

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

No other word quite sums it up for me like **kindness**.

I don't own the T-shirt, but I've seen it often: *"If you can be anything, be kind."* It may never be written into law, but it would surely make my list of "Ten Commandments from the New Testament." As the Ephesians statement says, *"Be kind to one another..."*

Kindness truly describes your generous gifts—an extra week and a gracious love offering. What an embodied act of care! Thank you so very much.

But what happens when one week suddenly becomes two? Only a couple of hours before I was scheduled to leave, I was told to stay longer? I'm grateful to the lay leader who simply said, "I think you'll figure it out!"

The gift of more time became time for me to wander through books and magazines (remember those?). Time to enjoy a metaphorical playground of swings, slides and merry go rounds – spinning or sliding just to spin and slide; being present to falling leaves and challenging trails; unhurried sleeping and eating; walks with my children and my beloved ... even forgetting what day it is! Sabbath day after day for two weeks!

Thank you, again, for such kindness. Too many of you played a part to name individually, but please know how deeply grateful I am – for each of you and for all of you.

We now stand on the precipice of what one friend called a season of feasting – a different take, right!

Father Robert Farrar Capone quotes Nehemiah who says, *"Then he said to them, 'Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'"*

Then he goes on to write:

Our year has been long; our year has been tense. And yet... God calls us to regularly participate in the supper of the lamb ... – to take time to break bread with our families, our friends, and most especially the stranger.

The good folks at the Edible Theology Project believe "the rest and connection you are looking for will take place at the table." As the days grow colder and the flavors grow richer, let us treat the table as a meaningful retreat from the busyness and remember the sacredness of this holy activity. Let us create space for extra chairs and opportunities to share the bounty, richness, and love that is God's goodness experienced in and through us, God's children.

*O Lord, refresh our sensibilities.*

*Give us this day our daily taste.*

*Restore to us soups that spoons will not sink in, ...*

*Raise up among us stews with more gravy than we have bread to blot it with, and casseroles that put starch and substance in our limp modernity. Take away our fear of fat and make us glad of the oil which ran upon Aaron's beard. ...*

*Drive far from us, O Most Bountiful, ... the demons that possess us; deliver us from the fear of calories and the bondage of nutrition; and set us free once more in our own land, where we shall serve Thee as Thou hast blessed us - with the dew of heaven, the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Amen.*

**Grace and Peace and Thanks,  
Craig**

# THE JOYFUL SOUND OF CHILDREN'S VOICES

This coming Sunday, our congregation will be blessed with a special gift during worship—the voices of our children's choir lifted in praise. There's something uniquely wonderful about hearing young voices join together in song, and we hope you'll be there to experience this joyful moment with us.

Anyone who has ever listened to children sing knows there's a quality to their voices that touches the heart in unexpected ways. It's not just the sweetness of their sound, though that certainly adds beauty to our worship. It's the whole-hearted enthusiasm they bring, the way they sing with complete sincerity, holding nothing back. When children sing for the Lord, they remind us what it means to worship with pure, unguarded joy.

Our children's choir has been working faithfully each week, learning their songs and preparing to share their gift with the congregation. Behind those young faces are hours of practice, lots of giggles, a few wrong notes along the way, and the patient guidance of their directors and volunteer helpers. But more than that, there's been fellowship, friendship, and the building of faith as these children learn together what it means to use their voices in service to God.

Scripture tells us that children have a special place in God's kingdom. Jesus himself said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). When we welcome children into our worship—not just as observers but as participants—we follow Christ's example and create space for them to grow in faith.

This Sunday's service will be a celebration not just of music, but of community and of the generations worshipping together. We hope you'll come with an encouraging heart, ready to support our young singers and to be reminded through their voices of the simple, profound joy of praising God.

**See you Sunday!**

Dylan

## CBF GEORGIA MISSION PROJECT

In March, we will be working with CBF Georgia on a Mission Project. If you are interested in helping, contact Dylan Bowden or the church office for more information.

### *Build with us!*

INDIVIDUALS & GROUPS ARE INVITED TO  
BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH US IN BEN  
HILL COUNTY - ONE OF GA'S COUNTIES OF  
PERSISTENT RURAL POVERTY



**Tfh**  
TOGETHER WE  
**BUILD**

*Volunteer &  
Donate!*



**CBF  
GEORGIA**

### *Volunteer!*

Whether you are an individual or group, we have a place for you! Within each build week, work begins on Monday morning and concludes the following Saturday. If you or your group cannot come for an entire week of service, you can come as you are able. If you can only come on a Saturday, please come! Worksite hours are 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM daily on Monday through Saturday. All levels of workers are welcome. Join us!

**BUILD WEEKS:**

**BUILD KICK-OFF 3/1!**  
**MARCH 2 - 7**  
**MARCH 9 - 14**  
**MARCH 17 - 20**  
**DEDICATION 3/21!**

### *Be a "Square Footer"*

The cost of a new home build in Fitzgerald, GA is approximately \$100,000 for a 1100+ sq. ft. home. That is roughly \$100/square foot! If you, your Bible Study group, your church's Missions Committee, your extended family, your business, etc. would be willing to commit to one or more square feet, together we will raise enough money to build a new affordable home in rural space!

### *Be a Meal Sponsor*

Work teams will be fed lunch, snacks and beverages six days/week and communal dinners two nights/week.

If you would like to sponsor a meal, contact [rachel@tfohope.org](mailto:rachel@tfohope.org).



# STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since our founding in 1999, *Stepping Stones Learning Center* a ministry of *The First Baptist Church* has been dedicated to nurturing young minds and hearts through the love of Jesus Christ. What began as a small vision to create a safe, faith-filled learning environment has grown into a vibrant preschool ministry serving generations of families in our community.

Every day, our teachers share God's Word through songs, stories, and play—helping children discover that they are wonderfully made and deeply loved by their Creator. We see God's hand at work as children learn, laugh, and grow in both wisdom and grace.

As a **nonprofit ministry**, we depend on the generosity of friends and families who share our mission. Your donation helps us:

- Provide scholarships for families in need
- Maintain safe, engaging classrooms
- Equip our teachers with faith-based materials and training
- Continue sharing Christ's love with every child who walks through our doors

Would you prayerfully consider making a gift today to help us continue this mission? Whether it's a one-time donation or an ongoing monthly contribution, your support makes an eternal difference in the lives of children and families. All donations are tax deductible.

Together, we can continue "*training up a child in the way they should go*" (Proverbs 22:6) — just as we have since 1999.

With gratitude and faith,

Denise Carmichael

Director, Stepping Stones Learning Center




**Wee  
Worship**

Second Tuesday of Each Month  
We are looking for volunteers to come in and share God's word with our 2-3 year olds.

What it entails...

- Bible Story
- Activity
- Closing Prayer

If you are interested, please reach out to our office at 706-485-0690.



Stepping Stones Learning Center  
Presents

**50/50  
RAFFLE**

We invite parents, family members, and the community to join us in a fundraiser that benefits you too! To participate, please use our Square link available on our website for online entries, or you can place cash in our tuition box at the center labeled with the recipient's name. Tickets will be distributed the day following your entry!

Let's Get to Selling!


Tickets will be \$3.00	Sold from October 29th - November 14th	Live Drawing November 17th
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The winner will be selected based on the winning ticket drawn and will receive half of the funds collected.

For example, if we raise \$2000, the winner will get \$1000!

SSLC Board Members and Staff are not eligible to participate.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please reserve your poinsettia by bringing or sending a check to the church office, along with the name of the donor and honoree by **Friday, November 14. The cost is \$7.**




**IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!**  
PACK A SHOEBOX!

Shoeboxes are due Sunday, **November 16**



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [samaritanspurse.org/ccc](http://samaritanspurse.org/ccc)

Samaritan's Purse® Helping in Jesus' Name® Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®. © 2025 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH HERITAGE

## Founder's Day

### Sunday, November 16

Join us for Founder's Day on Sunday, November 16 at 10:50am. Our Guest Preacher will be Rev. Dr. Greg DeLoach and we will be honoring Susan Davis and Guerry Key. Following worship, a meal will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the meat, bread, and tea. Please bring large casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 19 at 6:00pm

\$10 for Adults  
\$5 for Children  
\$30 Family Max

RSVP to the church office at 706-485-3331 by Thursday, November 13 at 4pm



# GOSPEL

## on the Avenue

**FREE EVENT**  
LOVE OFFERING OPTIONAL

**11/22/2025**  
6PM TO 8 PM  
EATONTON FMC

THE GREAT HALL  
103 WEST MAGNOLIA ST.  
EATONTON, GA



### JOSEPH HABEDANK

THE PUTNAM CO. ENSEMBLE OF PRAISE  THE EFMC TRIO



706-485-5871  
EATONTONFMC.ORG

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The First Baptist Church Office will close at 12:00pm on November 26 and will be closed on November 27 & 28. There will be no services or activities on Wednesday, November 26.



## CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE

Sunday, December 7  
6:00 PM  
First Methodist Church



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Steve and Robin Benton

## USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Steve Benton, Randall McCook, Steven Prance, Cooper Rainey, Charles Winslette

## DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 9

Mollie Harvey

## DEACON FAMILIES

Bill Etheridge Family, Don Masson Family, Karen McGinnis, Steven Prance Family, Cooper Rainey Family, Mac Rainey Family, Andrea Welch

## DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 16

Clayton Lancaster

## DEACON FAMILIES

Ryan Carmichael Family, Julia Davis, David Dixon Family, Clyde Harper Family, Julie Harper, Gaye Lankford, Jill Vaughan

## WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, October 19 104

Sunday, October 26 107

Sunday, November 02 137

## THANK YOU

*Dear First Baptist Church,*

*Thank you for all of the love, cards and prayers during Norman's illness. My family and I appreciate the good meal following the funeral.*

*Thank you,  
Deborah Holle and family*

## BIRTHDAYS

11/08 - Wyatt Prance, Lyla Davis, Alyssa Self  
11/09 - Luke Harvey, Kim Camp  
11/11 - Annette Franklin  
11/15 - Denise Carmichael  
11/16 - Christian Keiser  
11/18 - Tommy McElhenney

## ANNIVERSARIES

10/16 - John and Heather Wojtas  
11/10 - Joseph and Mallory Rainey

# SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2026 DEACONS

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING NEWLY-ELECTED DEACONS AS THEY BEGIN THEIR SERVICE TO THIS CHURCH IN 2026:

STEVE BENTON, PAM DOUGLAS, PAM LANCASTER, ED SELF, CHERYL WILLIAMS, AND JOHN WOJTAS.

## CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23

AT 10:50 AM  
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

We will be voting on the 2026 nominating report and updated building use policy



## COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30  
AT 10:50 AM



Join Us For Our  
*Advent Services*  
Sundays at 10:50AM

November 30 - Hope  
December 07 - Peace  
December 14 - Joy  
December 21 - Love



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

## ACTIVITIES HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND

**3rd Annual  
Community  
Health  
Fair**

Saturday  
November 8th  
10:00am - 1:00pm  
100 S. Madison Avenue,  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
*(Farmers & Merchants Bank parking lot)*

**Free  
Health  
Screenings &  
Information**

- Blood Pressure
- Diabetes
- Cholesterol
- Lung Function
- Sleep Apnea
- Opioid Awareness/Recovery
- Behavioral Health
- Nutritional
- Heart Age & Cardiac Risk Score

**& MORE**

 Come by and see us while you are shopping at the Mistletoe Market

**DGH**  
PUTNAM GENERAL HOSPITAL  
NavicentHealth Partner



*First*  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Eatonton

*"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.