

WORSHIP



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, June 25, 10:30am (Sanctuary)

During worship on Sunday, June 25, Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins will serve as proclaimer with sermon, "Abram and Sarai in Egypt," based upon Romans 9:30-33 and Genesis 12:10-20. We will celebrate

the baptisms of Collin Jones and Nate Marshall and share in communion. The Sanctuary Choir will sing Carl J. Nygard Jr.'s "Psalm 86."

Pews in front of the baptistry are reserved for our Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. When available, an American Sign Language interpreter will be at the base of the baptistry.



If you would like to provide flowers for one of our future worship services, contact Kimberly Coates at kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 864-233-2527 ext 128.

Our organist, Charles Tompkins, is writing a blog about the music he plays in our Sunday morning services. Read it here: <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/?s=Organist%27s+Blog>

Roadrunners Fun

Senior adults enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal at The Hungry Drover in Travelers Rest.



Sundays at 9:30am
Fellowship Hall
Combined Sunday School
Summer of Psalms

June 17-23
High School Mission Trip to Belize
Hold them all in prayer.

Belonging

In their work with youth ministry, the Fuller Youth Institute identified three “ultimate questions” which shape a young person’s life (*Growing Young*, p. 95):

- Who am I?
- Where do I fit?
- What difference can I make?

The first is a question about *identity*. The second is a question about *belonging*. The third is a question about *purpose*.

As soon as I read these questions, I thought, “These are ultimate questions not only for young people but for people of any age.” More recently, listening to and learning from our ministry team, I have developed another conviction about the three ultimate questions, that the first and third are grounded in the second. That is, *both our identity and our sense of purpose are formed the place(s) where we find belonging*: family, faith community, friend groups, collegial relationships, et al.

I hope you are already seeing the implications for church. The church, the body of Christ, is the place where—and the group to which—we belong. Through Christ, we are inseparably connected to one another; here we find acceptance and community. This belonging brings deep emotional satisfaction—what the New Testament calls joy—but perhaps even more importantly, it is the cradle of identity and purpose. As we find belonging in the church, we learn that we belong to God, which gives us our true identity: we are daughters and sons of God, sisters and brothers to Christ and to one another. This belonging to God and each other also reveals—and fulfills—our true purpose, to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

By now you may be thinking, “Tony, what you’re talking about has such profound implications that we could spend *months* exploring and experiencing them!”

For just this reason, *Belonging* is going to be our watchword at FBG for the next church year. It will be a theme in worship, in spiritual formation, and in various areas and opportunities of ministry. More than that, though, it will be a constant invitation for each of us to find the ways and places where we belong; and through them, to live into our true identity and to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives, individually and collectively.

The August 7 edition of *The Branch* will further explore how *Belonging* will shape the life and ministry of FBG this fall and next spring. In the meantime, we encourage you to prayerfully consider the ways that *Belonging* might serve as a faithful point of connection for you, for this church family, and for everyone in our community searching for a place to belong.

—Tony

A Peek Ahead for Wednesday Nights

Church community is more than Sunday morning; church is alive Monday through Saturday, too!

Find new ways to belong with short-term Wednesday groups launching this August!

Love digging deep into Biblical stories and church history? Our MidWeek Classic sessions (formerly MidWeek Fellowship) in the Fellowship Hall will be perfect for you.

More of a hands-on learner or someone who learns through discussion? Keep your eyes out for short courses on auto maintenance, crocheting, centering prayer, choral singing, a Bible study on patriarchy and

more! Learn a new skill, enjoy a hobby, and get to know church members from all ages and walks of life.

No matter what your interest or learning style, you have a place to belong at FBG. Stay tuned for details later this summer!

—Camille

Neighborhood Partnership, Yard Sale... and Other Ways to Serve!

Want to get involved? Interested in finding community? Feeling called to volunteer or serve with a hands-on sub-committee? Not sure what the next steps are? Read through these options, and if one grabs your interest, send us an email!

- Annual Yard Sale—Proceeds from the sale are used to support the Neighborhood Partnership Ministry (baxter.wynn@firstbaptistgreenville.com or bruce.brown@furman.edu)

- Neighborhood Partnership

Building and repairs—As needs arise in communities near the church, we try to help address them. This includes helping with home renovation, handicap ramps, painting, yard work, and emergency needs in the communities nearby. (bruce.brown@furman.edu)

Trunk or Treat—This event is held in Nicholtown every October. First Baptist provides candy, and volunteers decorate their trunks so neighborhood kids can trick or treat all together. (matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com)

Driving mini-buses—One way we serve organizations in the Nicholtown Community is by helping with transportation needs. Bus drivers wanted! (matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com)

- Holy Rollers—Our senior adult friends from Haynie-Sirrine go on outings and trips once a month. They also join our senior adults for Roadrunners trips and Senior Adult Lunch and More. (nancystrange49@yahoo.com)

—Matt

Music for Meditation

You might have noticed in the recent orders of worship a new element at the beginning of the service: Music for Meditation. In place of the traditional prelude, this time of centering music serves as an intentional opportunity to orient ourselves for worship with a sacred pause that might allow our hearts to be more open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we enter a time of worship.

Whether you follow the preparation guide here or have your own way of readying for worship or you just need a few moments before the service to clear your mind, our hope is that this space will offer you an entry point into being fully present for a meaningful encounter with God.

A Guide for Preparing to Worship*

Open the morning's order of worship and skim through it.

Note any mention of the calendar year and any special worship elements for this service.

Acknowledge the care that went into planning this service.

Read any printed opening sentence or prayers, reflecting on the themes or words that stand out.

Find the scripture passage(s) that will be read aloud in the service.

What themes or words stand out?

Based on the passage, and using current events and congregational concerns as the context, quietly voice the pastoral prayer you might offer during the service.

Choose a sacred word or phrase from the order of worship that represents your intention to consent to God's presence this morning.

With eyes closed and sitting comfortably, imagine being called or summoned by God into worship. Silently introduce your sacred word as a symbol of your intention to yield your attention to the Holy Spirit during the worship service. (When you become aware of distracting thoughts, which is a normal part of centering prayer, simply return to your sacred word.) After a few minutes, gently come back to your surroundings and wait for worship to begin.

—Matt

*This worship preparation guide is the result of a "worship experiment" I facilitated here at First Baptist in October of 2018 as part of my doctoral dissertation, which focused on best practices for how to intentionally prepare oneself for meaningful worship.

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 6/17-23 High School Mission Trip (Belize)
 6/20-23 9:00am-3:00pm Children's Mission Week 2
 6/25 **WATCH** 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Summer of Psalms (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Baptism and Communion
 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group (Parlor)
 6/28 9:00am-2:00pm Mission Possible, Lunch Club and Bible Study for Youth
 6:00-8:00pm College Night (Bryant home)
 7/2 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Breakfast Social (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 7/3-4 AYMC and Church Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 6/17
 \$1,326,923
 Receipts as of 6/14
 \$1,019,161

Pastoral Care Emergencies

Please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies." One of our staff ministers will return your call.

Or, email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com

- 7/5 9:00am-2:00pm Mission Possible, Lunch Club and Bible Study for Youth
 6:00-8:00pm College Night (Shelley home)
 7/9 **WATCH** 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Summer of Psalms (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 7/10-14 Unidiversity Youth Camp
 7/11-14 Camp Prism
 7/16 **WATCH** 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Summer of Psalms (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 7/18 8:00am-10:00pm Youth Family to Carowinds
 7/19 9:00am-2:00pm Mission Possible, Lunch Club and Bible Study for Youth
 9:30am Roadrunners to Lake Lure for Boat Tour and Lunch
 6:00-8:00pm College Night (Good home)
 7/23 **WATCH** 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Summer of Psalms (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group
 7/24-28 9:00am-1:00pm A Child Shall Lead Them: Worship Arts Camp
 7/25 4:00-7:00pm Youth Family End of Summer Pool Party
 7/30 **WATCH** 9:30am Summer Combined Sunday School: Summer of Psalms (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Matt Rollins
 8/6 **WATCH** 10:30am Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 8/8 6:00-8:00pm College Night (McDonald home)
 8/9 10:00am Roadrunners to Strawberry Hill for Shopping and Lunch
 8/13 9:00am Blessing Sunday Youth Family Breakfast
WATCH 10:30am Blessing Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)



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Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesdays at First are concluded for the Spring. Plan now to join us on August 16 when *Wednesdays at First* activities resume.

Sympathy

...to Kathy Hughes and family in the death of her sister-in-law.

...to Walter Lundy and family in the death of his stepmother.

...to the family of Susan Freeman.