FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

Nancy Holt (American, 1938–2014), "Sun Tunnels," 1973–76. Great Basin Desert, Utah. "Sun Tunnels at Summer Solstice." photograph by Lindsay Daniels

Sunday, September 25, 2022

Sixteenth 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.

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

Andrew Fuller, acolyte

The Prelude — "Intrada" — John Marsh

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship — Allie Ford

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; God upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 146

*The Hymn of Praise 344 — Glorious Is Thy Name — GLORIOUS NAME

Blessed Savior, we adore Thee, we Thy love and grace proclaim:
Thou art mighty, Thou art holy, glorious is Thy matchless name! (refrain)

Refrain:
Glorious, glorious, Glorious is Thy name, O Lord!
Glorious, glorious, Glorious is Thy name, O Lord!

Great Redeemer, Lord and Master, Light of all eternal days,
Let the saints of every nation sing Thy just and endless praise!(refrain)

From the throne of heaven's glory to the cross of sin and shame,
Thou didst come to die a ransom, guilty sinners to reclaim! (refrain)

Come, O come immortal Savior, come and take Thy royal throne;
Come and reign, and reign forever, be the kingdom all Thine own! (refrain)

*The Invocation — Rebecca Pursiful

*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. shepherds this week are Monica and Elinore Fenimore.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 7 — Worthy of Worship — JUDSON

Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honor and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,
Worthy of the all the offerings we bring. (refrain)

(refrain)
You are worthy, Father, Creator.
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

Worthy of reverence, worthy of fear,
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,
Worthy of all this ad added to these... (refrain)

Almighty Father, Master and Lord, King of all kings and Redeemer,
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,
Savior and Source of our life without end. (refrain)

*The Offertory Prayer — Suzy Nicholson, Deacon of the Week

The Offertory — "Meditation" — William Hurlstone
Rebecca Rowell Cooke, clarinet

*The Offertory Response 131 "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 113 David Cooke

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise 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 Anthem "I'll Praise My Maker" Lloyd Pfautch
The Chancel Choir

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers: my days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life, and thought, and being last, or immortality endures.

Happy the one whose hopes rely on Israel's God, He made the sky,
And earth and seas, with all their train. His truth forever stands secure,
He saves the oppressed, He feeds the poor, and none shall find His promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind;
He sends the laboring conscience peace. He helps the stranger in distress,
The widow and the fatherless, and grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise Him while He lends me breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life, and thought, and being last, or immortality endures. Amen.

Text: Isaac Watts (1719); alt John Wesley (1727)

The Second Lesson Luke 16:1-9 Scott Dickison

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon "Investing In the Kingdom" Scott Dickison

Third in the series: A Future That's Bigger Than the Past

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 477 We Are Called to Be God's People AUSTRIAN HYMN

We are called to be God's people, showing by our lives His grace,
One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.
Let us show how He has changed us and remade us as His own;
Let us share our life together as we shall around His throne.

We are called to be God's servants, working in the world today;
Taking His own task upon us, all His sacred words obey.
Let us rise then, to His summons, dedicate to Him our all,
That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now His call.

We are called to be God's prophets, speaking for the truth and right,
Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil into light
Let us seek the courage needed, and high calling to fulfill,
That we all may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

* The Congregational Response HOLY MANNA

Christians, Let Us Go and Serve Him

Christians, let us go and serve Him,
Serve the one who gives us life.
Let us serve in love and power,
In the name of Jesus Christ
Serve in love and serve in wisdom,
Reaching all we know and see.
Christians, let us go and serve Him,
Now and through eternity.

Postlude Joyful Recessional Phil Lehenbauer

Anne Armstrong, organ

Our Life Together.

Sunday, September 25

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship

Monday, September 26

9:00 am	Crisis Closet Circle of Hope

Wednesday, September 28

9:30 am	Language Ministry
4:00 pm	Open time in youth room and children's center
5:30 pm	Youth Choir
5:30 pm	Family Dinner
6:00 pm	Young Musicians and Music Makers
6:15 pm	Youth "Unplugged"
6:30 pm	Language Ministry Choir Practice Adult Bible Study
6:45 pm	Kids on Mission

Sunday, October 2

9:45 am	Celebration for JD
9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship World Communion Sunday

Deacon of the Week

September 22	Suzy Nicholson
September 29	Jackie Riley

Birthdays

September 25	Glenda Ferguson Kathy Findley Tony Kight Linda Manis Brett Northenor
September 26	John Snyder
September 28	Claire Davis
September 29	Paul Midkiff
October 1	Bill Underwood
October 2	Tracy Bryant

Condolences:

We grieve with Craig and Jennifer McMahan and their family on the death of their son-in-law, **Steve Ayers,** on Sept. 8.

Save the Date:

October 26:	Quarterly Conference to discuss budget
October 30:	Vote on Budget Fall Festival
November 6:	Commitment Sunday

The Record Speaks

Date:	08/31/22
Budget to Date:	$437,684
Receipts:	$381,370
Expenses:	$463,632
Missions:	$34,541
	($82,261)*

*Parentheses indicate a negative balance

Wednesday Night Supper

Scan this QR code to make a reservation for Wednesday night supper by this afternoon. You can pay by using the church's giving app or by check or cash on Wednesday night.

This week's menu is Zaxby's chicken fingers, sides, and salad.

Deacon Ballot

Each fall, the First Baptist Church of Christ congregation has the opportunity and privilege of helping select those who will serve as deacons in our community of faith. The deadline to vote is October 2. You may vote by dropping a ballot into the boxes in the education lobby or office lobby, emailing your votes to the church office, or following the link in the Highlites.

Goodbye Gathering for JD Granade October 2 9:45 AM Fellowship Hall

Bring a breakfast item to share and join us in the fellowship hall to thank JD for his time among us.

World Communion Sunday October 2, 2022

We will join congregations around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday as we demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. This has become a beloved tradition at FBCX. We celebrate, mindful of the diversity of churches that gather and how we are all a part of God's mission in the world. We also celebrate diverse cultures and traditions within our congregation as we taste bread that is significant to the church members who make them.

Bread baking: If you have a bread recipe that is special to you, your family, or your heritage and would be willing to bake it for us, we would love to use it for our altar. Contact Kelsey by Monday if you want to bake bread for this special service.

Church Approves Committee to Create Master Plan for Facilities

At the quarterly conference at the end of August the church approved the formation of an ad hoc committee charged with producing a master plan for our facilities. In addition to paying attention to space usage and much-needed repairs and updates, this plan is also to give special consideration to mission-driven revenue generating opportunities. Scott first proposed the creation of this committee and a master plan to the Church Council this summer, citing not only our need to get a handle on upcoming maintenance, but the opportunity to re-imagine how we use and open our beloved historic buildings to our community. The committee will begin its work this fall. The committee consists of:

David Cooke, Chair of Church Council

Danielle Barnes, Chair of Properties

Charlie Gustafson, rep from the Finance

Connie Jones, Chair of Missions

Kim Stroup, trustee

Dusty Fuller

David McCollum

Lesley Myrick

Dan Riley

Kelsey Stillwell, Associate Pastor

Scott Dickison, Pastor

All Saints and Commitment Sunday
Guest Preacher, Charles E. Poole
November 6

We are thrilled to welcome Chuck Poole back to First Baptist as our guest preacher for Commitment Sunday.

Chuck served as pastor at FBCX from 1986 until 1994. Most recently, he served as pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi until his retirement at the end of August.

He will be the keynote speaker for CBFGA's fall assembly in Augusta later that day. More information to come.

CHILDREN

Save the date:

October 30: Fall festival 4:00 to 6:00 pm

November 11-13: Camping Trip. Sign up by September 30. (Link in Highlites.)

YOUTH

CBFGA Youth Fall Retreat

November 11-13 at Camp Glisson
Cost: $150
Sign up by October 2. See the youth newsletter for details

Community Youth Group

October 2: Picnic lunch after worship at Coleman Hill and stay for multi-faith worship service hosted by Macon Pride.

October 16: After worship at St. Francis.

We will be making birdhouses.

Amid budget talks and the news of JD's upcoming departure, it's possible that we have not made as big a deal of another important piece of business addressed in our quarterly church conference at the end of August: the creation of a new ad hoc committee to produce a master plan for our facilities, giving special consideration to missions'-driven revenue generating opportunities.

With historic buildings like ours, repair and maintenance are always looming realities. And yet these past three years have brought a series of extraordinary concerns, including an unforeseen and costly repair of our spire.

The long season of disruption due to the pandemic has also forced us to imagine and use our facilities differently. Who would have thought our parking lot would make such a wonderful sanctuary?

As we have returned, we are also finding that we are a different congregation than we were before with different needs than we did just a few years ago. We are delighted that our children's ministry is as strong as ever, but accessibility concerns have left their traditional spaces insufficient. Sunday school class changes have led to the swapping of rooms and some spaces left open.

After so much time away from the buildings, we've also come back into them with new eyes. Scuffs in the drywall, stains in the carpet, and other eyesores are not as easy to walk past.

But where there is need, there is also opportunity.

In worship and on Wednesday nights this fall we're engaging in sermons and conversations inspired by a wonderful book by Sam Wells entitled, A Future That's Bigger Than The Past. In it, Wells joins others in articulating the many challenges facing the church in the present season, but then offers hopeful, practical solutions. Many of these solutions involve rethinking how we use our church buildings to open them to our community, as well as generate revenue to fund our mission and ministry.

Most importantly, he argues these are not worst-case options driven by necessity, but as opportunities to refocus our mission that perhaps we would not find ourselves open to without being pushed by new realities. In other words, times of challenge can be clarifying and life-giving.

Of course, churches have been thinking in this way for years. It's led to church preschools and daycares, as well as space rentals and other partnerships.

What other possibilities might there be for us as we take a step back and ask what our unique calling is as a church at this moment? In our almost 200 year history we have mostly designed our spaces with our needs in mind. What would happen if we designed them from a wider view?

Might a concerted effort to open our facilities to our neighbors bring us into closer relationship with them? Might it also provide us financial flexibility to secure the long term presence of our church and its unique and vital presence in our community?

These are the questions this committee will lead us in asking in the coming year. Pray for them in their work, and be on the lookout for updates as we proceed.

It may be that the disruption of Covid, painful as it was, will turn out to be the inspiration we needed to think anew about who we are called to be, and how we can best use all that God and past generations of this church have given us. Let us not let it go to waste.

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 for the Glory of God and in loving memory of Warren's sister, Judy King, 1951-2022, by Warren and Connie Jones. Georgia.

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Allie Ford
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