



**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



Illustration from The Jesus Storybook Bible, "Running Away" (pg. 276-277)  
by Jago (2007)

**October 17, 2021**  
**Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshipping in our sanctuary after a year outside of our building. As we gather this morning know that we are committed to everyone's safety and comfort as we create sacred space and time together.

### **Things to Know**

- Masks are required at all times during worship, when moving through the building, and when with children. Each Sunday school class is making its own decisions regarding masks in class.
- Available pews have cushions in them. Unavailable pews have the cushions removed.
- Please keep social distance by avoiding gathering in groups before and after the service.
- Be mindful of others. Err on the side of caution out of respect for those who are abiding by stricter practices.
- Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (\*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please find an usher.

### **For Those With Children**

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service. A nursery is provided for children younger than 3. Preschoolers (age 3-kindergarten) are invited to leave after "Let the Children Come" for our W.O.W. (Working on Worship) experience.

### **For Those with Special Needs**

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

## THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

*Patrick Johns, acolyte*

Prelude

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. David Lowe

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

Kelsey Stillwell

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**We dream of a future with hope.**

While we were still far off, you saw us with compassion, and ran to put your arms around us and kissed us.

**We run to meet you in this future with hope.**

You tell us not to fear, for you have redeemed us, and called us by name.

**We do not fear, for we have a future with hope.**

Do not remember the things that have passed, you say. For you promise to do a new thing.

**We watch as it springs forth among us and around us and within us, this future with hope. Praise be to the God who brings us all home!**

Psalm 126, Luke 15:11-24, Jeremiah 29:10-14, Isaiah 43

\*The Hymn of Praise 559      Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

WARRENTON

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.**

Refrain:

**I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me?  
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home. [Refrain]**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. [Refrain]**

\*The Invocation

JD Granade

\*The Gloria Patri 705

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.**

The Words of Welcome

Scott Dickison

"Let the Children Come"

JD Granade

*Children in 3K-K are invited to W.O.W., a preschool worship experience! We will meet with the W.O.W. Shepherds at the end of "Let the Children Come". Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship. The shepherds this week are Luke McBrayer and Sara Binet.*

### THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

\*The Hymn of Offertory 474

Softly and Tenderly

THOMPSON

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]**

**Oh! for the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me;  
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]**

The Offertory Prayer

Sharon Bailey  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

"Coming Home"  
*The Chancel Choir*

Joseph Martin

I've wandered far away from God,  
Now I am coming home;  
The paths of sin too long I've trod,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home,  
Nevermore to roam,  
Open wide your arms of love,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

I've wasted many precious years,  
Now I'm coming home;  
I now repent with bitter tears,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

My heart is sick, my heart is sore,  
Now I'm coming home;  
My strength renew, my hope restore,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

Text: William J. Kirkpatrick

The Offertory Response

"Doxology"

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

Stewardship Testimony

David Cooke

First Lesson

Psalm 104:1-9, 24

Anita Gustafson

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.

You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys  
to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing  
O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

### **Thanks be to God**

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever, Amen.**

The Second Lesson

Luke 15:11-24

Scott Dickison

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and

traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

For the Good News of God

### **Thanks be to God**

The Sermon

"The Dreamers"

Scott Dickison

Second in the series: A Future with Hope

## **THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Commitment 41 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;  
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood.**

**But we make His love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
And we magnify His strictness with a zeal He will not own.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple, we could take Him at His word;  
And our lives would be more loving in the likeness of our Lord.**

\*The Spoken Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Congregational Response 514 Christians, Let Us Go and Serve Him

HOLY MANNA

**Christians, let us go and serve Him,  
Serve the one who gives us life.  
Let us serve in love and power,  
In the name of Jesus Christ**

**Serve in love and serve in wisdom,  
Reaching all we know and see.  
Christians, let us go and serve Him,  
Now and through eternity.**

Text: Jana Wolf (2000)

Postlude

“Hornpipe”  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Andrew Fletcher



*Our Life Together*

**Sunday, October 17**

9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:30 pm Shower for  
 Elizabeth O'Dell  
 5:00 pm Deacon and Church Council  
 Meeting

**Wednesday, October 20**

9:30am Language Ministry  
 3:00 pm Open Time in youth room  
 and children's center  
 4:45 pm Children Worship Arts  
 Workshops  
 5:30 pm Youth Choir  
 5:30 pm Family Dinner  
 6:00 pm Children's Choir  
 6:15 pm Youth "Unplugged"  
 6:30 pm Language Ministry  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice  
 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study  
 6:45 pm Flex time for children

**Sunday, October 24**

9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:15 pm Missions committee meeting  
 5:00 pm Fall Festival

**Deacons of the Week**

October 14 Sharon Bailey  
 October 21 Kay Shurden

**THE RECORD SPEAKS**

Date: 8/31/2021  
 Budget to Date \$431,654  
 Contributions \$364,797  
 Expenses \$364,912  
 Missions \$35,505  
 -\$35,619

**October Birthdays**

October 17 Frank Broome  
 October 17 Sandé Day  
 October 17 Kari Maschhoff  
 October 18 Teri Johnson  
 October 20 Shannon Hart  
 October 21 Eric Spears

**Condolences**

We grieve with Andrea Stinson in the death of her uncle, **Beau Kitchens**.

We grieve with the Marla Potts and family in the death of her mother, **Pat Henderson**.

We grieve with the Milam family in the death of **Bob Milam**.

**Save the Date**

**Sunday, October 24:** Fall Festival

**Sunday, November 7:** Commitment Sunday

**Sunday, October 31:** Church Conference for Budget and Deacon approval

**Wednesday's Menu: Please make reservations by Wednesday morning.**

Teriyaki Chicken/Beef w/Veggies,  
 Cilantro-Lime Rice, Hawaiian Rolls, Vanilla  
 Mini Cakes, and Fresh Fruit Cups.

# Special Missions Giving



## Envelope Challenge

**How to Give:** Displayed in the Education building and hallway by the office are envelopes numbered 1 through 200. The number marked on each envelope represents the donation amount. To donate, pick up an envelope (or two) and turn it into the office or offering plate with your donation matching the envelope number.

### Your gift will support missions in 3 ways:



OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

1

The Offering for Global Missions **secures the long-term presence of all CBF field personnel**, while field personnel raise support from friends, family, and other partners to fund their mission programming.

2

**Support the Ministry of Field Personnel, Jonathan & Tina Bailey**



**Jonathan and Tina Bailey are serving in Bali, Indonesia** with emphasis on spiritual expression through music, dance, and visual arts both inside and outside the local Christian community.

3



Encourager  
Church

#### WHAT IS AN ENCOURAGER CHURCH?

Encourager Churches come alongside field personnel in partnership in order to build bridges in mission engagement.

A portion of giving will go towards our **efforts to connect with the ministry of Jonathan & Tina Bailey** as we enter into an **Encourager Church covenant** together.

## Volunteers needed!

Fall Festival is coming up next Sunday, and this year we're excited to blend some returning favorite traditions with new practices we enjoyed last year! To make this event fun and safe for everyone, we need your help. Here's some ways to get involved:

**Be a trunk-or-treat car**—Whether you're an individual, group, family, or Sunday school class, we need as many cars participating as possible! Participants will decorate their car (with a theme or just general "Halloween") and hand out candy. This is in place of the games that used to happen, so you're encouraged to come up with some sort of activity or game at your car, but this isn't required.

**Inflatable monitors**—For the games and inflatables that are offered, we want to be sure the kids stay safe and healthy. We'll need several volunteers at these throughout the evening.

**Donate candy/prizes**—If you cannot be there in person, but still wish to help, you're welcome to donate candy or prizes. It will be especially helpful to have allergen friendly candy and other small prizes for children with food restrictions.

If you'd like to help in any of these ways, please email JD at [jd@fbcxmacon.org](mailto:jd@fbcxmacon.org).

**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

# Fall Festival

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT • INFLATABLES  
FOOD TRUCKS • FUN • AND MORE!**

Sunday, October 24 | 511 High Pl, Macon, GA  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Church Parking Lot

Put on your costumes and come as a family  
or sign up your car as a trunk-or-treat stop--  
there's something for everyone!

## Women's Book Club

For our next book club, we will discuss “*GOOD APPLE: Tales of a Southern Evangelical in New York*” by Elizabeth Passarella. She wrote this book mainly to make you laugh. And cry (good cry!). It is about the God who pursues each of us, no matter our own inconsistencies or failures, and shows us the way back home. We will meet at the home of Ruth Rowell (2938 General Lee Rd, 31204) at 3 pm on **October 31**. Please put the date on your calendar and go find the book. You will enjoy the read!

## Stewardship 2021



At our core, the First Baptist Church of Christ is a community of reunion, homecoming, and return. Now more than ever, in a world full of exile, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, welcome, and radical hospitality.

In the weeks ahead as we enter our stewardship season, the time each year we set aside to recommit ourselves to each other and the work that God has put before us as a congregation, we'll focus our attention on perhaps the most important spiritual resource our faith offers us to live through these long and difficult seasons: hope.

We will hear testimonies of delight and even joy in the face of frustration and despair. We'll remember together what is so special about this place and people whom we call home. And we'll dream together about what God is calling us to do, and who God is calling us to be in this season ahead. In a world of scarcity we remain committed to being a people of hopeful abundance. We look forward to telling this good story of what God is up to among us together as a church in the season ahead.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study "Monsters: A Biblical Bestiary" with Darrell Pursiful

This week: "Here Be Dragons"

In this study we will face monsters—not the bogeymen who hide under the bed, but the monsters that sometimes inhabit our Bibles, or at least our interpretations of it.

## Sanctuary Flowers

There are only TWO dates remaining for providing flowers in 2021: November 7 and December 5. If you have questions about providing the flowers, Mary Leonard will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact her at 478-745-3866 home, 478-737-4171 cell, or michael.leonard1@cox.net.

You may also follow the link in the Highlites.

## Children

### Upcoming Worship Arts:

#### Visual Art, October 20 and 27

##### led by Audrey Dickison

Usually just labeled "art," visual art is one part of the wider idea of art we're exploring this fall. Audrey, a professional artist, will not only lead children in an art project, but help us understand why certain visual art affects us in different ways, and how that helps us worship.

#### Patchwork, November 3 and 10

##### led by Gladys Keith

Gladys is a prime example of using creativity to help the community, crafting and sharing quilts that bring comfort to others. As she shares about patchwork art with children we'll experience a real-life metaphor for God's Kingdom—many pieces coming together to make one whole.

### Upcoming Events:



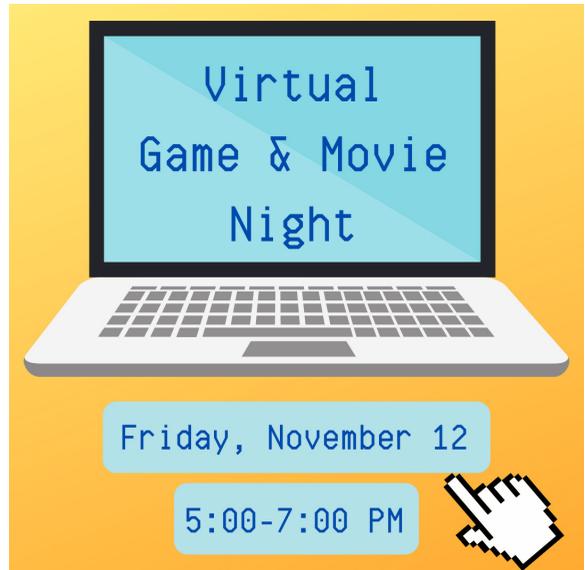
**October 24**

Fall Festival

5:00 - 7:00 pm

#### November 12

Virtual Game and Movie night.



(see Children's Ministry newsletter for more details)

## Youth

### October Events

#### Wednesday, October 20:

Pumpkin carving and games. Pumpkins will be provided for students to work together or BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin)

**Friday, October 22:** Midnight Madness 5:30pm - Midnight Youth are encouraged to invite friends to this event! Sign up by Wednesday!

**Sunday, October 24:** FBCX Fall Festival 5:00pm - 7:00pm Youth arrive early to help with the event

### Winter Youth Summit

January 14-16th in Huntsville.

If you are signed up, Kelsey will be in touch as other deadlines approach. If you did not sign up, there are a few extra spots available. Email Kelsey ASAP to claim one!

### Macon Community Youth Group

We are teaming up with 3 other churches to offer Sunday gatherings as a collective group!

As leaders of these churches, we want to offer an ecumenical space for our students to gather, giving them the chance to both meet other youth and benefit from a larger group gathering that we can't create

**Macon**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**YOUTH GROUP**

Centenary United Methodist Church • First Baptist Church of Christ  
High Street Unitarian Universalist Church • St. Francis Episcopal Church

**General Schedule**  
FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP

First Sunday: ART  
12:30-2:30 at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Second Sunday: CONVERSATION  
5:30-7:30 at Centenary United Methodist Church

Third Sunday: MISSIONS  
5:30-7:30 at First Baptist Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday: GAMES  
12:30-2:30 at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday  
TBD at High Street Unitarian Universalist Church

Starting in November

Masks required inside

in our smaller individual groups.

### Here's what you need to know:

- Churches currently involved: Centenary United Methodist Church, High Street Unitarian Universalist Church, & St. Francis Episcopal Church
- We will follow the general schedule in the image above and our first week will be November 7th
- To start, I will need at least one additional adult to come with us as a chaperon when we go to St. Francis and Centenary.
- I will need to have an idea of how many of our students to expect. I will start sharing a sign up for you to choose the dates your student plans to attend.
- Each host church will provide food for the entire group (why I need an idea of our number).

## *Now. Here. This.*

This semester the children of FBCX have the opportunity on Wednesday afternoons to participate in Worship Arts Workshops. Creative people from our church have shared or will share with us about their creative outlets. This a chance to connect with our own creativity and also explore how art and worship are bound up together. Here are some of our takeaways so far.

Being made in God's image, we are made to create! When we dig our hands in the dirt to plant flowers, we remember the God who molded humanity out of dirt in the first garden. When we explore how colors interact with one another and affect our feelings, we commune with the God who paints a rainbow across the sky as a promise of love. When we bake flaky biscuits, we recall the story of God providing manna each morning when God's people were hungry. Tapping into our creative spirit is not counter to reverence; it's tapping into the very spark of creation we each carry.

Art, like worship, is personal. We each find God in different ways, whether that's through prayer, song, Bible study, nature, or something else. In the same way, some of us may connect with one form of artistic creation better than others, and that's okay because there are practically limitless options! The child who could have patiently kneaded bread dough for hours so it turned out just right may be content to dump dirt in a pot with a flower and call it a day. Meanwhile, the child who was more interested in eating than making bread may have approached gardening

with a deep curiosity about soil, roots, and proper weather conditions before picking out just the right plant to cherish at home.

Art, like worship, is also communal. While we may connect with God differently, we don't seclude ourselves, but rather come together as a church family to lift one another up as we worship. In the same way, our creations are made to be shared. Whether it's a creation that brings joy just by looking at it like a painting or planter, something that meets a need like therapeutic movement or a quilt for one who is cold in the winter, or something used in communal worship like a loaf of communion bread or an altar-scape, our art spreads the love of God when we share it.

Finally, there is freedom in thinking outside the box. Not only are children expanding their understanding of what worship can be, but also what art can be. Even the realm of creativity can get bogged down by what is correct and whether a final "product" is right or wrong. But when exploring creativity we realize the only way to be "right" is to be open. When let loose to create, children make art that brings them such delight that it must be divine, even if it would never end up in a museum. It is my prayer that this freedom in expression is encouraged as children join God's good work in the world, and that I am able to learn from their example.

Thank you to those who have and will continue to share their artistic outlets with the children! And thank you to First Baptist Church of Christ for providing this space for our young ones as we remain committed to our calling to "Nurture, Love, and Serve All."

JD

## Signs of the Season

The paraments of the pulpit and the communion table are visible reminders of the current season of the church year. Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost and ends with Advent. During this season, we celebrate the "ordinary events" of our Christian lives. The liturgical color for this season is green, symbolizing life, freshness, and hope.

## Flowers

The flowers are given in loving memory of Doyle Mendheim on the occasion of his birthday on October 18 and in honor of Kari Maschoff whose birthday is October 17 and in honor of Shannon Hart whose birthday is October 20, by Merle, Eddie, Kaye, Leah and Beth.



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• [www.fbcxmacon.org](http://www.fbcxmacon.org) • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

## Staff and Leadership

**Ms. Anne Armstrong**  
ORGANIST

**Ms. Phoebe Capps**  
MINISTRY INTERN

**Rev. Scott Dickison**  
PASTOR

**Mr. Chuck Dumas**  
CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Mrs. Harriet Eason**  
VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. JD Granade**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHILDREN  
AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Mr. Joe Johnson**  
FINANCE & HR ADMINISTRATOR

**Mr. Bradley Lott**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Ms. Suzy McCullough**  
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

**Mrs. Connie Pursiful**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Dr. Stanley L. Roberts**  
MINISTER OF MUSIC

**Rev. Kelsey Stillwell**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH  
AND MISSIONS