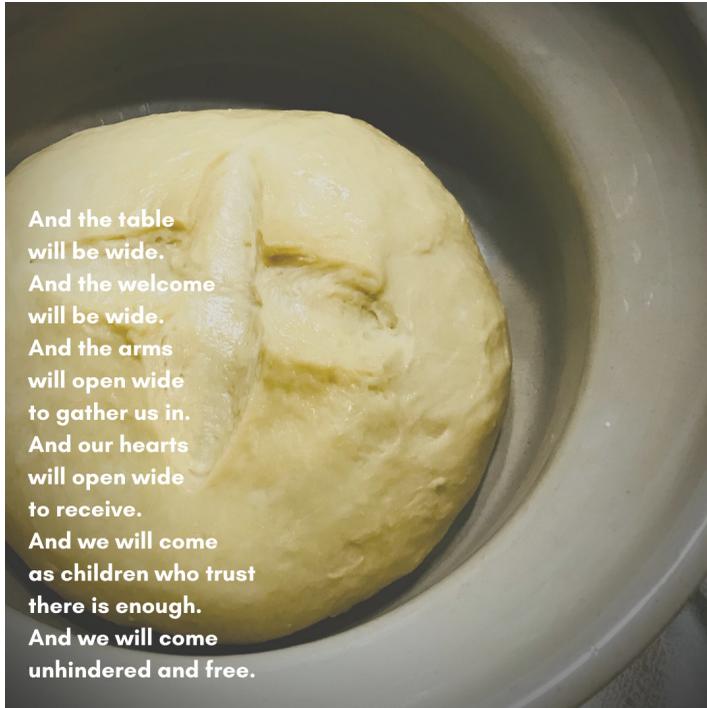




FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



Poem is an excerpt from "The Table is Wide," by Jan Richardson
Image of Kathy Manis Findley's bread prepared in her grandmother's bowl.

October 3, 2021
World Communion Sunday
Nineteenth 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

Ford Myrick, Acolyte

Prelude

"Trumpet Tune"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Charles Callahan

The Call to Worship

Phoebe Capps

Welcome to this place:

where children and seasoned citizens sit side by side,

where heaven and earth embrace in peace,

where God has been, is, and always will be.

Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children:

where we find God's love,

where we hear the tender voice of Jesus,

where the Spirit teaches us new songs.

Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God:

where we bring our hunger, and find food;

where we bring our brokenness, and find healing;

where we bring our very selves, and find acceptance.

"World Communion Sunday" from Thom Shuman

*The Hymn of Praise 310

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.**

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our Brother -all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, bringing all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

*The Invocation

Phoebe Capps

*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

Kelsey Stillwell

"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 Ben and Megan Sapp.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 302 Come Away from Rush and Worry

PROMISE

**Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
From our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's grace.**

**In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing into service we are led.**

**Come, then children, with your burdens—life's confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead His kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for He will quench them—He alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.**

The Offertory Prayer

Shannon Hart
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“One Song”
The Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

When God’s people are wounded by holy war.
And brother fights brother in the name of the Lord.
I find myself praying that it won’t be too long
‘Til we all join together in one song.

When God’s family is broken each goes his own way.
And I feel so lost, I don’t know what to pray.
But still I’ll go forward to follow the call
To join people together in one song.

One song, like the one sung in heaven.
One song, united in love.
There will be no division. Everyone will belong
As we stand before Christ singing one song.

So come and build bridges and tear down the wall.
Let our love for each other be a witness to all.
They will see us united, and we’ll sing it out strong
As we praise our great Savior in one song.

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

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Kelsey Stillwell

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.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

THE BREAD AND CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

You are invited to partake of Communion by coming to the table to choose your bread and then to a deacon on the left or right who will serve the cup. See the list of breads on pages eight and nine. There are allergy-friendly and gluten free options.

THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 466 Jesus, at Your Holy Table

BEACH SPRING

**Jesus, at Your holy table, may our hearts united be.
 Bind us with Your grace and presence that redeem and set us free.
 Crucify our pride and hatred, light the path on which we walk.
 Teach us how to love each other, in the way that You have taught.**

**Christ, remind us of Your passion, of Your precious life out-poured,
 Of the love which none can fathom, and our victory evermore.
 Bread of heaven, wine of promise, feed us with Your holy Word.
 Nourish us with Your strong presence, risen Savior, only Lord.**

**Lift your hearts and raise your voices, celebrate this wondrous love.
Join the chorus with all Christians, and with saints who live above.
Silent lips now sing with gladness, blinded eyes are filled with sight.
Jesus' love has pierced our darkness, brought us hove to peace and light.**

*The Spoken Benediction

Kelsey Stillwell

*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

""Toccata"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Norman Warren

The Bread of the Lord's Supper

FBCX CHILDREN

For the past 2 Wednesdays Elliott Wall has led the children of FBCX in baking during our Worship Arts time. We've explored creating something new from scratch, the spirituality of sharing food, and the importance of bread in Scripture and worship. The traditional white bread at the table was made by the children this past Wednesday.

MARINA SPEARS

Pao de Queijo (bread of cheese) is a cheese bread that Brazilians eat all the time: it's everywhere. It has always been a part of my family's breakfast. I learned to make it from scratch when I moved here! Until then I was able to buy it everywhere. *Gluten-free

KATHY MANIS FINDLEY

In my family, "Yiayia" (grandmother) always baked the Vasilópita, the most special bread in Greek families. I am the Yiayia now and I continue this tradition using the same huge pottery bowl my Yiayia used. Like her, I knead the dough for almost an hour and shape it into a smooth ball. Always in memory of Yiayia, I cut a sign of the cross into the dough and say a prayer over it. On New Year's Day or at midnight of New Year's Eve, families cut the Vasilópita to bless the home and bring good luck for the new year. Vasilópita is a sweet bread that is baked only on New Year's Eve.

ELLIOTT WALL AND SHEREE KEITH:

Ciabatta bread is an Italian white bread created in response to the popularity of French baguettes. As a child, I always loved experiencing different cultures by eating different foods. As an adult, I have tried to take that understanding one step further by learning to recreate the foods.

CONNIE PURSIFUL

The bread I brought today is from my every day life growing up in the foothills of Kentucky. Mom made bread to go with our supper most every day. This is the bread she made when she was tired or busy or rushed. Light bread (store-bought) was for sandwiches and maybe toast, but not for supper.*Soy-free

AUDREY AND SCOTT DICKISON

Audrey's grandmother's cornbread was a staple at every family gathering and a must-have item at all of her church functions--"Please bring two pans, Mrs. Joy!" She made it for special occasions like New Year's Day where it signified hope and soaked up Hoppin' John. But it was also the leftover bread found on the stove-top on any given day, there to fill your belly and warm your heart. Filling in a few gaps from her recipe (that we're pretty sure she left out on purpose!) we now make it for ourselves and think of her. And it tastes almost as good.

AMY WILES

Allergy-friendly bread that is egg-free, nut-free, peanut-free, and milk-free. It's made of organic wheat, salt, and natural sourdough culture. (This bread is served from the station to the right of the altar.)

REBECCA COOKE

White bread that is nut-free. (This bread is served from the station to the right of the altar.)

KELSEY STILLWELL

In Bali, Indonesia, sticky rice is used for many dishes, including dessert. The Protestant Church of Bali (GKPB) sometimes uses sticky rice for communion. While living in Bali, I came to love sticky rice, but haven't attempted to make it myself until now. This is a part of our communion spread to represent Balinese culture and the ministry of CBF Field Personnel Tina and Jonathan Bailey. *Gluten-free



Our Life Together

Sunday, October 3

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Wednesday, October 6

9:30am Language Ministry
 3:00 pm Open Time in youth room
 and children's center
 4:45 pm Youth and 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 10

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

September 30 Shannon Hart
 October 7 Jonathan Simpson

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 3 Tracy Bryant
 October 3 Sylvia Richardson
 October 4 Eleanor Kell
 October 5 Sareta Shelburne
 October 5 Marshall Villarreal
 October 6 Danielle Barnes
 October 6 Blake Roberts
 October 7 Fred Findley
 October 7 Anita Jones
 October 7 Yumiko Jones
 October 8 Billy Dickison
 October 10 Jolie Clark

Condolences

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

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

Wednesday's Menu

Please make reservations by Tuesday noon.

Fried Chicken
 Baked Honey-Lemon Chicken,
 Cabbages,
 Mashed Potatoes,
 Corny Fritters,
 Iced Triple Mocha Cake Squares
 Fresh Fruit Cups.

World Communion Sunday



Rev. James H. Blay, M.Div.

James H. Blay is a Liberian native. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Christianity from Mercer University in Macon Georgia, and a Master of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta Georgia. He is the former Coordinator for Student Affairs, and former Coordinator for Servant Leadership, at the Ricks Institute, Virginia, Liberia. He served as the Vice President for Administration at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary. James currently serves with Passport Inc. as Coordinator for Children's Program. James is married to Allison Wray Blay and they live in Greensboro with their beloved pup Benny.

Special Missions Giving for CBF Global Missions: Envelope Challenge

During this month, we will focus on learning about CBF's Global Missions and field personnel in Indonesia, Tina and Jonathan Bailey. As we learn about their ministry, we will begin the process of becoming an Encourager Church, a CBF program that connects churches with field personnel around the world. We will enter into a covenant with the Baileys to work toward a meaningful relationship with intentionality and to support them and their work prayerfully and financially.



We will accompany these conversations with a special offering, the envelope challenge. 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 in to the office or offering plate with your donation matching the envelope number.

The money raised will support missions in a few different ways. A the majority will be given to the CBF Global Missions offering, another portion will be donated to Tina and Jonathan Bailey's ministry, and some will go towards our missions budget for Encourager Church efforts to send a group to Indonesia.

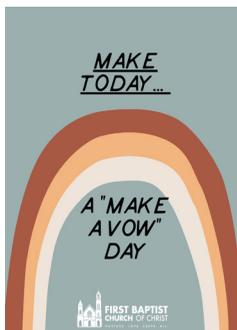
Stewardship 2021



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. You received in the mail this week a letter with more information about our campaign, as well as some resources to help you consider how God is leading you to participate. 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.



Deacon Ballots

Each fall, the First Baptist Church of Christ congregation has the opportunity and privilege of helping select those who will serve as deacons in our community of faith. Please mail them to the church, drop them in the offering plate, or follow the link in the Highlites. **Ballots are due this week.**

Sanctuary Flowers

These five remaining dates are open for providing flowers for Sunday worship: October 17, 31; November 7; and December 5 and 26. If you're interested and have questions about the process, Mary Leonard will be happy to help. 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.

Youth

Winter Youth Summit

A weekend retreat for youth in Alabama and surrounding states. This year's theme is "Dwell, in Me, in Us, in the World" and is based out of the 84th Psalm.

When: January 14-16, 2022

Where: First Baptist Church, Huntsville

Cost: \$150

Sign up by **October 10th** with a \$40 deposit that will go toward the total cost. Lodging will be at a hotel near the church. We will leave Friday, January 14th as soon as students get out of school.

Save the date

October 22: Midnight Madness

Children

Upcoming Worship Arts: Gardening. October 6 & 13

One way we know children are close to God is the fact that both love playing in dirt (Genesis 2), and we all appreciate the beauty found in flowers! For the next 2 weeks, master gardener and chair of the Grounds committee, Tom Bullington, will lead our Worship Arts time as the children learn hands-on how gardening can be a personal spiritual practice and a gift to the community.

Save the date

October 24: Fall Festival

Notes and Doodles

Now. Here. This.

One of the things we know for sure about the earliest celebrations of the Lord's Supper is that it was an actual supper.

Paul indicates as much in the eleventh chapter of 1 Corinthians when he scolds the church for not waiting for everyone to get there before they start eating, reminding them the whole point is that this is a meal to be eaten together.

When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in?

This seems to have been the pattern for the first 50 to 100 years of the church. Their "reenactment" of that Last Supper included a reenactment not just of his words but of the whole meal itself.

In the years to come as the church grew and grew this sort of weekly supper became harder and harder to pull off. And so sometime in the second century churches began celebrating a symbolic "supper" as part of worship on Sunday mornings, ceremonially taking bread, blessing, breaking, and sharing it, and then doing the same with the cup, all "in remembrance" of Jesus and that last, first holy meal.

But what's interesting about that Last Supper is that while we see it as the new prototype for what would become our unique tradition, for Jesus and the

disciples it was far from novel. The gospels tell us they were celebrating the Passover, and the ritual of taking bread and wine, blessing them, and sharing them in thanksgiving and remembrance of God's goodness and deliverance was (and is) a central part of that celebration.

And even beyond that, in Judaism at that time, this ritual blessing of bread and wine was not limited to holy days, but some version of it was a customary part of any meal shared with others. All meals, it was understood, provided an opportunity to give thanks, to commune with others and with God, and to give a foretaste of how it will one day be when we all gather around God's heavenly banquet table.

What was new and different for Jesus and the disciples that night was not the blessing or the call to remember, but precisely what they were to remember. From now on they were to do these familiar things with new meaning. They were to remember him.

Which may lead us to ask exactly what Jesus meant by "this?" It could be he was imagining a new ritual that the church would take on after his resurrection. But we could also understand him to mean "as often as you share a meal of any kind," remember me.

After all, isn't this the promise of our faith? That in God's renewal of the world, all things will be made new? Even the most basic parts of life--the food we eat and whom we eat it with; how we understand these things to nourish us? We need not wait for the communion table to "do these things in remembrance" of Christ. Any table shared with others will do.

We need not wait for the communion table to "do these things in remembrance" of Christ. Any table shared with others will do. SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table along with the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year, or other special occasions. Today's paraments are white as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with congregations around the world. The color white symbolizes purity, hope, and unity.



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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