



“Be Joyful In Hope: Romans 12-12” by Anthony Falbo (2018)

**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022**  
**EIGHTH 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 PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

*Sam Northenor, acolyte*

The Prelude

“Processional”

Malcolm Archer

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

Rebecca Pursiful

With open hearts and minds, we gather to worship together.

**Nurturing God, loving Christ, affirming Spirit refresh our sense of calling.**

Attentive to your presence in our lives as individuals and as a community, we listen carefully.

**Nurturing God, loving Christ, affirming Spirit guide us in our discernment.**

Within these walls and in the world beyond them, God is at work and we want to join in.

**Nurturing God, loving Christ, affirming Spirit grant us the wisdom to understand your mission.**

As a community of faith, we hear and respond to God’s call,

**To nurture authentic faith and belonging, to love and serve courageously, and to affirm the image of God in all people.**

(Inspired by the FBCX Vision Statement)

\*The Hymn of Praise 295      Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;**

**Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise:**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;**

**Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I’m come;**

**And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home:**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;**

**He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!**

**Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;**

**Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.**

\*The Invocation

Rebecca Pursiful

**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

JD Granade

“Let the Children Come”

JD Granade

*There will be no W.O.W. through the month of July. Children 3k-Kindergarten are welcome to stay with their families for all of worship or spend the rest of the service in childcare in the nursery area. JD will walk them over at this time; please find JD at the end of worship if you need directions to childcare.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 440 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

GIFT OF LOVE

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Sharon Bailey  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Solo

“How Can I Keep From Singing”  
*Rebecca Pursiful, mezzo soprano*

Robert Lowry

**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

Genesis 1:26-31

Kathleen Newton

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

“Grace”

Mark Hayes

*The Chancel Choir*

*Kirstine Buchanan, conductor*

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

Scott Dickison

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

“All”

Scott Dickison

Last in the series: Nurture. Love. Serve. All.

### **THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Commitment 255

We Are God’s People

SYMPHONY

**We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,**

**Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;**

**Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:**

**O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,**

**For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;**

**Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:**

**O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.**

**We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done.**

**We are a Temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:  
Yet joined in one, the flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.**

\* The 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

"Let All Things Now Living"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

arr. Charles Callahan



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## Sunday, July 31

9:00 am Personnel Committee  
 9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:15 pm Manual Revision Committee

## 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

## Deacon of the Week

July 28 Sharon Bailey  
 August 4 Greta O'Dell

## The Record Speaks

Date:	06/30/2022
Budget to Date	\$328,263
Contributions	\$264,408
Expenses	\$339,031
Missions	\$30,348
	(\$101,093)*

\*parenthesis indicates a negative balance

## Birthdays

August 2 Kim Stroup  
 August 4 Meta Monteleon  
 Zoie Thompson  
 August 7 Peter Bryant  
 Josh Graham  
 William Miklowski

## Condolences:

We grieve with the family of **Jan Taylor** on her death on June 26.

We grieve with Richard Pennington on the death of his uncle, **Clement Pennington**.

We grieve with the family of **Romney Tucker** on his death on July 25.

## Save the Date:

**August 7:** Back to School Sunday

**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

## 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!



**Women's Retreat**  
**Sept. 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 Hightles or on the website to register. Deadline to register is **August 17**.

**Anniversary Celebration**

**August 7, 2:00 pm**

**FBCX Fellowship Hall**

You are invited to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of Melton and Paula Strozier on Sunday, August 7, at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP. An incorrect link was published in the Hightles. The correct link is [www.eventcreate.com/e/strozier50](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/strozier50) or call Paula at 478.731.4615

**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](mailto:juliewlong@gmail.com) or 478-737-1700) if interested in participating.

## **Baptist Joint Committee**

This week I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Baptist Joint Committee's Fellows program. The BJC is the only national faith-based group solely focused on protecting religious freedom for all and is one of our church's identity partners.

The BJC Fellows program is a cohort of 10 people coming from diverse educational, professional, and religious backgrounds. The BJC Fellows meet in Colonial Williamsburg for 5 days to learn in an intensive education program that equips us for advocacy to protect religious liberty. The BJC has offered this program since 2015. It "provides young professionals the opportunity to deepen their historical, theological and legal understanding of religious liberty and develop skills to advocate for the cause throughout their careers." I am grateful to be a part of the 2022 BJC Fellows cohort and for the experience, education, and resources it offers. I look forward to sharing more of the work of the BJC with you when I return.

-Kelsey

## **YOUTH**

### **Promotion Sunday, August 7**

We will welcome our new 6th graders as they move up to youth Sunday school. Students will go to their usual Sunday school classroom to start and will be walked up to the youth room.

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

### **Youth Ice Cream Social Sunday, 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. Adults chaperones are needed to help with this event. Contact Kelsey if you can help!

## **CHILDREN**

### **Acolyte Training Sunday, August 7, after worship**

On Back to School Sunday 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 on 8/7 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!

# Back to School Sunday



August 7, 2022

Join us in worship as we bless students and educators (be sure to bring your backpack!) and share communion together.

## School Supply Collection:

Our partner school, Ingram/Pye Elementary, 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.





## 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)



### Wendell Berry, “The Peace of Wild Things”

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

I was flipping through pictures on my phone recently (the modern family photo album) and lingered on some shots from the spring of 2020, early on in the pandemic, when I had taken the boys one morning to a local trail for a hike and picnic.

As I remember it, this was part of our pandemic homeschooling plan, to get them (and me) outside.

We made sack lunches, packed our bags, grabbed the leash, piled in the truck with the dog, and drove out to the trails at the Industrial Children’s Home off of Mumford, a favorite spot for local runners, mountain bikers, hikers, and dog walkers.

It had rained the night before, so the grass was still wet, the trail a bit muddy, and the trees a bright and lively green.

We only walked a couple of miles that morning, but it was just enough for the boys to get through their initial complaints and settle into the rhythm of the woods. Our pace slowed. There were extended moments of silence. Each of us retreated inward at times, losing ourselves in puddles of water, stray walking sticks, and the sound of bird calls reminding us we were far from alone.

About halfway through, we stopped for lunch on some logs used in an old ropes course. As we crunched on our baby carrots, Billy asked me,

Daddy, Do you like to look up or look down? What was that? I asked, not knowing what he meant.

Do you like to look up at the sky or down at the ground?

That's a really good question, I said back to him. I'll have to think for a moment. What about you?

I like to look down at the ground, he said. If you're always looking up, you miss what's going on down there.

Yeah, Sidney chimed in, There's a whole world down there!

So much then, and now, continues to feel up in the air. There are many ways to ground ourselves—in relationships, in meaningful work, in service, in prayer. And then, there is simply the ground. The world itself. The earth we live upon and within, the dirt scripture tells us is whence we came and where we will one day return, reminding us that it, more than the clouds, is the home of God. Right here.

Praise be to the little ones who are closest to the ground, and so much else that is grounding, and who in our worry call us downward.

SHD

## 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 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 IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Meta Monteleon, mother of Martha Duke, on the occasion of her 108th birthday.

+++



511 High Place Macon, GA 31201 • (478) 742-6485 • email: [office@fbcxmacon.org](mailto:office@fbcxmacon.org)  
• [www.fbcxmacon.org](http://www.fbcxmacon.org) • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

## STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

**Ms. Anne Armstrong**  
ORGANIST

**Kristine Buchanan**  
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

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

**Rev. Scott Dickison**  
PASTOR

**Mrs. Harriet Eason**  
CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. JD Granade**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHILDREN  
AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Ms. Tierra Johnson**  
CUSTODIAN

**Ms. Camille Kittrell**  
BOOKKEEPER

**Mr. Bradley Lott**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Mrs. Connie Pursiful**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Miss Rebecca Pursiful**  
MINISTRY INTERN

**Dr. Stanley L. Roberts**  
MINISTER OF MUSIC

**Dr. Eric Spears**  
VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. Kelsey Stillwell**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH  
AND MISSIONS