


WORSHIP



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, July 23, 10:30am (Sanctuary)

During worship on Sunday, July 23, Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins will serve as proclaimer with sermon, "What's in a Name?" based upon Matthew 16:13-18 and Genesis 17:1-7. 15-16. The Sanctuary Choir will sing "Write Your Blessed Name" by K. Lee Scott, and Pam Kenney-McIntyre will play a flute solo. We will also celebrate communion during this service.

 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.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 23, are given in loving memory of Blanche and Bill Carpenter by their family.

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/organists-blog>

Youth in Belize



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

Youth in Belize

Thirty-four youth and adults traveled to Orange Walk, Belize, the second to last week of June. Led by Mary Carol, we participated in missions with the Orange Walk Nazarene Church. The youth learned how to lead Sunday School, devotion with kids, sports ministry, and to construct a wall with cement and mortar. Thank you to the chaperones that joined us for this life-changing trip. A few of the youth have written reflections on their days. Here is the end of the trip from their perspective:

Day Four: Tuesday

“Today we got to visit the Mayan Temples at Altun Ha. The experience was incredible, and I learned many things while climbing the tall structures to see the surrounding view. I could hear many different birds, and the whole area was entirely incredible. Afterwards, we split back to the church, and I got to help deliver bags of food we packed. The group of youth who delivered food to homes were able to meet lots of incredible people. Tigist and I got to meet a very kind couple named Violet and Eric. They were amazing individuals, and I’m glad we got to pray over them.”

—Grace

Day Five: Wednesday

“We spent the morning at Trial Farm Gov’t School teaching devotion and playing games outside with the children during recess. I spent a lot of my time playing soccer and giving piggyback rides to Yan, and Nate spent his time playing basketball. We spent a while playing, and it was very hot. We think it felt like 103F. Our favorite part of going to Trial Farm was seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces when they ran outside and saw us ready to play! It was heartbreaking when we had to leave. Worship was very entertaining for everyone. Some of us got to share our perspectives on what the trip meant to us. Some of the Church members talked about their experiences having us at the church. They were so welcoming to all of us, showing us what their church family is like. After church, they came and shook all of our hands and thanked us. Today was our favorite day of the trip so far because we got to do so much for the community, and we got to connect with the church congregation.”

—Wells, Nate

Days Six & Seven: Thursday and Friday

On Thursday, we traveled to Caye Caulker, an island off the coast of Belize City. There, the youth and adults explored, snorkeled and felt rewarded for their hard work. Friday, we woke up early for a day of travel. We left the island at 8am Belize time and arrived back at the church at 10:30pm EST. Although we were tired and irritable, we all knew that we had returned from a life-altering trip, one we will not soon forget.

—Juliette & Mary Carol



Belonging

For many of us, summer is a time to reconnect with family, visit favorite places,

or enjoy new experiences. Summer can be a time to regroup ourselves in the places and people who help us remember our stories: Where did we come from? Where do I fit? What difference can I make?

Both our identity and our sense of purpose are formed by the place(s) where we find belonging: family, faith community, friend groups, collegial relationships, et al.

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. 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.

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. 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 detail how *Belonging* will shape the life and ministry of FBG this fall and next spring. Sunday worship and Wednesday night activities for all ages will attend to questions of belonging in Scripture and how we can better belong to one another. This summer, 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.

Ways to Serve in Worship

worship service, the word literally means “work for (or by) the people.” Sunday worship is the only time the whole church family regularly gathers, and participating in Sunday liturgy is one way to serve the church community. All voices and hands are needed for the church to flourish! Check out these ways to get involved in worship and contact staff if interested.

When Christians speak of “liturgy,” one may think of solemn prayers, incense or hymns. While many of us use “liturgy” to describe what happens in a planned

Weekly

- Sanctuary Guild: Reset the Sanctuary after Sunday worship. Work on your own schedule throughout the week. Contact Carol Ann Anderson.
- Worship Ushers: Distribute orders of worship and assist attendees prior to service. Contact Kimberly Coates.
- Sound/Video Booth: Run cameras, sound and lights for Sunday worship or Wednesday night (POC required for Sunday morning). Training provided. Contact Pete Schleppehorst.

Monthly

- Communion Committee: Prepare and clean up communion service for worship. Contact Kimberly Coates.
- Lay Readers: Read Scripture or prayers during worship. Open to all ages! Contact Kimberly Coates.

As Needed

- Flower Guild: Seasonal (Advent and Christmas); set up and maintain floral arrangements for Christmas. Contact Kimberly Coates.

Worship Ensembles

- Sanctuary Choir: Adult choir with regular worship leadership. Rehearsals Wed. 7-8:30pm in the Choir Room. No experience or audition necessary. Contact Vivian Hamilton.
- Vocare: Youth choir for singers 6th-12th grade. Contact Amy Joye.
- Preschool and Children's Choirs: Our most adorable choirs for singers in preschool-5th grade. Contact Ellen Wilson.
- Belltower Ringers: Handbell choir open to all ages. No experience necessary to begin. Contact Julie Treu.

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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 (Parlor)
 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

- 5:00pm Tolstories: From Aristocrat to Holy Fool (Fellowship Hall)
 8/3-4 Merge Retreat for Rising 6th and 12th Grade Students
 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
 10:30am Blessing Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 5:00pm Youth Family Block Party (Fellowship Hall and Parking Lot)
 8/16 *Wednesdays at First Activities Resume*
 8/20 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
 8/23 *Wednesdays at First Activities*
 8/26 9:00am-4:00pm Pride Link Youth Summit
 8/27 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Communion

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LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 7/15
 \$1,548,077

Receipts as of 7/11
 \$1,198,054

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

Sympathy

...to Debbie Tate and family in the death of her father.

...to the family of Johnny Anderson.

Introducing



...Gail and Scott Butler who joined FBG during worship on Sunday, July 2. Be sure to offer a warm welcome as you see them.

Congratulations...

...to Meggie and Jason Dant Friend on the birth of a daughter, Sybil "Sybie" Rhoades Dant Friend, born June 29, 2023. Sybie's older brother is Andrew, and her proud grandfather is former FBG Senior Minister Jim Dant.

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.

Learn, Grow and Serve by Becoming a Stephen Minister



Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time.

We are preparing to train another class of Stephen Ministers in September 2023. The application is on the church website in the Stephen Ministry section, or you can pick up an application at the Reception Desk. Once you fill out the application, put it in a sealed envelope marked "Pastoral Care/ Stephen Ministry." You may either bring the application to the church or mail it.

If you have any questions, feel free to speak to one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Booker-Christy, Duke McCall, Lindsay Waldrop or me.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

—Wofford Green