

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

For a few weeks, only a few, the space looked so vacant! Now, there is hardly enough space in the announcement section in Sunday's worship bulletin to list all the things asking for our attention. It's a season to reconnect.

Reconnect to the school calendar. Teachers, students, parents, ... find a renewed rhythm. May the Lord help them maintain themselves to achieve the goals they've set. May the box of socks, shoes, and underwear the church collected enable those children to be comfortable. May the many school supplies shared, as well as funds distributed supply students and staff with the necessary support.

Reconnect as a church to the infrastructure of deacon elections, nominations, budget development, etc. But also reconnect to the weekly children and adult choirs, to the weekly Bible studies for adults and youth on Wednesday nights, along with a fellowship meal anchored by Dorothy Farley! (She's the popular cook who cooked at the hospital before Covid) And don't forget the Ladies Bible Study beginning Sept. 9. It is a powerhouse for the sisterhood at the heart of FBC!

Reconnect with the Sunday of music led by pianist Jeff Cleghorn August 25 and a Missions Sunday planned for September 8. And there are other emphases in the fall months that will give anyone an opportunity for community and service. Connect with the invitation to adopt a college student this academic year. I really regret I was never adopted as a college student by anyone in my home church. I think it would have been quite an encouragement. One of those things I might have been dismissive about, but privately cherished!

So, lots of places to belong, engage and grow.

I leave you with a small piece from Wendell Berry for this season.

To the Holy Spirit

O Thou, far off and here,
whole and broken,
Who in necessity and bounty wait,
Whose truth is light and dark,
mute though spoken,
By Thy wide grace show me
Thy narrow gate.

*Reconnecting,
Craig*

FAITH INTO ACTION

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair. Proverbs 1:1-3

One reason Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs was to teach God's people how to put their faith into action. The book of Proverbs is filled with wise sayings and good advice for daily living. Still today, this 3000-year-old book guides God's people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it has the ability to greatly influence our emotions, our thoughts, our speech, and our deeds.

As a new school year begins in our community, God's Disciples, of all kinds, will be sprinkled like salt into nearly every classroom. Please join me in praying that the wisdom of the book of Proverbs is alive in their hearts and minds. May these faithful followers of Christ, who choose to be in the classroom, be a blessing to all as they put into practice the wise sayings and good advice for daily living found in Proverbs.

Join me in praying that faculty and staff return to school feeling refreshed after their summer break. May students return ready and eager to learn. May wisdom from God grow in every classroom.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, we ask that you pour out your abundant blessing upon the schools of our nation. May your hand of protection keep students and staff safe from all harm and danger. Bless the teachers, faculty, staff, and students with a desire to learn and grow together. Fill us all with your love. A love that would drive us to serve one another without hesitation. For it is in the Precious and Holy name of Christ that we pray, Amen.*

Dylan

MUSICAL MINISTRY

The new semester for our music ministry kicked off Wednesday, as our Choir got together again after a well deserved summer break. They got a first peak at the music for Christmas on the Avenue, 2024, which is scheduled for December 8 in the Great Room of First Methodist Church.

"The Ballad of Bethlehem, A Timeless Story of God's Love" is a brand new Christmas musical by Pepper Choplin, a fellow Baptist composer, conductor, and humorist. Pepper is one of the most creative writers in church music today. He's written 24 church cantatas, over 330 anthems for church and school, 4 books of piano arrangements, and more than 150 commissioned works. One of his hymns, *"Come to the Water,"* is in our *Celebrating Grace* hymnal, #448.

It's not too late to join us for this only-in-Eatonton project that brings our community together in amazing ways. Nor is it too late to join our Choir or JuBELLation handbell choir. Just let me or the church office know of your interest, and we'll make it happen.

Sunday morning, August 25, our worship will be led by pianist extraordinaire, Jeff Cleghorn. His music degrees from Mercer and Luther Rice Universities are only a small part of the ways he has honed his God given gifts. Jeff says, "God has put a song in my heart. Whenever I sit down at the piano keyboard, my desire is that the listener hears God sing that song through my hands. He alone is worthy of all praise and glory." The music that Jeff provides will be uplifting and encouraging to the people that hear. He is committed to providing music that is, above all, honoring to the Lord. That primary commitment to exalt the Savior will be evident as Jeff plays the piano or leads your people in worship. We will receive a Love Offering at the door following his concert.

JuBELLation, our handbell choir, kicks off their new semester on Sunday, September 15, at 1:30. We have a couple of positions available. No experience is necessary, though some understanding of musical rhythm is helpful.

Our Choir will be singing a fantastic new anthem this fall, written by Terry York and David Schwoebel, *"The Same Christ Calls."* It reminds us that the same God we see in the Old and New Testaments remains with us today, as much of a reliable foundation for our lives as He was back then.

*"The same sun rises, the same God reigns.
The same Love seeks us, the same faith saves.
The same Spirit lives in our hearts and in the wind.
The same Christ calls, "Follow me!"*

- Terry York, 2024

John Cotten

NOTES FROM STEPPING STONES

We are having a great time at SSLC this month learning about Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. We enjoyed having Robin Benton lead Wee Worship recently and tell us about large and small men mentioned in Bible stories; from Goliath to Zaccheus. Speaking of that - we are still looking for more volunteers to either lead an occasional Wee Worship, read to a classroom, or help with leading prayers for our after school program. We can fit you in somewhere! If you are on facebook, please follow us there for more information on what is happening.

Also, beginning in September, we will be doing a 50/50 raffle to raise money. SSLC staff and board members will be selling tickets for \$2 each. Please purchase a ticket (or more!) for a chance to win 1/2 of the money raised.

As always, we covet your prayers for our daycare. We know our children are dear to the Lord, and He cares deeply for their well-being, as do those of us at SSLC. Please also pray for our staff, and the parents. On our behalf, we ask that you petition heaven for all of us to be saturated with the Lord's supernatural patience, wisdom, understanding and love while working with His little ones.

To God be the Glory!

Denise Carmichael

SSLC Director



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STEPPING STONES WORSHIP

If you are musically talented, want to share a Bible story, pray with our children, craft time, missionary work, etc. we would love to have you!

WORSHIP TIMES: 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS
WEE WORSHIP: 10-10:30 AM FOR OUR 3-4 YEAR OLDS
SWAG WORKSHIP: 4:00-4:30 PM FOR OUR PREK- 10YR OLDS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DENISE OR BRENDA AT 706-485-0690



We are Hiring!

As our summer help returns to school, we are seeking to bring on a new team member! If you possess the following qualifications, we would be delighted to hear from you; if not, we can collaborate with you to meet the necessary requirements.

- TCC/CDA
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Experience

If you have a love for working with children and sharing the teachings of the Lord through them, we welcome you to visit our office or contact us at **706-485-0690**.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Sylvia Cheney, Joni Dixon, Jack Ferrell, Norman Holle, Gwen Ralston, Kyle Ralston, Thomas Ralston, Scott Sharp, Janice Turner, Jimmy Williams, Nell Wright, Unspoken

FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Darren Alford, Nancy Banister, Lynn Butterworth, Rainey Collis, Gloria Covington, Amy Crowe, Doug Hall, Cami Jackson, Billy Joiner, Charles Joiner, Dale Joiner, Nancy Joiner, Bill Lee, Everett Marsh, Red Marshall, Lisa Morgan, Eleanor Moye, Sheryl Murphy, Rebecca Rocker, Walt Rocker Jr. Stephen Sharp, Linda Stowe, Will Thompson, Leigh Ann Willis

ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME & HOMEBOUND:

Mary Jo Balas, Jo Ann Clay, Maxine Godin, Luceil Harrison, Mary Ann Heath, Gaye Lankford, Sug Walton

MISSIONARY FAMILIES:

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Matt and Michelle Norman in Catalunya, Spain



PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to call the church office if you have prayer requests or updates to the prayer list. An urgent prayer request can always be sent out to the church by way of email.

CHILDREN & YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADOPT
A
COLLEGE
STUDENT**

*Sharing God's Love,
One Student
at a time.*

Sunday, August 18, 2024, you will be encouraged to prayerfully consider "adopting" a College Student this Fall. What this means is, praying for this student daily, sending a monthly card or letter of encouragement, and when possible supporting them with items such as gift cards, and care packages. We have 14 College Students this Fall. Please see Dylan before or after the morning Worship Service if this is something you would be interested in participating in.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
PARENT AND VOLUNTEER
MEETING**

Monday, August 19
at 6PM

in the Fellowship Hall

FOOD, GAMES, & BIBLE STUDY

First Baptist Church
Eatonton

**YOUTH
GROUP**

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30PM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

It's already that time! Time to register for our Fall Children's Choir! Our theme this year is, "We Are God's Masterpiece!" We will gather after school each Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Transportation is available. This program will include a story and lesson, snack, choir practice, and recreation. Choir will start on Tuesday, August 20, 2024! If you've any questions please reach out to Dylan in the Church Office. Please sign up with the link here: <https://form.jotform.com/233315894421153>

First Baptist Church
**CHILDREN'S
CHOIR**

Begins Tuesday, August 20, 2024

3:00pm - 4:30pm

K4-5th Grade

Register on our website today!



MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS SOON BEGINNING OUR FALL SEASON!

- **Children's Choir**, K4-5th grade, begins Tuesday, August 20, 3:00-4:30 pm.
- **Our regular Choir** rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 21 at 7:15.
- **Pianist Extraordinaire Jeff Cleghorn** will lead our worship on Sunday morning, August 25.
- **JuBELLation Handbell Choir**, begins anew on Sunday, September 15 at 1:30. We would love to welcome new ringers!
- **Christmas on the Avenue, 2024 Edition**, will be Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 pm in the Great Hall of Eatonton First Methodist Church. Our first Combined Rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 pm at First Methodist.

CHOIR

Rehearsals Begin
Wednesday,
August 21
7:15pm - 8:30pm

Contact Rev. John Cotten
for more information.



JUBELLATION HANDBELLS

BEGINS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
AT 1:30PM

Contact Rev. John Cotten for more information



IN CONCERT



jeff cleghorn

Date Sunday, August 25, 2024

Place First Baptist Church

Time 10:50am

Information

www.jeffcleghorn.com

CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE

COMBINED REHEARSALS BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
AT 7:30PM
AT FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

CONTACT REV. JOHN COTTEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Christmas on the Avenue

Sunday, December 8, 2024

6:00 pm

Great Hall of Eatonton
First Methodist Church



ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 DEACON NOMINEE & CHURCH CONFERENCE

THE 2025 DEACON NOMINEE LIST IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE FOR UP TO 12 NOMINEES IN THE CHURCH CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 18.

Contact the church office for more information.


PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT NEEDS



SOCKS **UNDERWEARE** **SHOES**

Please bring items to the Narthex by August 18

MENU




1/3 lb Hamburger/Cheeseburger | \$11
Served with chips & drink

1/3 lb Hamburger/Cheeseburger | \$13
Served with 1 fresh side & drink

1/3 lb Hamburger topped with homemade pimento cheese spread & bacon crumbles | \$15
Served with 1 fresh side & drink

1/3 lb Hamburger topped with jalapeno cream cheese spread, sauteed onions, & bacon crumbles | \$15
Served with 1 fresh side & drink

Chips
BBQ or Plain Lays
Drinks
Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Bottle Water
Fresh Sides
Hand cut french fries or rotating garden fresh side



Wednesday, August 21, 2024, The Burger Barn, will be set up on Madison Ave. in front of FBCE from 11AM until 2PM!
Come by and grab some lunch!
These are the best burgers around!




HAPPY LABOR DAY

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2



KATHY WIDENHOUSE

just take a step
A devotional Bible study for the busy and overwhelmed



Ladies BIBLE STUDY

MONDAYS

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9

Contact Kim Camp to Sign Up!

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER



BEGINS AUGUST 21 AT 5:30 PM

Adults - \$9 Children - \$5 Family Max - \$28
CALL TODAY TO RSVP TO OUR PERMANENT LIST

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

BEGINS AUGUST 21 AT 6:15 PM IN THE SANCTUARY




SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Brandon Cardwell, Howell Cardwell,
Mike Faulk, Frank Thompson

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin, Gene Adams, Edge Farley,
Clayton Lancaster, Chad Davis

DEACON FOR AUGUST 18

Tracy Stickleby

DEACON FAMILIES

Lauren Brown Family, Jarred Camp Family,
Tim Camp Family, Ryan Carmichael Family,
JoAnn Clay, Stew Rich Family, Andrea Wolverton

DEACON FOR AUGUST 25

Harris McCollum

DEACON FAMILIES

Ralph Barclay Family, Sharon Haney,
Tommy McElhenney Family,
Paula Rossee Family, Grady Strube,
Lynda Walker Family, Sug Walton,
Cary Walton Family

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 1

Cary Walton

DEACON FAMILIES

Ron Harley Family, Janice Knowles Family,
Randall McCook, Betty Pinholster,
Don Turney Family, Jerry Williams Family,
Craig Williamson Family

BIRTHDAYS

08/15 - David Heath
08/16 - Guerry Key, Alexie Camp
08/19 - Lyndie Hewette
08/23 - Cheryl Williams, Roger Vining
08/24 - Jill Vaughan, Victor Stevens
08/25 - Howell Cardwell
08/26 - Karen Harrison
08/27 - Tasha Cannon
08/29 - Billy Peebles
08/31 - Bill Kitchen
09/01 - Terry Blanton, Andrea Wolverton
09/03 - Sheila Patten

ANNIVERSARIES

08/15 - Joe and Paula Rossee
08/20 - Brandon and McKenzie Cardwell
08/20 - Roger and Jeanne Vining
08/21 - Frank and Laura Thompson
08/23 - Bill and Judie Kitchen
08/31 - Jim and Margaret Howell
09/01 - Don and Rita Masson

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, August 04</u>	<u>125</u>
<u>Sunday, August 11</u>	<u>100</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 21, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$4,605.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$295,816.24</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$293,312.04</u>

JULY 28, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$12,416.25</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$306,016.80</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$305,728.29</u>

AUGUST 4, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$23,564.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$316,217.36</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$329,292.29</u>

AUGUST 11, 2024

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>\$10,200.56</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>\$5,225.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$326,417.92</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$334,517.29</u>

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

MISSIONS SUNDAY



**Sunday, September 8
10:50 AM**

Service will be held in the Gym

The Missions Committee invites you to Missions Sunday. Several guests will share with us about our various missions we support during our service and will have tables around the gym for you to learn more or find a way to get involved. You do not want to miss this! Following the service, we will have a \$5 lunch.