



"Good Samaritan" by Paulus Hoffman

THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE

SUMMER SERMONS ON THE PARABLES OF JESUS

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina
gathers for

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 16, 2024

Faith is rare, He must have been saying,
prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain divided
like loaves and fishes,
as if from a mustard-seed
a great shade-tree grew. That rare,
that strange: the kingdom
-From "On the Parables of the Mustard Seed"
by Denise Levertov

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Matt Messick

Lighting the Christ Candle Jack Sherouse

Opening the Bible Charlotte Gill

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship James Dolph

by Rev. Thom Shuman

All around us, God is looking for people who will join in serving others.

It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us, watching for them to bloom in our lives.

In our midst, Jesus is walking among us, tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls will grow big enough to welcome everyone.

From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work, gently tending this garden called life.

We join our hearts and voices to worship God – Creator, Son, and Spirit.

†Hymn 72

“To God Be the Glory” TO GOD BE THE GLORY

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Community James Dolph

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 60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” FAITHFULNESS

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Cherry

Scripture Lesson

Mark 4:26-34

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

The World As It Could Be: The Smallest of Seeds

†Hymn of Response 569

“Living for Jesus a Life That Is True” LIVING

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

Stewardship Prayer Molly Lyle *deacon*

Offertory Meditation Summer Choir, Rev. Bill Hix *director*, Janice Hix *pianist*

“Lord, Here Am I” Music by John Ness Beck

Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.

Teach me the mission appointed for me, what is my labor, and where it shall be.

Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross; willing to suffer reproaches and loss.

Willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead; only support me with grace in my need.

Living, or dying, I still would be Thine; yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.

Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; pity, and bring me again to the light.

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Matt Messick

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of

Lester G. Nunn

on the occasion of Father’s Day

by Robert Nunn.

THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE

SUMMER SERMONS ON THE PARABLES OF JESUS



Our sermons this summer focus on the parables of Jesus. The brilliant scholar of parables, Bernard Brandon Scott, has said that in the parables Jesus inspires his listeners to "reimagine the world." It can be so easy amidst injustice and suffering to become resigned to the state of the world-as-it-is. But Jesus always saw beyond this and envisioned the world-as-it-could-yet-be — what he called "the kingdom of God" or "the kingdom of heaven." He prayed that it would come "to earth as it is in heaven." He gave his whole life to making it so. And he inspired his followers to imagine this possibility by teaching them in the way most vivid, accessible and transformative: through parables.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO
CONNECTIONS

June 16, 2024

PASSPORT KIDS AT BREVARD COLLEGE IN BREVARD, NC | June 18-21

Our FBCKids are heading to Passport Camp this Tuesday! Please be in prayer for Lyriq Alston, Tripp Blong, James Dolph, Parker Elmore, Charlotte Gill, Khadijah Guthrie, Olivia Haynes, Everett Johnson, Keighley Johnson, Griffin Kesler, Carter Lyles, Peyton Petriskie, Amy Starr Russell, Katherine Wall, and Laura Wall. They will be spending the week together at camp that will be filled with fun faith-building programming and hands-on missions education. The theme this year is "Come to the Water" based on Isaiah 55:1.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL | SUNDAYS STARTING JUNE 23

As Sunday school classes take a summer break, Rev. Courtney Willis will continue teaching Sunday school based on the Formations literature. She will teach in person as well as continuing to teach online. All are welcome to attend summer Sunday school in the chapel beginning June 23 and running throughout the summer.

SUMMER BOOKCLUB | June 27, August 1 & August 29

Join us this summer as we gather together for Summer Bookclub! We will gather at 5:30 pm on the listed dates. Our first book in June will be "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan. Learn more about all our summer books and order a copy at fbcgso.org/summer-bookclub or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, connect with Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org).



THE CHURCH VAN FUND

As the summer begins, the Finance Committee invites the Congregation to give a special gift toward the purchase of a new church van. A generous member has offered to give a matching contribution of half the cost of a new van, leaving approximately \$35,000 to raise. We have raised \$5,247 over the last two weeks. If you would like to make a special gift beyond your usual offering towards the new van purchase, please indicate "Church Van" in the memo section of your contribution check, or if giving online use the category of "Church Van" in the dropdown menu to designate your gift at fbcgso.org/give or scan the QR code.



SEE YOU THIS SUMMER!

There are so many ways to a part of the life of the church this summer! Grab a copy of the complete church wide summer calendar today. Or you may download it at fbcgso.org/summer-at-fbc-2024 or scan the QR code.



JUNE

- 17 | YWCA Dinner
- 18-21 | Passport Kids
- 18 | FBCYouth Grasshoppers | 6:30 pm
- 23-29 | Youth Mission Trip to Savannah
- 23 | FBCKids Lunch&Play at LeBauer Park
After worship
- 27 | Book Club | 5:30 pm
- 30 | Summer Choir | 9:45 am
- 50 year Member Luncheon

JULY

- 2 | Trail Tuesday | 7 am at Piedmont Trail
- 3 | FBCMissions at Habitat | 8 - 11:30 am
- 4 | Office Closed
- 7 | Summer Sunday school starts | 9:30 am
- 7-12 | Passport Youth
- 8-11 | VBS Decoration Week
- 10 | Midweek Lunch | Noon | Front Lawn
- 14 | Summer Choir | 9:45 am
- 15 | YWCA Dinner

CHARLESTON YOUTH AND PARENTS MISSION TRIP | JULY 26-28

We have an exciting opportunity to take a group to Charleston, SC to volunteer with a First Baptist Greensboro ministry partner, Metanoia. This trip will be a great opportunity to both serve and learn more about this innovative ministry while working together as a family. If you have any questions, connect with Buck Cochran. Learn more about the trip and sign-up at: fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip



TRAIL TUESDAY | Starting Tuesday July 2 at 7 am

Trail Tuesday will return this Summer! We had such a wonderful time together last year on the trails all around Greensboro that we're hitting the trails again this summer. We will gather at 7 am starting Tuesday, July 2 at Piedmont Trail (6045 State Rd 2347, Greensboro, NC 27455). All are welcome! Learn more about all Trail Tuesday dates and trails at: fbcgso.org/trail-tuesday-2024 or scan the QR code.



VBS VOLUNTEERS | July 15-18, 2024

We're so excited for this year's VBS! We are in need of volunteers to make it a successful and a meaningful week for all of our participants! We have many opportunities to get involved and no special skills are needed other than a willingness to pitch in. We could also use some help, the week before VBS transforming the church with decorations for VBS! Please fill out a short form and let us know your interest and availability: fbcgso.org/vbs-2024 or scan the QR code. You can also register your child for VBS! Any questions, reach out to Amy Starr Russell (amy@fbcgso.org).



MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP | AUGUST 5 - 9

Campers who have completed 1st - 5th grade can enjoy music of many styles as they develop their voices individually and discover the joy of singing and making music in community. The daily worship time is enriched through experiences in choral music, drama, visual arts, instruments (guitar, drums, handbells) and sacred dance. Cost is \$50 for the week! Sign-up by July 1 at fbcgso.org/summer-2024



PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

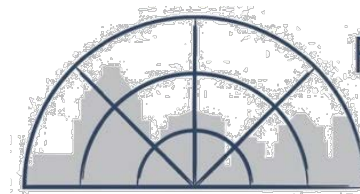
SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR

AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

1000 WEST FRIENDLY AVENUE, GREENSBORO, 27401 | 336-274-3286 | [FBCGSO.ORG](https://fbcgso.org)



First Baptist Church
Greensboro