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

November is a $1 month. We are collecting $1 bills as part of our offering each Sunday this month to help fund items needed by our community such as pescription medications and bus cards. Last Sunday, we received $151 giving a current total of $258. We encourage you to place your dollar bills in the offering baskets as they are passed during Worship. Thank you!

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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Cool Kids Collective (CKC) (3rd-5th graders) is meeting today, November 15, 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).

Our next churchwide catered dinner is this Wednesday, November 18, 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 is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, biscuits and dessert.

Youth Girls Night Out: Calling all 6th-12th grade girls! Meet at the church's Office Entrance at 5:30PM on Saturday, November 21. We will travel together to Judy Sullivan's house where we will have a fun evening of making candy. The cost is $10. Pick-up time at church is 9:30PM. Contact Lizzie to RSVP by Wednesday, November 18 (lizzie@fbcchattanooga.org).

Our School of Fine Arts Student Fall Recital is next Sunday, November 22, at 2:30PM in the Chapel. Come celebrate the progress our students have made, then join us for a reception in the Parlor.

Christmas Brunch, Saturday, December 12, beginning at 9:00AM

- We need servers, table hosts, greeters, drivers, and more. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the lobby near the office.
- We need toys for children ages birth-15 years old (especially for the older kids). Each toy should cost around $10. Gender neutral toys are helpful. Please bring these unwrapped gifts on Sunday, December 6, or Wednesday, December 9.
- Monetary donations are always welcome. Please indicate "Brunch."
- On Wednesday, December 9, 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!

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

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 15
9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
10:30AM Library Open until Worship Begins
10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
11:00AM Worship (Deacon Ordination) – Sanctuary
12:30PM CKC: Baking Party – E109
4:30PM Growth Task Force – Conference Room
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, November 17
10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Group – Conference Room
5:30PM Moving Forward Chatt Classes – Lower Chapel Area

Wednesday, November 18
10:00AM Master's Mats Group – E216
10:00AM Media Library Workers – Media Library Office
11:00AM First Friends Council Meeting – Conference Room
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 (Pastor led) – Fellowship Hall
7:00PM Gym Time (School-Age Kids/Youth)
7:15PM House & Grounds Committee Mtg. – Conference Room

Thursday, November 19
2:00PM Shower Ministry – Rec Center Area
5:00PM Finance Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

Saturday, November 21
5:30PM Youth Girls' Night Out – Off Campus

Sunday, November 22
9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
10:30AM Library Open until Worship Begins
10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
11:00AM Worship (Christ the King Sunday) – Sanctuary
2:30PM SFA Fall Recital – Chapel
4:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
5:30PM Youth Supper – Youth Area
6:00PM Youth Bible Study – Youth Area
6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chattanooga, Tennessee

November 15, 2026

The Worship of God

Season of Growth, 25

Gathering

Songs of Community — *Jeanne & Reggie Alley*

Chiming of the Trinity

Greeting — *Thomas Quisenberry*

With eyes to see,
and ears to hear;
with lips to sing,
and hands to help:
Let us worship God with the fullness of our being.

Prelude — D. Wagner

Soliloquy

Approach

Prayer of Adoration — *Kelly Kunf*

Choral Fanfare — G. Young

From All that Dwell Below the Skies
Chancel Choir

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.
Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word.
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Hymn 687 — ST. ANNE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
(All children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

Children's Time — *Caroline Shoop*

Psalm Reading — *Sean Pickett*

Psalm 123 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Petition — *Sean Pickett*

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master…
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.
Lord of heaven and earth,
of all nations and peoples, all faiths and no faith
reveal yourself
to those who are suffering,
reveal yourself
to all who feel unwelcome,
reveal yourself
to those who are powerful,
reveal yourself
to all who are powerless,
reveal yourself
to ordinary people in our everyday lives,
that this world
might reflect your love and your glory.
Amen.

*Hymn 449 — MENDON

Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love

Proclamation

Gospel Reading — *Thomas Quisenberry*

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — *Thomas Quisenberry*

Faith in Practice: Engagement

Response

*Hymn 697 — HENDON

Take My Life

Prayers of the Community — *Jeff Parker*

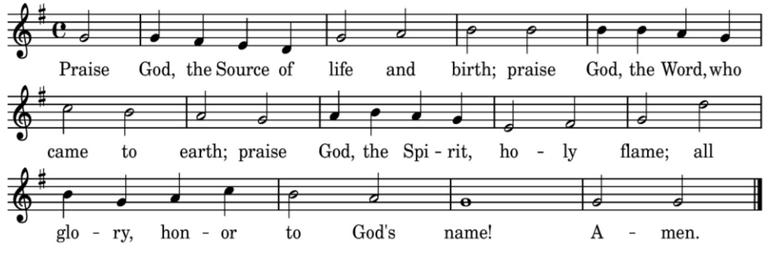
Preparation for Giving — *Laura Warren*

We can stand at the edge and watch while God seeks to bring
hope, healing, peace, and joy to everyone in the world.
Or we can take that step, of committing our lives as well as our gifts,
in working with God in this ministry of grace.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings — P. Lehenbauer

Simple Gifts

*Dedication of Gifts — OLD 100TH



*Prayer of Thanksgiving — *Laura Warren*

Work of the Church — *Thomas Quisenberry*

Deacon Ordination
Jessica Lynn Weaver

Prayer for the New Deacons — *Dawn Oakes*

Jim Blentlinger, Samuel Bond, Charlie Cooper, Laura Cooper,
David Hixson, Bryan Laseter, Melissa Laseter, Emma Mullins,
Verbie Prevost, Rusty Rouse, Caroline Shoop, Jessie Weaver

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 727 — THE SERVANT SONG

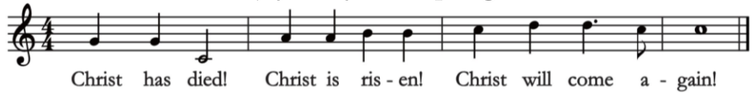
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
(stanzas 1-4)

*Words of Blessing

*Charge — *Thomas Quisenberry*

*Response — ACCLAMATIONS

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



Postlude — G. Martin

An American Trumpet Tune

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

*Please stand, if able.

OL#728820-A

Testimony of Jessie Weaver, Candidate for Deacon Ordination

I've been known to tell people that I was baptized both ways, so I think I am good when it comes to that. My parents were raised Methodist outside Dayton, Ohio, where I was born and baptized as an infant. At 1, we moved to Elkhart, Indiana, and then when I was 8 we moved to Richmond, Virginia, where I grew up and lived until I graduated college.

My parents visited every Methodist church in Richmond and couldn't find a good fit, so we ended up at the Baptist church down the street from our house. Webber Memorial Baptist Church is where I grew up. It was most of my social life. It was where I was allowed to be a student leader and worked in the preschool and sang in the worship band. And it is where I was baptized, again, when I was 10 years old.

You may not be surprised to hear that I took faith and religion very seriously, even as a kid. And at 10, I felt a very strong call to be a missionary. When I was in Girls in Action in fourth grade, I started writing letters to a missionary family in Thailand. We ended up writing for years, and I actually met them when they were on sabbatical in the states. It was a formative relationship, and I could picture myself on the mission field, too.

I was baptized and the pastor shared a verse that was special to me with the congregation. In the Good News Translation, Isaiah 60:2 says, "Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the Lord will shine; the brightness of his presence will be with you." It's a verse I have carried with me for the rest of my life.

I'm thankful to my youth group and then my college Baptist Student Union for giving me many opportunities to work in leadership roles. I helped plan Wednesday night speakers, helped lead our youth worship service, and led a group for younger girls. In college, I planned BSU meetings and then was the president of our chapter my senior year. I was a really good-little-Baptist girl with very strong convictions that I stuck to.

I met Adam as a freshman in college and we started dating our sophomore year. We got married shortly after graduation and immediately moved to Nashville, where Adam was going to graduate school at Vanderbilt. In fact, our dads moved our stuff into our apartment while we were on our honeymoon!

I had considered going to divinity school, but decided to stick with my English major. After a stint doing customer service, I moved to the tall tower of LifeWay Christian Resources and worked as a copy editor on adult Bible studies. Can you imagine a more perfect job for a good-little-Baptist girl? I checked author's grammar and I got to check and make sure they typed in the Scripture passages correctly. I spent all day reading Bible studies, when I wasn't yakking to my coworkers. When LifeWay acquired Serendipity House, my job shifted to working on their products, and it really started to stretch my brain. These studies were more about Christianity relating to culture and pushed me to think outside the box more.

During our time in Nashville, we went to Forest Hills Baptist Church. It was the first church I remembered that didn't have women deacons. In Nashville and at LifeWay, "Baptist" meant something different than it had in Virginia. When I was growing up, my parents and their friends drank sometimes, we danced in the fellowship hall, and we did have ordained women. I didn't know any of that was not "Baptist" until we moved to Tennessee.

Libbie was born while we were still in Nashville, and then we moved to Chattanooga. I will spare you the long story of how I lived there with her alone for about 5 months while we tried unsuccessfully to sell our house. We ended up foreclosing on it after a few more years, and that did have an impact on my faith. It was a very hard time – during which we also had our second born, David.

We found a church home in Chattanooga after a lot of looking, and I threw myself into being a part of everything. I sang in the choir, worked in the nursery, led Wednesday night preschooler activities, taught at VBS, and eventually started teaching our class of young adult Sunday School. Joshua was born in 2013, and I was that crazy stay-at-home mom with three kids under 5.

Adam and I always knew we didn't quite align with the Southern Baptist values all the way, but it wasn't until our pastor there left that signs really began to point to some negative things for us. We decided to wait it out until we got a new pastor. And then about three months into him being there, I walked out of the church service when he started berating queer people from the pulpit. Members of the congregation were clapping. It was my last straw. I went and got my kids and drove home. Adam had been at home for some reason so he wasn't even there, but he agreed and we did not return to that church. I was done being a good-little-Baptist girl.

I cannot express how grateful I am for the fact that Thomas Quisenberry had done chapel at Baylor at some point and Adam had told me if we ever decided to switch churches, he wanted to visit FBC; and that I already knew Dawn Oakes and Melissa Laseter from our kids all going to St. Timothy's Preschool. I texted Dawn and told her I wanted to go to a church where anyone could feel welcome, and she told me FBC was that place. We didn't want to church hop with three young kids and a fourth on the way. We visited FBC on May 1, 2016, and we never went anywhere else. The hymns and liturgy were not what we were used to at all, but it felt right. The choir sang in Latin that Sunday, and I honestly thought it would be in Latin every week and that would take some getting used to.

Our people in the Friendship class welcomed us so dearly. We were brought into Epiphanies and our kids were embraced immediately by the children they knew and the ones they didn't. I've been blessed to be a Friendship class teacher and last year I graduated to working with children's Sunday School. Being the VBS snacks lady is my favorite week all year. Singing with our Chancel Choir is such a joy. The Shower Ministry – I love being a part of that team too! And the Prayer Shawl Ministry! FBC has always felt like home. It is my favorite place in the world. I am so honored just to be a member of a community that is willing to love our neighbors fully and extravagantly.

For several years, I've felt that I am enough out of the chaotic-little-children phase to consider taking on the role of a deacon. I'm honored that many people called, texted, and asked me in person this year if they could nominate me. I am ready to take a bigger role in this family of faith I love so much.

I read an essay by Nadia Bolz-Webber where she wrote, "The effort we put into trying to pretend something about us is true—that we are less than we are or more than we are or that one aspect of ourselves in the whole story—is based in a fear of being really known, of being truly seen, as we actually are. Perhaps we each have a wound, a vulnerable place that we have to protect in order to survive. And yet sometimes we overcompensate so much for the things we are trying to hide that no one ever suspects the truth … and then we are left in the true aloneness of never really being known. In the end, the only real love in the world is found when you let yourself be truly known."

I can't hide my emotions. Ever. If you ask me how I am, I am going to tell you the truth. I think I've cried in front of most people in this church. And I feel so safe with the people here at First Baptist to be able do that. I hope you do, too. This is a place where I've been allowed to face my doubts, fears, and issues, and not been scorned or ignored. It's a place where I see us being the hands and feet of Jesus and where I've been able to grow my faith and hopefully lay some seeds in the faith of others. I am so grateful to be here and SO thankful you have nominated me as a deacon.