FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

Raise Your Heads, Lauren Wright Pittman

May 14, 2023

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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
Billy Dickison, acolyte

The Prelude — "Processional" — Andrew Fletcher
Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship — Bwana Asifiwe, Praise the Lord — arr. Mark Burrows
Music Makers & Young Musicians

*The Hymn of Praise 19 — I Sing the Mighty Power of God — FOREST GREEN

I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

*The Invocation — Kelsey Stillwell

*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" — Erika Houser

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 Audrey Dickison and Maddie Cooke.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 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:

Refrain:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love: (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

For Thyself, best Gift Divine! to our world so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

*The Offertory Prayer — Mary Leonard, Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem — The Prayer of St. Patrick — William M. Schoenfeld
Music Makers & Young Musicians

*The 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 First Lesson — John 14:15-21 — Kelly Whiddon

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

For the Good News of God,

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 Second Lesson — Acts 17:22-31 — Scott Dickison

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "In Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being" Scott Dickison

THE BREAD AND CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Anthem "What Wondrous Love Is This" Mark Patterson
The Chancel Choir

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
And to the great "I Am," I will sing.
While millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: William Walker, Southern Harmony (1840)

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 607 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story HYFRYDOL

**I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me:
How He left His home in glory for the cross of Calvary.
I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,
Threw His loving arms around me, drew me back into His way.**

**I was bruised, but Jesus healed me; faint was I from many a fall;
Sight was gone, and fears possessed me, but He freed me from them all.
Days of darkness still come o'er me, sorrow's paths I often tread,
But the Savior still is with me; by His hand I'm safely led.**

**He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet;
Then He'll bear me safely over, where the loved ones I shall meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.**

*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 — "Sacred Joy" — Phil Lehenbauer
Anne Armstrong, organ

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Scan this QR code to access links for all of our event sign ups, on line payments, and social media.

Sunday, May 14

9:45 am	Joint Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship with Communion

Wednesday, May 17

9:30 am	Language Ministry
5:30 pm	Youth Choir
5:30 pm	Family Dinner
6:00 pm	Children's choir
6:15 pm	Youth "Unplugged"
6:00 pm	Language Ministry
6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 21

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15	Graduate lunch/youth fundraiser

Deacon of the Week

May 11	Mary Leonard
May 18	Monica Stevens Kirby

Birthdays

May 14	Evie Wallace
	Finn Wallace
May 15	Gail Mann
May 16	Julie Long
	Tricia Whitby
May 19	Claudia Mitcham
	Ian Wiles
May 20	Zachary Potts

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Frances VanHorn**, grandmother of Angela Windham, who passed away on April 17.

We grieve with the family of **C. W. Sanderson** who passed away on April 27.

We grieve with the family of **Meta Monteleon**, mother of Martha Duke, who passed away on May 3.

We grieve with the family of **Faye Wiggins** who passed away on May 10.

The Record Speaks

As of 4/30/2023

Monthly Budget:	$50,200
Receipts:	$43,072
Expenses:	$43,666
Year to Date:	$84
Year to Date Missions Giving:	$23,350

Save the Date:

May 24	last evening of regular Wednesday night church activities
May 28	Pentecost
June 12–16	VBS
June 19–24	Youth Passport
July 8–5	High School Mission Trip
July 16–19	PassportKids

Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, May 17.

Menu: Baked Chicken, rice, and vegetables

Jam and Bread Fundraiser
Thank you for helping to send our kids to camp! Each 1/2 pint jar of homemade jam is $10. Each order will receive a small loaf of bread. (One loaf of bread per order no matter how many jams your order). Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, May 21. Flavors: Strawberry Lemonade, Caramel Pineapple and Mango Vanilla. Don't delay in ordering! This will make great thank you gifts for teachers, neighbors, and friends!

Sanctuary Flowers
To sponsor sanctuary flowers, please contact Mary Leonard at 478-737-4171 or michael.leonard1@cox.net.

Graduate Recognition & Spaghetti Lunch Celebration
Sunday, May 21
Join us for worship and a spaghetti lunch to celebrate our graduates and support our youth.

11:00 am graduates will be recognized in worship

12:15 pm spaghetti lunch fundraiser hosted by the FBCX Youth in the fellowship hall.

Everyone is invited to lunch as we celebrate with our graduates and our families. Donations from this event will be used to offset the cost of the youth mission trip and Passport camp this summer.

Women's Book Club
May 21, 6:00 pm
134 Cross Creek Circle
The book will be *You Shall Not CONDEMN - A story of Faith and Advocacy on Death Row* by Jennifer M. McBride. Jenny plans to be with us, in person, We will also set up a Zoom option for anyone interested and in case something, last minute, keeps Jenny from being able to drive down from Atlanta.

Last Wednesday Night Church: May 24
Our last evening of Wednesday night church activities will be May 24. Join us in the fellowship hall for supper and an ice cream sundae bar dessert!

Stay tuned for summer Bible study options!

Pool Party
June 8 5:00-8:00 pm
560 Edgefield Way
All youth, children, and families are invited to celebrate the end of the school year at this year's pool party.

Pizza, drinks, and popsicles will be provided, but feel free to bring extra snacks!

Pick Up Mugs and Dishes
During the mission day, a team cleaned out a few closets in the church and there are items that could use a home! Check out the tables set up outside the Fellowship Hall and take home anything you'd like. Items still left after a few weeks will be donated.

VBS Registration Now Open!
At Food Truck Party VBS, your "chefs" will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they get on a roll with God! They will discover how we can turn to God in prayer every day to meet our needs and how we can join God in providing for the needs of others.

VBS will be on June 12–16 at First Baptist Church in the fellowship hall. We'll be doing the Cokesbury curriculum from last year with a Food Truck Party! Due to space restrictions, aftercare is only available for families connected to FBCX and Centenary.

VBS will be in the morning from 9:00 am–12:00 pm and is free. Aftercare will be from 12:00–5:00 pm and will be $80/child for four days (we won't have aftercare on Friday, as we'll be having a noontime celebration). If you want aftercare, **please make sure that you sign up each child on both links!**

Please complete one registration form PER CHILD so that we can best support each "chef" at VBS! We especially need some shepherds to guide the groups along with some more hands in the aftercare time. For high school and college kids, it's a great way to earn some volunteer hours! We're looking forward to a great week together this summer!

YOUTH NEWS

Graduate and Youth Fundraiser
Sunday, May 21
Our graduates will be recognized in worship. Following the service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our graduates and for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser. Donations from this event will help offset the cost of youth trips this summer. Youth and families are asked to help with the set up and serving lunch. Look for the Signup genius in the youth email newsletter and sign up to help.

On Saturday, May 20th, 9:00am-12:00pm, youth and adults will meet in the fellowship hall to decorate for the graduate celebration and prepare the kitchen for the lunch.

High School Mission Trip
July 8–15 in New York City
Deadline to sign up: May 21
Details have been sent to families of High School and college students. Talk to Kelsey if you have more questions.

Summer MeetUps:
Gathering together around a common interest

Pickleball with Marina: May 31 & July 5, 9:00–11:00 am
Hiking with Cathy: TBD
Art with Audrey: TBD

Save the Dates
Wednesday, May 24: Last regular Wednesday night, Sundae bar, games, & more.

Thursday, June 8: Pool party

Tuesday, June 13: Youth Lunch after VBS

Wednesdays, May 31, June 7, July 5

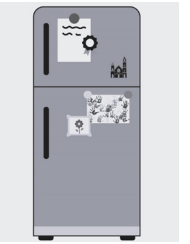
5:00-6:00 HS Mission trip planning

6:00-8:00 All youth: Fellowship, Food, Faith, and Fun (F4)

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Children's Ministry Dates:
May 20: End of school celebration
June 12-16: VBS
July 16-19: Passport

THE FRIDGE DOOR



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

Rebecca Cooke leads our children's choirs that meet every Wednesday. They worked hard to share the musical with us earlier this year and lead us in worship. Thank you for teaching our children and sharing their music with us.

Rebecca was recognized for her teaching at GCSU. The student nominated and voted award reads, "For your unfailing support and in recognition of your enduring commitment, dedication, and visionary guidance to teaching and learning at Georgia College". Rebecca has taught music and civilization, as well as Woodwind studies and Clarinet at GCSU since 2010. She received this award for both Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. Congratulations, Rebecca!

Please continue to send in your fridge door stories to Kelsey so we can celebrate these things together.

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table along with the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. The season of Easter marks the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Eastertide is traditionally a time of reflection on the significance of the resurrection of Christ for our life and faith. The color white symbolizes the hope of the resurrection.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Tribble.

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Staff and Leadership

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PASTOR

Erika Houser
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Tierra Johnson
CUSTODIAN

Camille Kittrell
BOOKKEEPER

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