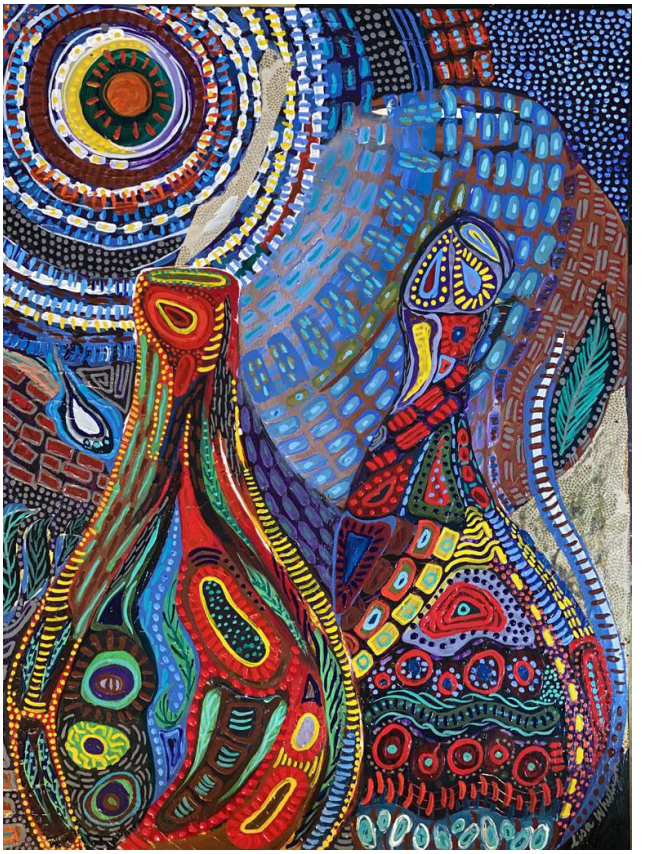
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



"Choose Life," Lisa Whittington, collage, acrylic on wood, 2021

Sunday, February 12, 2023

6th Sunday After Epiphany

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

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

Pippa Kirby, acolyte

The Prelude — "Procession" — Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Choral Call to Worship — "Ubi Caritas" — Ola Gjeilo

Vox Anima

James Meaders, conductor

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.	Where charity and love are, God is there.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.	Love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.	Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.	Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.	And from a sincere heart let us love one.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.	Where charity and love are, God is there.

*The Hymn of Praise 310 — Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee — HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our Brother
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Bringing all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life.

*The Invocation — Allie Ford

*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 — Stanley Roberts

"Let the Children Come" — Allie Ford

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." Pick up your children there after worship. The W.O.W. leader this week is Rebecca Pursiful and the shepherds this week are Lesley and Nate Myrick.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 335 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him — HYFRYDOL

**Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore Him; praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him; praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! For He hath spoken; worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
Law which never shall be broken for their guidance hath He made.**

**Praise the Lord! For He is glorious; never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
Heaven and earth and all creation, laud and magnify His name.**

**Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee;
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heav'n adore Thee. We would bow before Thy throne;
As thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.**

*The Offertory Prayer — Dee Bratcher, Deacon of the week

The Offertory "Song of Miriam" Elaine Hagenberg
Vox Anima

I stand at the sea and turn
to face the desert stretching
endless and still.
My eyes are dazzled
The sky brilliant blue
Sunburnt sands unyielding white.
My hands turn to dove wings.
My arms
reach
for the sky
and I want to sing
the song rising inside me.
My mouth open
I stop.
Where are the words?
Where the melody?
In a moment of panic
My eyes go blind.
Can I take a step
Without knowing a
Destination?
Will I falter
Will I fall
Will the ground sink away from under me?
The song still unformed— How can I sing?
To take the first step—
To sing a new song—
Is to close one's eyes
and dive
into unknown waters,
For a moment knowing nothing risking all—
But then to discover
The waters are friendly
The ground is firm.
And the song—
the song rises again.
Out of my mouth
come words lifting the wind. And I hear
for the first
the song
that has been in my heart silent
unknown
even to me.

Text: Rabbi Ruth Sohn

*The Offertory Response 341 "For the Beauty of the Earth" DIX

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson — Psalm 119:1-8 — Dannie Smith

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer — Kelsey Stillwell

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 trespass 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 — "Even When He Is Silent" — Kim Andre Arnesen

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining
I believe in love, even when I feel it not
I believe in God, even when He is silent

Text: anon. 20th century

The Second Lesson — Deuteronomy 30:15-20 — Scott Dickison

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the

Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon "The Meaning of Life" Scott Dickison

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 278 We Are Travelers on a Journey BEACH SPRING

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you:
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

*The 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 soft upon your field
And until we meet again, (until we meet again)
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen

Postlude "Jubilant Finale" Michael Higgins

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, February 12

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship with Vox Anima Chamber Choir
12:15 pm	Youth, Children, and Families picnic at Tattnall Park
6:00 pm	Youth Super Bowl Party

Wednesday, February 15

9:30 am	Language Ministry
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, February19

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Church Council
5:30 pm	Master Plan Committee

Monday, February 20

Office closed for President's day

Deacon of the Week

February 9	Dee Bratcher
February 16	Fay Boie

Birthdays

February 12	Scott Dickison
February 13	Leon Brock
	Beverly Owens
	Jackie Riley
February 15	Christopher Davis
February 16	Jeff Whatley
February 17	Merrill Long
	Morgan Stinson
	John Summerlin
February 18	Monica Fenimore

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Gloria Patman** on her death on January 25.

We grieve with Bryan Shelburne and family on the death of his sister, **Judy Montgomery**, on February 2.

We grieve with Charlie Thomas and family on the death of her father, **Radford Smith**, on February 7.

Save the Date:

February 22: Ash Wednesday
March 5: Children's Spring Musical
April 29: Church-wide Missions Day
May 21: Graduate Sunday
June 12-16: VBS
July 16-19: PassportKids

The Record Speaks

Date:	1/31/2023
Budget:	$54,530
Receipts:(Offering):	$47,440
Expenses:	$47,290
Missions:	$3,770
Year to Date:	($3,620)

Visiting Choir in Worship Today
Vox Anima Chamber Choir is an auditioned 16-voice female chamber choir based in London that specializes in the performance of the music of living composers, giving specific emphasis to the music of female composers.

Trained and conducted by Dr. James M. Meaders, the choir has established a high artistic standard with an emphasis on communicative performance and innovative programming.

Wednesday Nights in February
Join us for Wednesday Bible Study. This small group, discussion-based time is a wonderful midweek respite.

February 15: Making Sense of the Bible: Questions about the nature of scripture.

February 22: Ash Wednesday

Wednesday Night Supper
We are excited to welcome Dexter Jones back to the kitchen to cater our Wednesday suppers this winter and spring! Menus will be posted soon.

Please use this QR code to make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, February 15.

Harry Vaughn Smith Lectures
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 22, 10:10 am

"Multireligious: Dialogue, Solidarity, Transformation" by Rev. Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts. Limited seating will be available for in-person attendance, and a Live stream will be provided on the Department of Religion webpage.

Sanctuary Flowers
If you would like to sponsor flowers for the sanctuary this year, please use the link in the newsletter or contact Mary Leonard.

Search for Interim Director of Children's Ministries
The First Baptist Church of Christ is searching for a new Interim Director of Children's Ministries. A full list of responsibilities are on the website. This position will be part time, between 15-20 hours a week. Compensation is $300 a week.

Around the Table
We are excited to once again offer these opportunities to gather for a meal around each other's tables.

On three different Saturday evenings in Lent, members of the congregation will open their homes to host a group from within the church for supper. We make an effort to mix up the guest lists to have a diverse group at every table. The meal is potluck, with the host providing the main and the guests bringing a side (which is usually coordinated ahead of time the week of).

If you'd like to attend or host, follow the QR code below.

YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday Night Activities
5:30 Dinner and Youth Choir*

*Youth come down to the Fellowship Hall to eat after choir. After everyone is done, we walk up to the youth room together.

6:30-7:30 Youth Unplugged

Wednesday Night Chaperones Sign up
Additional adults are needed during "Youth Unplugged" on Wednesday nights. Please sign up for a week that you are available using the link in the newsletter.

Youth, Children, and Families Picnic Today
Bring a packed lunch and meet at Tattnall Park after worship. Adults responsible for transportation and supervision of their student.

Youth Super Bowl Party
Tonight at 6:00-Halftime

At the Johns' house. Bring a snack or side to share!

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
February 21, 6:00pm

Youth Passport Camp
Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
June 19-24

Cost: $468 (Fundraising opportunities will supplement a portion of this cost. Scholarships are available.)

Sign up ASAP. Passport has a new payment schedule this year that does not allow us to easily drop spots. There are a limited number available. Once all spots are filled, we will add as needed but availability is not guaranteed the longer we wait.

Sign up your student with an $80 deposit (ideally by February 1).

Pay deposit on EasyTithe, select "Youth Camp" fund

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Wednesday Night Activities
5:30 Dinner
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:45 pm Kids on Mission

Children's Spring Musical Dates
March 1: 6:00–7:15 pm
Full time for choir rehearsal in sanctuary

March 4: TBA Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary (Please reserve 9-12)

March 5:
4:00 pm: Call time
6:00 pm: Performance
Greet the Cast Party immediately following performance

Youth, Children, and Families Picnic Today
Youth, children, & families picnic. Bring a packed lunch and meet at Tattnall Park after worship. Adults responsible for transportation and supervision of their student.

Children's Ministry Dates:
February 26: Children's Worship

March 5: Spring Musical

April 2: Easter egg hunt after worship

May 20: End of school celebration

June 12-16: VBS

July 16-19: PassportKids

MISSIONS

Daybreak SleepOut
February 23, 5:30 pm-9:00 am
Donate or sleep under the stars for one night in solidarity with the homeless community and support Daybreak Day Resource Center and its services.

Our congregation has created a sleepout page for you to donate! Use the link in the newsletter or use this QR code:

Make a donation to help us reach our goal and/or participate in the SleepOut on behalf of FBCX. If you plan on participating, contact Kelsey so we can share with the congregation and show our support.

Mission Amplify: Public Education Advocacy Group

There has been a date change for the introductory Zoom

Organized by Together for Hope and Fund Georgia's Future

Mission Amplify is an initiative that engages faith communities and other groups across Georgia in writing letters to legislators in support of public schools and the children they serve.

How does it work? First, attend an introductory session and training on Zoom with Rachel Gunter-Shapard (Together for Hope) on ***Monday, February 13th at 7:00 pm*** *(date change*). If you are interested, we recommend you attend this training to better understand what we will do as a cohort. The Zoom meeting will be recorded and can be sent to those who are unable to attend. After the training, we will meet 4-5 times during Lent to use the curriculum provided, engage in discussion, and write letters to legislators. Dates TBD.

Looking for a different Lenten practice this year? Learn more about education policy issues in Georgia and engage in advocacy work while gathering with FBCX friends. Join this cohort as a part of your Lenten journey.

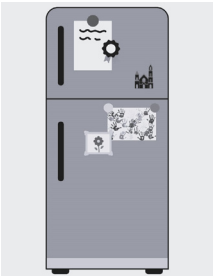
Contact Kelsey or use the link in the newsletter to sign up for the information session and to be added to the contact list.

Trip to the Border
October 22-26, 2023

CBF is offering an Educational Experience to the Texas/Mexico Border

This experience is similar to the trip we had to cancel in 2020. Meet with CBF field personnel Elket Rodriquez and Global Missions staff in Harlingen, Texas. The itinerary includes meeting with local pastors to hear about their churches' responses to border needs, attending immigration court to learn about the asylum process, volunteering at the Humanitarian Respite Center in Brownsville, a prayer walk along the border/river, and breaking bread with immigrant families as we share stories. Contact Kelsey for more information.

THE FRIDGE DOOR



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

FBCX has an incredible AV team working behind the scenes. They help with AV setup for hybrid classes. They arrive early for worship and events to set up mics, cameras, and lights and are diligent about making adjustments that work specifically for each service. During worship, they run the lighting, and sound, and manage the live stream. Over the past year, they have drastically improved our streaming capabilities with new tech and an expanding team.

We are grateful to all the members of the AV Servant Team! Thank you for your time and skills! Our systems are growing fast and they need more help! If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Hal at 706-202-4107.

AV Team:

Hal Collier
Josh Graham
Joe Johnson
John Patillo
John Brainard
Jonathan Simpson
Richard Green

NOTES AND DOODLES

NOW. HERE. THIS.

Around the Table

In her sermon last week, Ellen Sechrest of CBF Global Missions spoke to us about the importance of inviting people to the table. Sharing beautiful stories from her childhood and experiences serving on church staffs through the years, she reminded us that this act of generous welcome is a crucial part of how many of us experience our "Baptist heritage."

And it's true: tables are powerful things.

They bring us together and force us to see each other face to face. They create a space in which difference can be dissolved and where understanding can be won.

There is a reason so much of the gospels involve them and why it was the first place Christ returned to after he was raised.

Which is why I'm thrilled that we will once again gather around tables in each other's homes this Lent as part of our Around the Table series.

On three different Saturday evenings in Lent (February 25, March 11, March 25), members of the congregation will open their homes to host groups from within the church for supper. We make an effort to mix up the guest lists to have a diverse group at every table. The meal is potluck, with the host providing the main and the guests bringing a side (which is usually coordinated ahead of time the week of).

Child care is provided at the church for those who wish to use it, though children are welcome to join in the suppers. We also help coordinate transportation and account for food allergies and other dietary restrictions.

In short, we want to do everything we can to make these tables a space of welcome for all who would gather around them, trusting that the Holy Spirit will meet us all there.

There is more information in the bulletin and weekly newsletters, or you can call the church office and we can help you register. You are free to sign up to attend as many as you'd like, and we hope you'll consider hosting.

Scripture tells us that good things happen around tables. Miracles, even. What will we find this season? Whom?

SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Winter Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and ends with the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. 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 by a grateful congregation in honor of Anne, Stanley and the Chancel Choir for the gift of music in our sanctuary each Sunday morning.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST
NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

511 High Place Macon, GA 31201 • office: (478) 742-6485 • fax: (478) 742-2112
• www.fbcxmacon.org • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

Staff and Leadership

Anne Armstrong
ORGANIST

Kirstine Buchanan
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

David Cooke
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev. Scott Dickison
PASTOR

Allie Ford
MINISTRY INTERN

Tierra Johnson
CUSTODIAN

Connie Pursiful
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rebecca Pursiful
MINISTRY INTERN

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts
MINISTER OF MUSIC

Eric Spears
CHAIR OF DEACONS

Rev. Kelsey Stillwell
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND MISSIONS

Tricia Whitby
Vice Chair of Deacons