

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

This week before Thanksgiving I want to say thanks as the church's Pastor.

I heard a story on the role imagination plays in the great movements of history, which also reminded me of the role imagination plays in the actions of our daily lives. We have said with surprise, "I never imagined that many people would come! I never imagined it could be that much fun!" What we imagine plays a role in what we attempt and ultimately achieve.

So, thanks for how you imagine things as a church, so that you take action and do things in some of the very best ways. May God keep our hearts open to a growing imagination.

Thanks for the recent offering for Disaster Relief and for the increase in the general offerings. In addition to enlarging the outreach during disasters it reminds us of the hopes we can have about ourselves and one another. The Spirit yet works within us to redeem and turn us to serve the needs among us, around us and beyond us. May it always be so!

Thanks for the Operation Christmas shoeboxes everyone put together. Thanks for the children who will receive the gifts, some with great surprise, others with trepidation. May the gifts and the children bless one another with love and affirmation.

Thanks for the presence you give to the church – its worship, its Bible study, its loving manifestations, its vivid attempts to follow Jesus. May those goals be met every day in the Jesus-led lives you live.

Thanks for being church to one another, and to me and mine. Church is such a rich community when it is led by generosity, love and civility. May it always be so!

Thanks for a supporting cast of people who work alongside and support a pastor like me. It cannot always be easy, but they make it look so. May their crowns be filled with an extra star, but may their crown not only await them in eternity. May they be likewise crowned even in this life!

Thanks for the supportive spouse who lives with a pastor like me and even after all these years, still tends to the preaching time with prayer and hope, and a quiet response on Sunday afternoon! May angels continue to render her support. May the congregation support and bless the preacher's so valuable, supportive spouse.

Thanks for living. Your breath blesses mine. And the Spirit originates so often between the two.

**Thanks,
Craig**

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

As I sit here staring at a blank document on my computer wondering, “*What am I going to write about for this second November Newsletter?*” I thought, since no new and original idea was coming to mind, I should go back and look at what I have sent to youth in previous years. I present to you some old thoughts that are still great reminders today...

November is a month where people tend to list out the things we are thankful for, (*it's probably because of that one holiday called “Thanksgiving”*). Some even will list something each and every day on Facebook (*which is not something you will find me doing*). Don't get me wrong, it is good to be thankful, and I am thankful for many different things ... I just don't need the whole Facebook world to know it. Besides, a lot of times the things listed after family and friends are all material things which will eventually break and get replaced. *Okay, I'm done venting now.*

Don't take me as being the Scrooge or the Grinch of Thanksgiving, it is good to be thankful. The Bible even tells us that. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “***give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***”

Wait a second! Look at the verse again! Did you notice what that verse says? “*Give thanks in **ALL** circumstances.*” So ... does this mean I have to give thanks in those times when life isn't going like I planned it or when something bad happens? I hate to be the bearer of bad news but ... yup, that is exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People will get sick, things will break or be stolen, feelings will be hurt by those we call our friends and loved ones, and relationships are going to go through tough times and may even lead to a break-up. It may be hard to see these as times to give thanks ... but they are.

AND HERE'S WHY ...

Notice the word before that bold, italicized, and underlined **all**? What is it? It's the word **in**. We are told to give thanks **in** all circumstances, not **for** all circumstances. The evil, the bad things of life do not come from God, those are a result of sin being in the world. This is why we are not thankful **for** all circumstances. We are thankful **in** all circumstances because no matter what we are facing in life ... God is still in control and God's presence is still with you. This means that His love, His mercy, His compassion, and all the other wonderful things God is and does are still with you. They are with you because you are His dearly loved child. And to prove that, God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

So, in this month of reflection on what it is we are thankful for and especially this coming week of Thanksgiving holidays... the thing I'm most thankful for is this ... the love, mercy, and grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ. Because it is through this that *you* are claimed as one of His dear children. I'm thankful that God continues to go with you wherever it is that you go. It is my constant prayer that no matter what you experience in your life, that you remember that He is there with you and that you can lean on Him all the time.

God's blessings!

Dylan

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 17
10:30am - 10:40am
First Baptist Church



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

OUR CHILDREN WILL BE SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 10:50 AM
DURING MORNING WORSHIP



THANKS-SINGING!

***“One generation shall praise thy works to another,
and shall declare thy mighty acts” - Psalm 145:4***

Time and again, the Bible tells us to make sure that our children and grandchildren hear of the mighty acts of God. One of the best ways is to sing together in worship. We are told to model for the next generation how to worship.

Our Congregational Singing Survey a few months ago revealed something I already knew. Most people who don't sing in church don't think they sing well enough. I understand, but respectfully disagree. When the Bible tells us to **“make a joyful noise to the Lord,”** that's what it meant. It never says to sing only if your voice is good enough. It was God who gave us our voice, and it is sweet music to His ears when we lift it to Him in praise. He can't be pleased when our pride won't let us risk being heard singing inaccurately by those seated near us. That would make them more important to us than Him!

God not only gave us our voice and music itself, He himself sings, over us. Zephaniah 3:17 says, ***“The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing”*** If the Father sings over us, then how can we not sing to Him?

The question should never be how well or poorly we sing, but whether we have a song of praise and thanksgiving, and a willingness to obediently use it in worshipping our God. When we do, we and the next generations can, as Psalm 30:12 says, ***“sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!”*** (Inspired by an article by David Manner)

John Cotten

O HOLY LIGHT

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

by Mary McDonald

15th Annual

Christmas on the Avenue

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 6 p.m.

Presented by the Choirs & Orchestra of:

Eatonton First United Methodist Church
Eatonton First Baptist Church
Eatonton Presbyterian Church

Location:

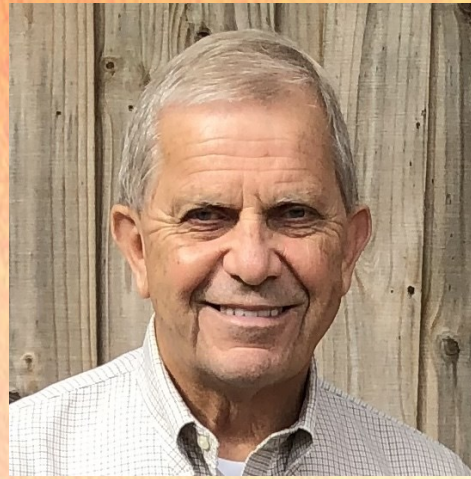
**Eatonton First United Methodist Church
103 W. Magnolia St.
Eatonton, GA 31024**

Concert free and open to the public
Donations accepted

Jubilate
MUSIC

**Come and Join Us and
Invite Others to Our
15th Annual
*Christmas on the
Avenue*
Sunday, December 3
6:00 pm
Eatonton First
Methodist Church**

FOUNDER'S DAY 2023



Thank you to all who made
2023 Founder's Day a feast in
every sense of the word!

We honored these two wonderful
people for their service to First
Baptist Church. We are grateful
for their dedication and service
they have given for many years
and continue to give today.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOXES



 **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission Project. We dropped off 75 Shoeboxes to be distributed by Samaritan's Purse. May they give strength, share love and nurture life.



WE COLLECTED 75 SHOEBOXES!

 **Samaritan's Purse®**
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR NOVEMBER

Cary Walton

WELCOMING FOR DECEMBER

Guerry and Joan Key

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

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

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Mike Reagin, Don Baker, Tim Camp,
Hollis Harrison, Jim Ryan

DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 19

Walt Rocker

DEACON FAMILIES

Russell Davis family, Julia Davis,
Clyde Harper family, Julie Harper,
Gaye Lankford, Bill Sharp family,
Jill Vaughan

DEACON FOR NOVEMBER 26

Tracy Stickley

DEACON FAMILIES

Lauren Brown family, Jarred Camp family,
Tim Camp family, Ryan Carmichael family,
Ashley Rich family

DEACON FOR DECEMBER 3

Laura Thompson

DEACON FAMILIES

Mary Jo Balas, George Dissmeyer family,
David Lutz family, Kay Stevens family,
Faith Thomas, Beth Willis,
John Wojtas family

BIRTHDAYS

11/18 - Tommy McElhenney

11/22 - Mary Ann Heath

11/23 - Maxine Godin, Sara Williams

11/26 - Jeanne Vining

12/01 - Mike Lyons

12/04 - Steve Benton

ANNIVERSARIES

12/01 - Gene and Lesa Adams

12/01 - Jesse and Brooke McMillen

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, October 22 121

Sunday, October 29 151

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$18,234.17

Budget Needs YTD \$467,651.70

Budget Receipts YTD \$449,731.37

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$13,441.00

Budget Needs YTD \$478,043.96

Budget Receipts YTD \$463,172.37

DISASTER MISSION OFFERING

\$5,550.00

These offerings will be sent to CBF to support their recent disaster relief efforts.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
DURING MORNING WORSHIP

We will be
voting on the
2024 Budget.



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

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH FBC

Ladies Christmas Painting Party

Thursday, November 30
in the Fellowship Hall
6PM - 8PM with Dinner at 5:30PM
Cost is \$30

All supplies included with instruction by Denise Reich

Contact Kim Camp at 706-318-9438 or Lauren Camp at 706-318-1342 to Sign Up!



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

December 3 - Hope
December 10 - Peace
December 17 - Joy
December 24 - Love



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, December 13
6:00PM

Turkey, Ham, and Dressing Provided
Please bring casseroles, vegetables,
salads and desserts.

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS NOW!



Christmas Eve
Candlelight and Communion Service
Sunday, December 24 at 5:00PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EATONTON

