

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

The Back-to-School event last week was a refreshing break from the summer heat—thanks in large part to the water slide! I originally showed up in dry clothes, fully intending to keep them that way. I had planned to be the responsible adult: chatting with parents, helping serve hot dogs, handing out water, maybe wielding a water gun just a little.

But within ten minutes, I was soaked. The kids splashed me as I stood too close to the water slide, and, well, I gave in. I hurried home, changed into water-friendly clothes, and came back to join the fun on the slide. It was a blast! Slightly embarrassing? Maybe. But I got over it.

Thank you for sharing your children and your families with me. I look forward to every opportunity we have together. I pray for our children—almost as much as you do as parents, grandparents, and church folks. May God keep their souls. May we be faithful companions to their parents—helping rear the children in the way of Jesus. May our children grow up knowing the world is full of people who love them.

Also last week, members of the Missions Committee rode around in the church bus delivering supplies and offering prayers to local schools. At each stop, we were warmly welcomed by principals, school nurses, counselors, and other staff. These are the people we entrust with the most precious gifts of our lives—our children and youth. Pause for a moment and consider the weight of that trust.

It's amazing, really, how we hand our 'babies' over to others day after day.

And yet—we do.

And it's a good thing we do.

Our children aren't possessions to keep. They are gifts given to us to nurture, guide, educate, and love. And thank God we don't do it alone! Thank God for educators who walk with us in this gargantuan, holy work—and thank God that it is also a partnership with the Divine.

The school staff were sincerely grateful for our visits, our prayers, and the supplies we brought. They expressed heartfelt appreciation for our ongoing support. Let's pray for them daily. Let's be an encouragement to them. Let's keep finding ways—big and small—to lift them up, to walk with them, and to remind them they're not alone in their work. Let's shower them with our blessings, gratitude, and presence.

As the hot, dog days of summer continue for a little while longer, let's stay faithful—praying through the heat, trusting that cooler winds and a new season are on the way. And in the meantime, let's continue to worship God, teach the Bible, follow Jesus, and love people.

What a mission!

What joy!

What good!

**Practice Resurrection,**

*Craig*

# “HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”

As we prepare for this Sunday's service, I wanted to share some thoughts on one of our most beloved and enduring hymns, "How Firm a Foundation." This powerful song of faith has been strengthening believers for over two centuries, and its message remains as relevant today as when it was first penned.

What makes "How Firm a Foundation" particularly special is how deeply it's rooted in God's Word. The anonymous author (often attributed to "K" in early hymnals, possibly Robert Keen) wove together promises from Isaiah, Hebrews, and other biblical passages to create verses that feel like a direct conversation with the Almighty. When we sing "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed," we're echoing Isaiah 41:10. The refrain about waters and flames comes straight from Isaiah 43:2.

The hymn's opening question—"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!"—isn't really a question at all. It's a declaration of absolute certainty. In our uncertain world, where circumstances shift like sand beneath our feet, this hymn reminds us that God's promises provide unshakeable ground.

Notice how each verse builds upon this theme. We move from the general assurance of God's Word to specific promises: His presence in trials, His strength in our weakness, His refining work through difficulties, and ultimately, His faithfulness even unto death.

The tune FOUNDATION (also called ADESTE FIDELES in some traditions) carries the weight and dignity that these words deserve. Its steady, march-like rhythm suggests the unshakeable nature of our faith's foundation, while the soaring melody on "What more can He say than to you He hath said" lifts our hearts heavenward.

As we sing this hymn together, I encourage you to let its truths settle deep into your heart. Perhaps you're facing waters that seem overwhelming or fires of trial that threaten to consume. Remember that the same God who promised never to leave nor forsake His people extends that promise to you today. Let us sing with conviction, knowing that our foundation is not built on shifting circumstances or human wisdom, but on the eternal, unchanging Word of our faithful God.

Blessings,

*Dylan*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### EATONTON/ PUTNAM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

You are invited to an open discussion about advancing policies and programs to advocate for people in our community impacted by the Addiction Epidemic.

#GARECOVERS



**TIME AND LOCATION**  
Tuesday, August 19, 2025  
First Baptist Church Eatonton  
115 N Madison Ave,  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
10:30 am

#### THE RECOVERY BUS TOUR



For More Information Contact **Laura Pilafas @ 706.817.9739**

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Begins August 19 at 3pm • Register Today



### COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 31



### JOIN US FOR 5th Sunday Lunch August 31

Following Morning Worship

The church will provide the meat, tea, and bread.

Please bring casseroles, vegetables, salads, and dessert.



# SCHOOL PRAYER RIDE

During our Annual Prayer Ride, we visited each Putnam County School & Gatewood School where our Missions Team donated supplies and prayed at each locations for students and staff.

God, grant wisdom and understanding to the public officials, school boards, superintendents, administrators and more who are juggling so many concerns and challenges for this coming school year. Shower them with creativity and clarity in all of the work they must do...Lord, please have mercy on the parents and other caregivers of students who face difficult situations and schedules. Help those who must juggle the task of providing for their families and their children's need for education. Bring order out of confusion and hope from despair...Heavenly Father, help students of all ages in the coming days, weeks and months. Encourage those who suffer from a lack of social interaction. Empower those who need help with online learning. Encourage those with special needs. And please keep them all safe and healthy while they learn...Lord, you know the situations faced by teachers and staff at this time, some of whom must enter the front lines, others who must learn new ways of teaching, and still others who must cope with personal struggles and uncertainty. Please come to them and strengthen them, granting fresh ideas and a renewed passion in their workplaces and work challenges...God, hear our prayers for school system personnel facing even more challenges than usual in their lives and livelihoods: custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, and others. Provide for the unemployed and under-employed. Help those who are struggling. Grant relief to those who are overworked and encouragement to those who are overwhelmed...For all of the above, Lord, please protect and preserve them physically, emotionally, and mentally. Keep them safe and healthy; increase their strength and stamina now and in the future, in Jesus' name, AMEN





# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

## USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Howell Cardwell, Mike Faulk

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 10

Bill Sharp

## DEACON FAMILIES

Tammy Baker Family, Mary Jo Balas,  
Linda Copelan Family, Jim Hall Family,  
Jim Kauffmann Family, Ben Leverette Family,  
Jeff Russell Family

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 17

Tracy Stickley

## DEACON FAMILIES

Jarred Camp Family, Tim Camp Family,  
Jo Ann Clay, Christian Keiser Family,  
Andrea Paugh, Stew Rich Family,  
Lauren Wooten Family

## THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Wow! What a wonderful surprise to be honored on Sunday. I consider myself lucky to be able to use my talent and serve with you and beside you here at First Baptist Church Eatonton. My prayer as I play will always be that God will be glorified and that you, the listener will be blessed. Your gift was very much appreciated. Thank you so very much!

In His love,  
Connie Covington

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Eatonton First Baptist Church,

I want to thank you all for the many gifts received on July 20th. I am deeply honored & so unworthy but God still blesses through His people. I thank my God everyday for this church & for the privilege of serving Him by serving you through music! I look forward to many more years of serving you all!

Blessings,  
Hunter J. Giddens

# BIRTHDAYS

08/07 - Marsha Lutz  
08/08 - Susan Davis  
08/11 - Gene Adams  
08/12 - Eleanor Rocker  
08/13 - Mabel Hicks  
08/15 - David Heath  
08/16 - Guerry Key, Alexie Camp  
08/19 - Lyndie Hewette

## ANNIVERSARY

08/09 - Mac and Libby Rainey  
08/09 - Sonny and Janice Turner  
08/15 - Joe and Paula Rossee  
08/20 - Brandon and McKenzie Cardwell  
08/20 - Roger and Jeanne Vining  
08/21 - Frank and Laura Thompson

## WELCOME

We welcome Bill Etheridge to the membership of First Baptist Church!

## WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, July 20</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>Sunday, July 27</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Sunday, August 03</u>	<u>78</u>

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**SYMPATHY:** Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Janette McCollum and family in the passing of her sister Nancy Banister.

**OUR MEMBERS:** Terry Blanton, George Dissmeyer, Norman Holle, Gwen Ralston, Kyle Ralston, Scott Sharp, Jimmy Williams, Nell Wright, Unspoken

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Martha Benner, Lynn Butterworth, Warren Camp, Neile Chambers, Tommy Copelan, Gloria Covington, Michael Homiere, Nancy Joiner, Cathy Ledford, Zellie Marbury, Everett Marsh, Lisa Morgan, Eleanor Moye, Sheryl Murphy, Owen Nauert, Walt Rocker Jr., Earnest Rogers, Steven Sharp, Linda Stowe, Kristy Trice, Emmett Vining, Wayne Waddell, Katherine Warner, 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 FRIENDS:**

Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe & Matt and Michelle Norman Family in Catalunya, Spain

## CHURCH CONFERENCE



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17  
10:50AM DURING  
MORNING WORSHIP**

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

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES BEGIN AUGUST 13**

**5:30 PM - Supper (with reservation)**

**6:15 PM - Bible Study, Youth Group, & Handbells**

**7:15 PM - Chancel Choir**



**Come midweek to refuel, reconnect, and grow in faith.  
Everyone is welcome — Invite a friend!**