

MAY 15, 2025

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Remember – Michelle and Matt Norman are coming to visit on May 18!

All the way from Barcelona, Spain, they'll be joining us for a special time of fellowship and sharing. I'm truly looking forward to their presentations and to the opportunity we'll have to be together again.

First Baptist Eatonton has enjoyed a meaningful partnership with Matt and Michelle for nearly 15 years, ever since we committed to being an **Encourager Church** for them and their ministry.

Join us this Sunday as we welcome them!

Also, most of you have heard by now that a new Pope was elected last week on May 8. While some Protestants may not see this as directly relevant, I believe it's a moment worth noting. The Pope holds one of the most visible and influential Christian pulpits in the world, and my hope is always that his voice will be one of blessing and challenge – a priestly and prophetic witness for all Christians.

His first words as Pope are already both a blessing and a challenge:

"Peace be with all of you!

Dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave his life for God's flock.

I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families, and all people, wherever they are, all of the people, all over the earth.

Peace be with you!

This is the peace of the Risen Christ, an unarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering. It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally. ...

God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail!

We are all in the hands of God.

Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we move forward. We are disciples of Christ.

Christ precedes us. The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge to allow it to be reached by God and by his love.

Help us, too, and help each other to build bridges, with dialogue, with meetings, uniting us all to be one people, always in peace. ..."

He concluded his remarks by saying to the Cardinals with whom he serves to lead the Church, his hopes they would "walk together, as a united Church always seeking peace, justice, always seeking to work as men and women who are faithful to Jesus Christ, without fear, to proclaim the Gospel, to be missionaries."

Most people know that, as a young priest, Pope Leo XIV served as a missionary in Peru. In my experience, **once a missionary always a missionary** – that calling shapes a person for life.

May we carry that same spirit of service alongside Pope Leo XIV, and with missionaries like Matt and Michelle, Trey and Kaitlyn, and so many others. Let us serve faithfully, wherever we are called.

Practice Resurrection,
Craig

ILLUMINATING HEARTS AND MINDS: REFLECTIONS ON "SEND THE LIGHT"

Written in 1890 by Gabriel, who would later become one of the most prolific gospel songwriters of his era, "Send the Light" emerged during a period of great missionary passion in American Christianity. The hymn perfectly captured the evangelical mindset of that time with its emphasis on spreading the gospel message. What makes this hymn particularly meaningful is its origin story. Gabriel reportedly composed it after attending a stirring missionary service where the call to global evangelism deeply moved him. The hymn's creation was an immediate response to that spiritual prompting—a musical expression of commitment to the Great Commission. From a musical perspective, "Send the Light" exemplifies effective hymnody through its accessible melody and memorable refrain. The tune moves with a marching quality that conveys purpose and determination, perfectly complementing its message of taking action to share faith.

As a music minister, I appreciate how Gabriel structured the piece with a simple yet powerful chorus that builds in emotional intensity. The rising melodic line in the refrain creates a natural crescendo that helps congregations express growing enthusiasm with each repetition. Though written over a century ago, this hymn's core message of sharing light with others remains deeply relevant. In our divided world, the metaphor of light-bearing speaks to our calling as Christians to bring hope, truth, and love to dark places—whether across oceans or across the street.

When teaching this hymn to younger generations, I emphasize its call to personal responsibility. The hymn reminds us that mission work isn't solely the domain of full-time missionaries; it's the responsibility of every believer to shine light in their sphere of influence. As we sing about sending the light, we're joining generations of believers who have found inspiration in these words. The hymn reminds us that our faith isn't meant to be contained but shared freely with a world in need.

In my experience, I've observed how this hymn often serves as a musical call to action—helping congregants move from passive worship to active service. Its enduring appeal lies not just in its memorable melody but in how it challenges us to live differently after the final notes fade. May we continue to find inspiration in hymns like "Send the Light," allowing their timeless messages to shape not just our worship but our daily witness as bearers of God's light in this world.

Dylan

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Terry Blanton
Felice Dissmeyer
George Dissmeyer
Buster Douglas

Ron Harley
Norman Holle
Gwen Ralston
Kyle Ralston

Thomas Ralston
Scott Sharp
Tom Thompson
Jimmy Williams

Nell Wright
Unspoken

FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Nancy Banister
Lynn Butterworth
Warren Camp
Neile Chambers
Gloria Covington
Michael Homiere

Nancy Joiner
Cathy Ledford
Zellie Marbury
Everett Marsh
Lisa Morgan
Eleanor Moyer

Sheryl Murphy
Walt Rocker Jr.
Earnest Rogers
Steven Sharp
Ted Sills
Linda Stowe

Kristy Trice
Emmett Vining
Wayne Waddell
Katherine Warner
Leigh Ann Willis

ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME, & HOMEBOUND:

Mary Jo Balas
Jo Ann Clay

Maxine Godin
Luceil Harrison

Mary Ann Heath
Gaye Lankford

Sug Walton

MISSIONARY FRIENDS:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATT & MICHELLE NORMAN
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
AT 10:50AM



VBS MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20
5:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBERED AND HONORED

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 26



MAPPIN FUND

REQUESTS ARE BEING ACCEPTED
FOR THE MAPPIN FUND
SCHOLARSHIP.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FRIDAY, MAY 30.



CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

If you are interested in
playing on our church
softball league this summer,
please contact Mollie Harvey
at 706-340-4620.

Games will be once or
twice a week Monday
Tuesday or Thursdays.



CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
AT 10:50 AM
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



First Baptist Church of Eatonton wants to invite you
for a day of fun, food, fishing and faith!

SATURDAY
31
MAY

BEGINS
7:30
AM



YOUTH FISHING DAY

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS AND GIRLS

Where:

- Private ponds in Eatonton

Whats happening:

- Breakfast and lunch
- Devotional time
- Fishing for Bass, Bream, and Crappie

****may keep what you catch**

What to bring:

- Bring a chair and a fishing pole **can be
provided if requested in registration

Please pre-register as soon as
possible in order to claim your spot!

scan to register!



If you have questions, contact
Chris Hewette [478] 456-1533 chrishevette@hotmail.com
or Madison Stoudenmire [770] 231-5237 madistoud@gmail.com

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR MAY

Pat McDade

WELCOMING FOR JUNE

Randall McCook

USHERS FOR MAY

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

USHERS FOR JUNE

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

DEACON FOR MAY 18

Kim Camp

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton Family, Brandon Cardwell Family,
Daryl Covington Family, Jesse Covington,
Chris Hewette Family, Frank Thompson Family

DEACON FOR MAY 25

Susan Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

Gene Adams Family, James Cheney Family,
Edge Farley Family, Mabel Hicks,
Guerry Key Family, Jesse McMillen Family,
Peggy McMillen, Betty Sills

DEACON FOR JUNE 1

Chad Davis

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Culberson Family, Charlotte Green,
Luceil Harrison, Mike Reagin Family, Jim Ryan,
Steve Tubbs Family, Sonny Turner Family

BIRTHDAYS

05/21 - Patrice Underkofler
05/25 - Jim Ryan
05/26 - Linda Reagin, Tristan Williams
05/27 - Tara Rocker
05/28 - Edge Farley
05/29 - David Dixon, Jeff Russell
05/30 - James Cheney
05/31 - Thomas Ralston, Joni Dixon
06/01 - Lily Kate McElhenney
06/02 - Blake McDaniel
06/04 - George Dissmeyer

ANNIVERSARIES

05/16 - Tommy and Amy McElhenney
05/23 - Ronald and Gail Harley
05/25 - Ennis and Caroline Lankford
06/01 - Christian and Taylor Keiser
06/02 - Mark and Joann Smith

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 GRADUATES

Rose Carmichael, Georgia College and State University
Lyla Davis, Georgia College and State University
Gage Rainey, Gatewood Schools
Jake Rich, Gatewood Schools

FIRST CALL PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who gave change for the
baby bottle campaign for First Call Pregnancy Center.
We collected \$1,575.09!

FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL 30, 2025

<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$186,458.00</u>
<u>Total Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$193,524.05</u>
<u>Budget Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>\$252,404.74</u>

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, May 04</u>	<u>188</u>
<u>Sunday, May 11</u>	<u>164</u>

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



Something
grrrrreat is
coming!

Vacation Bible School
First Baptist Church
Eatonton, GA
June 8 – 11, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm
(Dinner begins @5:30pm)

Register at <https://www.myvbs.org/Fbcetruenorthvbs>

