



Michelangelo, The Creation of Adam, detail, Sistine Chapel

October 23, 2022
The Twentieth 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

Lorelai Wall, acolyte

The Prelude

“Trumpet Tune”

Anne Armstrong

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Allie Ford

In this place, the community of faith
is reminded of the promise:

God’s love endures forever!

In spite of our impatient grumbling,
despite our attraction to the shadows:

Christ’s light shines in us!

When we think our hands are empty,
when we have no music in our souls:

**the Spirit fills us with glad songs,
and creates us for good works!**

*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

Allie Ford

**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

Kelsey Stillwell

“Let the Children Come”

Rebecca Pursiful

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. leader this week is Rebecca Pursiful and the shepherds this week are Lacie Brown and Leanne Summerlin.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 23

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

[Refrain]

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden: He made them every one. [Refrain]**

**He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. [Refrain]**

*The Offertory Prayer

Bryan Whitfield
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“A Song of Joy”
The Chancel Choir

Philip M. Young

I will sing unto the Lord a song of joy!
My heart is ready I will sing Thy praise.
Wake up my glory, wake up my psaltery and harp!

Text: Psalm 57:7-9, adapted

**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 65

Barbara Newton

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be
satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the
hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of
the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you
provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing
its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they
shout and sing together for joy.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

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.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

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

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 670 Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

MADILL

**Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free.
Now because Your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.**

**Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree Your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of Your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter—flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.**

**Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me.**

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Congregational Response 514

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.**

Text: Jana Wolf (2000)

Postlude

“Celebration”

Anne Armstrong, organ



Important Stewardship Dates

Wednesday, October 26: Church Conference to Discuss Budget

Sunday, October 30: Conference is resumed following worship to vote

Sunday, November 6: Commitment Sunday



FBCX Fall Festival 2022!
October 30 4:00 to 6:00 pm
FBCX parking lot

Food truck, inflatables, trunk or treat...and cake walk is back! Please take a moment to complete the google form linked in the newsletter if you plan to trunk or treat and to sign up for volunteer opportunities. Donations of candy (special request for allergy-friendly candy) and other small trinkets will be collected for the month of October in the lobby of the children's ministry area or outside the office.

Fall Festival Cake Walk Items are Needed!

If you can donate a cake, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, etc. for the cake walk, please let Julie Long know (juliewlong@gmail.com). Donations do not have to be a whole cake—smaller portions individually wrapped (1-2 cookies/brownies or a cupcake) are great as well! Please label the items if they contain nuts. Donations can be brought to church on Sunday morning, October 30, or to the Fall Festival at 4:00.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, October 23

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship

Monday, October 24

9:00 am	Crisis Closet
9:00 am	Circle of Hope

Wednesday, October 26

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
	Quarterly Conference to discuss budget
6:15 pm	Youth "Unplugged"
6:30 pm	Language Ministry
	Choir Practice
6:45 pm	Kids on Mission

Sunday, October 30

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
4:00 pm	Fall Festival

Deacon of the Week

October 20	Bryan Whitfield
October 27	Monica Stevens

Birthdays

October 24	Ellery Davis
October 26	Elinor Fenimore
October 27	Anna Davis
October 28	Fay Boie
October 30	Oscar Hugley
	Pippa Kirby
	Nicholas Nava

Save the Date:

November 6: Commitment Sunday

The Record Speaks

Date:	09/30/22
Budget to Date	\$492,395
Receipts	\$424,623
Expenses	\$514,999
Missions	\$34,541
	(\$90,376)*

*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 menu this week is breakfast by Dexter.

A Conversation About Christian Nationalism
Saturday, October 28, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
151 Broadleaf Drive

Reservations preferred (Jackie.riley@cox.net/478 297 7838)

Coffee and desert provided. Led by historian Bruce Gourley. Open to all FBCX members and their friends and co-workers.

According to Bruce Gourley, Christian nationalism is an extremist movement and ideology based upon the false belief that America was founded as a Christian nation. Christian nationalism is committed to replacing America's inclusive democracy with a theocracy and more than willing to use violence to do so. The domestic terrorism and treason of January 6 was Christian nationalism in action. Christian nationalism is also the force behind many right-wing politicians, the Supreme Court's reversal of historic decisions, the war on public education, and grassroots efforts to take over state and local school boards and prohibit the truthful teaching of America's history. Christian nationalism is seemingly everywhere now, including to some degree in local churches. It is a clear and present danger both to American Christianity and democracy.

Women's Book Club
November 13 6:00 pm
123 St. Martinique Place

We will meet at the home of Cathy Logue, to discuss *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Bring snacks to share at 6 pm and we will begin our discussion by 7 pm.

Kristin Hannah, one of our book clubs' favorite authors, describes it as "Extraordinary. It is a remarkable combination of joy and terror, infused always with the restorative power of a mother's love and the endless human capacity for hope."

See what you think about it being compared to the masterpiece *The Grapes of Wrath*. We will discuss that and much more.

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.

Chuck served as pastor at FBCX from 1986 until 1994. 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 night. We will gather in the fellowship hall for breakfast with Chuck and Marcia over the Sunday school hour.

Chuck Poole's latest book, *The Path to Depth* (Good Faith Media, October 2022; good-faithmedia.org), will be available for sale in the fellowship hall from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. at a cost of \$15 each (cash/check/credit card).

"The path to depth" is a simple name for the never-ending journey to a deeper life with God. "The path to depth" sounds a little like "the path to death." Which, in a way, it is: a path to death that is also a path to life; dying to an old way of life, as Paul said in

his letter to the Romans, to rise and walk in a new way of life, a deeper, wider life with God; what scripture sometimes calls “walking in the Spirit” or “growing in grace”; the life the late Mary Oliver captured so beautifully with her single simple sentence, “Another morning, and I wake, with thirst, for the goodness I do not have.”

For many seekers of every faith that is the story of our lifelong journey: thirsting for the goodness we do not yet have; longing for a deeper life with God, not because we think we must be better so we can persuade God to love us, and not because we think that the better we do in this life the more rewarded we will be in the next life. Rather, we wake each morning with the desire to live more deeply, fully, and faithfully because, as far as we know, this is the only life we are ever going to have in this world. While no one can say for certain, we are not going to get to come back around, do this over, and get it right the next time. So we long to get on, and stay on, the path to depth so that we can live the one and only life we are ever going to have as deeply, fully, and faithfully as we can.

The path to depth is a narrow way; narrow, not as in exclusive, but as in centering; a lifelong reaching for a more thoughtful, mindful, centered life; praying, each day, all through the day, to be kind and gentle, brave and true. However, while the path to depth is a narrow way, it leads to a wide place. On the path to depth, the deeper we go, the wider we grow. The longer we stay on the narrow way, the wider we draw our circle of

welcome, hospitality, friendship, and grace, until, eventually, the size of the circumference of the circle of our welcome is the same as the size of the circumference of the circle of welcome around God.

**CBFGA State Gathering
November 6-7, 2022
First Baptist Church, Augusta**

Come hear and dialogue with:

Chuck Poole, recently retired Senior Pastor of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS.

David Odom, Director of Leadership Education, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

See the link in the Highlites to register.

The \$40 registration fee includes three meals.

Gauging Interest for a Retreat to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, in New Mexico: Summer 2023

Tentative dates: July 22-29

Scott is gauging interest in a retreat to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert outside of Abiquiu, NM in late summer of next year. This is the Benedictine monastery he visited on his sabbatical in 2019. Given the size of the guest house there, space will be limited.

Details will depend on the group, but a rough plan is to leave Saturday and fly from Atlanta to Santa Fe. We would take a rental car/van up to the monastery, in the far north-central of the state near Abiquiu, arriving later in the afternoon.

We would stay at the monastery Sunday to Wednesday, and plan to leave Thursday morning. Given the remote location, once we arrive at the Monastery we will not plan to leave unless there is an emergency. We will take our meals in the cafeteria with the monks (all meals are included).

On Thursday we will drive to Santa Fe and stay in a hotel there for two nights and fly home Saturday.

Approximate cost will be \$700-800, not including airfare. Includes all lodging.

Time at the monastery will be in silent retreat. You can read more about the monastery and the shape of a visit at their website: <https://christdesert.org>

Please reach out to Scott if you have questions, are interested, or would like to reserve your spot!

YOUTH

Community Youth Group

Today, 2:00-4:00pm

In the park across the street from

High St. Church

Pumpkins and simple tools will be provided

Youth Unplugged

Wednesday, October 26th

Pumpkin carving/painting and games

Bring your own pumpkin

Fall Festival

Youth are invited to stick around after the Fall Festival until 7:30pm to help clean up and to play spooky games!

Community Youth Group

Hosted at FBCX

Sunday, November 6

12:30-2:30pm

Lunch and a conversation about

Christian nationalism. Contact Karen

Summerlin if you can help with lunch

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

November 11-13: Camping Trip.

CBFGA "Story" Children's Retreat

(3rd – 6th Graders)

Rock Eagle, Eatonton, GA

Date: January 27-29, 2023

Deposit: \$75/Person

Total Cost: \$150/Person

Please register your child/children by

November 13th!

<https://forms.gle/Apm8GomZ24MiJZ3N8>

Deposits will be collected by November 20th

Questions? Kathryn Scoggins will be the point person for this event.

CHILDREN

NOTES AND DOODLES

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 sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harry & Blanche Burkett & Leann Burkett Fowler & in honor of Lisa Bird by Fay Burkett Boie and family.



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