



"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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 14, 2024

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Matt Messick

Lighting the Christ Candle Braden Hall

Opening the Bible Katherine Wall

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel

We gather as God's beloved children –

**However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.**

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

**So this becomes a place where all are welcome.**

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with others –

**Let us worship God.**

Hymn 25

*"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"* ANDREWS

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 478

*"My Savior's Love"* MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Prayers of God's People Rev. Chris Cherry

Scripture Lesson Rev. Courtney Willis

Luke 11:5-8

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

Hymn of Response 558

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* BEECHER

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

Stewardship Prayer Laura Caroline Rick *deacon*

Choral Offertory Summer Choir

*"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"* Words and music by Sebastian Temple; Arr. by Jane Holstein

*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

*O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

Benediction Rev. Sherouse

Postlude Matt Messick



A promotional poster for VBS (Vacation Bible School) featuring a large, stylized illustration of a lemon slice at the top. Below the illustration, the text reads "VBS" in large, bold, sans-serif letters, followed by "lemonade" in a cursive font with a small lemon slice integrated into the letter 'o', and "Stand!" in a similar cursive font. Below this, the date and time "Thursday, July 18 at 11 am" are listed, accompanied by a QR code. At the bottom, a paragraph of text explains that the lemonade stand is for 4th and 5th graders, and that the proceeds will go to Backpack Beginnings. The entire poster is set against a light gray background.

VBS  
lemonade  
Stand!  
Thursday, July 18 at 11 am

As part of VBS for our 4th and 5th graders, they will be setting up a lemonade stand on the front lawn for all to enjoy. All proceeds will go to Backpack Beginnings, where the kids will be working all week. Can't make it to the lemonade stand? Scan the QR code to give!





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO CONNECTIONS

July 14, 2024

## TRAIL TUESDAYS | Tuesday July 16 at 7 am

Our next Trail Tuesday will be at Bill Craft Trail at the Richardson Taylor Preserve (300 Plainfield Rd, Greensboro, NC 27455). Be careful not to miss the entrance! We will gather at 7 am - look for the purple "FBC loves you" sign. 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.



## MIDWEEK LUNCH | Wednesdays at Noon

Each Wednesday this summer, 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)).

## MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP VOLUNTEERS | AUGUST 5 - 9

Music and Arts Camp is August 5 - 9 and we need volunteers! If you are an adult or youth who wants to be a part of creative and fun week, we'll get you plugged in! Any questions about volunteering? Connect with Seth Hix ([seth@fbcgso.org](mailto:seth@fbcgso.org)).

## FBCYOUTH AT GRASSHOPPERS GAME | JULY 23 at 6:30 pm

Our youth have lots of fun summer events planned, and the next one is enjoying a baseball game together! All youth are invited to an evening at the Grasshoppers Game - \$2 hot dogs and drink night! Please reserve your ticket at [fbcgso.org/youth](http://fbcgso.org/youth) or scan the QR code. Be sure to check out the youth summer calendar as well. Any questions? Connect with Chris Cherry ([chris@fbcgso.org](mailto:chris@fbcgso.org)).



## CHARLESTON YOUTH AND PARENTS MISSION TRIP | AUGUST 16-18

Charleston Youth and Parents Mission Trip has a date change! We now will be heading to Charleston, SC to volunteer with a First Baptist Greensboro ministry partner, Metanoia, on August 16-18. This trip will be a great opportunity to both serve and learn more about this innovative ministry while working together as a family. Deadline to register for this trip is now August 1. If you have any questions, connect with Buck Cochran ([buck@fbcgso.org](mailto:buck@fbcgso.org)). Learn more about the trip and sign-up at: [fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip](http://fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip) or scan the QR code.



## CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE FUND

The Christian Assistance Fund (CAF) plays a vital role in helping families in our community when financial emergencies arise. This year the fund has supported 44 families in challenging situations. That support has kept families in their homes, kept food on their tables and their lights on, and helped meet many other basic necessities. The CAF committee closely monitors use of the fund to maximize its impact in the community. The funding for the CAF comes from donations directly to that fund. The need in the past few months has been high and funds are running very low. Please consider a donation to the fund either by check, noting CAF in the memo line, or online ([fbcgso.org/give](http://fbcgso.org/give)) by selecting the Christian Assistance Fund in the drop down menu.

## CHURCH VAN FUND

Thanks to our generous matching donors and the collective support of the congregation, we have exceeded our summer fundraising goal for purchase of a new 15-passenger van! Together we have raised over \$80,000! Thank you to all who have given to this effort, which will help to enhance ministry and programming for all ages of our church community. Our van collection will formally conclude July 15. Any funds collected beyond the purchase cost will be reserved for future maintenance needs. First Baptist Greensboro, we are so grateful for your continued generosity!

## SUMMER BOOKCLUB | August 1 at 5:30 pm

Our next Summer Bookclub will be reading and discussing "*How Not to Be Afraid*" by Gareth Higgins. Our last bookclub of the summer will be August 29. If you have any questions, connect with Courtney Willis ([courtney@fbcgso.org](mailto:courtney@fbcgso.org)). Learn more at: [fbcgso.org/summer-bookclub](http://fbcgso.org/summer-bookclub)



## FBCKIDS SUMMER CALENDAR

There are lots of summer fun still to be had for our kids! We'll head to the Carolina Theater on July 31. In August, we'll hang out at Safari Nation together and then MPB Children's Museum. Learn more about all these events and register at [fbcgso.org/children](http://fbcgso.org/children) or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, reach out to Amy Starr Russell ([amy@fbcgso.org](mailto:amy@fbcgso.org)).



## 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](http://FBCGSO.ORG)



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



## JULY

15 | Deacon's Meeting  
YWCA Dinner

15 -18 | VBS

16 | Trail Tuesday | 7 am Bill Craft Trail

17 | Midweek Lunch | Noon | Front Lawn

18 | VBS Celebration | 5:30 - 7 pm | Front Lawn

23 | FBCYouth Grasshoppers Game | 6:30 pm

24 | Midweek Lunch | Noon | Front Lawn

28 | Summer Choir | 9:45 am

30 | Trail Tuesday | 7 am at Atlantic + Yadkin  
Greenway

31 | FBCKids | Up at Carolina Theatre | 9 am

Midweek Lunch | Noon | Front Lawn

FBCYouth Meet to Eat | Noon

## AUGUST

1 | | Bookclub | 5:30 pm | Adirondack chairs

4 | Outdoor Worship and Potluck Brunch | 9:30 am

5 | Lunch & Learn | Noon | Fellowship Hall

5 - 9 | Music and Arts Camp

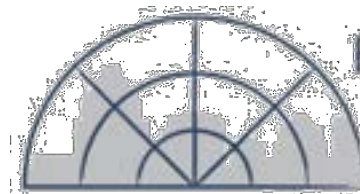
7 | Midweek Lunch | Noon | Front Lawn

# 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.



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Greensboro