



"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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, June 30, 2024

*"Jesus tried to change people by loving and healing them. His harshest word of judgment were reserved for those who perpetuated systems of inequality and oppression and who, through religion itself, thought they were sinless and untouchable"*

-Richard Rohr

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Reid Gilliam

Lighting the Christ Candle Teresa Kayombo

Opening the Bible Peyton Petriskie

Gathering Rev. Courtney Willis

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

†Call to Worship James Dolph

God sends light to us this day and invites us to meet one another in this light.

**Light breaks forth like the dawn, drawing us into relationship with one another.**

Humble yourselves for the worship of God, that you may be empowered to serve.

**God calls us to trust with steady hearts and to serve with righteous compassion.**

Seek not for lofty words of wisdom, but for powerful demonstrations of God's way.

**God makes us to be the salt of the earth and lights to show God's works to the world.**

## †Hymn 99

*“When Morning Gilds the Skies”* LAUDES DOMINI

## †Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Life of the Community Rev. Chris Cherry

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

*“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”* BEACH SPRING

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy’s perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Buck Cochran

Scripture Lesson James Dolph

Luke 18:9-14

Sermon Rev. Willis

## †Hymn of Response 502

*“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”* NEW BRITAIN

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

Stewardship Prayer Gayle Wager *deacon*

## Choral Offertory Summer Choir

*“We Will Glorify”* Choral arrangement by Jack Schrader

*We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb.  
We will glorify the Lord of Lords, who is the great I AM.*

*Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty, we will bow before his throne;  
We will worship him in righteousness, we will worship him alone.*

*He is Lord of heaven Lord of earth, he is Lord of all who live;  
He is lord above the universe, all praise to him we give.*

*Let all who own Christ’s holy name give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story.*

*Cast every idol from its throne, the Lord is God, and he alone to God all praise and  
glory.*

*Hallelujah to the King of kings, hallelujah to the Lamb;  
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.*

†Benediction Rev. Willis

## †Congregational Response

*“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”* BEACH SPRING

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds we show;  
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,  
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

†Postlude Reid Gilliam

*“Toccata in Seven”* by John Rutter





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](http://fbcgso.org/summer-at-fbc-2024) or scan the QR code.



## JULY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2   Trail Tuesday   7 am at Piedmont Trail | 17   Midweek Lunch   Noon   Front Lawn                  |
| 4   Office Closed                          | 18   VBS Celebration   5:30 - 7 pm   Front Lawn         |
| 7   Summer Sunday school starts   9:30 am  | 23   FBCKids Grasshoppers Game   6:30 pm                |
| 7-12   Passport Youth                      | 24   Midweek Lunch   Noon   Front Lawn                  |
| 8-11   VBS Decoration Week                 | 25-28   Charleston Youth & Parents Mission Trip         |
| 10   Midweek Lunch   Noon   Front Lawn     | 28   Summer Choir   9:45 am                             |
| 14   Summer Choir   9:45 am                | 30   Trail Tuesday   7 am at Atlantic + Yadkin Greenway |
| 15   YWCA Dinner                           | 31   FBCKids   Up at Carolina Theatre   9 am            |
| 15 -18   VBS                               | Midweek Lunch   Noon   Front Lawn                       |
| 16   Trail Tuesday   7 am Bill Craft Trail | FBCKids Meet to Eat   Noon                              |

## 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 30, 2024

### 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](http://fbcgso.org/trail-tuesday-2024) or scan the QR code.



### 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. Deadline for this trip is July 1. If you have any questions, connect with Buck Cochran. Learn more about the trip and sign-up at: [fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip](http://fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip)



### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL | SUNDAYS STARTING JULY 7

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 July 7 and running throughout the summer.

### THE CHURCH VAN FUND

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 \$16,037 over the last month. 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](http://fbcgso.org/give) 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 a few more volunteers, specifically Group Leaders. Group leaders help lead a small group of kids from station to station. We also need help transforming the church into our VBS theme the week of July 8. Please let us know you can help by filling out a short form: [fbcgso.org/vbs-2024](https://fbcgso.org/vbs-2024) or scan the QR code. Any questions, reach out to Amy Starr Russell.



### MIDWEEK LUNCH | Wednesdays, starting July 10 at Noon

Starting Wednesday, July 10, all are invited to Midweek Lunch. Simply bring a bag lunch to the front lawn of the church to fellowship and spend time praying for those on our covenant of concerns. We will gather each Wednesday this Summer until August 28. Any questions? Reach out to Courtney Willis ([courtney@fbcgso.org](mailto:courtney@fbcgso.org))

### OFFICE CLOSED | Thursday, July 4

It is our practice to close the Church Offices for the 4th of July holiday. We will reopen on Friday, July 5 at 9 am. In the event of a pastoral emergency call the church (336.274.3286) and dial extension 103 to leave a message with our pastoral emergency line. A pastor will receive your message remotely and respond promptly.

### 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. Cost is \$50 for the week! Sign-up by July 1 at [fbcgso.org/summer-2024](https://fbcgso.org/summer-2024)



### FAMILY MISSION TRIP | October 4-6, 2024

We know Summer just started but we wanted families to save a Fall date of October 4 - 6, 2024 for our Family Mission Trip! We will return to the Asheville area for another weekend of service and fellowship. When we say family, we mean it in the broadest way possible - all are welcome to join in on the adventure! More details to come soon. If you have questions, please connect with Buck Cochran.

## PASTORAL STAFF

**CHRIS CHERRY**, YOUTH & FAMILIES

**BUCK COCHRAN**, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

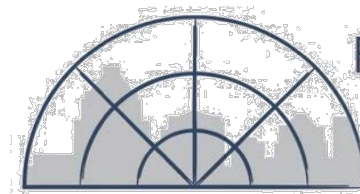
**SETH HIX**, MUSIC (INTERIM)

**ALAN SHEROUSE**, SENIOR PASTOR

**AMY STARR RUSSELL**, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**COURTNEY WILLIS**, FORMATION & CARE

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Greensboro