



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



Finger Labyrinth—A labyrinth is a single winding path moving from an outside point to the center. You may trace this labyrinth with your finger at gentle pace to help you center and reflect on today's passage, Ephesians 3:14-21. As you move toward the center, think about being strengthened in your inner power through the Holy Spirit. As you pause in the center, think about Christ dwelling in your heart as you are rooted and grounded in love. As you move back toward the outside, think about the width, length, height, and depth of love as you are filled with the fullness of God.

**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 15, 2021**

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.
- 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 in the Seekers' classroom.

### **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

*Parker Johns, Acolyte*

Prelude

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

arr. David Lasky

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

O Holy One in whom every family on earth takes its name, strengthen us with your Spirit this day,

**That Christ would dwell in our hearts, and ground us in love for one another.**

Help us to grasp something of the mystery of your love, enough to hold onto, even as we cannot fully understand it,

**That even in lean times we would be filled with your fullness.**

Work within us, O God, to reveal something new in this world; new in our hearts.

**To God be the glory in this church, and in Christ Jesus, and to all people, for all time.**

Inspired by Ephesians 3:14-21

\*The Hymn of Praise 319

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!**

**All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; praise Him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,**

**Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy works and defend thee;**

**Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.**

**Let the Amen sound from His people again, gladly forever adore Him.**

\*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

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 Doug and Danielle Barnes.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 281 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

The Offertory Prayer

Scott Walker  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

"Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God"  
*The Chancel Choir*

Gordon Young

**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 First Lesson

Psalm 145:10-18

Kitty Knight

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord  
and all your faithful shall bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
and tell of your power,  
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.  
The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.  
The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God**

**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.**

Second Lesson

Ephesians 3:14-21

Scott Dickison

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon

“Abundantly Far More”

Scott Dickison

Third in the series: Love Letters to the Church

**THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Commitment 66 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

**My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name;  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways;  
and leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.**

**When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;  
One word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows, Thine oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;  
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.**

\*The Spoken Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Congregational Response 481      Go to the World!  
(stanza 4)

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
For I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

"All Creatures of Our God and King"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

arr. Anna Laura Page



# Our Life Together

## Sunday, August 15

9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 2:00 pm Women's Book Club

## Wednesday, August 18

5:30 pm Youth  
 6:30 pm Choir

## Friday, August 20

6:00 pm FBCX+ pool party

## Sunday, August 22

9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 5:00 pm Youth ice cream party

## Deacons of the Week

August 12 - 18 Scott and Beth Walker  
 August 19 - 25 Sandé Day

## THE RECORD SPEAKS

Date: 6/30/2021  
 Budget to Date: \$323,741  
 Contributions: \$276,151  
 Expenses: \$254,741  
 Missions: \$27,640  
 -\$6,230

## August Birthday

August 15 Annette Smith  
 August 16 John Conn  
 August 18 Jonathan Alderman  
 August 20 Bonnie Miklowski  
 August 20 Nate Myrick  
 August 21 Hiro Jones  
 August 21 Tyler Nable  
 August 22 Chad Davis

## Save the Date

**Friday, August 20:** FBCX+ Pool Party

**Monday, August 23:** Circle of Hope Homecoming

**Thursday, August 26 - Friday, August 27:** CBF Regional Gathering - Virtual

**Wednesday, September 1 tentative:** Fall Kickoff

**Wednesday, September 8:** ESL classes resume

**Saturday, September 18:** Welcome to FBCX Gathering

**Friday - Sunday September 24 - 26:** Women's Retreat at St. Simon's Island

## **Covid Update**

Like so many, our plans for the fall are running up against the reality of a new and worrisome stage in this ongoing pandemic. Local case rates and hospitalizations have skyrocketed, and many within the congregation, vaccinated and those who are not eligible for the vaccine, have been touched by this recent surge. Our ministers, task force, and Church Council continue to stay in close communication as we make and adjust plans as necessary. As we have said throughout the past year and a half, we are grateful for the patience, flexibility, and imagination of the congregation as we make our way through this long season.

## **Flower Sponsors**

Would you like to sponsor the flowers displayed in the sanctuary for worship on Sundays? To sign up, see the link in the Highlites. If you have any questions at all, please contact Mary Leonard: home 478-745-3866, cell 478-737-4171, or michael.leonard1@cox.net. She will be glad to help you by signing you up if you don't have a computer or email account, by suggesting florists, arrangement size, etc.

**Scripture readers** are also needed. Please sign up using the link in the Highlites.

## **Women's Book Club**

FBCX book club will meet today, August 15, 2 pm at 3021 Clairmont Ave, Macon. We will discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. There is limited parking, so please contact Gloria Bass (478-972-1640) for more information.

## **August Sermon Series**

In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul offers his most poetic and compelling case for the church and the world. It's a letter rich with prayers, hymns, benedictions, and other elements of worship from the early church, as Paul draws on the beauty of their emerging tradition to remind them of what they hold dear, and what holds them dearly. Over these five weeks we'll take a closer look at this "love letter to the church" as we all return and reconnect after a long season apart.

## **FBCX+ Pool Party**

We are having a FBCX+ potluck snack/pool party on **August 20th at 6:00 o'clock** at Richland Estates Clubhouse Pool, 1391 Briarcliff Road, Macon, Georgia. Please bring party snacks to share. If directions or clarification are needed, please call Richard Pennington at (478) 451-7580 or email JD at [jd@fbcxmacon.org](mailto:jd@fbcxmacon.org).

## **Circle of Hope Homecoming**

**August 23, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

FBCX Fellowship Hall

Over the past year, the Circle of Hope women have stayed in touch but have not been able to meet in person. They will meet this month for a much awaited homecoming. You're invited! If you have been involved with Circle of Hope in the past or if you'd like to be now, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate being back together and make plans for the year ahead.

## **2021 CBF General Assembly Being Renewed from the Inside Out August 25-28, 2021**

Amid pandemics on a global scale and in our nation, in the midst of exhaustion and uncertainty, and preparing to face new seasons in our congregations and in our mission – there's hope found in Christ Jesus.

This fall, you're invited to come and find hope and renewal at the 2021 CBF General Assembly. The CBF Global General Assembly event is virtual. We'll worship and learn together, equipping each other as we go, in service to our calling and to the One who truly calls us, equips us, and is the source of the renewal we seek.

Through meaningful worship experiences, compelling workshops, a virtual exhibit hall, and opportunities to join with partner organizations and CBF ministry networks, we'll connect in new ways, open to service as vessels of transformation even as we have been transformed.

To learn more and register, visit [cbf.net/general-assembly](http://cbf.net/general-assembly).

## *Youth*

### **Today: Youth Lunch after worship**

Students wait for Kelsey in the Education Lobby after worship. We will walk to Barberitos to get food, and bring it back to the church so we can spread out and eat outside.

### **Wednesdays in August, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Youth will continue to meet during the month of August. These hangouts will be laid back and we will use this time of transition to get to know our new youth members. Students can bring their own dinner or eat what is provided (make your own sandwich). Come hang out, catch up, and play.

### **Ice Cream Social**

#### **Sunday, August 22, 5:00-7:00 pm**

The annual Ice Cream Social has officially become our tradition for welcoming our new youth and starting the school year. We will meet at FBCX for dinner, games, and ice cream!

Students will need to wear clothes that can get messy and bring a towel to dry off. This is a fun event that requires help from volunteers so if you'd like to help, let Kelsey know. Sign up with the link in the youth newsletter.

## *Children*

### **Summer Recap**

This past week the children's ministry officially closed out summer programming as we gathered for a pool party, enjoyed time together, and wished the sixth graders well as they enter the youth group. It was the end of a summer still not what we're used to, but with opportunities to gather in both new and familiar ways.

On Sundays children not only worshipped in person with the church, but had times such as Sunday school and W.O.W. to engage with God in their own ways. At Camp Connection throughout the summer, we explored our community and saw how God is just as present outside of our church building as within, connecting with God and each other. The older children even had the chance to attend PassportKids overnight camp, which is always a great time of bonding! We were able to do all of this in ways that were safe for those who attended—meeting outside as much as possible, wearing masks, adjusting travel, etc. (Passport Camps actually had 0 cases of Covid the entire summer).

As we shift to fall, we continue to find some of our familiar rhythms while embracing changes that keep us safe and bring vitality. Children's Sunday school classes are again meeting by age group, and we're excited to welcome Rachel Green and Kathryn Scoggins as new teachers! We also recognize that surges in Covid cases coupled with a return to school mean we must be extra cautious in caring for this age group who still cannot be vaccinated. We look forward to seeing one another on Wednesdays again, and are working on a schedule that will honor and expand on what we value in children's ministry, but we are also following the latest data and trends as plans take shape. There will also be exciting opportunities beyond weekly gatherings, such as the Fall Festival!

In all that we are planning, we not only aim to keep everyone as safe as possible, but also to hold valued traditions and learn from all that we have been able to do for the past year and a half. We are grateful to FBCX for being a place that welcomes and supports children, and thank our church for continued prayers and partnership in ministry!



## *Welcome to our Johnson Music Fellow*

Kirstine Buchanan will begin her graduate degree at Mercer University this fall, studying Choral Conducting under Dr. Stanley Roberts. Kirstine graduated from the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 2020, with a degree in Vocal Music Education. She spent the past year teaching general music at a magnet elementary school. Kirstine recently married her sweetheart David, who teaches middle school chorus in Houston County. Kirstine is very excited to learn and grow with the congregation of FBCX!

## Women's Retreat

*Due to the rise of Covid cases and concerns, the planning team is considering whether any components of the retreat need to be altered or adapted. These details will be shared with you as soon as possible so you can plan accordingly.*

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a favorite tradition - Women's Retreat! We will stay in condos at The Grand at St. Simons. The retreat will begin Friday evening, September 24, and will conclude around lunchtime on Sunday, September 26. This is a great way to enjoy time with your friends and to get to know new people whom you usually do not spend time with.

Our theme for the women's retreat this year is 'Reconnect'. After being apart for over a year, we want to use this time to find space to reconnect with ourselves, to spend time with friends to reconnect with each other, and to worship so that we can reconnect with God. This year we will gather for devotions led by women who will share their spiritual journey and reflections with us. There will be discussion, worship, and of course, lots of free time to relax, enjoy the beach, and spend time with friends!

### Registration Information:

Accommodations: The St.  
Simons Grand

Cost: \$170  
(payable to FBCX)

Due Date: August 20

Please register using the link in the church newsletter. You can make a payment online or submit payment through the church office. (If you pay online, you will have to register if you're a first-time online giver, and be sure to select "women's retreat" from the drop-down box when you pay).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
"Reconnect"  
to ourselves, to each other, & to God

**SEPTEMBER  
24 - 26, 2021**

**ST. SIMON'S GRAND**  
**COST: \$170**  
**SIGN UP BY: AUGUST 20TH**

*Now. Here. This.*

### **(End of) Summer Reading**

It's true that reading lists usually come out at the beginning of summer, but as this pandemic persists, time, too, continues to be fluid.

In that spirit, enjoy these book recommendations from the church staff for the end of summer, or wherever and whenever your reading takes you.

#### **Scott Dickison:**

*A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal*, Edited by Sarah Bessey. Not a book one would sit down and read cover to cover, but this is a beautiful collection of devotional writings by a wonderfully diverse group of authors to keep by your night stand.

*Catalogue of Unabashed Gratitude*, by Ross Gay. I misplaced my copy of this collection of poetry a few months back and when I found it (on Audrey's nightstand), I celebrated like the woman who found her lost coin in Luke 15.

*Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, by Esau McCaulley. McCaulley doesn't fit into easy categories: an African American man raised in the Black church tradition, ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church, and a professor at one of the nation's foremost evangelical colleges. His writing reflects this complicated and nuanced perspective, inviting readers of all backgrounds to engage the Black church tradition of reading scripture, shaped by community, struggle, and ultimately hope.

#### **Anne Armstrong:**

*A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey*, by Jonathan Meiburg. This is a fascinating look at the Caracara species of the world through the lens of history, geography, and adventures in the wilderness. A bonus neat thing to know is that Jonathan is the nephew of Martha Malone, my friend and Mercer colleague. Also, Jonathan is the leader of the band Shearwater.

#### **Kelsey Stillwell**

*Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader* edited by Mitzi J. Smith. It is a collection of articles on womanist interpretive theories and theology as well as womanist readings of biblical texts by womanist biblical scholars. I read articles from this book for a class I took last fall and it is one that I keep coming back to read more of. Reading womanist hermeneutics has changed the questions I ask Biblical text.

#### **Connie Pursiful:**

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson. It's just a good story and reminded me of people I grew up around. Thanks to Don Midkiff for recommending it.

#### **JD Granade:**

*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, by Gary D. Schmidt. Although this is written for young readers, I think people of any age would enjoy this book (I certainly did)! While this coming-of-age story clearly and fairly deals with the topic of race, it also touches on faith, family, loss, and finding one's place in the world in a way that is natural and unforced.

**Phoebe Capps:**

*Prison by Any Other Name*, by Maya Schenwar and Victoria Law. This book tackles the issue of the prison industrial complex, shining a light on all of its forms, such as house arrest, the mental health system, and policing. I recommend this book to anyone up for a journey of challenging their perceptions of systems that contribute to racism and injustices in our country. This book reshaped a lot of my views and pushed me to dive deeper into the complexities of these systems.

## 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 to the glory of God, and in memory of Louis C. Alderman, Jr. by Jonathan and Amy Alderman.



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## Staff and Leadership

**Ms. Anne Armstrong**  
ORGANIST

**Mrs. Kirstine Buchanan**  
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

**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