



"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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 21, 2024

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

-"The Summer Day" Mary Oliver

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Janice Hix and Penny Rowe *pianists*
"More About Jesus" Arr. Bonam

Lighting the Christ Candle Sarah Moore

Opening the Bible Lucy Culbreth

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

by Rosie Venner

Come all who are weary -

of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

Come all who are heavy-laden -

with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

Come all who have hope -

for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom.

Hear these words:

“See, I am making all things new.”

God dries our tears and transforms our mourning hearts.

Let us worship our God, full of hope and full of grace.

†Hymn 130

“Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” AZMON

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Community Rev. Courtney Willis

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 353

“For the Beauty of the Earth” DIX

Prayers of God’s People James Dolph

Scripture Lesson Rev. Chris Cherry

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response 531

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” ST. MARGARET

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

Stewardship Prayer Linda Danford *deacon*

Choral Offertory Janice Hix and Penny Rowe *pianists*

“Be Thou My Vision” Arr. Milholland

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Beverly Sherouse



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.



JULY

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
 11 | Summer Choir | 9:45 am
 FBCKids & Families | Sunday school @ Starbucks
 9:30 am
 13 | FBC Youth at Wet-N-Wild | 10 am - 5 pm

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

July 21, 2024

VBS LEMONADE STAND FUNDS UPDATE

Big THANK YOU to all who came and supported the VBS lemonade stand! As part of VBS each year, our 4th and 5th graders set up a lemonade stand on the front lawn. This year, all proceeds went to BackPack Beginnings where they worked during the week. Thanks to the generous support of their church family, \$820.01 was raised!

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).

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 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).



MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP VOLUNTEERS | AUGUST 5 - 9

Music and Arts Camp is right around the corner and we are in need of a few more 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).

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) by selecting the Christian Assistance Fund in the drop down menu.

TRAIL TUESDAYS | Tuesday July 30 at 7 am

Our next Trail Tuesday will be at Atlantic + Yadkin Greenway (5815-5889 Bur-Mill Club Rd). Meet at the end of Bur-Mil Club Road. 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 or scan the QR code.



FBCKIDS AT THE CAROLINA THEATER | July 31 at 9 am

Join FBCKids for a fun Summer morning out at the Carolina Theater to watch Up! Doors open at 9 am, live entertainment begins at 9:30 am and the movie begins around 10:15 am. Cost is \$5 a person and you can register at fbcgso.org/children or scan the QR code. There is still lots more summer fun planned, check out the FBCKids Summer calendar for more details. If you have any questions, reach out to Amy Starr Russell (amy@fbcgso.org).



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). Learn more at: fbcgso.org/summer-bookclub

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). Learn more about the trip and sign-up at: fbcgso.org/charleston-mission-trip or scan the QR code.



PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

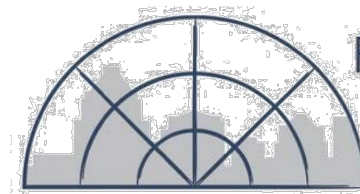
SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR

AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

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First Baptist Church
Greensboro