



“They are like a tree  
replanted by streams of water,  
which bears fruit at just the right time  
and whose leaves don't fade.  
Whatever they do succeeds.”  
Psalm 1:3

First Baptist Church  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
gathers for  
**The Worship of God**  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
“Back to School Sunday”  
August 24, 2025

*“God, we pray for full dreams, new discoveries, surprises, and curiosity.  
We will love, we will persevere, and we will support everyone  
with the privilege of learning and growing this year.  
May we all be rooted in your love so that we are able  
to rise to the challenges and opportunities before us.”*

- Rev. Amy Starr Russell, from our 2025 Back to School Blessing

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Landry Duvall organ

*“Variations on Restoration”* Arr. Janet Linker

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.  
I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle Emerson Culbreth

Opening of the Bible Bea Sherouse

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

†Call to Worship Rev. Courtney Willis  
"Healer of Our Every Ill"



Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,  
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

You know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;

**Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

*refrain*

Through pain and joy, we behold your grace unfolding.

**Give us all your vision, God of love.**

*refrain*

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;

**Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

*refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us your way of healing;

**Spirit of compassion, fill our hearts.**

*refrain*

†Hymn No. 26

"Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" LAUDA ANIMA

†Passing of the Peace Rev. Willis

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## †Sung Acclamation

"Worthy of Worship" JUDSON



Wor-thy of wor-ship, wor-thy of praise, wor-thy of hon-or and glo - ry;



Wor-thy of all the glad songs we can sing, wor-thy of all of the off-'rings we bring.



You are wor - thy, O God, Cre - at-or. You are wor - thy, Sav-ior,



Sus-tain-er. You are wor - thy, wor-thy and won-der-ful; Wor-thy of wor-ship and praise.

Life of the Community Tyler Smith, *pastoral intern*

Blessing for the School Year Rev. Amy Starr Russell

This summer we have rested, we have played, and we have taken time to travel and move our bodies. Now, we are drawn back together for a new school year.

**In this new season, plant our feet firmly in your love.**

A new school year brings big feelings. We may be excited and nervous, hopeful and a little scared. But together, we can move forward and share each burden and gift.

**Stretch our minds with wonder and open our hearts to compassion.**

May we seek goodness within ourselves, as well as in our classmates and teachers. Help us find comfort when we feel down and hope when we are discouraged.

**Fill us with kindness. Let our hands and hearts be ready to embrace this world in need of love.**

Let us also have courage to help when others do not have what they need. Let us welcome new friends and be open to new perspectives.

**Help us become more of who you made us to be – humans filled with humanity.**

Students, educators, and administrators, may you find comfort in the words of blessing prayed for you by our congregation:

*(spoken by the congregation alone for the school community)*

**God, bless our students, educators, and administrators as they pick up the responsibility of education in this new school year. As their branches grow, help them extend their reach ready to be prayers in action. Help them to carry it with grace, with patience for each other, and with anticipation for all the knowledge and experience that will be gained this year.**

**May they overflow with courage.**

**May hope be the light that guides them.**

**May all be kept safe and healthy.**

We pray for full dreams, new discoveries, surprises, and curiosity. We will love, we will persevere, and we will support everyone with the privilege of learning and growing this year.

**ALL: May we all be rooted in your love so that we are able to rise to the challenges and opportunities before us. Amen.**

*Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the Sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.*

†Hymn No. 619

*"God Will Take Care of You"* GOD CARES

Prayers of God's People James Dolph, acting youth minister

Scripture Lesson Landry Duvall

Luke 13:10-17

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response No. 477

*"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"* EBENEZER

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

Stewardship Prayer Chris Culbreth, *deacon*

Offertory Sanctuary Choir; Rebekah Carlson *violin*

"Gentle Voice" Lee Dengler

*Far above the noise of life, there's a voice that is gently calling.*

*"Leave behind your cares and strife. Come to me, I will give you rest.*

*Bring your fear, and bring your pain. Bring your anger, and bring your worry."*

*Do you hear the voice of Jesus gently calling, "Come unto me."*

*Gentle voice, so meek and mild, gentle words of understanding.*

*"You are my beloved child. Come to me, I will give you rest.*

*Bring your grief, and bring your cares. Bring you heartaches, and bring your sorrow."*

*Do you hear the voice of Jesus gently calling, "Come unto me"?*

*Gentle voice so full of love, gentle words so rich in mercy.*

*"You are my beloved child. Come to me. I will give you rest."*

†Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH



†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Landry Duvall *organ*

"A Joyful March" Gordon Young



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO

# LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

August 24, 2025

## **FREE LUNCH FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS | Sundays after worship in the Cafe**

All college students (undergraduate and graduate) are invited to a FREE lunch after worship each Sunday in the Cafe, beginning today, August 24. Join us for food, fellowship and a short Bible study. See Thom Little at the front of the sanctuary after the service for directions to the Cafe.

## **PARENT MEETING | Sunday, August 24 after worship**

Join us today after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a Parent Meeting for families of our FBC Kids and FBC Youth! We'll share a light lunch together and spend time talking about all the exciting opportunities coming up this Fall in our Children and Youth Ministries. This is a great chance to have all your questions answered as we begin a new program year together!

## **TRAIL TUESDAYS | 7 am on August 26 & September 9, 23**

Our next Trail Tuesday is Tuesday, August 26! We are heading to Piedmont Trail (6045 State Road 2347). Be sure to check out all trails at: [fbcgso.org/trail-tuesdays-2025](http://fbcgso.org/trail-tuesdays-2025) or scan the QR code. Talk to Courtney Willis ([courtney@fbcgso.org](mailto:courtney@fbcgso.org)) if you have any questions.



## **LUNCH AND PRAY | Noon on Wednesday August 27**

Join us for our last Lunch and Pray this Wednesday! All are invited bring a bag lunch to eat together under the shade of the trees on the lawn. We will spend time praying for the needs of the church.

## **SUMMER BOOK CLUB |Thursday, August 28 at 5:30 pm**

Join us for the last book club of the summer! Our August book is "The Gift of Restlessness: A Spirituality for Unsettled Seasons" by Casey Tygrett. Casey Tygrett argues that transformation happens not by escaping our restlessness but by remaining in it with awareness, spiritual practices, and a willingness to be formed by God.

We will gather together at the Adirondack Chairs at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 28. If you have any questions, connect with Courtney Willis.

### **CHURCH CONFERENCE | Sunday, August 31 after worship**

Join us next Sunday after worship for our August Church Conference. Our meeting will include updates from church leadership on the life and ministry of First Baptist Greensboro and opportunities for members to dialogue about the life of the church. We will have a light lunch and donations will be accepted. Our regular conferences are an essential way members contribute to the work and mission of First Baptist Greensboro, so we hope you will plan to be a part.

### **FALL KICK-OFF | Sunday, September 7, 4 - 6pm**

As summer comes to a close, we invite you to join us for our Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 7 at 4 pm on the front lawn! This will be an afternoon filled with fun and connection for all ages. Come to enjoy a variety of activities and learn about all the exciting fall opportunities in the life of our church. We hope to see you there!

### **LUNCH & LEARN | Monday, September 8 | 12 pm**

Save the date! The Senior Adult Council is pleased to present the first of our fall Lunch & Learns. Our speaker will be David Haynes, sharing his personal life story of hope and encouragement entitled "Servanthood, Investing in the Lives of Others". Sign up now to reserve your lunch for \$10/person at: [fbcgso.org/senior-adults](http://fbcgso.org/senior-adults) or scan the QR code. Registrations are due by September 3. All are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Margaret Crawford ([mimicraw@gmail.com](mailto:mimicraw@gmail.com)).



### **RAMP-A-THON | September 12-13**

Join us for Ramp-a-Thon this Fall! Ramp-a-Thon is a yearlong ramp building effort through Community Housing Solutions to restore access to families with mobility needs. These ramps help restore hope and dignity and allow individuals to live independently. We are looking for 4-8 volunteers ages 14+ for each day. Sign-up to be a part at: [fbcgso.org/ramp-a-thon-2025](http://fbcgso.org/ramp-a-thon-2025)



Our Covenant of Concerns prayer list is available at all times at: [fbcgso.org/prayerlist](http://fbcgso.org/prayerlist) or you may scan the QR code.

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

**ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR**

**CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES\***

**AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**LANDRY DUVALL, MUSIC & WORSHIP**

**COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE**

\*Chris Cherry is on Sabbatical through September 28

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