



Awake My Soul by Mike Moyers

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina
gathers for
The Worship of God
Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024

It might have been just someone else's story;
Some chosen people get a special king,
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In palaces they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.
-“The Magi” by Malcolm Guite

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Baker Lawrimore

Lighting the Christ Candle Trevor Gill

Opening the Bible Peyton Petriskie

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

by Beth Merrill Neel

Welcome, friends, to this holy day.

We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.

Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

A time to remember the holy promises of God.

Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,

The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.

Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

With hope, we worship our Creator. Alleluia, Amen!

†Hymn 181

“As with Gladness Men of Old” DIX

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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.

†Hymn 539

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” HOUSTON

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Chris Cherry

Gospel Lesson Rev. Courtney Willis

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response 182

“Brightest and Best of the Stars” MORNING STAR

If you would like to become a member of this congregation,
you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Stewardship Prayer Tom Townes *deacon*

Offertory Jerico Carillo *flautist*

The Lord’s Supper Rev. Sherouse and Thom Little *deacon chair*

Communion Meditation Jerico Carillo *flautist*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Benediction Response

O ——— star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright,

west-ward lead-ing, still pro - ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO CONNECTIONS

January 7, 2024

JOINING SUNDAY | Today

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Greensboro? While any Sunday is a great day to join, if you'd like to join the church as part of a larger group, you're invited to participate in our quarterly Joining Sunday today. Rows are designated for new members, or you can meet Alan at the front of the sanctuary at the designated time. We would love to welcome you formally into the life and ministry of our growing congregation.

MIDWEEK RETURNS | This Wednesday, January 10 starting at 5:30 pm

This Wednesday, our Wednesday evening Midweek programming returns with a new adult class, along with children and youth programming. Our first Midweek meal of the New Year is a pasta bar! You may reserve your meal at the QR code, at fbcgso.org/midweek-2024 or contact Keighley (keighley@fbcgso.org) in the church office.



WOMEN'S RETREAT | February 9 - 11, 2024

Today is the deadline for our intergenerational Women's Retreat! Join us as we explore the theme of "Journeying." The cost is \$180 (\$50 deposit) with a single room - \$50 additional. This includes two nights in a shared hotel-style room and four full meals. If you would like to room with someone specific, please ensure you both request each other. Sign up today at the QR code or at fbcgso.org/womens-retreat-2024. Any questions? Please contact either Courtney Willis or Amy Starr Russell.



GREECE TRIP | May 5-13, 2024

The deadline to be a part of the trip to Greece is Monday, January 15. This trip, led by Rev. Courtney Willis and friend of First Baptist Greensboro, Dr. Jason Myers on an exploration of Paul's missionary journey through Greece! All are welcome to join us on this exciting opportunity to travel, learn more about the early church, and grow in our faith together. If you have any questions, contact Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org).

RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT | Sunday, January 21 at 3 pm

We will be joining with our friends from Rise Against Hunger once again to package meals for people facing hunger around the globe. It will be a fun event that will make a difference in peoples' lives. This event is for all ages! Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school classes have returned from the holiday break! If you have been interested in joining a Sunday school class, this is a great opportunity to check one out. You are welcome to reach out to Courtney Willis about which would be a good fit for you, or read about our classes at: fbcgso.org/sundayschool

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING | OVER \$5,000 RAISED

Our Christmas Eve Special Offering this year supports the work of Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) in their mission to create a "gender equal Baptist world" and equip and support women responding to God's call in their life to ordination and a life of leadership and ministry. This special offering is one of many collected throughout the year. When such offerings are added to our budgeted missions giving, First Baptist Greensboro distributed nearly 25% of revenue to missions and outside causes in 2023. Thank you for your continued generosity!

JANUARY BOOKCLUB | Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 pm

At our January bookclub, we will revisit a book we read in the Fall, "Saving Grace: Speak Your Truth, Stay Centered, and Learn to Coexist with People Who Drive You Nuts" by Kirsten Powers. We have more to discuss and would love for you to join us! If you need help getting a copy of the book, connect with Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org)

FEBRUARY LUNCH & LEARN | Monday, February 5 at Noon

The Senior Adult Council is please to offer a series of "Lunch and Learn" events featuring various topics for adults of ALL ages! Our February event, "Support for Family Caregivers" will be held on Monday, February 5 from Noon – 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10 per person. Reserve your spot at fbcgso.org/lunch-and-learn or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, reach out to Margaret Crawford (mimicraw@gmail.com).



PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

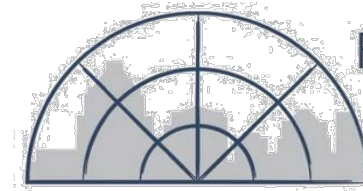
ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR

AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

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Thank you for all of the ways you contributed to the life of our congregation in 2023. We look forward to continuing to follow the light together in 2024!



First Baptist Church
Greensboro