



*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 Chapel 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 Vacky Strong in celebration of her birthday on September 14, by Lynn & Rodney Strong, Gara & Dave Strong, Pam & Mike Strong, and Heidi, Omar & Noorah Elbarky.

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.

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Forms for Deacon Nominations are available in several locations around the Narthex and Lobby. **Nominations close today, September 13, at 12:15PM.**

We are having a churchwide **catered meal on Wednesday, September 16**, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM. No reservations are required. The fee for each meal is \$7 regardless of age, with a family maximum of \$20. The menu for September 16 is Chicken Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Garlic Knots, and Double Chocolate Cake.

F4 (for children, birth-2nd grade + siblings): On **Saturday, September 19**, we are meeting at **Tennessee River Park from 10:00 to noon** for a time of enjoying each other through outdoor play. Snacks, drinks, and cookies are provided. Look for the table with the FBC sign. Questions? Contact Lizzie (lizzie@fbcchattanooga.org).

Youth Girls Night Out: Calling all girls, grades 6-12! Meet at the church's Office Entrance at **5:30PM on Saturday, September 19**. We will travel together to **Flat Top Mountain Farm** in Soddy Daisy for an evening of fun. Bring snacks to share. Sandwich fixings and drinks will be provided. Cost is \$15 each and includes everything. Pick-up time at church is 9:30PM. Contact Kelly with any questions (561.252.2969 / kelly@fbcchattanooga.org).

Cool Kids Collective (CKC) (3rd-5th graders) is meeting next Sunday, **September 20**, from 12:30-2:30PM for a **Baking Party** in the Children's Hangout Room (E109). We'll have a lunch of hamburgers, fries, and our baked dessert. (Bring \$5 for lunch, please.) We'll bake desserts for others in our church family. Contact Kelly with any questions (561.252.2969 / kelly@fbcchattanooga.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

***We will have** Worship in the Chapel on Saturday evening, **September 26**, at 5:00PM.

***We will NOT have** Sunday School or Worship at 401 Gateway Avenue on Sunday morning, **September 27** (due to streets being closed for Ironman Chattanooga).

***We will have** a group cheering on racers that Sunday morning. Due to road closures, you must arrive in our front parking lot off 6th Street between 7:30-8:00AM and be prepared to stay until 11:00AM. We may not pass anything out, but we can encourage and cheer the racers. Bring your noise makers!

***We will have** regular Sunday evening activities on **September 27** beginning at **5:00PM** as roads are expected to be accessible by then.



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, September 13

- Adult-ish Class Retreat – Dogwood
- 9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 12:15PM Deacon Nominating Cmte – Conference Room
- 12:30PM Missions Committee Meeting – E217
- 4:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
- 5:30PM Youth Supper – Youth Area
- 6:00PM Youth Bible Study – Youth Area
- 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite

Tuesday, September 15

- 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Group – Conference Room
- 5:30PM Moving Forward Chatt. Classes – Lower Chapel Area

Wednesday, September 16

- 10:00AM Master's Mats Group – E217
- 11:00AM FBC Serves at the CHATT Foundation
- 5:30PM Wednesday Evening Dinner – Fellowship Hall
- 6:15PM Preschool Music/Missions – E107
- 6:15PM Children's Choir – E111
- 6:15PM Youth Gathering – Youth Area
- 6:15PM Epiphanies (study/discussion/action group) – E217
- 6:15PM Midweek Study (Mike Willard, leader) – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00PM Gym Time (School-Age Kids/Youth)
- 7:30PM Committee on Committees – Conference Room

Thursday, September 17

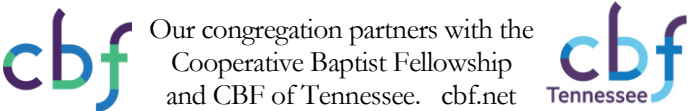
- 5:00PM Finance Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

Saturday, September 19

- 10:00AM F4: Tennessee Riverpark
- 5:30PM Youth Girls Night Out – Flat Top Mtn. Farm

Sunday, September 20

- 8:30AM Dogwood Committee Meeting – Conference Room
- 9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 12:15PM Media Library Council Meeting – Conference Room
- 12:30PM CKC: Baking Party – E109
- 3:00PM Chapel Series: Chattanooga Harp Ensemble – Chapel
- 4:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
- 5:30PM Youth Supper/Parent Meeting – Youth Area
- 6:00PM Youth Bible Study – Youth Area
- 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite



Worship Leaders

- Dr. Thomas Quisenberry -----Senior Pastor
- Rev. Jeff Parker-----Minister of Music and Worship
- Rev. Kelly Kunf -----Interim Minister of Youth and Children
- Dr. Darryl Miller-----Organist
- Ms. Jenny Parker-----Pianist

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Chattanooga, Tennessee
September 13, 2026

The Worship of God

Season of Growth, 16

As you enter, please pick up a card and write a prayer concern on the back.
Some of these will be read aloud during our Prayers of the Community.
At the beginning of the first hymn, someone will come down
all three aisles to collect the cards. Thank you for your participation.

GATHERING

Songs of Community Cheryl McAfee & Juliana Moore, piano

Chiming of the Trinity

Greeting Thomas Quisenberry

In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe,
in ordinary days of work and play:
in every moment, God is with us.
Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud,
or standing on faith's shoreline:
in every place, God is with us.
In those who teach us
and those who trouble us;
in those who surprise us
and those who forgive us:
in every person, God is with us.

Prelude I Come with Joy arr. D. Burton
(Hymn 515)

APPROACH

Prayer of Adoration Kelly Kunf

*Hymn 619 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
(All children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

Children's Time Laura Cooper

Psalm Reading Sean Pickett
Psalm 103:1-13 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Commitment Sean Pickett
In the times when we give, however generously,
it becomes blatantly clear, O God,
how ridiculous our attempts are to balance the scales.
We cannot repay your abundance, your extravagance of grace;
nor do you require it.

So, why should we expect it of others?
In truth, we cannot.
Like you, we can only love – by giving, by serving, by praying.
And so we pray...
free the scorekeepers in our world and in our hearts;
restore the fallen in our world and in our hearts;
strengthen the merciful in our world and in our hearts;
bring down the tyrants in our world and in our hearts;
erase the lines of division in our world and in our hearts.
And use us to make it so.
In Jesus's name. Amen.

*Response M. Douroux

Give Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve
thee. Lord, fix my heart___ so that I___ may be used___ by
thee. For I'm not worth - y of all these bless -
ings. Give me a clean heart___ and I'll fol-low thee.

PROCLAMATION

Epistle Reading Thomas Quisenberry
Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message Thomas Quisenberry
Keeping Up with the Scorecards

RESPONSE

*Hymn 822 When We Are Living SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Prayers of the Community Jeff Parker
Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Preparation for Giving Dan Mayfield

Tempted to turn away, may we be reminded that we stand on holy ground
when we walk with the lonely, work beside those seeking justice,
bring hope to the forgotten,
and share from our abundance with those who have nothing.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings R. Norris

I Shall Not Live in Vain
Chancel Choir

I shall not live, I shall not live in vain.
If I could stop one heart from breaking or cool one pain,
I shall not live in vain.
If I could ease one life the aching or
help one fainting robin unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.
I was hungry, I was thirsty, alone and you took me in;
I was trembling, I was hurting, captive when you took my hand.
I shall not live, I shall not live in vain.

*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 Dan Mayfield

*Work of the Church Thomas Quisenberry

*Words of Blessing

*Benediction Thomas Quisenberry

*Response ACCLAMATIONS

This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends,
and with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:

Christ has died! Christ is ris-en! Christ will come a-gain!

Postlude arr. D. Hustad

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
(Hymn 619)

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

*Please stand, if able.

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