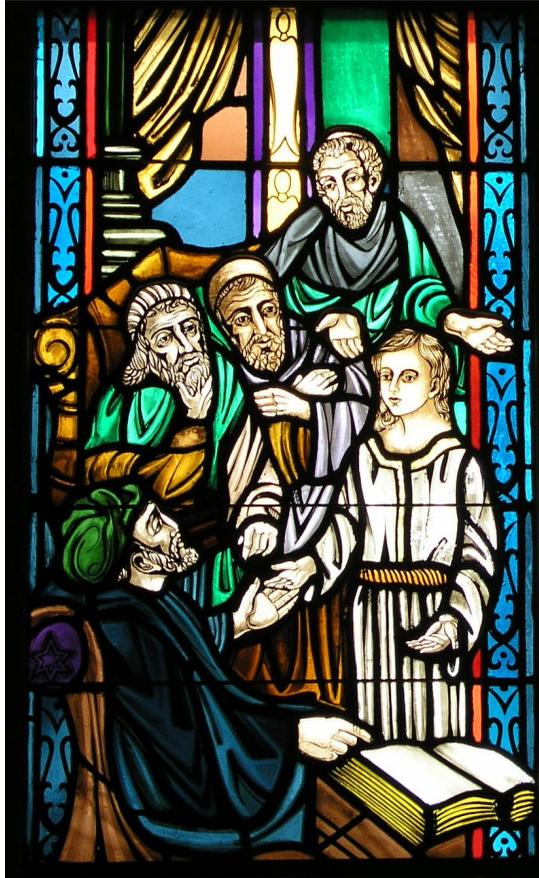




# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



**Sunday, August 7, 2022**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Back to School Sunday**

## **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.

*School supplies are being collected today as a mission offering to benefit students at Ingram-Pye Elementary School and staying at the Brookdale Resource Center. Please place school supplies in the containers at the sanctuary door before or after the worship service. You may also designate an offering for "Back to School."*

## THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

*Pippa Kirby, Acolyte  
4th grader, Porter Elementary School*

Prelude

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

arr. Paul Manz

The Call to Worship

Jessica Northenor  
English Teacher, Perry High School

You have dealt well with your servants, O Lord.

**Teach us good judgment and knowledge, for we believe in your commandments.**

In ignorance we go astray, forgetting your word.

**Teach us humility and reveal your goodness.**

In arrogance we smear lies with dull and callous hearts.

**Teach us your precepts that our whole hearts may delight in your truth.**

The law of your mouth is better than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**Great Teacher, may you bless us with humility, wisdom, and understanding as your lifelong learners.**

Adapted from Psalm 119:65-72

\*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

Jennifer Graham  
Interim Chief Diversity Officer,  
Director of the Women's Center  
Georgia College and State University

\*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

The Blessing of the Backpacks and Those Who Carry Them

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 368

We Praise You With Our Minds, O Lord

CLONMEL

**We praise You with our minds, O Lord, kept sharp to think Your thoughts;  
Come, Holy Ghost with grace out poured, to teach what Christ has taught.**

**In all our learning may we seek the wisdom from above  
Which comes to all: the brave, the meek, who ask in faith and love.**

**We praise You through our bodies, Lord, kept strong to do Your will;  
Your Spirit's temples, which afford a means to praise You still.**

**We give ourselves, a sacrifice, to live our lives for You;  
For You alone have paid the price to bring salvation true.**

**We praise You in our hearts, O King, kept pure to know Your ways;  
And raise to You a hymn to sing eternally Your praise.  
Although adoring hearts will bow as age on ages roll;  
We praise You in our beings now, mind, body, heart, and soul.**

Mission Moment

Tricia Whitby  
Backpack Ministry

The Offertory Prayer

Greta O'Dell  
Deacon of the Week

Offertory

"Prelude in e minor" Op. 28, No. 4  
*Maddie Cooke, Sophomore, Mt. DeSales Academy, piano*

Frédéric Chopin

\*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 Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3

Reece Huston  
4th grader, Alex II Elementary School

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

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

"Come By Here"  
*The Chancel Choir*

Kyle Pederson

Come by here, my Lord, come by here.  
Come by here, my Lord, come by here.  
Come by here, my Lord, come by here,  
O Lord, come by here.

Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.  
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here.  
Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here,  
O Lord, come by here.

Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.

Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here.  
Someone's cryin', Lord, come by here,  
O Lord, come by here.

In the morning, evening, waking, sleeping,  
Caring, loving, blessing, grieving,  
Longing, falling, hiding, rising,  
Healing, aching, laughing, praising,  
Seeking, finding, breathing, dying,  
O Lord, you are here.

Text: traditional text, Kumbaya

Reflection from a Student

Rebecca Pursiful  
Senior, Wesleyan College

Reflection from an Educator

David Buchanan  
Chorus Teacher, Thomson Middle School

Reflection from a Parent

Nathan Myrick  
Assistant Professor of Church Music,  
Mercer University

## **THE BREAD AND THE CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Invitation to the Table

Scott Dickison

## **THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Commitment 646

Teach Me Your Way

CAMACHA

**Teach me Your way, O Lord, teach me Your way!  
Your guiding grace afford, teach me Your way!**

**Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;  
Lead me with heavenly light, teach me Your way!**  
**When I am sad at heart, teach me Your way!  
When earthly joys depart, teach me Your way!  
In hours of loneliness, in times of dire distress,  
In failure or success, teach me Your way!**  
**When doubts and fears arise, teach me Your way!  
When storm clouds fill the skies, teach me Your way!**  
**Shine through the wind and rain, through sorrow, grief, and pain;  
Make now my pathway plain, teach me Your way!**  
**Long as my life shall last, teach me Your way!  
Where'er my lot is cast, teach me Your way!  
Until the race is run, until the journey's done,  
Until the crown is won, teach me Your way!**

\*The Spoken Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Congregational Response May the Road Rise to Meet You

Lee Turner

**May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind blow at your back  
May the sun shine warmly on your face  
May the rain fall softly on your field  
And until we meet again (until we meet again)  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.**

Postlude

**"Go Your Way with Rejoicing"**  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Douglas Wagner

### **Communion Servers:**

Jennifer Medgull, Virtual Middle School Math Teacher, VIP Academy, BCSD

Julie Long, Family Engagement Facilitator, Springdale Elementary School

Monica Stevens Kirby, Adjunct Instructor of Psychology, Middle Georgia State University

Doug Thompson, Professor of History and Southern Studies, Mercer University

Chuck Dumas, Coordinator of Assessment at Houston County Board of Education

Andrew Manis, Professor, Department of History, Middle Georgia State University, retired



**Sunday, August 7**

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship with Communion
2:00 pm	Strozier anniversary
5:00 pm	Youth ice cream party

**Sunday, August 14**

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship

**Deacons of the Week**

August 4	Greta O'Dell
August 11	Beth Walker

**Birthdays**

August 7	Peter Bryant
	Josh Graham
	William Miklowski
August 9	Laura Lease
August 10	Tracey McMillan
	Sam Northenor
August 12	Hasley Myrick
August 13	Lindsey Jones
August 14	Kay Shurden

**August 14:** Church Council Meeting

**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

**Sanctuary Flowers**

Would you like to honor someone or a special event? You can do this by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers on a Sunday. The following dates are open for the rest of 2022: August 28; September 18 and 25; October 23 and 30. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard, or follow the link in the Highlites!

### **School Supply Collection**

We are collecting school supplies for our partner school, Ingram-Pye Elementary. The school has specifically requested TRANSPARENT or MESH backpacks to meet new requirements. Other general supplies collected will be given to Ingram-Pye and students at the Brookdale Resource Center. If you were unable to bring school supplies today but would like to contribute, please bring them to the church office this week.

### **Anniversary Celebration**

**This afternoon, 2:00 pm**

**FBCX Fellowship Hall**

You are invited to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of Melton and Paula Strozier, this afternoon at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

### **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 (juliewlong@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. Featured contributors from within congregation are LeAnn Gunter Johns, Julie Long, and Kelsey Stillwell

## Youth

### Newsletter sign up

Families of new 6th graders are encouraged to sign up to receive the youth newsletter. Link can be found in the weekly Highlites.

### Youth Ice Cream Social

**Tonight, August 7**

**5:00-7:00pm**

Let's welcome our new 6th graders and kick off the school year! We will have dinner, play games, and eat ice cream. Students will need to wear clothes they can get messy and bring a towel.

## Children

### Acolyte Training

**This Sunday, August 7, after worship**

We will begin our new slate of acolytes made up of children 2-5 grade. Any new 2nd graders or older children who have not been acolyte before should plan to stay after worship for a brief training, but all children who are acolyte-aged are encouraged to stay for a refresher (even if they don't stick around to practice). We're excited to welcome our newest cohort of light bearers!

## Adult Education

**Thank you for a wonderful summer combined Sunday school series!** Thanks to all who participated in our series over the past four weeks as we explored our church's vision statement. A special thanks to our panelists, who humbled us with their sharing and inspired us to embody these words in new ways. Our hobby bags for the Brookdale Resource Center early this week.

### 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 this past 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).*

## **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.

## 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.

## IT TAKES US ALL: 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](mailto:scott@fbcxmaocn.org)

Kelsey: [kelsey@fbcxmacon.org](mailto:kelsey@fbcxmacon.org)

JD: [jd@fbcxmacon.org](mailto: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)

## Now. Here. This.

It's "back to school" season, the time when all of us parents send our children out the door with fresh haircuts and new shoes and say to ourselves and anyone who will listen things like "time is moving so fast!"

It turns out this is true in more than just a sentimental, figurative sense. A new study revealed that since 2016 the earth has been spinning faster than usual and in fact just recorded its fastest day ever.

June 29, 2022, just a few days ago, was recorded as the shortest day ever, clocking in at 1.59 millisecond less than the average day (which is 24 hours, of course, or 86,400 seconds). So, not an increment of time you would notice, but an increase all the same.

They're not sure just why this is happening, but the group behind the study believes it could be due to the fluctuations in tides due to melting ice caps on top of the earth's highest mountain peaks. Two engineers for Meta working on these problems, Oleg Obleukhov and Ahmad Byagowi, explain it this way:

"It is all about the law of conservation of momentum that applies to our planet Earth. Every atom on the planet contributes to the momentum of the earth's angular velocity based on the distance to the rotation axis of the earth...So, once things move around, the angular velocity of the earth can vary."

"Every atom on the planet contributes" to the

earth's momentum.

There's a sentence for you.

I've been sitting with this notion that we all, even in some infinitesimal way, have a bearing on the momentum of this world.

The great lie we tell ourselves in more ways than we realize is that what we do and who we are doesn't matter. Of course, the witness of scripture, over and over again, tells us otherwise. As does the witness of our very lives, if we would pay closer attention.

And yet here we have yet another case when science confirms what we already should know and know well, but insist on living as if it isn't so.

It all matters. Every little bit, every little part.

I mean this to be hopeful, not crushing. But so much of life depends on how we choose to carry things.

What I mean is that I find it finally hopeful that what we do, how we treat people, what we give, where and in whom we invest our lives in the time we are given on this earth that indeed is spinning faster and faster, does, in fact, matter.

The question then becomes, where will we throw our momentum?

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 in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Melton and Paula Strozier on August 5th.



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## Staff and Leadership

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**Kristine Buchanan**  
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

**Mr. David Cooke**  
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

**Rev. Scott Dickison**  
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**Mrs. Harriet Eason**  
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**Rev. JD Granade**  
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AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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