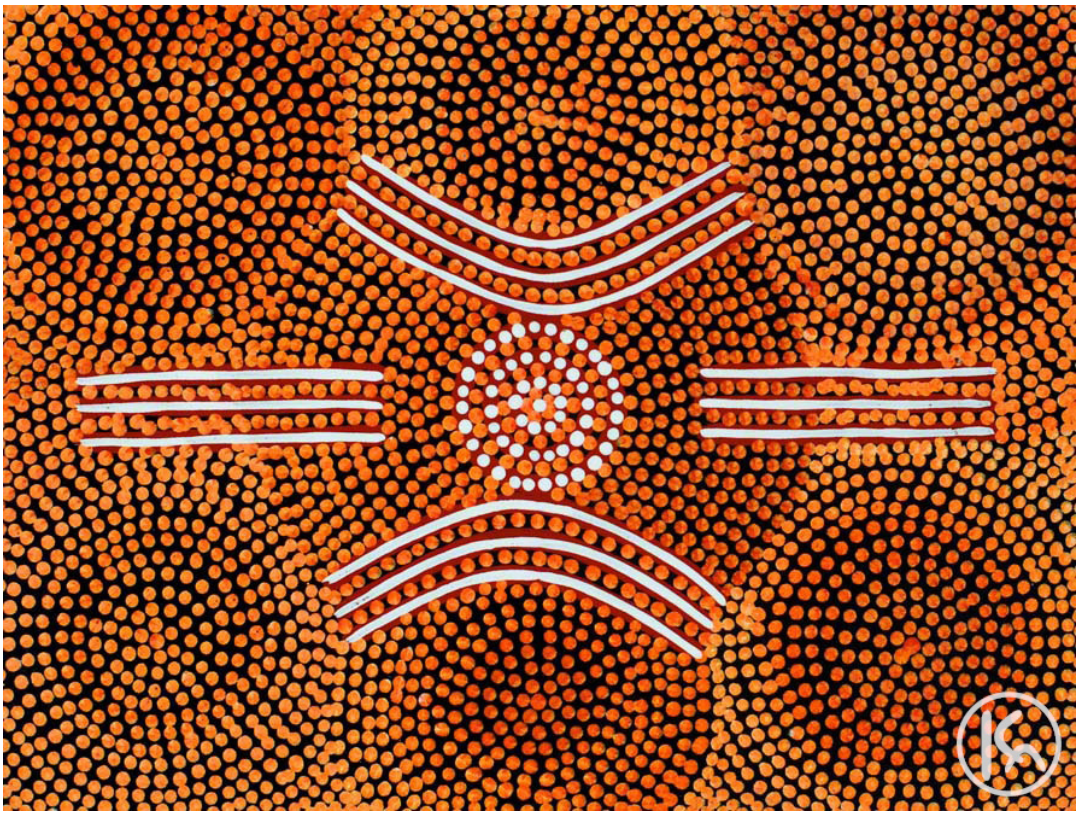
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



"Meeting Place," by Bevan Tjampitjimpa
Acrylic on canvas
The painting illustrates aboriginal symbols of a significant meeting place or campsite (circle) where aboriginal people gather. Depicted are the journey tracks (..) and sandhills ( ))) in regions of Central Australia

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshiping 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.
- 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. 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

The Prelude — "Prelude" — Norman Warren

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship — Scott Dickison

We love not because we agree or disagree, or because we see things in the same way or do not.

We love because God first loved us.

We love not because we are family or of different tribes. Or because our skin is the same color, or our eyes the same shade, or our heart the same shape (even thought it must be).

We love because God first loved us.

We love not because we are from the same place or from the other side of the world or the other side of town. We love not because we have no where else to go (even though we do not).

We love because God first loved us.

We love not because it is good or necessary or wise (even though it is).

We love because God first loved us.

We love because God first loved us.

We love because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19

*The Hymn of Praise 1 — Holy, Holy, Holy — NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*The Invocation — JD Granade

*The Gloria Patri 705 — 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, amen.

The 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 W.O.W. shepherd this week is Rebecca Pursiful.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 57 — Be Still, My Soul — FINLANDIA

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
The Christ who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*The Offertory Prayer		Tricia Whitby Deacon of the Week
Offertory	"Abide With Me" *Dannie Smith, horn*	arr. Paul Basler
*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 First Lesson — Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 — Lorelai Wall

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him

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 Anthem — "Make Me an Instrument" — Craig Courtney
The Chancel Choir Text: St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Second Lesson | Luke 6:27-38 | Scott Dickison

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon | "I'll Meet You There" | Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 694 | Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive | MORNING SONG

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.

* The Benediction | Scott Dickison

*The Congregational Response 512 "We Go in Peace" Keith Christopher

We go in peace, we go in love,
We go with grace and mercy from the Lord above
To tell the world this very thing:
That Jesus Christ is Lord and King!

Postlude "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" arr. Gilbert Martin
Anne Armstrong, organ

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, February 20

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship

Monday, February 21

Building closed for Presidents' day

Wednesday, February 23

3:00 pm	Open Children's Center
3:00 pm	Open Youth Room
4:30 pm	Worship Arts for children
4:30 pm	Youth fellowship and games
5:30 pm	Children's choir
5:30 pm	Youth Unplugged
5:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
6:15 pm	Celebrations
	Announcements
	Deacon Report
6:30 pm	Supper to-go
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 24

7:00 pm	Daybreak Sleep Out

Sunday, February 27

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	College lunch
4:00 pm	Spiritual direction group

Deacons of the Week

February 17	Tricia Whitby
February 24	Richard Green

Birthdays

February 20	Feenie Midkiff
February 20	Jessie Patton
February 23	Margaret Eskew
February 23	Andrew Manis
February 23	Paula Strozier
February 25	Bryan Wright
February 27	Madeline Davis

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Kitty Wilson** on her death on January 8.

We grieve with the family of **Glynn Broome** on his death on January 5, 2022.

We grieve with the family of **Mary Skinner**, mother of Claire Davis, on her death on January 27.

We grieve with our Circle of Hope family on the death of **Annie Walker** on February 7.

We grieve with the Hagerman family on the death of **Cliff Hagerman** on February 9.

Save the Date

March 2	Ash Wednesday
April 29 - May 1	Men's Retreat

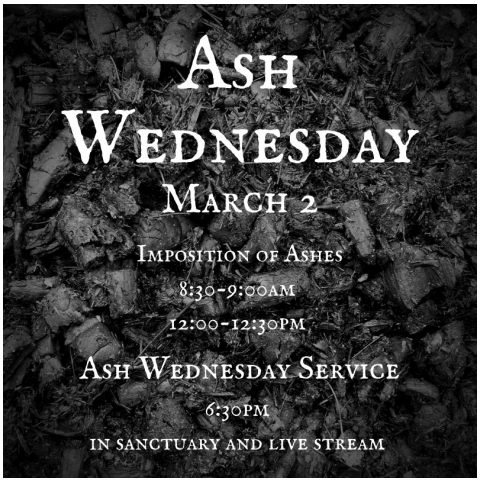
Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Pork/chicken sausage patties, scrambled eggs, buttered grits, biscuits and fresh fruit.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

We will meet on March 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the home of Tricia Whitby, 210 Sleepy Creek Rd, 31210. Our selection for this meeting is Jodi Picoult's book, *Wish You Were Here.* Author Taylor Jenkins Reid describes it as "a powerfully evocative story of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit". Many of us are familiar with Jodi Picoult books and know that they are always profound and lead to great discussions.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



MEN'S RETREAT, APR. 29 - MAY 1

Cloudland Canyon State Park

Men's Retreat returns! After a two-year hiatus, we will once again gather for a weekend of communing with each other and with creation. We will return to Cloudland Canyon State Park, staying in the group lodge. All ages and comfort levels in the outdoors welcome and valued. Cost is $50. Sign-up on the FBCX website.

MACON SLEEP OUT

For one night in Macon, guests sleep outside to show solidarity with the homeless. Funds raised support Daybreak Day Resource Center. Daybreak eases the worry of day-to-day survival for those living homeless in Macon.

Our college students will be participating in the Sleepout and fundraising on behalf of FBCX! You can help by making a donation to their fundraising page linked in the Highlites.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!

5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

"Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Join Scott Dickison and Doug Thompson over these next two weeks as they lead discussion on one of Dr. King's most enduring written works.

It was April of 1963 when Dr. King and other leaders of the "Birmingham Campaign," in protest of racial segregation, were arrested in violation of the city's new ordinance developed to impede those demonstrations. While in jail, someone found him a copy of the local newspaper from that Sunday, April 12, in which a group of white Alabama clergy had written a letter to King and the other organizers entitled, "A Call for Unity." King began to write a response, first in the margins of the newspaper itself, then on scraps of paper, and finally on legal pads provided by his lawyers.

His step-by-step rebuttal of their calls for patience in the face of injustice has become a landmark text of the Civil Rights Movement and remains a challenging theological treatise, drawing special attention to power imbalances in conversations about justice

CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Children's Sunday 4/3

On this last Sunday before Holy Week the children of FBCX will lead us in worship.

Save the Summer Dates

June 20-24—VBS

July 17-20—PassportKids Camp (grades 3-5)

YOUTH NEWS:

March Mission Madness

March 18-20

Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Cost: $125 (Includes lodging, 3 meals, and a t-shirt)

MMM is a youth mission weekend hosted by CBF of GA. We will join other churches in Georgia to work and learn about different ministries in Atlanta and how they are showing God's love in their community. We will leave Friday after school and return Sunday after morning worship. We will stay in a hotel or lodge in Atlanta near the church.

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and ends with Ash Wednesday. 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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for Mrs. Jessie Patton on the occasion of her 99th birthday today by the Hardy and Spears families.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST
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MINISTER OF MUSIC

Dr. Eric Spears
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