

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

# *First Baptist Church of Eatonton* *Messenger*

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

### Where will you plug into the life of the church?

Is it with children, where your heart and patience can make a difference? I've seen people on Tuesday afternoons quietly shaping young lives by listening, encouraging, and caring. I've seen a couple teach children the Bible every Sunday while their parents study the Bible together. Some simply hold babies—and in doing so, they embody Christ's love.

Perhaps your place is working with our mission partners, decorating and shaping the spaces where we gather, caring for the aging, or lifting your voice in song. Wherever your gifts lie, there is a place for you to serve — meeting the needs of the congregation and the community.

A host of needs are discussed, and action plans made through our church teams and committees. And we are always looking for additional ways to embody the love of God, and for leaders to lead us in doing so. Plug in or add on, it doesn't matter. People who “plug people in” are working over the next few weeks, assisting people to respond to the call of God upon their lives. It has a very traditional name – Nominating Committee. Its task may sound traditional, but its work is vital—inviting people into leadership and service so that together the church worships God, studies the Bible, follows Jesus, and loves people.

Many view the Nominating Committee's work with mixed feelings. Asking people to serve isn't always easy. But when the right person says “yes” and their gifts bless the church, it's a joy to behold.

So over the next few weeks – pray, think, and respond as the Nominating Committee calls. If you are not able to serve in a particular role, consider encouraging others to do so. Help them see the gifts God has given them. No guilting! Just gracious invitation.

May we encourage one another to respond with joy to God's call. May we ask together: *How will I serve in the life of our church?*

**Grace and Peace,**

***Craig***

# FINDING BEAUTY IN THE FAMILIAR: RELFECTIONS ON “FAIREST LORD JESUS”

As we prepare for this Sunday's worship, I find myself drawn once again to one of our hymns, "Fairest Lord Jesus." This hymn, sometimes called "Beautiful Savior," has been traveling through centuries and across continents to reach us today. Its origins trace back to 17th-century Germany, emerging from the rich tradition of Silesian folk melodies. What began as a simple tune carried by travelers has become one of Christianity's most cherished expressions of devotion.

What strikes me most about this hymn is its remarkable imagery. The text doesn't simply tell us about Christ's divinity—it shows us through the language of beauty itself. The hymn invites us to see Christ's glory reflected in creation itself—in the beauty of meadows and woodlands, in the brightness of sunshine and moonlight. It's a reminder that the God we worship is not distant from the natural world, but intimately connected to every beautiful thing we encounter.

In our age of contemporary worship songs and ever-changing musical styles, you might wonder why we continue to return to hymns like this one. The answer, I believe, lies in their tested wisdom. This hymn has sustained believers through wars and peace, through seasons of doubt and seasons of faith, through personal triumphs and devastating losses. When we sing "Fairest Lord Jesus," we're not just singing our own faith—we're joining a chorus that spans centuries. We're connecting with believers who found comfort in these same words during the Great Depression, who sang this hymn in frontier churches, who whispered these truths in times of persecution.

As we prepare to sing this hymn together, I encourage you to approach it with fresh ears. Perhaps you've sung it so many times that the words have become familiar background music. This Sunday, try to hear it as if for the first time. Let the imagery wash over you. Consider what it means to call Christ the "fairest" among all beautiful things. Notice how the hymn progresses—from earthly beauty to heavenly glory, from creation's wonders to the Creator's ultimate supremacy. It's a journey of praise that mirrors our own spiritual journey from seeing God's hand in nature to recognizing His face in Christ.

May this timeless hymn remind us once again of the One who is indeed fairer than all the beauty this world contains, and may our singing be a foretaste of the eternal song we'll one day share together.

*Dylan*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**MISSIONS  
SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 28  
10:50 AM  
In the Sanctuary**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**  
**TUESDAYS AT 3:00PM**  
**AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**



CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 706-485-3331 TO REGISTER





# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

## USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin

Chad Davis

Edge Farley

Luke Harvey

Clayton Lancaster

## DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 21

Barry Chambers

## DEACON FAMILIES

Dylan Bowden

Lisa Herndon

Anne Marie Horton Family

Leslie Peebles Family

Jean Rich

Roger Vining Family

Ronnie Williams Family

Sara Williams Family

## DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 28

Kim Camp

## DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton Family

Brandon Cardwell Family

Daryl Covington Family

Jesse Covington

Chris Hewette Family

Frank Thompson Family

# BIRTHDAYS

09/18 - Lilly Kent Rainey, Casey Kauffmann

09/20 - Mike Reagin, Jim Howell, Jackson Rossee

09/22 - Kent Duffey

09/24 - Charles Patten

09/25 - Lesa Adams

09/27 - Hudson Rainey

09/28 - Pat McDade, Gwen Russell

09/29 - Clyde Harper, Don Turney

09/30 - Celia Camp

10/01 - Mallory Rainey

10/02 - Faith Thomas

## NO ANNIVERSARIES

## WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, September 07 126

Sunday, September 14 105

## FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 31, 2025

Budget Needs YTD \$372,916.00

Total Receipts YTD \$357,848.05

Budget Expenditures YTD \$415,003.70

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

# JOIN US FOR OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

**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!**