



Grain Fields, 1890
Evans, Baldwin

Sunday, August 14, 2022
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship with the First Baptist Church of Christ

Whatever road has brought you here and wherever you should go once we depart, know that you are welcome in this space fully and completely, and that the image of God we all bear together this hour is more complete because you are here as a part of it.

Things to Know

Masks are now optional on the church campus. We understand there are those within the congregation who will need or want to continue to wear masks, and we will continue to keep masks around the church for those who may want to use them.

Restrooms can be found through the double doors on the side near the elevator, one flight of stairs up or one flight down.

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.

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 GIFTS

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

Rowan Huston, Acolyte

Prelude

"Trumpet Tune in D Major"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Mark Thewes

The Call to Worship

Kelsey Stillwell

Come! Let's give thanks to God, who is good.

God's steadfast love redeems and restores!

We celebrate God's actions in the past, and God's promises for the future,

God acts in love for all creation.

God's steadfast love endures forever!

We rejoice in what God does and delight in God's love!

(inspired by Psalm 107)

*The Hymn of Praise 33

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand;

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,

Be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside:

Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side;

Songs of praises, songs of praises

I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

*The Invocation

Kelsey Stillwell

**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

JD Granade

Recognition of First Graders

JD Granade

"Let the Children Come"

JD Granade

Children in 3K-Kindergarten 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" and go to the Seekers' classroom together. Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of
Offertory 490

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

HENDON

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love, at the impulse of Thy love.**

**Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King, always, only, for my King.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Beth Walker
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

"Sing to the Lord a New Song"
Chancel Choir

F. Joseph Haydn/Hopson

Sing to the Lord, sing a new song.
All the earth in joyful chorus,
Sing a new song.
Lift up your voice, let all rejoice,
Give praise to the Lord.
With harp and trumpet,
Sing forth your joyful praise.
Let the hills rejoice,
Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let fields with gladness ring,
Unite in joyful praise.
Sing hallelujah, Amen.

Text: Psalm 96, adapted

*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 107:1-9, 43

Claire Davis

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.
Let those who are wise pay attention to these things
and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.
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 Solo Anthem

“Over My Head, I Hear Music In the Air”

traditional

Caroline Cooke, soprano

The Second Lesson

Luke 12:13-21

Scott Dickison

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“And the Things You Prepared, Whose Will They Be?”

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 48 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]**

*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

"Glorious Is Thy Name"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Anna Laura Page



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, August 14

9:45 am Sunday school
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Church Council

Sunday, August 21

9:45 am Sunday school
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Nominating Committee

Deacon of the Week

August 11 Beth Walker
August 18 Eric Spears

Birthdays

August 14 Kay Shurden
August 15 Annette Smith
August 16 John Conn
August 18 Jonathan Alderman
August 20 Bonnie Miklowski
Nate Myrick
August 21 Hiro Jones
Tyler Nable

August 24: Wednesday Night Kickoff

August 28: Ice Cream Social

August 31: Quarterly Church Conference

September 23 -25: Women's Retreat

The Record Speaks

Date: 06/30/2022
Budget to Date \$328,263
Receipts \$268,286
Expenses \$339,031
Missions \$30,348
(\$101,093)*

*Parentheses indicate a negative balance

Tutoring Ministry at Ingram-Pye Elementary Training

August 25 10:00 am to noon or 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

FBCX is restarting our tutoring ministry at Ingram-Pye by partnering with United Way's Read United program. Volunteers commit to one hour per week and are provided with training and all materials needed to help children grow in their reading abilities. Contact Julie Long (julielong@gmail.com or 4787371700) if interested in participating.

New Book Release

When God Whispered My name: Stories of Baptist Women Called to Ministry, edited by Kathy Manis Findley and Kay Shurden

We are excited to announce the release of a new book edited by and featuring writing by a number of church members. Kathy and Kay have put together this beautiful volume of testimonies and reflections on life, ministry, and calling. Contributors from within congregation are LeAnn Gunter Johns, Julie Long, and Kelsey Stillwell.

Children's Sunday School project:

We are in desperate need to receive letters from our church members! We've finished a unit on Paul and have scribed 12 things (# 13 left blank) we know about God displayed at the makeshift mailbox outside our classrooms (what profound thoughts from these angelical geniuses!) We want church members to write letters to us introducing themselves, describing their role in our church, and explaining what they know about God. You can send USPS or email to the office. - Sonya

Missions Update: Little Free Pantry



"Take what you need, give what you can."

You may have noticed a new addition to our grounds. In the grassy area along High Street just off the main parking lot, a Little Free Pantry has been installed. This pantry was built by Dan Riley with the help of a team of youth and was installed by Dusty Fuller.

This mini pantry is an easy way for neighbors to help neighbors who need food, hygiene, or paper items. Even though its home is on this property, this mini pantry belongs to all us. Please help us take care of it and the space around it.

Give what you can by placing food, hygiene, or paper items inside the mini pantry. Give what you would want to receive. An easy rule of thumb: buy extra of what you buy your household. No gift is too small. A single can of green beans can help. Items should be unexpired and in good condition.

Take what you need. If you find items inside and you need them, take them and know we care about you. Please remember the mini pantry belongs to all of us and

take only those items you need, trusting the mini pantry all be here for you again.

Pantry items:

- Must be shelf-stable
- Must be sealed
- Able to withstand high temperatures
- Suggested non-food items: socks, diapers, wipes, deodorant, sunscreen, feminine hygiene products, first aid supplies.

History Servant Team Update

With the help of our summer intern, Zack Jackson, we have made good progress in our research of our church's early history with respect to race and slavery. We have nearly completed compiling our membership records from our first five decades and will soon begin doing deeper research into the members themselves. Most of our research thus far has been conducted online, surveying newspaper databases and searching for mentions of a Baptist church in Macon. We also learned that one of our church's early minute books is held at Tarver Library at Mercer, so last Friday a group went to see it to begin transcribing names. It was quite an experience to see such a historic record from our history live and in person.

Our research into specific members will take us primarily to census records. We will continue to report back to the congregation.

If you would like to join in this research effort, which is primarily done virtually, contact Scott or Doug Thompson (thompson_d@mercer.edu).

YOUTH



Ice Cream Social

The youth had their annual Ice Cream Social last Sunday. It is an event we have each year to kick off the school year and to welcome our new 6th graders in a memorable way. We had fun eating dinner together, getting to know each other, playing ridiculous games, and making a mess eating ice cream! The picture gives you a glimpse of this event's joyful chaos. Thanks to all the helpers who donated snacks and drinks and to our chaperones who helped with games and clean-up!

Youth Sunday School

Back to School! For the next four weeks, the youth will stay together for Sunday school as we talk about the start of the school year, how to listen for God's guidance, how we can leave an impact, and how to find support for the year ahead. Youth will meet

in the "green room" at 9:45 am on Sundays.

We will start off with a game and announcements before the lesson. Starting September 11, youth will meet their Sunday School teachers and will separate into Middle School and High School classes for the rest of the year.

Wednesday Night Kick Off August 24th

Youth will meet with everyone in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and the kick-off event! The following week, August 31, the regular Wednesday night will resume along with Youth choir.

Women's Retreat

September 23-25, St. Simon's Island



Women of all ages are invited to join us for a favorite tradition: Women's Retreat! The retreat will begin Friday evening and will conclude around lunchtime on Sunday. This is a great way to enjoy time with your friends and to get to know new people with whom you usually do not spend time with. Our theme this year is **“Connect: to Ourselves, to Each Other, and to God”**. There will be discussion, worship, meals together, and of course lots of free time to relax, enjoy the beach, and spend time with friends! Because of price increases everywhere, our cost this year will be \$200. Scholarship funds may be available. Please

follow the link in the Highlites or on the website to register. Retreat housing reservations available only until *August 17!* After the 17th, you can still register and join us but you must find your own housing. Cost without housing is \$50.

Reflection from Retreat

by Danielle Barnes

Our Women's Retreat theme this year specifically focuses on connection - though in my experience, the feeling of connection has woven itself through each retreat I've attended. The retreat has allowed me to get to know the wonderful women of FBCX outside of the walls of the church - their stories, their professions, their hopes, and their faith journeys. It has also allowed us a time to support one another in our joy, struggles, and sorrows. This time together is truly special, from the setting, to the meals shared, to the laughter and late night chats.

After a two year pause, we will venture back to beautiful St. Simons this September for a time of reflection, renewal, and connection. After these years apart, I cannot wait to see what is in store for us. This retreat will help us to restore past connections and establish new ones, and I hope to see you there.

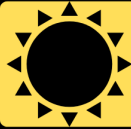
What's #trending @FBCX



Top Results:



Dinner, games, (and internet trends?)



Summer Recap



and Wednesday programming preview for all ages

all at the

Wednesday Night Kickoff

August 24, 5:30-7:15





HANDS-ON SERVICE NEEDS AROUND THE CHURCH.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of congregational life. Please look at the list of service needs within the church listed below and prayerfully consider where you can fit in. Note that these are not “missions”—an important part of being church, too. These are areas of internal service that keep the ministry of this church running, an equally vital component to being church together.

Almost all of these needs can and should be shared among several people, so know that you are not signing on to cover these needs all by yourself.

The pastoral staff takes great pleasure matching the unique gifts of members with areas of service at the church, but we need your help! Please don't wait for us to reach out to you, but reach out to us to let us know where you would like to serve. It truly takes us all to be church.

Scott: scott@fbcxmaocn.org

Kelsey: kelsey@fbcxmacon.org

JD: jd@fbcxmacon.org

AV Servant Team (Scott)

Help run AV for worship services and other event

Building and Grounds (Scott)

On call for light repair, maintenance, and painting around the church

Weed pullers in between lawn service

Flower planters quarterly with Grounds Servant Team

Children's Ministry (JD)

Sunday School teachers (at least 2)

Sunday School assistants (at least 1)

Sunday School substitutes (at least 2)

WOW Shepherds (help with preschoolers during worship)

After school volunteers for Wednesday nights

Worship Arts leaders for Wednesday nights

Missions Leader for Wednesday nights

Wednesday night helpers (not leading but simply being present!)

Congregational Care Servant Team (JD)

Help hosting receptions following funerals and memorial services, coordinating meals for the bereaved

Finance / Money Counting(Scott)

Be on the list of those on call to sign checks when needed

Join the rotation of those who count money weekly

Flower Ministry (JD)

Help arrange flowers from Sunday morning into vases to take to those in hospitals, at home

Hospitality (Scott)

Greeters for Sunday morning (Sunday school hour and worship)

Help to secure building during worship

Volunteer receptionist in the church office

Help make coffee on Sunday mornings to take to the Education lobby

Kitchen (Scott)

Help hosting church social events

Help keeping track of kitchen restocking needs (1-2)

Serve food and kitchen cleanup on Wednesday nights

Youth Ministry (Kelsey)

Middle School Sunday School teachers (Part of a teacher rotation)

High School Sunday School teachers (Part of a teacher rotation)

Sunday School assistants

After school volunteers for Wednesday afternoon

After school tutors for Wednesday afternoon

Wednesday night substitute leader

Wednesday night helper (not leading but simply being present)

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to honor someone or a special event by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers on a Sunday? There are just FIVE open Sundays remaining on the flower calendar for the rest of 2022: September 18 and 25, and October 2, 23, and 30. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard at 478-737-4171 or follow the link in the High-Lites Weekly.



A place to display the small moments that make up the larger story of the church

Beautiful floral arrangements were shared with our members and community this week! Thanks to the generosity of the Stroziers, and the hard work of the floral arts team, 30 people, including 6 schools, were blessed with gorgeous flowers from the Strozier's joyous celebration! The floral arts team includes Mary Leonard, Karen Summerlin, and Fay Boie. Karen had the great idea to send home flowers with parents after the youth event to be taken to their schools. A note was attached saying, "Wishing you many blessings for this school year". The team had additional delivery help from Greta O'Dell, Mary Simms, Mary Leonard, Fay Boie, Julie Long, Audrey Dickison, the Brocks, Karen Summerlin, Kelsey Stillwell, and Jo Ann Tanton.

Thanks to the Stroziers, the floral arts team, and to all who helped to spread joy and beauty!



NOW. HERE. THIS

Polychromy

When was the last time you realized you had been looking at something completely wrong?

At least at the time I'm writing this (no reason to think it won't happen again before you read this!), for me it happened earlier today when I read about a new art exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

It's called Chroma: Ancient Sculpture in Color, and examines the role of color in Ancient Greek and Roman sculpture, or "polychromy."

The immediate revelation is that far from being blank, white stone, ancient sculpture was covered in vibrant color and embellishment.

Maybe this doesn't blow your mind, but it did mine.

All these years I've been seeing these classic sculptures all wrong. Or at least, not as they were intended to be seen. And I've been making certain assumptions about the world in which they were created.

It turns out that the ancient world was much more colorful than I ever thought to consider. Or rather, ancient people were more colorful—their minds, their dreams, their beauty, their art.

In a way this is what all good art does: reveal new depth to our world, rich and vibrant color where we didn't see it before. It's not that the world is different after we see it, but we are.

This is what I hope happens to us within the church.

That scripture and tradition, ritual and music, community and companionship, like powerful art (or art exhibits), would add depth and color to places in our lives and our world that before seemed flat and dull.

In a way, this is what we mean by "repentance." Not just coming to see things differently, but more accurately. It isn't just the process through which we confess our transgressions, although that is surely an important part.

It's a wholesale change in perspective we hope a life of faith will bring.

We see beauty where before there was chaos.

We see compassion where before there was indifference.

We see hope where before there was cruelty.

It's not the world that has changed—these things have always been there. It's we who are different.

Praise God.

SHD

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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of my parents, Albert and Frances McCowen, by Suzy McCullough.



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