

APRIL 18, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton

Messenger



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

FROM THE PASTOR

John O'Donohue was an Irish Priest who was also an author and a guest lecturer. One of the Christian practices he engages is the practice of blessing. He wrote and shared blessings upon people for various reasons. This one is a blessing *For Courage* -

When the light around you lessens
And your thoughts darken until
Your body feels fear turn
Cold as a stone inside,

When you find yourself bereft
Of any belief in yourself
And all you unknowingly
Learned has fallen,

When one voice commands
Your whole heart,
And it is raven dark,

Steady yourself and see
That it is your own thinking
That darkens your world

Search and you will find
A diamond-thought of light,

Know that you are not alone
And that this darkness has purpose;

Gradually it will school your eyes
To find the one gift your life requires
Hidden within this night-corner.

Invoke the learning
Of every suffering
You have suffered.

Close your eyes.
Gather all the kindling
About your heart
To create one spark.
That is all you need
To nourish the flame
That will cleanse the dark
Of its weight of festered fear.

A new confidence will come alive
To urge you toward higher ground
Where your imagination
Will learn to engage difficulty
As its most rewarding threshold!

Our rising, our resurrection is often dependent upon hearing the blessings and receiving the blessings. I trust you receive this one for courage.

Rising,
Craig

PRAY. VOLUNTEER. SHOW UP.

I have been serving for almost 12 years on staff at different churches, and I still need to be reminded why student ministry is important. I need to be reminded because the truth is that student ministry can be difficult. Many times, it's just easier to let children and teens do what they want and think they don't desire or need adults in their lives. It may be easy to ignore them, but the truth is that they are desperate for adults to actually show up and invest in their life on a consistent basis. Consistency is big because so much of life today is inconsistent. The typical American dream is fading. Family life is always changing. Teens are being forced to make choices about their future (college and career) at a time when they are just figuring out who they are. Teens need consistency and they need it from the church more than ever.

I really believe that in a culture that is continually changing, Jesus is the one thing that will always be unchanging. Jesus is relevant today and forever. Student ministries all across the country have the chance to partner with the church and with families to lead teens to Jesus. That's why what we do in youth ministry is important.

3 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR OUR STUDENT MINISTRY AT FBCE:

- 1) **PRAY.** Pray for our students, our staff and volunteers. That through the help of the Holy Spirit we might connect with students and help them to know or grow in Christ.
- 2) **VOLUNTEER.** We have a place for everyone! We are always in need of volunteers. If you feel led to be a part of what God is doing here, get involved.
- 3) **SHOW UP.** The hardest part of Student Ministry is feeling like we are fighting against everything else students and families are doing. There are 168 hours in a week. We meet for just 1.5 hours each week.

We are looking forward to an amazing summer full of worship, discipleship, and fun! Be looking for a Summer calendar to go home in a few weeks before we end in May. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me.

Also, if you have a student graduating from high school or college and would like them to be recognized in our graduation service on Sunday, May 19, please contact me or the church office by May 5.

Blessings,

Dylan

***“While I live I will praise the Lord;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”***

Psalm 146:2 NKJV

A week ago, both I and my ambulance crew thought I was having a heart attack. They rushed me to the ER, where everyone there initially thought the same thing. Thankfully, that wasn't the case, though I await further testing to find out what caused this little adventure.

Before I go any further, I want to sincerely thank those who prayed for me, my wife, and my medical team. I love and appreciate you!

An experience like that has a way of turning your thoughts to when your time here on earth is ended, and you graduate from this life to the next. By God's grace I'm ready when that time comes, but until then I have work to do. "Work? I thought you were retired," you wonder. You're right to an extent. I no longer am on the job 60+ hours a week, though I do enjoy continuing to serve our Lord and His people part time.

But that's not the kind of work I'm talking about. My real work is the same as every Christian:

- * loving the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and my neighbor as myself;
- * being an ongoing student of God's Word, and a witness to what I've seen Him do in my life and in others;
- * praying for others, especially Prodigal sons and daughters like me.

We who are parents and grandparents often pray for our sons, daughters, and grandchildren. That's the prayer of Jean Valjeans in Act 2 of *Les Miserables*. Now an old man who has fought many battles, he knows that everyone there at the barricade that night at the beginning of the French Revolution is likely to die before morning.

He is willing for himself, but his heart breaks for young Marius, the fiancé of his beloved daughter. As he stands guard over the sleeping, doomed young man, he sings a heart wrenching prayer, "*Bring Him Home.*"

As I play this song Sunday on my EWI (electronic wind instrument), I invite you to join me in asking our Heavenly Father to bring safely home, to Himself and to us, all the prodigals in our own lives, perhaps even ourselves. Singing and praising, serving and praying – this is our job for as long as we have our being!

John Cotten

Special Opportunities:

JUBAL CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Thursday, April 25 - Preludes begin at 6:30

Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta

No Admission cost - Love Offering for Mission Projects

This is the combined Sons of Jubal and Jubalheirs (men and women), together with our Jubal Orchestra, likely 300 or more Baptist musicians, in concert at our sister church that has one of the finest organs and pianos in the country. The music will be the best this side of heaven!

Let the church office know if you would like to ride our church bus.

SONS OF JUBAL (Men)

Thursday, May 9

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

JUBALHEIRS (Women)

Friday, May 10

Bethany Baptist Church, McDonough

ANNOUNCEMENTS



JUBAL CHORUS & ORCHESTRA
Thursday, April 25, 2024
Preludes begin at 6:30
Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta

LAST CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Tuesday, April 30



Join us on Sunday, May 5, during morning worship, as our children share through singing what they have learned.

CHOIR'S LAST SUNDAY BEFORE SUMMER BREAK

Sunday, May 19



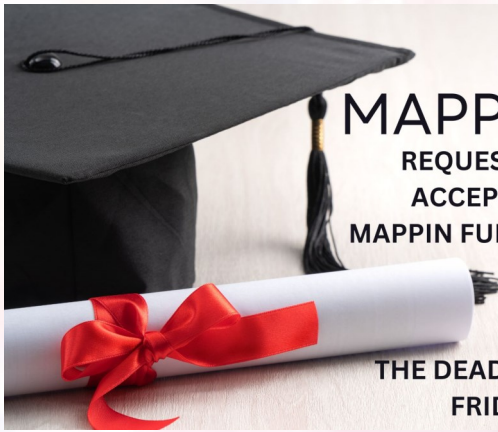
LET'S GO FISHING

HELP US CATCH FISH FOR OUR ANNUAL FISH FRY

FISH FRY

Wednesday, May 22
6:00 PM

Call the church office and Sign Up By May 15



MAPPIN FUND

REQUESTS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE MAPPIN FUND SCHOLARSHIP.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FRIDAY, MAY 31

JOIN US THIS SUMMER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EATONTON

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 9 - 12
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP Psalm 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG



SURGE MUSIC CAMP

June 17-22, 2024

Surge

MUSIC CAMP

Shorter University
Elementary, Middle, and High School Students
Registration Now Open - Contact John Cotten for details.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR APRIL

Pat McDade

USHERS FOR APRIL

David Stickley, Head Usher

Jarred Camp

Jim Hall

Walt Rocker

John Wojtas

DEACON FOR APRIL 21

Laura Thompson

DEACON FAMILIES

Mary Jo Balas

Tasha Cannon Family

George Dissmeyer Family

David Lutz Family

Kay Stevens Family

Faith Thomas

Beth Willis

Karen Willis Family

John Wojtas Family

DEACON FOR APRIL 28

Cary Walton

DEACON FAMILIES

Ron Harley Family

Janice Knowles Family

Randall McCook

Betty Pinholster

Don Turney Family

Jerry Williams Family

Craig Williamson Family

BIRTHDAYS

04/18 - Joe Rossee

04/21 - Mary Jo Balas

04/23 - Sherry Lyons, Pat Turney

04/24 - Catherine Williamson

04/25 - Joseph Rainey, Amy McElhenney

04/27 - Amy Joris

04/30 - Cooper Rainey

05/02 - Jene Etheridge, Bill Sharp

ANNIVERSARIES

04/19 - Mike and Kathy Faulk

04/22 - Tommy and Linda Copelan

04/23 - Hollis and Karen Harrison

04/27 - David and Marsha Lutz

04/28 - Ed and Karen Ricketson

THANK YOU

Thank you for the food you
provided and for your prayers.

Bobbie, Tawanna, Keetah, and Family of Ray Martin

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, April 07 93

Sunday, April 14 104

FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL 7, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$18,259.00

Budget Needs YTD \$142,807.28

Budget Receipts YTD \$129,908.19

APRIL 14, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$5,998.00

Budget Needs YTD \$153,008.40

Budget Receipts YTD \$140,763.94

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

ARE YOU GRADUATING?

If you have a student graduating
High School or College this
spring and would like them to
be recognized for our
Graduate Sunday on May 19,
please contact Rev. Dylan
Bowden or call the church office
by Sunday, May 5.