies



There is a list in the supply closet of the things we use on a regular basis. We will try to keep this list up to date so that we all know what we have and can supplement supplies as needed. Please check the list to see what you might want to help with. Call or text Kathleen Morin at 603-553-9912 with a message telling her what you will provide. Thank you!



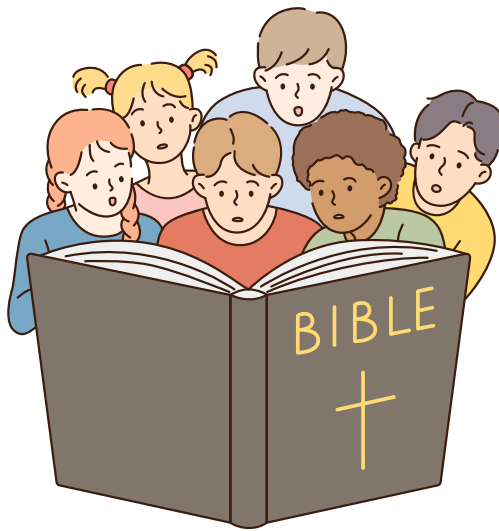
## REMEMBER NH FOOD BANK

BLFWBC contributes \$0.50 for every dollar donated to NH Food Bank, so your giving will be multiplied! Prayerfully consider a donation to help our neediest in our State of NH. You may write a check to BLFWBC and put "NH Food Bank" in the memo line, and the church treasurer will add the church contribution to your donation. The Strafford Food Pantry is currently meeting our town's needs and has a surplus of funds.



Sunday Morning Early Birds Bible Study at 8:00 a.m.  
by zoom. Email Paul Klehm for the zoom link at  
[klehmdog@aol.com](mailto:klehmdog@aol.com)

Thursday at 6:30 Fellowship Bible Study by zoom.  
Contact Ron Lemieux for zoom invitation at  
[ronlemieux@yahoo.com](mailto:ronlemieux@yahoo.com)



**Are you excited to worship God on Sunday mornings? Are you still excited to worship Him on Monday...and Wednesday...and Friday? Is worshiping God something that sometimes seems easier on a hike through nature or in acts of service than it does sitting in a pew at church? Do you have daily “quiet times” as a spiritual discipline but are left feeling like there should be more to your relationship with God? Or maybe your experience is that the traditional quiet time doesn’t feed you spiritually but you continue to have one anyway out of obligation because you don’t know what else you can do.**

**Gary Thomas, the author of Sacred Pathways, compares a healthy relationship with God to a healthy marriage. He writes:**

**“How do we learn to love God, day in and day out, through the seasons of life? How do we keep this love fresh? How do we grow in our adoration and understanding of God? We do it by spending time with Him. And once we understand the myriad ways that Christians have cultivated this relationship, we’ll have more ideas than we need to prompt us to walk closer and more constantly by His side.”**

**Beginning on April 6th at 8:00 AM we will be starting a 12 week journey using Mr. Thomas’s book Sacred Pathways as a guide to getting greater understanding to how God created us to worship Him. He has created each of us uniquely and as such our “pathway” to worshipping Him most fully is unique as well. Through weekly reading and self-reflections we will be able to identify those pathways that naturally draw us closer to Him and those that are not as natural and maybe even inhibiting us from His presence. Our Father God is waiting for us to come to Him in worship and our responsibility is to worship to the greatest of our capabilities. Will you join me in discovering how He has equipped you to do that? I look forward to seeing you on April 6th at 8:00 AM.**

**Please contact me at [robinshakal@gmail.com](mailto:robinshakal@gmail.com) or 480-516-3956 with questions about the class.**

**For His Glory,  
Pastor Robin**

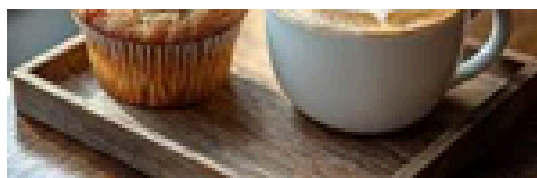


**Want an easy way to give to Bow  
Lake Baptist Church?  
click on this QR code. It will  
bring you right to the Donations  
page on the website. So Easy!**



Saturday, May 10 at 8 a.m. Jean  
Bailey and Michelle Bengner will be in  
the parking lot at Bow Lake Baptist  
Church to hand out flowers for  
Mother's Day. They will stay till they  
run out of flowers.





# *Womens Breakfast & Fellowship*

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*Bow Lake Baptist Church*

*530 Providence Road  
In The Idlepines Room*

*Saturday May 10--- 9 to 10:30*

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*Lets get together for fellowship,  
encouragement and great food!*

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*We supply the tableware and beverage.  
Just come and bring a breakfast type  
dish to share  
with all..*

*Looking Forward  
to seeing you*



### **MISSION OPPORTUNITY-CHILDVOICE SEWING PROJECT**

**Do you like to sew? Would you like to participate in a sewing project for ChildVoice, a mission that is helping young women who are refugees in South Sudan, northern Uganda, Nigeria, and Ukraine, who are in need of help and healing to build a new life in this war-torn area of the world? Join us at Bow Lake Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, June 21, 9:00-11:30. Krista Brown will be with us to give updates on the mission work, and explain this special “Thrive” project for adolescent girls. Materials and instructions will be provided. Bring a portable sewing machine if you have one, scissors, black thread, or optionally an ironing board, iron, cotton flannel that is a dark plaid (pre-washed, no figures or bizarre prints). You may find more information on this mission organization at “childvoice. org”.**

### **OPTIONS FOR WOMEN**

**From the website: “At Options For Women, we believe that you should not have to pay for basic pregnancy care. We don’t charge for our services or financially benefit from your reproductive health care decisions. No one should ever feel like they are out of options. We empower women and families by providing the answers and support you need to make informed choices during your decision, pregnancy, and beyond. You will always come first.” You may contribute to the support of Options for Women by picking up a baby bottle, filling it with your donation, and returning it to BLBC, or you can write a check to BLBC and put “Options” on the memo line. The fund drive runs from Mother’s Day May 11 to Father’s Day June 15.**



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM  
BELKNAP-MERRIMACK COUNTIES, INC.  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1965



## WOULD YOU ENJOY SOME COMPANY?

Imagine having a weekly companion to brighten your day, share a conversation, or join you for errands and outings.

### The AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program is available statewide!

Our Senior Companions are vibrant,  
caring adults just like you who provide:

- In-home visits for basic assistance, conversation and connection.
- Accompaniment to appointments, grocery shopping, or fun outings.

This service is absolutely free,  
with an optional donation of just 37 cents  
per mile for transportation.

Stay connected, supported, and  
independent with a little extra help  
from someone who cares.



## INTERESTED IN WEEKLY VISITS?

Call us today at **603-225-3295 X1114** and discover the joy of companionship!

**WWW.CAPBM.ORG**





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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE – BE A SENIOR COMPANION!

**Are you retired and looking for a meaningful way to spend your time?**

**Bring joy and support to other seniors by becoming a Senior Companion!**

### As a Senior Companion, you will:

- Be welcomed company for someone through weekly visits or a friendly ride to the store, doctor, or somewhere fun.
- Offer caregivers a well-deserved break.
- Create lasting connections and give back to your community.

### To extend our thanks for volunteering, you'll receive:

- A tax-free hourly stipend that doesn't affect Social Security, rent, or other benefits.
- Mileage reimbursement for travel.
- Flexible scheduling – you decide when you volunteer.
- Ongoing training and support.
- Annual recognition for your valuable service.
- The chance to build friendships and learn about community resources.

**JOIN A STATEWIDE PROGRAM THAT MAKES A REAL IMPACT.**

Call today to get started! **603-225-3295 X1114**

**WWW.CAPBM.ORG**