

LOOSE IN THE WORLD
SUMMER 2023



First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for
The Worship of God
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 20, 2023

“Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.”
– Mary Oliver

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Baker Lawrimore

Lighting the Christ Candle Isabelle Lockwood

Opening the Bible Nathan Wall

Gathering Rev. Courtney Willis

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Chris Cherry

by Rev. Thom Shuman

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

here, in this space, we will find the courage to proclaim the Spirit at loose in our world!

†Hymn 34

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” MARION

†Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Rev. Buck Cochran

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Willis

New Testament Lesson Avery Cox

Acts 22:1-14

Sermon

Loose in the World: *Stories of the work of the Spirit
in the life of our church this summer.*

Instructions for living a life Baker Lawrimore

Song of Response

Pay attention Rev. Cochran

Song of Response

Be astonished Rev. Cherry

Song of Response

Tell about it Rev. Starr Russell

Song of Response

Loose in the world Amelia Britt *pastoral intern*

Song of Response

We choose love, siblings we choose love.

We are walking with our siblings, not to fall but rise above.

We choose love.

†Hymn of Response 514

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine” ASSURANCE

All are invited to use this time to renew commitment to Christ and to Christian service. If you would like to become a member of this congregation, you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Stewardship Prayer Kevin Starr *deacon*

Offertory Maggie Martin *soprano* Ingrid Carlson *violinist*

“Ubi Caritas” Becky Slagle Mayo

Ubi caritas, ubi caritas, deus ibi est.

Where there is charity and love, God is always there.

†Benediction Rev. Willis

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore

This summer, our sermons focus on the book of Acts. As the gospels tell the story of Jesus, Acts tells the story of the Holy Spirit — how it inspired and enlivened the followers of Jesus to live by their hopes rather than their fears, to share freely and unhindered, and to move broadly and boldly with the love of God "to Jerusalem, to all of Judea, and to the ends of the earth." Join us for worship throughout this summer, as we remember how the love of God can be *loose in the world* through our lives and through the life of our church. Watch or listen to recent sermons at fbcgso.org/sermons




FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO
CONNECTIONS
 AUGUST 20, 2023

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY | Sunday, August 27
 Save the date for Back to School Sunday! We will be offering a blessing to all of our students, educators, and administrators. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship as we bless the start of the school year. We also will be doing a school supply drive for our mission partner, Washington Montessori Elementary. See supply list on the back!

SUMMER BOOK CLUB | Thursday, August 24 at 7 pm
 Our last book club of the Summer will gather together to discuss *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. You can order books from Scuppernong Books (scuppernongbooks.com). If you have any questions, reach out to Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org)

RAISING FAITH | Saturday, September 16 beginning at 2 pm
 We have a wonderful opportunity for honest conversations about parenting around the topics of digital wellness, parenting personality, mental health, and theology. We'll have workshops discussing these topics along with a keynote from author and Pastor Meredith Anne Miller. Purchase your ticket before August 21, you will get the early bird price of \$25. Regular registration starts August 21 and the price will be \$35 until registration closes on September 11. Both early bird and regular registration includes dinner and a free copy of Meredith Anne Miller's new book *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From*. Learn more about our Raising Faith event at: fbcgso.org/raising-faith or scan the QR code



WELCOME BACK COLLEGE STUDENTS!
 We are so glad to welcome new and returning college students to First Baptist Greensboro. Please join us each Sunday in the Cafe for a free lunch and fellowship with other college students following worship. Contact Catherine Little (catherinescottlittle@gmail.com) from our College Ministry Team for more information.

TRAIL TUESDAYS | August 22 at 7 am
 Our last trail Tuesday this Summer will be at Laurel Bluff Trail (5966 Lake Brandt Rd). After traveling north on Lake Brandt, park on the right across from the lake, just before the pumping station. Come join us! Look for the purple "FBC Loves You" sign for parking. All are invited.



FALL PROGRAMING QUESTIONNAIRE

Our pastors and staff are actively making plans for our weekly fall schedule, which will begin after Labor Day. We would love to get your feedback as we make plans. This questionnaire has a few quick questions and will only take a few minutes. Fill out the questionnaire at: fbcgso.org/fall-programing-questionnaire or scan the QR code.



TANGIER ISLAND TRIP | September 13 - 15, 2023

Senior Adult Council is sponsoring a trip to Tangier Island in the beautiful Chesapeake Bay! Join others from First Baptist on this fun trip as we explore the island together. The cost is \$298 and includes lodging for two nights, transportation, a ferry ride, and a museum visit. Learn more about the trip or RSVP to Dolly Chesson (swchesson1@gmail.com) or Monica Vaughan (edwinv550@aol.com)

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



As part of our Back to School Sunday, we will be doing a school supply drive for our mission partner, Washington Montessori Elementary. All are welcome to participate! Bring the supplies with you Sunday morning to be placed in the Sanctuary! When you are back to school shopping, grab a few of these items to bring on Back to School Sunday:

Colored Markers

Composition Books

Crayons

Pencils

Glue Sticks

Backpacks

PASTORAL STAFF

Chris Cherry, Youth & Families

Buck Cochran, Missions & Community

Seth Hix, Music (Interim)

Alan Sherouse, Senior Pastor

Amy Starr Russell, Children & Families

Courtney Willis, Formation & Care

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Greensboro