

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



## FROM THE PASTOR

As I've read posts and listened to the news and prayed and remembered scripture from the Psalms, the Gospels and Revelation – I've thought and felt a number of things this week.

“Look at the birds of the air ... Consider the lilies of the field ...” came to mind. And of course, the grand visions of Revelation 4 and 5 came to my mind. “The Lord is my shepherd ...” lingers about me from across the centuries to yet bless.

Allow me to share some pieces of some of the prayers I've heard.

One reminded me in her prayer that millions of human beings throughout history have lived in varied political and religious times, “yet still managed to make art, and find joy and share meals.” My prayers are we will yet do the same. May we be guided from the wisdom of our past and by the wisdom of the present and into the wisdom of the future. May we remember the Bible is convinced *sophia*, the Biblical word for wisdom, will persevere and offer hope in every age.

Another prayer reminds me our hope is never in the nation in which we live, the geography we so love, simply the will of the people, or in our grit, resolve, and resilience. “We have only one Lord, one hope, and one baptism for the remission of sins. Tomorrow is not up to us; it's up to God. However, God may condescend to use us in God's accomplishment of God's purposes for God's world. Let us be ready to be called into that service, ready to witness, resist, speak, act, to let our little lights shine, so that God's will be done on earth today, as it shall be in heaven forever.”

And finally, I find myself praying a prayer from 1953 from Howard Thurman.

“I seek the enlargement of my heart that there may be room for Peace.

Already there is room enough for chaos.

There is in every day's experience much that makes for confusion and bewilderment....

But the need of my heart is for room for Peace:

Peace of mind that inspires singleness of purpose;

Peace of heart that quiets all fears and uproots all panic;

Peace of spirit that filters through all confusions and robs them of their power.

These I see NOW.

I know that here in this quietness my life can be infused with Peace.

Therefore, before God, I seek the enlargement of my heart at this moment,

that there may be room enough for Peace.”

*Grace and Peace,*

*Craig*

# GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

November is a month where people tend to list out the things we are thankful for, (it's probably because of that one holiday called "Thanksgiving"). Some even will list something each and every day on Facebook (which is not something you will find me doing). Don't get me wrong, it is good to be thankful, and I am thankful for many different things ... I just don't need the whole Facebook world to know it. Besides, a lot of times the things listed after family and friends are all material things which will eventually break and get replaced. Okay, I'm done venting now.

Don't take me as being the Scrooge or the Grinch of Thanksgiving, it is good to be thankful. The Bible even tells us that. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Wait a second! Look at the verse again! Did you notice what that verse says? "Give thanks in **ALL** circumstances." So ... does this mean I have to give thanks in those times when life isn't going like I planned it or when something bad happens? I hate to be the bearer of bad news but ... yup, that is exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People will get sick, things will break or be stolen, feelings will be hurt by those we call our friends and loved ones, and relationships are going to go through tough times and may even lead to a break-up. It may be hard to see these as times to give thanks ... but they are.

AND HERE'S WHY ...

Notice the word before that bold, italicized, and underlined all? What is it? It's the word in. We are told to give thanks in all circumstances, not for all circumstances. The evil, the bad things of life do not come from God, those are a result of sin being in the world. This is why we are not thankful for all circumstances. We are thankful in all circumstances because no matter what we are facing in life ... God is still in control and God's presence is still with you. This means that His love, His mercy, His compassion, and all the other wonderful things God is and does are still with you. They are with you because you are His dearly loved child. And to prove that, God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

So, in this month of reflection on what it is we are thankful for and especially this coming week of Thanksgiving holidays... the thing I'm most thankful for is this ... the love, mercy, and grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ. Because it is through this that you are claimed as one of His dear children. I'm thankful that God continues to go with you wherever it is that you go. It is my constant prayer that no matter what you experience in your life, that you remember that He is there with you and that you can lean on Him all the time.

I have scheduled (tentatively) a Youth Family Worship & Dinner on Sunday, November 17 at 5:00PM. I created an event on Facebook and have sent out invitations to it, though I have not had any response. The Church will provide meat and drinks. I am asking for families to bring sides and desserts. A worship service will follow in the sanctuary after dinner. Please let me know if you are willing and able to come to this. It is so hard to get folks together, and I know everyone has busy schedules.

*God's blessings*

*Dylan*



JOIN US FOR A

Youth & Family  
Thanksgiving  
Dinner & worship

on Sunday, November 17 at 5:30pm.

We will have games, recreation, dinner, and worship.  
Meat and drinks are provided.  
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert.

- RSVP to Dylan or the church office by November 13.

The graphic features a slice of pumpkin pie, a mug of pumpkin soup, and a whole pumpkin, all in a warm orange and brown color palette with scattered leaves.



# EVERYDAY ELECTION DAY!

I write this on November 5, Election Day for the US government. Our new President will either be the first woman to become President, or the only to second man to win, lose, then win again our nation's highest office. But spiritually speaking, *every* day is "election day."

But first, some trivia. George Washington was unanimously elected as our first President in 1789, but our system of self-governance goes back much further. The colony of Jamestown elected "Burgesses" (citizens who represented a "borough" or neighborhood) in 1619. They first convened *in their church's choir loft!* I love that!

Long before that, as the temple in Jerusalem was being dedicated, God gave King Solomon, the Children of Israel, and us today an important If/Then promise. *IF* we humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, *THEN* He promises to hear, to forgive, and to restore. (2 Chronicles 7:14) We truly need that today, so it's a popular, often quoted verse.

Less popular is God's promise just a few verses later that *if we don't, He won't!* Instead, He will uproot the people from their land. He will make them an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations. He will bring disasters on them because they disobeyed, and even worshiped other gods instead. That is an important passage for them then and us now, too!

You and I are called to make disciples, and to do our part to lead and encourage God's people to humbly pray and obey, to worship Him only, using every talent and gift He's given us – even our music - not just at church but everywhere, always.

As we do that, God's If/Then promises in 2 Chronicles are transformed from something of an ominous threat to a reassuring comfort. As we keep our part of the promise, His becomes our source of hope, joy, strength, and peace regardless of how American politics go.

We Christians are called by His name. *Every* day, may we elect to live like it. (And a good place to start anew is in the choir loft!)

*John*

## The Ballad of Bethlehem

BY PEPPER CHOPLIN

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
Christmas on the Avenue  
Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm

PRESENTED BY THE CHOIRS & ORCHESTRA OF:  
Eatonton First Methodist Church  
Eatonton First Baptist Church  
Eatonton Presbyterian Church

Location: Eatonton First Methodist Church  
103 W. Magnolia St. Eatonton GA 31024



## 16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE

JOIN US FOR  
*THE BALLAD OF BETHLEHEM*  
BY PEPPER CHOPLIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8  
6:00 PM  
EATONTON FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FREE CONCERT  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PRESENTED BY COMBINED  
CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS

# STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

Do you need a Christmas gift that is handmade and beautiful? Look no further, and check out this beautiful handmade quilt for our Raffle Contest! One of our wonderful church members from First Baptist Church has kindly donated this exquisite handmade quilt to be raffled as a fundraiser for Stepping Stones Learning Center. This presents a fantastic gift opportunity just in time for the upcoming Christmas season! Tickets will be sold at Stepping Stones Learning Center Office or First Baptist Church Office from November 1 through November 30th. Tickets are \$10.00. A live drawing will be on December 2. Anyone is eligible to participate. Stop by and get yours today!

We would like to thank you all for voting for our scarecrow this year! We may not have won first, but it is the best and number one in our eyes. We appreciate our staff and volunteers for their creativity and hard work!

We are now offering a Mother's Day Out program, for families that do not need five day a week care, but would be interested in two days a week. This is something that has been lacking in our community for the last few years. Please help us spread the word.

Also, we still covet volunteers to partner with us in reading to our children, praying with them, and loving on them. Contact our office at 706-485-0690 if you are interested. This can be a small or large investment of time. It's up to you.

To God Be the Glory.

*Denise Carmichael*

*SSLC Director*



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

## MOTHER'S Day Out

Are you seeking a way for your child to interact with peers without committing to a full-time preschool? Do you want them to grow in their understanding of God while mastering their ABCs and 123s? The dedicated team at Stepping Stones Learning Center is here to assist you!

**What's Included?**

- ✓ Two full days a week of your choice.
- ✓ Or Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 12 PM.



**Tuition Fees**

Program for Children Aged 1-3:

- Enrollment Fee: \$130 (nonrefundable)
- Monthly Payment: \$500 (4 weeks)
- Monthly Payment: \$625 (5 weeks)

\*Payments due by the first of each month; NOT applicable with GaCaps benefits.\*

According to the handbook, tuition is required to be paid monthly, irrespective of your child's attendance, whether due to vacations, MDO closure days, or missed regular MDO days. To formally withdraw your child from the program, a written notice of two weeks is needed.

Tuition payments can be made in person using cash, check, or a Square terminal. Additionally, for your convenience, we also provide the option for online payments through Square!

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so contact us today. We look forward to hearing from you!

706-485-0690



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER PRESENTS



## RAFFLE CONTEST

NOVEMBER 1ST-30TH



One of our wonderful church members from First Baptist Church of Eatonton has kindly donated this exquisite handmade quilt to be raffled as a fundraiser for our center! This presents a fantastic gift opportunity just in time for the upcoming Christmas season!

Tickets will be sold at the SSLC office so be sure to stop by and get yours today!

**\$10.00 A TICKET**

**LIVE DRAWING WILL BE DECEMBER 2ND ANYONE IS ELEGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE!!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Poinsettias

Poinsettia Orders in memory or honor of a loved one are due Monday, November 18. The cost is \$7.



## Ladies Paint Night

Monday, November 18  
at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall  
Dinner will be provided  
The cost is \$20 per person

We will be painting a Christmas Doorhanger. All kits will include directions, paint and brushes. Lots of fun and laughter we will share. Photo of the project to be announced soon.

Please contact Kim Camp at 706 318-9438 to reserve your spot.



## Happy Thanksgiving

The First Baptist Church Office will close at 12:00pm on November 27 and will be closed on November 28 & 29.

There will be no services or activities on Wednesday, November 27.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

November 20 at 6:00 PM

Cost: \$9 Adults \$5 Children

RSVP to the church office at 706-485-3331  
by November 18



## Join Us For Our Advent Services Sundays at 10:50AM

December 1 - Hope  
December 8 - Peace  
December 15 - Joy  
December 22 - Love



**TIME TO  
UPDATE!**

Has your contact information changed? If so, please contact the church office at 706-485-3331 so we can update our files and you can stay up to date with what's happening at First Baptist Church!



# MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



## PACK A SHOEBOX!

SHOEBOXES ARE DUE:  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10



samaritanspurse.org/occ

NEW COLLECTION RECEIVED! INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Christmas*  
**TOY DRIVE**

*Please Give a Little Joy to Our Local Children*

Begins Friday, November 1  
Please bring new toys unwrapped to the Narthex by Sunday, December 1

**ANGEL TREE**  
OUR ANGEL TREE WILL BE SUPPORTING  
STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER.  
PICK UP AN ANGEL IN THE NARTHEX  
BEGINNING DECEMBER 1.  
GIFTS WILL BE DUE DECEMBER 22.

**FBC MISSIONS  
DISASTER RELIEF**

**Let's Help Those in Need**

The Missions Committee is working for our church to help with disaster relief. You can help by making a donation to the church for Disaster Relief.

We will use these donations to help individuals and groups who need help due to disaster; to support relief programs through organizations such as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Samaritan's Purse; and to send a team or teams to help with rebuilding projects.

For More Information Contact the church office at 706-485-3331

## 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION & VOTE

# 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

November 13 & 20  
at 6:15pm

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24  
DURING MORNING WORSHIP

We will be voting on the 2025 Budget.

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Cary Walton

## USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Steve Benton, Randall McCook, Steven Prance,  
Cooper Rainey, Charles Winslette

## DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 10

Clayton Lancaster

## DEACON FAMILIES

Terry Blanton Family, Maxine Godin,  
Walt Rocker Family, Lois Schell,  
Ellen Trice, Nell Wright

## DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 17

Pam Lancaster

## DEACON FAMILIES

Marvin Franklin Family, Sheryl Hall,  
Chris Hewette Family, Scott Joris Family,  
Steve Marshall, Pat McDade

## 2025 DEACONS

Please pray for the following newly-elected deacons  
as they begin their service to this church in 2025:

Chad Davis, Joni Dixon, Mollie Harvey, Bill Sharp,  
Roger Vining, and Charles Winslette.

# BIRTHDAYS

11/08 - Wyatt Prance, Lyla Davis, Alyssa Self

11/09 - Luke Harvey, Kim Camp

11/11 - Annette Franklin

11/15 - Denise Carmichael

11/16 - Christian Keiser

11/18 - Tommy McElhenney

# ANNIVERSARY

11/10 - Joseph and Mallory Rainey

# THANK YOU!

Dear FBCE Family,

Thanks so much for all the prayers, notes, and phone  
calls during my illness! I will forever be grateful.

Don Masson

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

You donated 110 pairs of shoes to First Call  
Pregnancy Center in Greensboro!  
What a wonderful outpouring of love  
through our missions.

# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, October 20 99

Sunday, October 27 110

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## OCTOBER 20, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	\$10,200.56
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	\$4,420.00
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	\$428,423.52
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	\$418,151.20

## OCTOBER 27, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	\$10,200.56
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	\$7,261.25
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	\$438,624.08
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	\$425,412.45



First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 3400  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
Return Service Requested

**JOIN US FOR FOUNDERS DAY - NOVEMBER 10**

*Founder's Day*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Guest Preacher

**REV. DR. BOB PATTERSON**

First Baptist Church Warm Springs, GA

**HONORING THE ORIGINAL 10 MEMBERS WHO  
STARTED THE CHURCH ON NOV. 17, 1818.**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
10:50 AM**

Following the morning worship, a meal will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the meat, bread, and tea. Please bring large casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts.