

OCTOBER 2, 2025

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

From Anthony DeMello's story collections:
"Dandelions"

A man who took great pride in his lawn
found himself with a large crop of dandelions.
He tried every method he knew
to get rid of them. Still they plagued him.

Finally he wrote the Department of Agriculture.
He enumerated all the things he had tried
And closed his letter with the questions:
"What shall I do now?"

In due course the replay came:
"We suggest you learn to love them"

It's almost un-American to learn to love "dandelions." With enough time, grit and innovation we have actually eliminated the dandelion from the lush American lawn. It makes us think we can do that with every "dandelion." However, there are some things that can never be changed. I invite you to name a few, but I'm thinking about skin color, aging, the parents we get, sunrises and sunsets, children growing up, ... So I wonder if we can learn to love such things, such things in ourselves and in others.

A part of DeMello's commentary on "dandelions" was to tell another story, a tough story. He told of a man who was becoming blind in degrees. He fought it with every means in his power. When medicine no longer served to fight it, he fought it with his emotions. It took courage for DeMello to lovingly say to him, "I suggest you learn to love your blindness."

It was a struggle. He refused to have anything to do with it in the beginning. And when he eventually brought himself to speak to his blindness his words were bitter. But he kept on speaking and the words slowly changed into words of resignation and tolerance and acceptance ... and, one day, very much to his own surprise, they became words of friendliness ... and love. Then came the day when he was able to put his arm around his blindness and says, "I love you." That was the day people saw him smile again.

His vision, of course, was lost forever. But how attractive his face became!

**Grace and Peace,
Craig**

A MESSAGE ABOUT AMAZING GRACE

Dear Church Family,

As we prepare our hearts for worship this Sunday, I've been reflecting on one of our most beloved hymns about God's boundless grace. The powerful message of grace that exceeds even our greatest failures never grows old, does it?

This classic hymn reminds us of a profound theological truth: no matter how deep our sin, God's grace reaches deeper still. Like the depths of the ocean that cannot be measured, His mercy flows toward us in endless supply. What a comfort to know that our past mistakes, our present struggles, and even our future failings are all covered by the marvelous grace of our Savior!

I'm particularly moved by how this hymn doesn't minimize our sin—it acknowledges the reality of our brokenness—yet proclaims something far greater: the cleansing power of Christ's blood and the overwhelming magnitude of divine forgiveness. This is the gospel message at its finest: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

When we gather for worship and our voices blend together in song, something beautiful happens. We're not just singing notes on a page—we're declaring our faith, encouraging one another, and reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness. Music has a unique way of embedding truth deep into our hearts and minds. Long after the service ends, these melodies and messages stay with us, offering comfort during difficult moments and joy in our daily walk with Christ.

As we sing together in the coming weeks, I encourage you to let these truths wash over your soul. Perhaps you're carrying guilt or shame from something in your past. Maybe you feel your failures are too great for God's forgiveness. This hymn's message speaks directly to that lie: God's grace is always greater.

Let's lift our voices together in joyful proclamation of this wonderful truth!

Blessings,

Dylan

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" - Ephesians 2:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26



We will be voting on the 2026 Budget, Deacons, Nominating Report, and Bylaws Addendum.

There will be a Budget Discussion on Wednesday, October 15 and 22 at 6:15pm.

2025 DEACON NOMINEES



Prayerfully consider the following nominees as you prepare for Deacon Election:

Steve Benton, Pam Douglas, Chris Hewette, Pam Lancaster, Cherry Leverette, Tommy McElhenney, Ed Self, Cheryl Williams, John Wojtas

You will vote for up to six names on Oct. 26, 2025.



"Lift a Light to Heaven"

PRAYER EVENING

Please join us for a Prayer Vigil at First Baptist Church. We will be praying for local, national and global concerns.

Sunday, November 9th at 5 PM

Location: Prayer Garden at FBCE

Welcome to bring your folding chair.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR OCTOBER

Cary Walton

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

David Stickley, Jarred Camp, Jim Hall,
Walt Rocker, John Wojtas

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 5

Chad Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Culberson Family, Charlotte Green,
Luceil Harrison, Mike Reagin Family, James Ryan,
Steve Tubbs Family, Sonny Turner Family

DEACON FOR OCTOBER 12

Susan Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

Gene Adams Family, James Cheney Family,
Edge Farley Family, Mabel Hicks, Jan Long,
Guerry Key Family, Jesse McMillen Family,
Peggy McMillen, Betty Sills

BIRTHDAYS

10/03 - Heather Wojtas
10/05 - Esther Farley
10/07 - Ford Rocker
10/08 - Walt Rocker, John Wojtas
10/12 - Isabella Stickley, Jack Stickley
10/13 - Rose Carmichael, Scott Joris, Craig Williamson
10/14 - Karlie Horton

ANNIVERSARIES

10/04 - Ralph and Joan Barclay
10/06 - Chris and Danielle Hewette
10/12 - Jarred and Alexie Camp
10/14 - Ryan and Denise Carmichael

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, September 21</u>	<u>104</u>
<u>Sunday, September 28</u>	<u>124</u>

ACTIVITIES

LADIES 4-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Begins Monday, October 6
at Kim Camp's House

Mondays at 6PM at Host Homes
Contact Kim Camp for more information!

JULIET LADIES LUNCH

Thursday, October 16 at Le Gabrielle Crepes and Waffles
and a visit to The Armory Christian Bookstore in Monroe.
The Bus will leave the church at 10:30am.
Contact the Church Office at 706.485.3331 to Sign Up



JOIN US FOR A PUMPKIN PAINTING AND MOVIE NIGHT

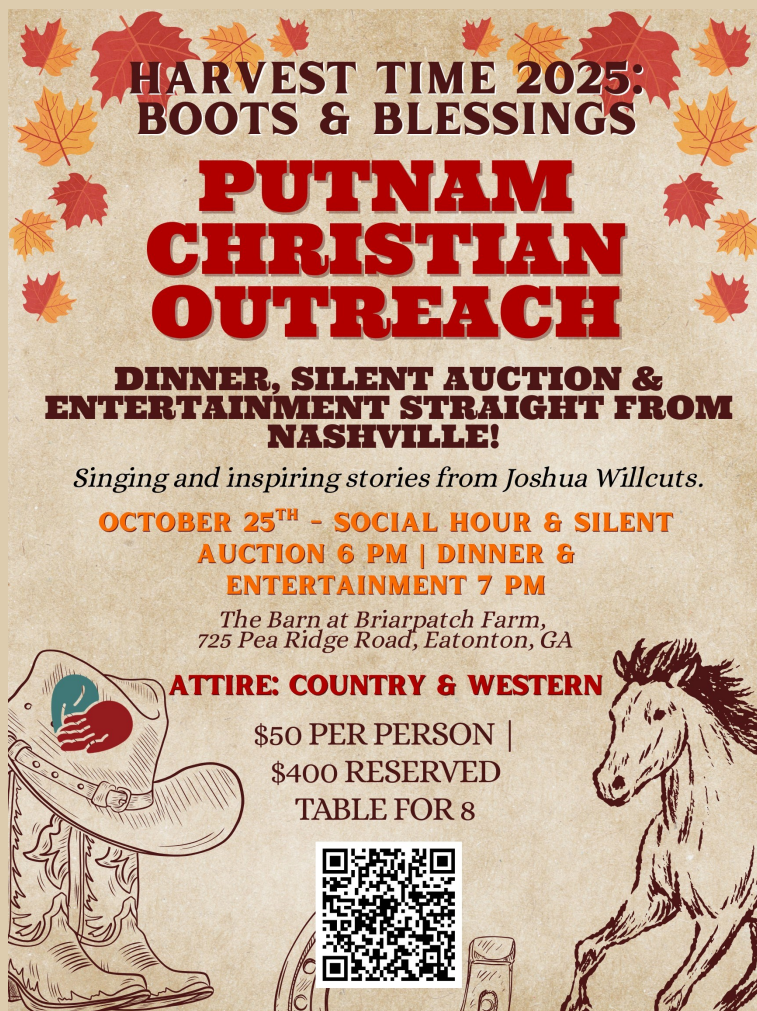
OCTOBER 26
4:00 PM
FRONT LAWN
EVERYONE IS INVITED!
HOTDOGS WILL BE SERVED.



CHRISTMAS ON
THE AVENUE
Sunday, December 7
6:00 PM
First Methodist Church



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



**HARVEST TIME 2025:
BOOTS & BLESSINGS**

**PUTNAM
CHRISTIAN
OUTREACH**

**DINNER, SILENT AUCTION &
ENTERTAINMENT STRAIGHT FROM
NASHVILLE!**

Singing and inspiring stories from Joshua Willcuts.

**OCTOBER 25TH - SOCIAL HOUR & SILENT
AUCTION 6 PM | DINNER &
ENTERTAINMENT 7 PM**

*The Barn at Briarpatch Farm,
725 Pea Ridge Road, Eatonton, GA*

ATTIRE: COUNTRY & WESTERN

**\$50 PER PERSON |
\$400 RESERVED
TABLE FOR 8**



HARVEST TIME 2025: BOOTS & BLESSINGS

Join us for an inspiring evening supporting *Putnam Christian Outreach* on **Saturday, October 25, 2025** at **The Barn at Briarpatch Farm**. The night will feature a delicious dinner, a lively silent auction, and uplifting music and stories from Nashville singer-song writer **Joshua Willcuts**. Come be part of this special night of community, faith, and generosity as we celebrate blessings and give back together.

**Putnam Christian
OUTREACH**