

JULY 2, 2026

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

The Henri Nouwen Society publishes a daily reflection drawn from the many writings of Henri Nouwen. If you are unfamiliar with him, I encourage you to look him up and explore both his life and his work. Recently I was especially moved by a reflection from Nouwen's book *The Road to Peace* entitled "Faithful to Your Call."

Nouwen writes:

"If you live a life of watching and waiting, you will know what kind of call you have. You are not called to solve every problem in the world. Jesus was not called to go all over the world. He was called to be faithful to his own people. Every human being has a call. I (Henri Nouwen) work with mentally handicapped people (at L'Arche). Sometimes I spend hours with one person, and we barely speak. Does that help people in Bosnia, does that help people in Northern Ireland, does it help people in Somalia? I don't know, but I think it does. I think that when I am faithful to one person who is given to me, when I am convinced that's my vocation, then I am doing more than when I am anxiously trying to put out all the fires all over the world. And that gives me peace."

Every day there are fires burning across the world. A quick glance at the news or social media is enough to remind us of suffering, conflict, disasters, and endless reasons for anxiety. These sources seem eager to tell us not only what is happening, but also what we should be worried about. Surrounded by so much of the world's anxiety, it becomes surprisingly easy to overlook the person standing right in front of us. Sometimes that person is even ourselves.

Nouwen's words challenge me. They grow out of his years of living in the L'Arche community—a community where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together. There he learned that faithfulness is often measured not by how many crises we attempt to solve, but by how fully we give ourselves to the person God has entrusted to our care in this moment.

The Henri Nouwen Society concludes the reflection with this question I invite you to pray along with me:

How might being faithful to the one person given to you bring you peace  
in the face of the fires all over the world?

That reflection reminded me of another story shared with me after Sunday's sermon from Psalm 23 – "*Still Waters*." Someone told me about a school principal who made it her practice to hand every student who came into her office for a conference a bottle of water. Through her experience and study, she became convinced that dehydration often contributed to students' struggles, emotional distress, and even confrontational behavior. Her conviction was simple: a well-hydrated student was more prepared for whatever healing, learning, or reconciliation might take place.

Whether or not that practice has been scientifically proven in every circumstance, it offers a beautiful metaphor. Before difficult conversations, before we can be fully present to another person, we ourselves need refreshment. We need the still waters.

Perhaps that is where these two stories meet. Nouwen reminds us that we are not called to extinguish every fire in the world. Psalm 23 reminds us that before we can faithfully accompany another, the Good Shepherd first leads us to still waters where our own souls are renewed.

As we drink from still waters, we become less driven by the anxieties swirling around us and more attentive to the person before us, often that is ourselves. We discover the courage to be present. May it be so among us.

*Peace – Craig*

# “MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD”

*"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." — Psalm 98:4*

While much of First Baptist takes a well-earned rest this summer, the music never truly stops — and neither does our choir family!

## Summer Choir is Here!

All are welcome to join us this summer for an informal, relaxed time of worship through song. Summer Choir gathers each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM in the Sanctuary and again at 10:30 AM in the Music Suite for rehearsal. There are no long rehearsals, no challenging anthems to wrestle with, and no choir robes required. Just come as you are, lift your voice, and enjoy the fellowship of singing together. Whether you've been in the choir for years or have always wanted to give it a try, this is a wonderful opportunity to step in!

As the old hymn reminds us — *"Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!"* — there is no better season than summer to simply delight in the gift of music.

## Mark Your Calendars — Fall Kickoff!

We are so excited to launch our Fall Semester with a **Music Ministry Dinner & Social on Friday, August 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM**, graciously hosted by Barry & Nancy Chambers at their home.

This special evening is for everyone — whether you are returning to **Bell Choir** or **Chancel Choir**, or if you are considering joining one of our ensembles for the very first time. Come hungry, come ready to fellowship, and come expectant! Over dinner, we'll get a first listen to our **2026 Christmas on the Avenue Cantata — "Sing the Song of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson**. It is going to be a beautiful piece, and we can't wait to share it with you.

## A Full and Exciting Fall Ahead

This fall, our **Bell Choir**, **Chancel Choir**, and **Children's Choir** will all be in full swing, and there is much to look forward to. If music is on your heart — whether ringing handbells, singing in the chancel, or nurturing a love of worship in our youngest members — there is a place for you here.

*"Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." — Psalm 33:3*

We hope to see you Sunday mornings this summer, and we look forward to a wonderful fall together. Come sing with us!

*Dylan*

## SUMMER FUN FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This summer we have many fun opportunities for our children and families.

Join us for three Wednesdays in July for fun mornings of **play, fellowship and popsicles!** Bring the kids, invite a friend, and enjoy time together on the playground while cooling off with a sweet treat.

Join us for a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and swimming at **Oconee Springs Park on Friday, July 11, from 4:00–6:00 PM!** We will enjoy a cookout together and spend time relaxing and having fun with our church family. **Admission Costs:** Adults: \$6, Children: \$3, Water Park Access: \$16 per child (for those who would like to use the water park attractions). **Transportation Available:** If you need a ride, transportation will be provided. Please meet behind the church at **3:30 PM**. **Need Financial Assistance?** We want everyone to be able to attend. Sponsorships are available for any family who may need assistance. Please contact the church office or let us know privately. **Please RSVP** so we can plan for food and transportation. We look forward to spending the afternoon with you!

*Blessings,  
Kyle*



# DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

## DEACON FOR JULY 5

Mollie Harvey

## DEACON FAMILIES

Sara Beck, Tara Bushmiaer, Russell Davis Family,  
Marvin Franklin Family, Scott Joris Family,  
Steve Marshall, Pat McDade

## DEACON FOR JULY 12

Clayton Lancaster

## DEACON FAMILIES

Terry Blanton Family, Walt Rocker Family,  
Lois Schell, David Stickley Family,  
Ellen Trice, Jimmy Williams, Nell Wright

## DEACON FOR JULY 19

Pam Lancaster

## DEACON FAMILIES

Jim Howell Family, Mike Lyons Family,  
Charles Patten Family, Glenda Ridley,  
Ed Self Family, Charlotte Williamson Family

## DEACON FOR JULY 26

Jesse McMillen

## DEACON FAMILIES

Helen Benshoof, Mike Faulk Family,  
Hollis Harrison Family, David Heath Family,  
Scott Sharp, Pat Boardman Family

## DEACON FOR AUGUST 2

Ed Self

## DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton Family, Brandon Cardwell Family,  
Daryl Covington Family, Chris Hewette Family,  
Laura Thompson

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR JULY

Guerry and Joan Key

## WELCOMING FOR AUGUST

Charles and Shelia Patten

## USHERS FOR JULY

Cary Walton, Head Usher  
David Giddens, Scott Joris, Ben Leverette,  
Jesse McMillen, Charles Patten

## USHERS FOR AUGUST

Mike Lyons, Head Usher  
Howell Cardwell, Mike Faulk, Chris Hewette

# WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, June 07</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>Sunday, June 14</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Sunday, June 21</u>	<u>95</u>
<u>Sunday, June 28</u>	<u>95</u>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$230,137.50</u>
<u>Total Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$222,371.53</u>
<u>Budget Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>\$282,850.18</u>

# WAYS TO GIVE



**WAYS TO GIVE**  
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

- 1 GIVE BY MAIL**  
MAIL TO P.O. BOX 3400, EATONTON, GA 31024
- 2 GIVE ONLINE**  
VISIT [FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG](http://FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG) AND  
CLICK ON THE DONATE BUTTON
- 3 GIVE IN PERSON**  
PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR BRING  
BY THE CHURCH OFFICE
- 4 GIVE BY PHONE**  
SCAN THE QR CODE



# BIRTHDAYS

- 07/03 - Max Dupree
- 07/06 - Karen Ricketson
- 07/07 - JoAnn Clay, Alanna Davis
- 07/08 - Ellen Trice
- 07/12 - Beth Walton
- 07/17 - Stew Rich
- 07/20 - Dylan Bowden
- 07/22 - Lanier Harvey
- 07/30 - Jesse McMillen
- 07/31 - Tripp Rich
- 08/01 - Joan Barclay, Jack Cardwell, Lisa Herndon
- 08/03 - Cary Walton
- 08/04 - Brandon Cardwell
- 08/05 - Mark Smith
- 08/06 - Rhett Rich

# ANNIVERSARY

- 06/26 - David and Tracy Stickley
- 07/14 - Edge and Esther Farley

# MISSIONS UPDATE

We are grateful for your generous support of our recent mission project benefiting First Call Pregnancy Center. We collected \$1,113.17 to help provide care and support for woman and families in our community.

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**SYMPATHY:** Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family of Frank Thompson upon his passing and to Jim Hall in the loss of his father.

## OUR MEMBERS:

Gene Adams, Terry Blanton, Daryl Covington, Susan Davis, George Dissmeyer, Tina Dupree, Jim Hall, Gwen Ralston, Kyle Ralston, Scott Sharp, Jimmy Williams, Nell Wright, Unspoken

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Tyrone Alford, Dennis and Gale Brown, Lynn Butterworth, Neile Chambers, Gloria Covington, Lynn Hudson, Bill and Nancy Joiner, Dale Joiner, Jo Ellen LaRue, Mike Liles, Jim Lynch, Zellie Marbury, Christie Nichols, Walt Rocker Jr., Earnest Rogers

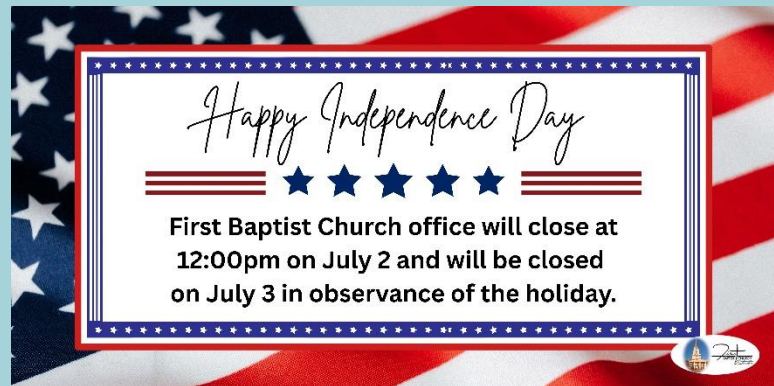
## ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME, & HOMEBOUND:

Mary Jo Balas, Jo Ann Clay, Mary Ann Heath, Steve Marshall, Jean Rich, Sug Walton

## MISSIONARY FRIENDS:

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPONSORED BY R2T AND PARTNERS FOR ALL AGES WHO HAVE NEEDS TO PREPARE TO EDUCATE IN 2026/27

## Back To School HEALTH FAIR

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

**Health screenings, education, resources, and more!**

- Free School Supplies
- Overdose Prevention
- Education Literacy
- Nutrition Assistance
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Hygiene Care Packages
- Senior Life Literacy
- KIDS Free Snacks
- Free Games and Prizes
- Vaccine Literacy

**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES!** Students will receive FREE back to school supplies while supplies last!

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

- MERCER Medicine Putnam County
- Georgia Rural Health INNOVATION CENTER
- DEPT of Health and Human Services
- READY2TEACH
- First Baptist Church
- Texas A.M.E Church
- PGH PUTNAM GENERAL HOSPITAL
- BUFFY BONDERS
- OUR COMMUNITY
- Peaceful Purpose
- CQTC
- CLASSY GUY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: **Cecil Kilgore** | 404-952-9894

**SATURDAY July 11th**  
10 AM - 1 PM  
Putnam County Elementary School  
126 Sparta Hwy.  
Eatonton, GA 31024

# FOSTER CARE CLOSET DONATIONS NEEDED

ITEMS NEEDED FOR NEWBORN - 17 YEARS OLD

NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED CLOTHES, PAJAMAS, NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR TEEN GIRLS, DIAPERS AND PULL-UPS, COMBS AND BRUSHES, SHAMPOO - SMALL BOTTLES, DEODORANT, SOAP, TOWELS, WASHCLOTHS, SHOES - CROCS OR TENNIS SHOES, BACKPACKS, DIAPER BAGS, SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS, AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS

DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE NARTHEX OR FELLOWSHIP HALL

# SCHOOL PRAYER RIDE

## JULY 30 AT 9AM

JOIN US FOR OUR SCHOOL PRAYER. TOGETHER WE'LL VISIT AND PRAY OVER EACH SCHOOL AS THEY BEGIN A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR.