



*Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God's house.
Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.
Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.*

Thank you for joining us for worship today. It is our truest desire that you feel at home here. The green displayed in our Sanctuary represents growth, indicating the current season of our church year (often called Ordinary Time) during which we look to God to help us strengthen our faith and our service.

The floral arrangement today is given in loving memory of Dit and Leon Ford, and Randy Sedlak-Ford by the Angie Ward and Tiffany Cofer families.

During November, we are **collecting \$1 bills as part of our offering** to be used to help fund items needed by our community such as prescription medications, bus passes, and gas vouchers that are not covered through our Benevolence Fund. Last Sunday, we received \$147 giving a current total of \$263.

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of First Baptist or about making a profession of faith, please see Thomas Quisenberry in the Narthex after the service. A time will be arranged when you can speak together about the next steps to take in finding your place in our church family.

.....

Parents' Night Out, Friday, November 22, 6:00-10:00PM

PNO is for families with babies-5th graders. The cost is \$5/child or \$10/two or more children from the same family. It's held on the Preschool/Children's Hallway and the Lower Lobby Entrance is used for access. Please contact Lizzie Alford by Wednesday, November 20, to reserve a spot (423.648.2542 or lizzie@fbcchattanooga.org).

Our School of Fine Arts Fall Recital is next Sunday, November 24, at 2:30PM in the Chapel. Come celebrate the progress our students have made, then join us for a reception in the Parlor.

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Brunch, Saturday, December 14, beginning at 9:00AM

- We need servers, table hosts, greeters, drivers, and more. Sign-up sheets are available in the lobby near the office beginning today, November 17.
- On Wednesday, December 11, at 6:15PM all ages will be included as we prep for the brunch, pack gifts, and decorate the Fellowship Hall for all the fun!

Poinsettia Sunday: If you wish to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please complete an order card, available around the church and online, and return it to the church office by **Wednesday, December 4**. The plants are \$13 each and may be paid for online (see QR code), by cash, or by check. Please indicate Christmas Flowers on the memo line. These poinsettias will be enjoyed as part of our worship on December 15, and may be picked up at the end of that service. We also welcome donations towards our **Advent greenery**.



With this QR code, you can donate to our budget, pay for event tickets, give to a mission opportunity, and more. Please contact the church office with any questions.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 17

- 9:10 am Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:15 am Youth Fall Retreat Returns – Church
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30 am Library Open
- 10:50 am Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Worship, Deacon Ordination
- 12:15 pm Adult Ministry Luncheon – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 19

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry Group – E211
- 5:30 pm Moving Forward CJC Classes – Lower Chapel Area

Wednesday, November 20

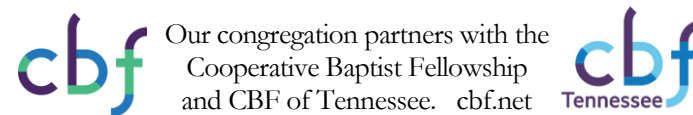
- 10:00 am BetterFi – E210
- 11:00 am FBC Serves at the CHATT Foundation
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Time (BYOF) – Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 pm Preschool Music/Missions – E107
- 6:15 pm Children's Choir – E111
- 6:15 pm Youth Gathering – Youth Area
- 6:15 pm Epiphanies (study/discussion/action) – E217
- 6:15 pm Midweek Study (Pastor led) – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 pm Gym Time (School-Age Kids/Youth)

Friday, November 22

- 6:00 pm Parents' Night Out – Lower Lobby Entrance

Sunday, November 24

- 9:10 am Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30 am Library Open
- 10:50 am Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Worship, Christ the King Sunday
- 12:15 pm Bylaws Committee – Conference Room
- 2:30 pm SFA Fall Recital – Chapel
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
- 5:30 pm Youth Supper – Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study – Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite



Our congregation partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and CBF of Tennessee. cbf.net

Worship Leaders

- Dr. Thomas Quisenberry -----Senior Pastor
- Rev. Jeff Parker-----Minister of Music and Worship
- Ms. Megan Long -----Intern, Youth and Children
- Ms. Cheryl McAfee -----Organ
- Ms. Jenny Parker-----Piano

401 Gateway Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402
www.facebook.com/fbcchattanooga
423.265.2257 www.fbcchattanooga.org



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Chattanooga, Tennessee
November 17, 2024

GATHERING

SONGS OF COMMUNITY *Alan Shikoh, guitar*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE *Kim*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GREETING *Thomas Quisenberry*

In the east and west, the north and south,

God creates beauty and life.

From all corners of the globe,

God calls us to love, and to live, and to follow.

In our homes and in our hearts, in this church and in the world,

we sing and serve; we hope and we pray.

Let us worship God.

APPROACH

*HYMN 4 *TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

To God Be the Glory

(All children are invited to come forward during the final stanza.)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION *Thomas Quisenberry*

CHILDREN'S TIME *Susan Laseter*

PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE READING *Thomas Quisenberry*

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 (NRSV)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE *Thomas Quisenberry*

How to Provoke

RESPONSE

*HYMN *ST. BRENDAN'S*

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

(Please see back of insert.)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY *Jeff Parker*

PREPARATION FOR GIVING *Sean Pickett*

Generosity begins as a decision from the heart.
It reflects care and concern for the needs of the world
as well as trust for the abundance of God's creation.
Let us give from what we have been given as an act of faithfulness.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERING *Pote*

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Adult Choir

Many gifts, one spirit; many songs, one voice.
Many reasons, one promise; many questions, one choice.
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.
O God, remind us we are not alone.

Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
Take our many ways of working,
blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow;
give us life, Lord, make us whole.

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS *OLD 100TH*

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; praise God, the Word, who
came to earth; praise God, the Spi - rit, ho - ly flame; all
glo - ry, hon - or to God's name! A - men.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Sean Pickett*

WORK OF THE CHURCH *Thomas Quisenberry*

Deacon Ordination
Emily Laseter, Emily Martin, Steve Partridge

PRAYER FOR THE NEW DEACONS *Rusty Rouse*

Jeanne Alley, Jim Boles, Joe Everett, Charles Groves, Drew Laseter,
Emily Laseter, Jeff Laseter, Emily Martin, Lynne Mayfield, Andrew McGill,
Steve Partridge, Mandy Pickett, Carol Prevost, Kenneth Webster

COVENANT OF COMMITMENT *Thomas Quisenberry*

As Deacons called and ordained by the church, will you covenant with
this church family to serve as enthusiastic encouragers,
trusted servants, exemplary disciples, and wise counselors to the staff,
lay leadership, and each member of the congregation?

(All Active Deacons):

I will, through faithful stewardship of my time and resources.

As the church who has called and ordained these, will you covenant to
receive them as gifts of Christ to his church? Will you serve and pray
alongside each of them as First Baptist Church faithfully fulfills its
calling to minister in downtown Chattanooga and beyond? Will you
interpret this covenant with the grace and mercy found in Christ?

(People):

We will, through faithful stewardship of our time and resources.

*HYMN 613 *BEACH SPRING*

The Servant Song

*WORDS OF BLESSING

*BENEDICTION *Thomas Quisenberry*

*RESPONSE *GREEN TYLER*

**Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:**

O Christ, sur - round me, O Christ, sur - round me.

POSTLUDE *Callahan*

Highland Cathedral

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

*Please stand, if able.

OL#A728820

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 We will walk with each oth - er we will
 We will work with each oth - er, we will
 All praise to the Fa - ther, from

 one in the Lord, we are one in the
 walk hand in hand, we will walk with each
 work side by side, we will work with each
 whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

 Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we
 oth - er we will walk hand in hand, and to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, and we'll
 Je - sus, God's on - ly Son, and all

 pray that all un - i - ty may one day be re -
 ge - ther we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

 stored:
 land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
 pride.
 one.

 love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are

 Chris - tians by our love.

TESTIMONIES
OF
CANDIDATES
FOR
DEACON ORDINATION

EMILY LASETER

I have been a part of this church since roughly 2008 and have loved being a part of this community of faith! I met my husband, Drew, here and we have two beautiful girls, Callie who is 8, and Sarah who is 5.

I started coming to this church as a newly graduated college student. Some of you may already know this, but I was not an affirmed Christian when I came to this church. I started learning about God and our Savior, Jesus, in college while being a part of the Baptist Student Center, but I had never made a profession of faith. I didn't know it at the time, but can absolutely say how thankful I am that I found FBC to continue my path of searching and finding Jesus. I still remember a conversation I had with Rebecca Mathis, the wife of Jeff Mathis a former associate pastor here, and discussing why Jesus had to die on the cross for us. In that conversation, I realized that I really did believe Jesus died for us and saved us all. So that night, I wrote down what I wanted to say during my baptism. The next Sunday I made the faithful walk down the aisle and asked to join the church through baptism. Fifteen years ago, almost to the day, I made my profession of faith through baptism in the waters just above us. And the amazing Alishea Hixson was able to read what I wrote the night that I accepted Jesus as my Savior. I was just starting out on my adult journey and was thankful to find a church family to help me set a firm foundation in Christ.

Since that day 15 years ago, I have tried to learn and serve alongside you brothers and sisters where I could as I grew my faith. I have found my place of belonging in so many areas of this beautiful community. I have had the privilege of being in some wonderful Sunday School classes. My friends and I started a college-age Sunday School class, and then we all transitioned into new classes. I've been serving alongside my friends in the Friendship Sunday School class since then. Over the years, I have helped with youth events, been a staple in the worship care schedule (love those little ones!), helped serve Family Promise meals, and been on various committees including the Finance Committee (everyone's favorite!). I have tried to show love and kindness through all the activities I help in and am excited to share more in this new capacity.

After sharing with you a little bit about my journey up to this point, I'd like to explain why I chose to accept the opportunity to become a deacon. I have found that if you share to God that you want to help in some capacity, He will meet you where you are and stretch you to new places that you never knew possible. And that is where I am at today. I prayed to God for new opportunities to serve him and He has given me this opportunity to serve as a deacon in this church. I pray that I can show my true self in this new capacity and help this community in faith grow towards the future!

Thanks again for letting me be a part of this wonderful community and I hope and pray that we continue to show God's love in all that we do.

EMILY MARTIN

When I look back over my life, it seems that many of my best memories involve FBC Chattanooga. It was just always a part of everything in my life and that of my family. We didn't just attend church; it was in the very fabric of who we were. Jeanne and I grew up being taught and nurtured in this place as we were at home, learning that God loved us more than anyone else could,

even our parents who doted on us, and that we could have a personal relationship with this God through Jesus Christ. So it was natural that I made a profession of faith when I was a young child and was then baptized into membership at FBC. I continued to grow and participate in all the many church programs, including Sunday School, training union, missions organizations, church choirs, and various other special programs.

When I completed college with a degree in psychology, I felt called to go to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Part of the requirement for attendance was that the student had to be recommended by their home church. I didn't question this; I just asked for the church's recommendation and got it on a Wednesday night, with many well-wishes and hugs and handshakes. I came to appreciate this in a very real way when I got to seminary and learned that some female students had run into trouble with their churches. The very churches that had baptized them then refused to recommend them for seminary because they were female. They had to find alternative churches to recommend them. I was very proud of and grateful for FBC. I loved seminary. We received a year of top-notch theological studies and a fully certified 2-year social work master's program, a revolutionary combination preparing us for Christian social ministry. With my master's degree completed, I began a 20+ year career in social work. Although I worked in secular settings, I considered my work to be my ministry.

Once back in Chattanooga, I was blessed beyond measure when I met a fine Christian woman at church who would change the direction of my life. Gail Sisson challenged me and loved me, and we made a commitment to each other and began our life together. FBC was a big part of this life. We participated in many church activities together and separately, enjoying friends and serving our community alongside them.

Several years ago I had a health crisis which threatened my career, my health, my relationships, and my very life. I became severely depressed and had trouble functioning. It took all I had to keep going to work and doing my job. My relationships suffered, as Gail and my other family members wondered what was wrong and why I acted as I did. Though they tried, they didn't know how to help. I had trouble focusing and literally couldn't think straight. In spite of my best efforts, I lost my very responsible job. This was a crushing blow, as I defined myself by my ministry as a social worker. It really hurt to know that I was simply incapable of doing the work I needed to do to help the people I wanted to help. All through the process I kept seeking help. I went to counseling and saw medical professionals for medication. I would try one medication after another, but nothing seemed to work. Finally, I had the idea of trying a nurse practitioner at a particular practice that was very well respected. I thought that if I got in with a nurse practitioner she could consult with an experienced psychiatrist and thus I'd get both of their insights. This worked, as she tried a different class of medication. It was like night and day, with the medication lifting the depression and returning my thinking to normal. I've been doing well ever since. I'm so thankful God nudged me to go to that practice. I lost a period of my life, but I have it back now, and I couldn't be more grateful.

Before I got better, however, more trouble came. Gail was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and began treatment. She went into remission and had about a year and a half before it hit her again. This time we went to Vanderbilt for a stem cell transplant, a lengthy and difficult process, but one which bought her 4 more years before the cancer returned. She fought valiantly, but I lost her in 2021. This was the biggest challenge of my life.

Losing her is the worst thing that could possibly have happened. I've really relied on God to get me through this time since her death. And FBC and my friends here have been a big part of helping me.

I am grateful for the invitation to be a deacon here at FBC. It is an honor I cherish, and I promise to give my very best to the church in this new role. I know being a deacon is a very important job in the church, and I will give it the time and attention it deserves. I think that my long history here will help me with making decisions, as I remember what has been done and decided in the past and can judge from this what now needs to be done. Certainly new people have different insights, and we need both, but hopefully my unique experience here will be helpful to the council and to the church. I will prayerfully serve as I believe God is calling me to do. Thank you for trusting me in this new role.

STEVE PARTRIDGE

I had a typical in-the-church upbringing. I made my profession of faith and was baptized when I was 6 yrs old to keep from going to HELL. I'm proud to belong to a church family that doesn't scare its children in to salvation, instead introducing them to a loving and forgiving GOD. To a large extent you could sum up my faith journey as one moving from a fear of GOD to an appreciation of GOD's love, grace & forgiveness.

During my high school years, it seems like we were at the church every time the doors were open. There were times I was responsible for unlocking and later locking the doors. I feel like my growth as a Christ-follower was at that time, in spite of church involvement, not as a result of church involvement. I experienced a bit of church politics and burnout. So to prevent that from happening here, I've not been here every time the doors are open.

I grew up in the Huntsville, AL, area. We moved around so much that when I started the 8th grade I was on my 7th school and 4th church. Fortunately, I was in that school until I graduated. I served a couple of years in the Army in Germany, then went to college.

I met my wife, Anna, who is Catholic, on an unofficial Baptist college & career outing during my last year of college. We have 2 children, Alyssa & Logan, who both attended here until they were old enough to decide they wanted to be Catholic also.

After I graduated and we married, we moved to Michigan for job reasons, then came back down south to Chattanooga as soon as we could in 1992. I joined this church primarily because it was close to my job – and I knew wherever we lived we wouldn't be too far from that; because I could go to church here and not be immediately put to work; and because my Sunday School teacher and the Pastor at the time were Alabama football fans.

I've helped lead the discussion in a couple of our Sunday School classes, served on a couple of committees, but have so far avoided being the guy with the keys to the doors. I said “yes” to being a deacon because it became too painful to keep telling people who I cared about “no” when they would ask if I was willing to serve. I don't think I have the answers to the issues that are confronting us as a church body, but I hope in this role I can pray for and support those that do.