

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

*First Baptist Church
of Eatonton*
Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Be in prayer for several leadership teams and committees that are at work among our congregation at this time. The Finance and the Nominating committees are working this time of year to lead the church by contemplating the 2024 Fiscal Budget and by reviewing and enlisting people to serve in the variety of ways needed that support the work of the church. Deacons are following up the deacon nominations to secure a list of nominees from which deacons will be elected. Prayerfully consider the requests of these leaders as they approach you and pray for their spirits as they courageously ask and enlist. The work of the church happens because there are people who graciously serve on something like a Grief Support Team that graciously serve a meal to a grieving family on one of the worst days of their lives. They lie in wait most of time, but quickly take action when needed. Thanks be to God for such gracious volunteers. God welcomes you to volunteer with your skills to similarly serve the work of the church.

A reading that came across my screen this week is from Will Willimon's *God Turned Toward Us*. Ponder it with me.

"Yahweh, God's self-designation – When God shows up to Moses, speaking as a burning bush that isn't consumed, it's been so long since anybody has worshipped the true and living God that we forgot God's name. "I Am Who I Am," replies God, or if you prefer, "I Will Be Who I Will Be." In the Hebrew text: YHWH. Tossing in vowels, Yahweh.

To call yourself "I Am" suggests that God's name is beyond naming. God will not be as we would have God to be but as God is. God will not be defined, named, and designated by us and thereby ordered around. God will be who God will be whether we like it or not. We can't call God whatever we please. As the angel orders Joseph, "You will call his name Jesus, the one who saves," rather than, "Josh, the therapist" or "Manny the masseur."

Still, God loves us enough to give us God's name. In our times of privation, we need not incoherently mumble, "O great, incomprehensible, unknowable, impersonal some one who may or may not be out there somewhere." We have been entrusted with the proper name whereby we, even we, can call upon the name of the Lord. We are given the privilege of being on a first name basis with the Son of God, able to pray in Jesus' name, even to begin prayer with "Our Father." Abba. Paul names as "saved" anyone who calls the Lord by name."

What blessed goodness this is for humans!

Peace,
Craig

The Lancasters Are Moving

No, not the ones here in town, but their offspring – Trey and Kaitlyn, Raiford, Rentz and Lawton.

They are moving to Bulawayo, several miles southwest of Gweru, Zimbabwe.

Pray for them as they actually make the physical move Friday, Sept. 8.

Moving with all the amenities of the likes of 'Two Men and a Truck' is difficult,

but I can't imagine what it's like in a place like Zimbabwe where the resources are limited.

May God's grace be strong upon Trey and Kaitlyn to be able to care for one another graciously. May God's peace and patience prevail as they care for three young children in such a move. May God provide understanding to Raiford, Rentz and Lawton.

P.O. Box 3400

115 N. Madison Ave

706-485-3331

firstbaptisteatonton.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

John 3:30
"He must become greater; I must become less."

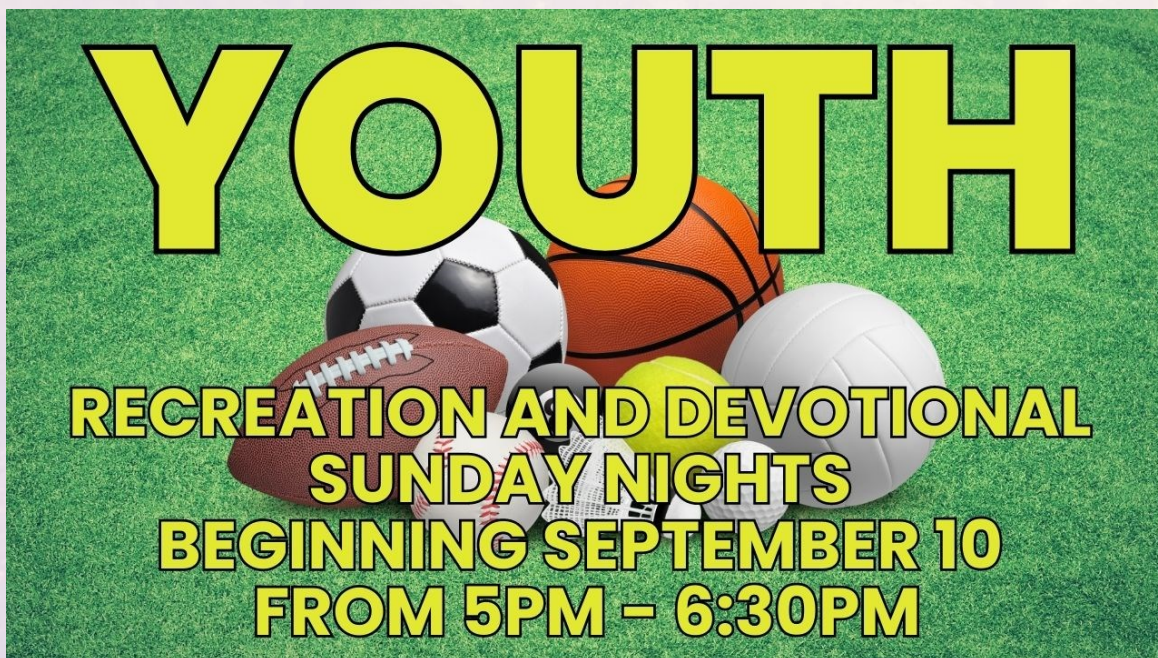
I pray that everyone has had a great start to the '23 School Year! We are up and running here at the Church with our Student Ministries. We welcome all of our students and volunteers. Both those who are returning and those who are new to FBC. We have implemented a new Curriculum for our Children on Wednesday Night called, Trackers of Faith. This Curriculum will be used in multiple ways with our Children; Wednesday nights, Children's Church, and also our Stepping Stones Pre-School students will be following this curriculum for the year.

Our Youth Ministry is back in full swing as well. Our theme for this year is John 3:30, 'He must become greater; I must become less.' We will be learning what it means to live for Christ, and to let God become Greater and for us to become less or to decrease in our own selves. Our first few weeks we have taken a dive into Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." We have talked about how we do not have to carry around baggage and "junk" from our past, because Jesus is offering to us, through relationship with Him, to take those burdensome things away. We also have discussed and have seen how through Jesus working in us, we are able to be a "catalyst" and cause change in other people's lives. But, not all catalysts cause a positive change. The students were challenged to be a catalyst in someone's life, and to be a positive Christ-like change for them. Lastly, we looked at how God is bringing change and "making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." We all have an opportunity through faith in Christ, to forget the former things and the "baggage" in our past and to be a part of what God is doing now. The question is this; will we run to Jesus and let Him work through us to be a positive change in people's lives? Or, will we hang onto our baggage, let it weigh us down, and watch from the sidelines as God is doing a NEW THING?

Dylan

JOIN US FOR YOUTH ON SUNDAY NIGHTS

**Middle and High School Students are invited to our
Sunday Night Recreation and Devotional Nights
Beginning Sunday, September 10 from 5pm - 6:30pm
This will be a great time of fun, food and fellowship.**



MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

Thank you for participating in our **Congregational Singing Survey**. Results are still being tabulated, but already I have seen some positive trends and remarks that were as kind as they were encouraging. Someone mentioned that just the process of taking our Survey has made them value more highly our singing together as an act of worship. Our official Survey period is closed, but I will always welcome your song suggestions or thoughts on how we might better obey God's instruction to *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."* (Colossians 3:16)

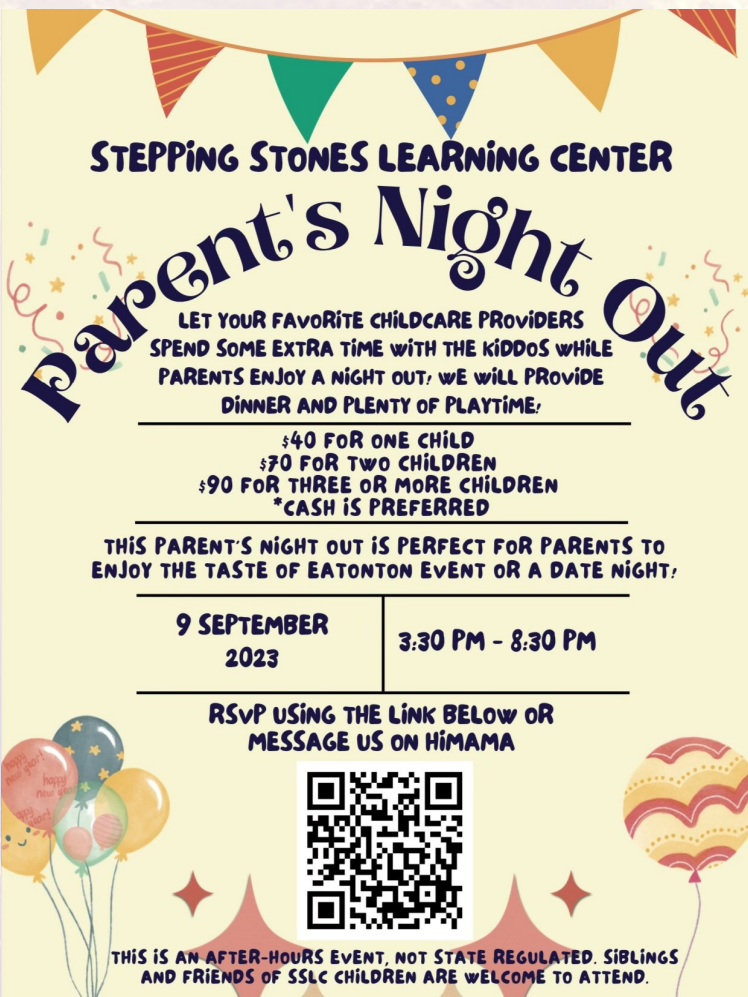
Both our Choir and Handbells have begun rehearsing for **Christmas on the Avenue**, dated for Sunday, December 3 in the Great Room of First Methodist Church. This year's music, Mary McDonald's new cantata, "O Holy Light," is so accessible that it can be learned by anyone who can sing a hymn. Filled with beloved carols and exciting songs, this work captures the many moods of Christmas with a fresh voice. It explores God's light contrasted with the world's darkness and how the holy light of Jesus will never be quenched.

We would love to welcome singers who may not be part of the choirs of one of our participating churches. Our Choir begins each rehearsal, Wednesdays at 7:15, by focusing on this work. This Fall, our combined choir rehearsals are *every other week*, alternating between our church and First Methodist. September 20 we will be at their church, with October 4 at ours.

Our Christmas on the Avenue Handbells is also open to ringers from our churches and community. We rehearse in Eatonton Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall on alternating Sunday afternoons, 1:30-2:30. We will have five regular rehearsals: 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, and 11/19. Come ring to the Lord a new song with us!

John Cotten

ANNOUNCEMENTS



STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

Parent's Night Out

LET YOUR FAVORITE CHILDCARE PROVIDERS SPEND SOME EXTRA TIME WITH THE KIDDO'S WHILE PARENTS ENJOY A NIGHT OUT. WE WILL PROVIDE DINNER AND PLENTY OF PLAYTIME!

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

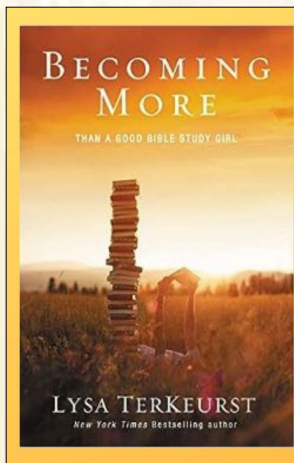
THIS PARENT'S NIGHT OUT IS PERFECT FOR PARENTS TO ENJOY THE TASTE OF EATONTON EVENT OR A DATE NIGHT!

9 SEPTEMBER 2023	3:30 PM - 8:30 PM
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RSVP USING THE LINK BELOW OR MESSAGE US ON HIMAMA



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



Ladies 6-Week Bible Study

"Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl" by Lysa Terkeurst

Mondays from 6PM - 8PM
Beginning September 18
At the home of Pam Lancaster

Contact Kim Camp for more information.



Prayer REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request or need, call the Church Office at 706-485-3331

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	4 Happy Labor Day Church Office Closed	5	6 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	7 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	8	9 Stepping Stones Parents Night Out 3:30pm - 8:30pm
10 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	11	12	13 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	14 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	15	16
17 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	18 Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm - 8:00pm	19	20 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	21 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	22	23
24 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells 5pm Youth Recreation and Devotional	25 Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm - 8:00pm	26	27 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Children 6:00pm Youth 6:15pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	28 8:00am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	29	30

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Scott and Amy Joris

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Marvin Franklin
Gene Adams
Edge Farley
Clayton Lancaster
Steve Tubbs

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 10

Steve Benton

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Culberson family
Charlotte Green
Luceil Harrison
Joseph Rainey family
Mike Reagin family
Steve Tubbs family
Sonny Turner family

DEACON FOR SEPTEMBER 17

Kim Camp

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton family
Brandon Cardwell family
Daryl Covington family
Jessie Covington
Frank Thompson family
Charles Winslette family
Warren Yates

THANK YOU

My entire family wishes to thank my wonderful church for their kindness during the loss of my brother Ward.

We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support, from the meal provided by the Bereavement Committee, the visits by Craig and Dylan, Dylan's participation during the service, the calls, cards, prayers,... I could go on and on. I am so blessed to be a part of this church.
Marsha Lutz

BIRTHDAYS

09/07 - Joan Key

09/09 - Sabrina Carmichael

09/10 - Hilda Marshall, Grady Strube

09/11 - Joann Smith, Christine Winslette

09/13 - Kay Stevens

09/14 - Kathy Faulk, Nell Wright

09/15 - Gage Rainey,

09/17 - Jack Ferrell

09/18 - Casey Kauffmann, Lilly Kent Rainey

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

ANNIVERSARY

09/12 - Jeff and Alanna Davis

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, August 20 97

Sunday, August 27 97

Sunday, September 3 79

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 20, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$6,710.73

Budget Needs YTD \$353,336.84

Budget Receipts YTD \$326,828.44

AUGUST 27, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26

Budget Receipts \$7,586.50

Budget Needs YTD \$363,729.10

Budget Receipts YTD \$334,414.94

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STEPPING STONES WORSHIP

If you are musically talented, want to share a Bible story, pray with our children, craft time, missionary work, etc. we would love to have you!

WORSHIP TIMES: 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS

WEE WORSHIP: 10-10:30 AM FOR OUR 3-4 YEAR OLDS

SWAG WORKSHIP: 4:00-4:30 PM FOR OUR PREK- 10YR OLDS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DENISE OR BRENDA AT 706-485-0690