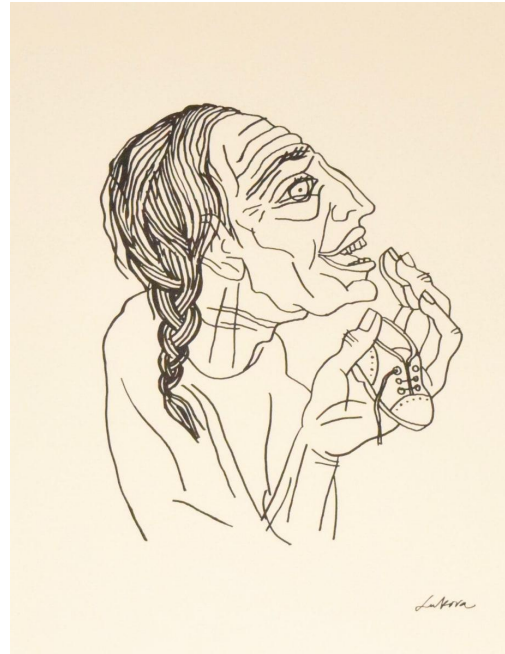


It suddenly dawned on them
that the wildest dreams they'd ever had
hadn't been half wild enough.

+ Frederick Buechner

Sarah Laughing, Luba Lukova



First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, July 23, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Sortie (Fughetta)*

David Williamson, Organ

T. Dubois

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Amy McClure

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elmer Hayashi

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord,
a song of thanks and praise.

**All: For God has done wondrous deeds,
and is great beyond compare!**

Leader: Let us tell the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
Let us proclaim the faithfulness and goodness of God
from the time of Abraham even to our generation.

**All: We will not remain silent,
but will proclaim the greatness of our God.
For the promises of God are sure and steadfast;
happy are those who make the Lord their trust!**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

Sam Lawrence

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Williamson

Leader: The mystery of God has the power to bring radical change to our lives, yet too often we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome the obstacles we face. And like Sarah, we laugh in disbelief. Let us confess our sins and stand in awe of the promises of God.

**People: Holy God, who reveals yourself as Three in One,
we confess that we do not know how to look for you.
We do not sense your nearness in the everyday events of life;
and if there are angels among us, we are not aware.
We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you.
We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit.
O Covenant-keeper, forgive us.
Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us.
Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing.
We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Romans 5:1-8

Linda Jones

Leader: Trust the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God;
and it is our joy to share that peace with both friend and stranger:
May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)

ANTHEM: *I Will Sing Praise*

J. Martin

Sanctuary Choir

I will sing praise to the Lord, my God, lift up my voice in the sanctuary. I will sing praise to the Lord, my God; I will sing Alleluia, and praise his holy name. Sing the glory of his name; I will praise his name forever; Oh, the name above all names. I will sing praise to him, give all my life to him; Oh the glory of his name; I will sing praise to the glory of his name! Sing Alleluia, all heavens rejoice! Sing Alleluia, lift high your voice. Sing Alleluia and make a joyful noise. Oh, I will sing praise to the Lord, my God, lift up my voice in the sanctuary. I will sing praise to the Lord, my God; I will sing Alleluia, and praise his holy name. Praise his name!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sheree Jones

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN 251: *I Will Be Your God*

LLANFYLLIN

SERMON: "Then and Now: Laughter"

Amy McClure

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 376: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front and share your commitment with one of our ministers.

*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE

Kevin Masten

The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship. At the conclusion of the worship service you will find offering plates at the exit doors for those who would like to make a financial contribution to support the ministries of First Baptist Church. If you would like to give online, you will find additional information in this worship guide and at our website, firstonfifth.org.

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Amy McClure

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Amy McClure

POSTLUDE: *Christian Hearts, in Love United*

arr. R. Powell

David Williamson, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

Then and Now: Summer Preaching at First on Fifth | June 11 - August 27, 2023

This summer in worship, we'll return to the very beginning of our shared story in Genesis. For in our world's current season where the fabric of our life together has frayed, we look to the mothers and fathers of our faith to illumine human complexities, all within the light of a good God who is our beginning and end!

July 30 | Genesis 22:1-14
Then and Now: Testing and Providing
(The Story of Isaac) | Zack Jackson, proclaimer

August 20 | Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Then and Now: Power
(The Story of Jacob's sons)

August 6 | Genesis 25:19-34
Then and Now: Conflict
(The Story of Rebekah, Jacob, & Esau)

August 27 | Genesis 45:1-15
Then and Now: Purpose
(The Story of Joseph)

August 13 | Genesis 32:22-31
Then and Now: Struggle
(The Story of Jacob)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week: Kevin Masten and Sheree Jones
Children & Families Greeter: Kim Wilkinson
Streaming and Sound Team: Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers

IF YOU ARE NEW, WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today for the first time, we welcome you! Please fill out a Connection Card located in the back of the pews, and give it to a minister or drop into the offering plate after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply with our church. If you're visiting with young children, we welcome them in whatever way is best for your family! Creative resources for our little ones guide their experience of worship in the Sanctuary, and worship care for infants through pre-K is available in the nursery on the first floor. Masking is optional in the Sanctuary. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring an even greater distance. Extra masks and hand sanitizer are available at all three entrances to the sanctuary. We're glad you're here!

HOW WE SUSTAIN MINISTRY THROUGH FBC

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today to God's work of Love through First on Fifth, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates upon your exit from the room, or by scanning the QR code to give online. Because you will need to enter your personal financial information when registering online, we encourage you to set up your account on a secure network at home before using the app for the first time.



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | firstonfifth.org
BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churchwide Summer Sunday School Continues

June 11 - August 27, 2023

Find your place this summer in our churchwide Sunday School classes! Read more in the newsletter.

Summer Conversations

Kelly Auditorium, 9:30-10:30am

Curriculum: Worship scriptures from Genesis

Leaders: Ka'thy Gore Chappell, Chris Gambill, David Hughes; hosted by the Conversations Class

Contact: Joy Gambill, gambiljm@wfu.edu

Topics in Faith

Baraca Room, 9:30-10:30am

Curriculum: Topics that overlap with and inform our life of faith, centered around spiritual care

Leaders:

July 30: Joanne Henley, disenfranchised grief

August 6, 13, 20: David Hull, aging faithfully

August 27: Georgia McKee & Devin Withrow, advocacy and responding to Christian nationalism

Contact: Emily Hull McGee, emily@firstonfifth.org

Dash Baseball | August 4

Join your church family at the Winston-Salem Dash baseball game on Friday, August 4, at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 each and include food, a seat in the shade behind the 3rd base dugout, and fireworks! To reserve your ticket, please RSVP in the weekly newsletter. Contact Pastor Amy (amy@firstonfifth.org) if you have any questions!

Communities of Hope Conversation | August 8

First on Fifth will host Communities of Hope's "Coffee and Conversation" about the role of faith communities in addressing local mental health needs on Tuesday morning, August 8, from 8:00-9:30am in Kelly Auditorium. Participants from First on Fifth and many of our sister churches here in town will enjoy fellowship and conversation to resource all of us in our ministries of mental health care. All are welcome!

Quarterly Church Conference | August 8

As is our custom, we will gather to do the regular business of the church for our Quarterly Church

Conference (QCC) on Tuesday night, August 8, 2023, at 6:30PM via Zoom. See the newsletter for more info!

First Films: *Jesus Christ Superstar* | August 11

Come join us on Friday, August 11, at 6:30pm for the third film in our Summer of Songs series as we celebrate film musicals. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's groundbreaking rock opera in a memorable film version celebrates the Gospel story as seen through the eyes of Judas. This production was filmed on location in war torn Israel. It is a film that captures the flavor of the late 1960s, while telling the story we know in a new way, and firmly establishing the rock opera in the history of musical theater. (1 hour, 46 minutes) Admission is free, and all are welcome!

First Impressions | August 13

All new or prospective members to First Baptist are invited to join in our First Impressions class. First Impressions familiarizes newcomers with an in-depth look at First Baptist, including ways in which people can connect, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This First Impressions gathering will be held on Sunday, August 13, from 12:00-1:30PM in Kelly Auditorium. Please RSVP to Zack at zack@firstonfifth.org by Thursday, August 10.

CPR Training | August 26

ALL children and youth workers are asked to attend the CPR/First Aid training on Saturday, August 26, from 9:00am -12:00pm in Kelly Auditorium. Other church members are welcome to sign up to be trained as well! Spots are limited to the first 50 people to sign up, so make your reservation today. Light refreshments will be available throughout the training. Please RSVP no later than Thursday, August 17 by emailing Amy (amy@firstonfifth.org) or filling out the form in the newsletter.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gift for July is toilet tissue. Please drop off donations in the bins marked at the bottom of the staircase by the elevator. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry to our community.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, July 23

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 12:30 pm Missions Committee (*Baraca Room*)

MONDAY, July 24

TUESDAY, July 25

- 4:30 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, July 26

THURSDAY, July 27

- 10:00 am Older Adult Book Study/Fellowship (*online*)

FRIDAY, July 28

SATURDAY, July 29

SUNDAY, July 30

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 3:00 pm Children and Families to City Lake Park (*offsite*)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 5:00pm

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour
Accounting Manager
sally@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1103

Jacob Hill
Music Associate / Organist
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Zack Jackson
Pastoral Resident
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Rev. Amy McClure
Associate Pastor
Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care
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Rev. Emily Hull McGee
Pastor
emily@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1001

Rev. David Williamson
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John Young
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