



**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



“Son of Hagar,” by Frank Wesley

**June 25, 2023**

**Fourth 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**

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

*Jennings Tarpley, acolyte*

The Prelude

"Festal Procession"

Rosalie Bonighton

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

Teach me your way, O God,  
and I will walk in your truth.

**Knit my heart to your Heart-that I may I know I am with you.**

I will thank you, Creator, Sustainer, with all my heart  
and honor and seek you all my days.

**For great is your love toward me. You have delivered me from my pit.**

You have helped me in trouble.

You are slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

**Turn to me, and have mercy on me. Give strength to your servant and save your faithful child.**

An improvisation on Psalm 86, by Christine Robinson

\*The Hymn of Praise 334

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

AMSTERDAM

**Praise the Lord who reigns above and keeps His court below;  
Praise the holy God of love, and all His greatness show;  
Praise Him for His noble deeds, praise Him for His matchless power;  
Him from whom all good proceeds let earth and heaven adore.**

**Celebrate th'eternal God with harp and psaltery,  
Timbrels soft and cymbals loud in His high praise agree;  
Praise Him every tuneful string; all the reach of heavenly art,  
All the powers of music bring, the music of the heart.**

**Him, in whom they move and live, let every creature sing,  
Glory to their Maker give, and homage to their King.  
Hallowed be His name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;  
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord.**

\*The Invocation

\*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

“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 W.O.W. shepherds are Doug and Danielle Barnes.

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 69

Children of the Heavenly Father TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

**Children of the heavenly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Suzy McCullough  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

“How Great Thou Art”

Swedish Folk Melody

Kelley Dixson, flute arr. John Lancaster & Byron Foxx

\*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

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Laura Lease

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;

be gracious to me, O LORD, for to you do I cry all day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.

In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O LORD, nor are there any works like yours.

All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O LORD, and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

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 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

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Paul Sjolund

*The Chancel Choir**Kelley Dixson, flute*

The Second Lesson

Genesis 21:8-21

Scott Dickison

he child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The God of Hagar and Ishmael”

Scott Dickison

### OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

\*The Hymn of Commitment 41 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

WELLESLEY”

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in His justice,  
Which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner,  
And more graces for the good;  
There is mercy with the Savior;  
There is healing in His blood.**

**But we make His love too narrow  
By false limits of our own;  
And we magnify His strictness  
With a zeal He will not own.**

**For the love of God is broader  
Than the measure of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple,  
We could take Him at His word;  
And our lives would be more loving  
In the likeness of our Lord.**

\*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

The Congregational Response 481 Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

(stanza 4)

**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

"Jubilant Ringing"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Phil Lehenbauer



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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



### Sunday, June 25

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Church Council
3:00 pm	Children's Committee

### Monday, June 26

9:00 am	Crisis Closet
10:00 am	Circle of Hope

### Wednesday, June 28

Office closed for CBF	
6:30 pm	Choir Practice

### Thursday, June 29

Office closed for CBF

### Sunday, July 2

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship

### Deacon of the Week

June 22	Suzy McCullough
June 29	Suzy Nicholas

### Birthdays

June 27	Darlene Flaming
	Joe Gatins
	Justina Primo
June 28	Tara Moscardelli
June 29	JoAnn Tanton
June 30	Fred Bongiovanni
	Shawna Dooley
	Pat Painter

### Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Beverly Gnhem** who passed away on June 18.

### Save the Date:

July 8-15	High School Mission Trip
July 16-19	PassportKids
July 16	Women's Book Club
September 15-17	Women's Retreat

### The Record Speaks

As of 5/31/2023

Monthly Budget:	\$50,200
Receipts:	\$45,031
Expenses:	\$65,053
Year to Date:	(\$18,048)
Year to Date Missions Giving:	\$25,900

### Sanctuary Flowers

Open dates to sponsor flowers are:

July 2, 9
August 13, 20, 27
September 17, 24
October 1, 22, 29
November 12, 26
December 3, 31

Would the person who asked me about sponsoring flowers on August 13, please contact Mary Leonard. To sponsor flowers, please contact Mary Leonard at 478-737-4171 or michael.leonard1@cox.net.



## **Sharing Our Light**

Current Offering Received: \$28,266

Goal: \$38,000

Still To Go: \$9,734

## **This Is My Story, This Is My Song**

Join us for a combined Sunday school offering over the month of July (starting July 9). We will gather in the fellowship hall for breakfast each week, and hear from members of the congregation as they reflect on the music and art that has shaped them as people of faith.

## **Summer Bible Study**

**6:00 pm**

### **The Society Garden in Ingleside Village**

Join us this summer for a laid-back Bible study at The Society Garden at Ingleside Village. We'll grab a table and have good conversation. Dates are July 12, 19, and 26.

## **CBF General Assembly**

You're invited to the 2023 General Assembly in Atlanta from June 28–30. General Assembly is an important event in the life of CBF, and we're excited to explore the concept of Holy Ambition as we come alongside God's transforming work in the world.

Participate in events hosted by organizations FBCX supports through our mission giving and our identity partners.

Check out our recommendations and if you register for any of these events, let Kelsey and Scott know so they can look for you!

*CBFGA State Gathering: Dinner at Tin*

*Lizzy's*

Wednesday, June 28 at 5:30–7:00 pm

\$35 per person

*Together for Hope Banquet*

Tuesday, June 27, 5:30–7:00 pm

Join the Together for Hope Banquet: "Together for Better Health" Individual tickets are \$70.

*Baptist Women in Ministry: 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner*

Thursday, June 29 at 5:30 pm

BWIM will host a celebration dinner at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta. They will honor the first 40 years and look forward into BWIM's future as they reveal their new logo, share about new direction in their work, and hear from a panel of leaders in the BWIM community. Individual tickets are \$40.

*Dr. Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice Trailblazer Luncheon*

Thursday, June 29 at 11:30 am

Join the Dr. Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice Trailblazer Award Luncheon, where you will hear from Dr. Otis Moss III and celebrate the 2023 award recipients. Individual tickets are \$22.

*Baptist Joint Committee: Luncheon Friday, June 30 at 11:30am*

The program will introduce the new BJC Center for Faith, Justice and Reconciliation, and the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Adam L. Bond. Individual tickets are \$55.

## **Women's Book Club**

**July 16, at 6:00 pm**

Our next book selection is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. We will meet at 123 Saint Martinique, Macon.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **High School Mission Trip**

July 8–15 in New York City

### **Summer Meet Ups:**

Gathering together around a common interest

Pickleball with Marina: July 5, 9:00 am

Hiking with Cathy: TBD

Art with Audrey: TBD

### **Save the Dates**

#### **Wednesdays, 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**

### **Summer Sunday School**

We have combined Sunday School classes for the summer months. If you are interested in helping volunteer or lead a Sunday, please contact Erika by emailing: [childrensministry@fbcxmacon.org](mailto:childrensministry@fbcxmacon.org).



## 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 to the glory of God by the Pilgrims' Sunday school class in honor of Dee Bratcher, who recently retired from Mercer University.



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• [www.fbcxmacon.org](http://www.fbcxmacon.org) • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

## Staff and Leadership

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ORGANIST  
  
David Cooke  
CHAIR OF CHURCH  
COUNCIL  
  
Rev. Scott Dickison  
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