

First Baptist Church of Eatonton

Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

I read from a variety of devotional resources each week. Some of it is worth repeating just as it is. Here is one of those resources from this week's reading. It's about the stories that we allow to shape us, frame our views. We'd all like to think the Biblical story is our framing story. But it is so easy for other stories to subtly become our framing story. Take a look at it this way as told by these two authors.

Brian McLaren writes: A framing story gives people direction, values, vision, and inspiration by providing a framework for their lives.... If it tells us that the purpose of life is for individuals or nations to accumulate an abundance of possessions and to experience the maximum amount of pleasure during the maximum number of minutes of our short lives, then we will have little reason to manage our consumption. If our framing story tells us that we are in life-and-death competition with each other ... then we will have little reason to seek reconciliation and collaboration and nonviolent resolutions to our conflicts....

But if our framing story tells us that we are free and responsible creatures in a creation made by a good, wise, and loving God, and that our Creator wants us to pursue virtue, collaboration, peace, and mutual care for one another and all living creatures, and that our lives can have profound meaning ... then our society will take a radically different direction, and our world will become a very different place.

Father Richard Rohr piggy backs off McLaren's comments to say: When we believe in a deep way that life is good, God is good, and humanity is good, we do exciting and imaginative things because we are confident that we are part of a storyline that is going somewhere good. As Christians, we have the opportunity to live the story given to us at the very beginning (Genesis 1), that creation is "good," even "very good," and that it is our vocation to nurture and grow such goodness wherever we can.

I hope this emphasis on starting with "good," "very good" becomes an epiphany for you. It's like the coach who leads her comments with the strengths of the player and moves finally to the places the player can yet be strengthened. It is a good world God has created and good things God continues to create. May we be a strength to that good story.

*Peace,
Craig*

YOUTH AND CHILDREN NEWS & ACTIVITIES

God instructs us to love one another, His most important commandment to us all. What does it mean to love one another? It seems difficult, this act of offering love to all. In John 13:34, He said to us, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Have you ever had a moment in your life where you tried to "look busy" to avoid having to help someone out or ignored a stranger who just kept talking to you as you waited in line together at the grocery store? *You're not alone.* It is human nature for us to remove ourselves from situations that are uncomfortable, but we are called to embrace the uncomfortable and really, truly love others well. God calls us to be brave and to share His love with all who cross our paths. Scripture states that we should "*not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*" (Hebrews 13:2 NIV)

When it comes to loving others, there are many, many ways to do so, but to start, *pray for them.* Praying for others daily is an impactful way of loving them unconditionally, just as God calls us to do. Think about the people that are present in your everyday life and ways that you could pray for them. Think about the people that you come across every so often, maybe a relative that you haven't seen in years or a friend you've drifted away from. How can you love them and serve the Lord through prayer? If we are called to truly *love one another* - that means we must see past outer appearances, we must see past the little annoying behaviors of others, and we must see past the awkwardness of new situations. We must look past these things so that we can get to the hearts of those who are placed in our paths.

Is there someone in your life you're feeling God placing on your heart? Maybe you have two or three people in mind? Sit down today and say a prayer for them – however you feel called, and then send them an encouraging card today or invite them to lunch. And for those whom you happen upon in the grocery store or the coffee shop line, offer them an encouraging word and keep them in mind as you talk to God throughout your day. As we approach Valentine's Day, let us approach it and others with God's love. May we commit to loving one another each day as Christ has loved us.

*Grace and Peace,
Dylan*

DNOW 2024

DNOW 2024



March 8-10
Lake Oconee
Presbyterian
Church

Cost: \$75

Contact Dylan to
Sign Up Today!

Register Online at
www.firstbaptisteatonton.org

Join Us for DNOW 2024 on March 8-10!
Worship will be hosted at Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church. Boys and girls will spend the night here at FBC. Chaperones are required to stay on-site at FBCE with the students. Boys & girls will be separated at "lights out" time each night.

The cost is \$75 per person, and that includes a t-shirt, student book, all meals and activities.

I would love to have you all join us again!
Worship begins Friday evening (March 8).
We are still ironing out the schedule, but the dates and cost are set, and a schedule will be posted soon.

Register online at <https://www.firstbaptisteatonton.org/youth>

Contact Dylan Bowden or the Church Office for more information.

You CAN Take It with You!

The old saying is, “You can’t take it with you.” That’s right, as long as it means checking accounts or investment portfolios, nice cars or warm houses. Most things, actually. But there is a rich blessing that we get to enjoy here and now as well as forever in heaven.

**“Worship, come and worship,
Worship and adore Him, gratefully sing!
Praises, sing His praises,
Praise and magnify Him, our Lord and King!”**

Jay Rouse’s chorus, copyrighted in 2000, is the perfect addition to Robert Grant’s 1833 hymn, “O Worship the King.” Our Choir gets to lead us in this invitation this Sunday, accompanied as always by our amazing pianist, Connie Covington. Rouse’s chorus continues.

**“Come worship Him, come worship Him,
Come worship Christ the King!”**

Way back in Genesis 2, Jacob realized, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it... How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” He was talking about a physical location of course, but our worship and praise is also a gate of heaven. It opens us up to the presence of God. It reveals His awesome power and majesty, His grace and provision, His purpose, plan and provision.

Musical worship is a gift that we CAN take with us! But it is cross-shaped. Part of it flows vertically, between us and our Lord. In addition, He has commissioned us to let it flow horizontally, between us as believers and those around us. This cross-shaped invitation is meant for sharing, saying “O worship the King, all glorious above, and gratefully sing His wonderful love - Come worship Christ the King!” Now. Today. And forever!

John

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHOIR

Rehearsals
Wednesdays
at 7:15pm

Contact
John Cotten for
more information.



Children's Choir
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TUESDAYS
3:00PM - 4:30PM

Come and be a part of our new Children's Choir for children in K4-5th Grade. A snack will be provided and we will offer a time for a Bible Story.

Register Today at www.firstbaptistatonton.org
For More Information, Contact Dylan at 706-485-3331

HANDBELL CHOIR

Sundays at 1:30pm
in the Handbell Room
Contact John for more information



VALENTINE'S DINNER



EVERYONE'S WELCOME TO OUR

Valentine's Dinner

February 14
6:00PM
Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$6-Adults & \$3-Children

MENU: LASAGNA, SALAD,
ROLLS AND DESSERT
CATERED BY RICARDO'S KOUZZINA

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**JOIN US FOR OUR
VALENTINE'S DINNER!**

**Wednesday, February 14
at 6:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

**The cost is \$6 for Adults and
\$3 for Children.**

**We will be having Lasagna,
Salad, Rolls and Dessert
catered by Ricardo's Kouzzina.**

**RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8!**

STEPPING STONES EVENTS



PLEASE JOIN OUR

Sweetheart Ball

FEBRUARY 10
3:00-5:00 PM

FBCE FELLOWSHIP HALL

PLEASE RSVP USING THE
FORM BELOW



TICKETS:
\$8- CHILDREN 11 YEARS AND OLDER
& ADULTS
\$5- CHILDREN 10 YEARS AND UNDER
THAT DO NOT ATTEND SSLC
FREE FOR ALL SSLC CHILDREN!
PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT
THE EVENT!



STEPPING STONES
LEARNING CENTER

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Give your favorite childcare providers the
chance to spend some extra time with the kiddos
while you take a break. Dinner and exciting
activities will be provided - fun for everyone!
This event will be immediately after our
Sweetheart Ball, so enjoy a Valentine's date
night and leave the kid's with us!

**FEB 10
5-9 PM**

RSVP USING THE
FORM BELOW!

\$40 FOR ONE CHILD
\$70 FOR TWO CHILDREN
\$90 FOR THREE CHILDREN
*CASH IS PREFERRED



THIS IS AN AFTER-HOURS EVENT, NOT STATE REGULATED. SIBLINGS
AND FRIENDS OF SSLC CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**PGH AUXILIARY INVITES
YOU TO JOIN US**

VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE

REQUIREMENTS: YOUR ENERGY, KINDNESS, AND A SMILE

- Join a new and exciting clinical program
- Join with a friend and make new friends
- Join in making a difference in people's lives
- Join us for a tour and lunch on us

For More Information, Contact Rita Ryland, Auxiliary Volunteer
at 415-686-1500 or rita.ryland@comcast.net



PCO helps to provide much-needed Food, Backpacks (for kids), Housing, Medical and other assistance programs to the poor and needy, residents of the Putnam County Region.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are in need of clothing, toys, appliances (small and large), furniture and other household goods.

Please visit our website at pcoicares.com to learn more.

To become a volunteer with Putnam Christian Outreach go to
www.pcoicares.com/get-involved

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	2	3
4 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	5 6pm Ladies Bible Study	6 3pm Children's Choir	7 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	8 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	9	10 3pm Stepping Stones Sweetheart Ball 5pm Stepping Stones Parents Night Out
11 8:30am Deacons Meeting 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	12 6pm Ladies Bible Study	13 3pm Children's Choir	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 6pm Valentine's Banquet 7:15pm Choir	15 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary 6:00pm Finance Meeting	16	17
18 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	19 President's Day 6pm Ladies Bible Study	20 3pm Children's Choir	21 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	22 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	23	24
25 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	26 6pm Ladies Bible Study	27 3pm Children's Choir	28 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	29 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary		

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR FEBRUARY

Mike and Sherry Lyons

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Mike Lyons, Head Usher

Brandon Cardwell

Howell Cardwell

Mike Faulk

Frank Thompson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

February 4 - Lisa Herndon and Karen McGinnis

February 11—Sheryl Hall and Lisa Herndon

DEACON FOR FEBRUARY 4

Susan Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

James Cheney family

Edge Farley family

Mabel Hicks

Guerry Key family

Jesse McMillen family

Betty Sills

Roger Vining family

DEACON FOR FEBRUARY 11

Edge Farley

DEACON FAMILIES

Jene Etheridge family

Don Masson family

Karen McGinnis

Steven Prance family

Cooper Rainey family

Mac Rainey family

Andrea Welch

BIRTHDAYS

02/01 - Jimmy Williams

02/03 - Steve Culberson

02/10 - Julia Davis

02/11 - Charles Winslette

02/12 - Will Rainey

02/13 - Cindy Duffey, Penney Cardwell

ANNIVERSARIES

02/04 - Mike and Sherry Lyons

02/05 - Daryl and Connie Covington

02/15 - Cary and Beth Walton

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, January 21 117

Sunday, January 28 112

FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 21, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$10,846.00

Budget Needs YTD \$30,601.68

Budget Receipts YTD \$32,627.00

JANUARY 28, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$8,565.25

Budget Needs YTD \$40,802.24

Budget Receipts YTD \$41,192.25

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

LADIES BIBLE STUDY



Ladies Bible Study

Mondays beginning February 5th
at 6pm at host home of
Pam Lancaster. Contact Kim Camp
to Sign Up Today!

Join Us for Ladies Bible Study!

**Our Theme for this session is
The Strength of a Woman of God.**

Begins Monday, February 5.

**We will meet each Monday
at 6:00pm at a different
host home each week.**

**Dinner, Desserts and Drinks
will be provided.**

**To sign up or get more
information, contact Kim Camp.**

We can't wait to see you there!