



"Celebration" by John August Swanson

First Baptist Church  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
gathers for  
**The Worship of God**  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 14, 2025

*"If Jesus's parables are true, then God isn't in the fold with the ninety-nine insiders.  
God isn't curled up on her couch polishing the nine coins she's already sure of.  
God is where the lost things are... God is in the darkness of the wilderness, God is in the  
remotest corners of the house, God is where the search is at its fiercest.  
Meaning: if I want to find God, I have to leave the safety of the inside and venture out."*  
- Debi Thomas

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Introit Sanctuary Choir, Matt Messick *piano*  
*"O Give Thanks to the Lord"* Jody Brown and Jeff McGaha

*O give thanks to the Lord  
for wondrous things that He has done;  
O give thanks to the Lord.  
Alleluia. Amen.*

*Sing unto Him; Sing His praises;  
Bow before Him; Bless His name.  
He is holy; He is worthy;  
Honor unto Him.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle Ingrid Carlson

Opening of the Bible Jonah Carlson

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Gathering Song

*"The Lord is My Shepherd"* Mark Patterson

Leader Congregation

The Lord is my Shep-herd. The Lord is my Shep-herd.

Leader Congregation Leader

God loves me, I know. God loves me, I know. The Lord watches o-ver me.

Congregation Leader Congregation

The Lord watch-es ov-er me, where-ev-er I go. where-ev-er I go.

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the song 'The Lord is My Shepherd' in G major (one sharp). It is written for a Leader and a Congregation. The score consists of three staves. The first staff shows the Leader singing 'The Lord is my Shep-herd.' and the Congregation joining in. The second staff shows the Leader singing 'God loves me, I know.' and the Congregation joining in, followed by the Leader singing 'The Lord watches o-ver me.' and the Congregation joining in. The third staff shows the Congregation singing 'The Lord watch-es ov-er me, where-ev-er I go.' and the Leader joining in.

†Call to Worship Tyler Smith, *pastoral intern*

But God brought the people out like a flock;

**God led them like sheep through the wilderness.**

Come, let us bow down in worship,

let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

**For we are the people of God's pasture, the flock under God's care.**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is God who made us, and we are God's.**

We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

†Hymn No. 95

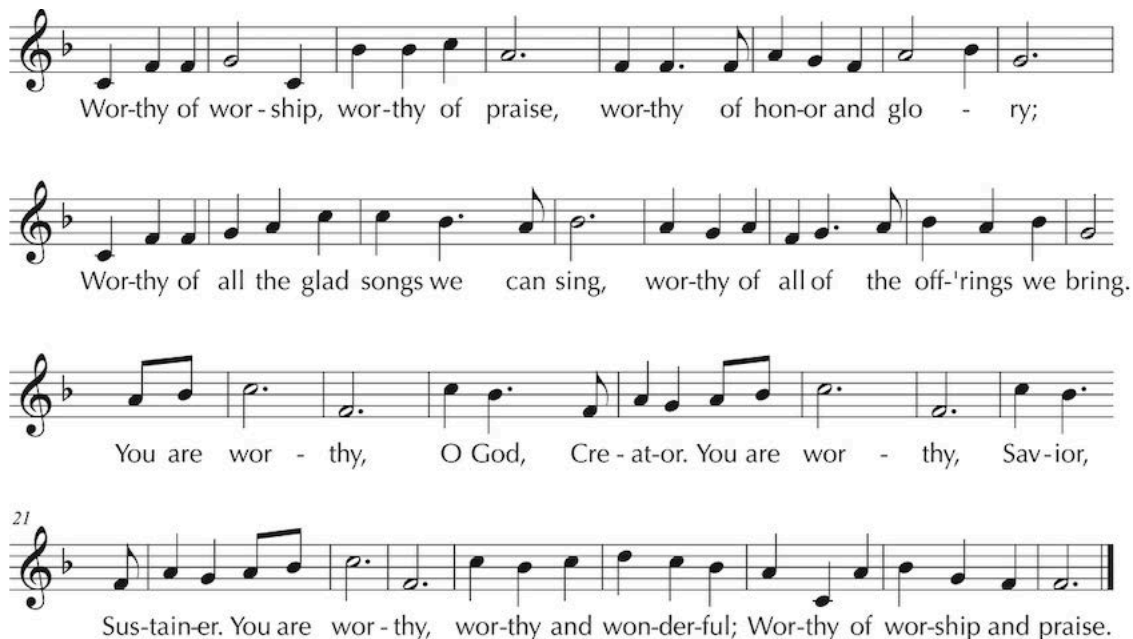
*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* CORONATION

†Passing of the Peace Tyler Smith

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,

<sup>21</sup> Sus-tain-er. You are wor - thy, wor-thy and won-der-ful; Wor-thy of wor-ship and praise.

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 No. 522

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”* BRADBURY

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Willis

Scripture Lesson James Dolph, *acting youth minister*  
Luke 15: 1-10

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response No. 60

*“Great is Thy Faithfulness”* FAITHFULNESS

## Stewardship Prayer Molly Lyle *deacon*

### Offertory Sanctuary Choir, Matt Messick *piano*

*"The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)"* Arr. Allen Pote

*The Lord is my shepherd. Nothing shall I want.  
My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green,  
Leads me beside still waters.*

*The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life.  
Leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For the sake of the Lord's name.*

*And even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil.  
For you are with me, your rod and staff will comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
And in the house of my God I will live forever.  
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

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



## Ordination of Deacons

Newly elected deacons who seek ordination:

**Rebekah Carlson, Cathy Cochran, Spencer Conover, Robert Nunn and Stacey Pendry**

Newly elected deacons who have previously been ordained:

**Adam Barnes, Kelly Cornett, Megan Kesler, Tom Sears and Sharon Smith**

Litany of Ordination Margaret Crawford, *deacon chair*

†Ordination Prayer Rev. Sherouse

Congregation, will we give our lives in friendship, community, fellowship and cooperation with these deacons? Will we work together, as we co-labor with God, in the mission to which we are called: the formation of Christian community?

**We will.**

†Congregational Response

“We Are Trav’lers on a Journey” THE SERVANT SONG

*We are trav’lers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road.*

*We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;*

*I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you;*

*I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,*

*born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Landry Duvall *organ*

*“Festive Trumpet Tune”* David German

*The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of John Fisher,  
on the occasion of his birthday by his family.*





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO

# LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

September 14, 2025

## **JOINING SUNDAY | Welcoming New Members today**

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Greensboro? While every Sunday is a wonderful time to join, today offers a special opportunity to do so alongside others. We would love to welcome you formally into the life and ministry of our growing congregation. For questions or more information, connect with Pastor Alan Sherouse.

## **YOUTH GROUP & MUSIC ARE BACK | Tonight starting at 4 pm**

After a summer break, youth activities kick off this evening! Youth Handbells will rehearse at 4:00 pm, followed by Youth Group at 5:00 pm in the high school room. Be sure to pick up both a youth calendar and a music calendar for all fall activities. If you have any questions, reach out to James Dolph (James@fbcgso.org) or Landry Duvall (laundry@fbcgso.org). We can't wait to be back together in community on Sunday evenings!

## **PRIDE FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS | Saturday, September 20, 10 am - 6 pm**

We're excited to be present among other inclusive churches at the Pride Festival celebration in downtown Greensboro on Saturday, September 20! All are invited to visit. If you would like to work at our booth to share about our wonderful church community, we'd love to have you! The hours of the festival are 11am-6pm and 10 am for set up. If you are available to volunteer simply send Keighley Johnson (keighley@fbcgso.org) an email and let her know what times you can volunteer.

## **FBC CAMP OUT | September 26-27**

On Friday afternoon, bring your tent & sleeping bag, and head to Hanging Rock State Park for dinner, s'mores, and a night around the campfire before sleeping under the stars. The next morning, we will plan to hike at the park before heading home before lunch. More details will be provided upon your registration and payment. Sign-up at: [fbcgso.org/fbc-fun-2025](https://fbcgso.org/fbc-fun-2025)



## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | Sunday, September 28 at 4 pm**

Bring a beloved pet and join us in the outdoor chapel for a special Blessing of the Animals service. Rooted in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, who celebrated God's love for all creatures, this service is a way to give thanks for the joy our pets bring and to ask for God's care over them. Afterward, we'll gather across the street at Double Oaks for a chance to connect with friends and neighbors as we celebrate the gift of animals in our lives together.

### **MIDWEEK | Wednesdays starting at 5:30 pm**

We are excited to be together once again on Wednesday evenings for a meal, celebrations, prayer, music and programming for all ages. Our meal this week is Taco Mama! Please reserve your meal by end of day on Monday so we have an accurate head count for food. If you would like to make a standing reservation, please contact Keighley Johnson (keighley@fbcgso.org) or sign up for meals at: [fbcgso.org/fall-midweek-2025](https://fbcgso.org/fall-midweek-2025) or scan the QR code.



For adults, we will have multiple class options over the course of the season. This Wednesday, we will begin with two choices:

### **Christian Messaging In 60's Civil Rights Music taught by Rev. Rick Spell**

During this four-week class, we will look at and listen to the music of the 1960's that helped define and illuminate the Civil Rights Movement. As we reflect on the lyrics of the music, we will see the intentional Christian messaging within much of the music of the era and the historical context that helped frame those lyrics.

### **Naming God taught by Rev. Courtney Willis**

This class will be a study of how and why we call God by the names that we do. We will take a look at the varied names God has been called through time and explore how that impacts the words we use to describe God now. Together, we will study the invitation we have to consider why what we choose to call God matters- for our theological understanding, our faith, and our love for the world.

### **FALL BOOKCLUB | Starting Monday, September 29 at 5:30 pm**

Come be a part of our Fall Bookclub! We have some wonderful books we will read and discuss together. Our first book will be "Consider the Birds" by Debbie Blue. We will gather together in the Living Room at 5:30 pm on September 29 to discuss. Learn more about all the books we will read at: [fbcgso.org/fall-book-club-2025](https://fbcgso.org/fall-book-club-2025).



Our Covenant of Concerns prayer list is available at all times at: [fbcgso.org/prayerlist](https://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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