

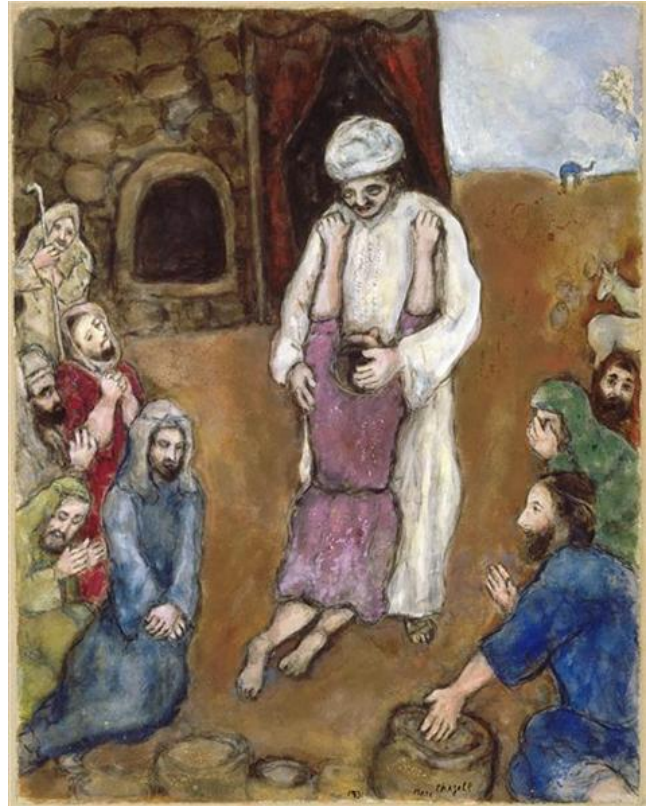
The real moment of truth came, however, when Jacob finally died. Generous and forgiving as Joseph had been, his brothers couldn't avoid the nasty suspicion that once the old man wasn't around anymore to put in a good word for them, Joseph might start thinking again about what it had felt like when they tossed him into that pit and decide to pay them back as they deserved. So they went to see him, fell down on their knees, and begged his pardon.

Joseph's answer rings out like a bell. "Don't be scared. Of course you're pardoned," he said. "Do you think I'm God to grovel before me like that?" In the old days, of course, God was just who he'd rather suspected he was and the dreams in which they groveled were his all-time favorites.

Almost as much as it is the story of how Israel was saved from famine and extinction, it is the story of how Joseph was saved as a human being. It would be interesting to know which of the two achievements cost God the greater effort and which was the one he was prouder of.

+ Frederick Buechner

*Joseph is Recognized By His Brothers, Marc Chagall*



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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 27, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Offertoire*

Jacob Hill, Organ

L. Niedermeyer

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jacob Patrick

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.**

\*HYMN 335: *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him*

HYFRYDOL

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

David Williamson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Karen Brown

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.  
Let us examine our own lives and confess the breaches we have created,  
trusting the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us and bless us.

**People: God who is Three in One,  
how great is our challenge to live in unity.  
We live in a divided culture with little unifying leadership.  
But you have called us to be the peace of Christ in this divided world.  
You have charged us with illuminating the darkness  
and seasoning this world with the flavor of Christ.  
Forgive us for our failures, for what we have said and what we have done.  
As far as it depends on us, let us choose to live peaceably with all.  
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Andrew Britt

Leader: Our God kisses us with kindness, forgiving our sins,  
preserving our lives, and restoring our souls  
through the abundant provision of Jesus Christ.  
Receive now that for which our souls have hungered:  
you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: *Then Will the Very Rocks Cry Out*

M. Hayes

Sanctuary Choir

If we keep our voices silent, all creation will rise and shout. If we fail to praise you, Father, then will the very rocks cry out. From the corner of creation come the people of the Living God. Every tongue and every nation gather now to praise the Lord! If we keep our voices silent, all creation will rise and shout. If we fail to praise you, Father, then will the very rocks cry out. From a world of tribulation come and let your voice be raised. Join us now in congregation. Let the living God be praised. Alleluia, alleluia, unto Him we offer praise; Alleluia, alleluia, this song of joy to Him we raise. Alleluia, alleluia, In the heavens angels sing; alleluia, alleluia, give glory to the most high King!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Zack Jackson

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.

**SERMON: "Then and Now: Purpose"**

Emily Hull McGee

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 48: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

FAITHFULNESS

*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**

Wally Cox

*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](http://firstonfifth.org).*

**THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

Emily Hull McGee

**BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Amy McClure

**BLESSING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

Amy McClure, Iris Mann, Will Abbott

Minister: God of fresh starts and new beginnings,  
we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.

In our backpacks, we carry black pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons,  
and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.  
There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—  
of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

Student: God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus.  
Be with us as we walk.  
Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.  
However we get there, and whatever we wear,  
bless this journey into something new.

Teacher: For the grown-ups going back to school,  
With-Us God, be with them too.  
Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders,  
and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creatures here below!  
O praise God! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

\*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: *V. Postlude Maestoso*

C. Vincent

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes:</u>	Karly Parker and Kara Parker
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Wally Cox and Jim Nelson
<u>Children &amp; Families Greeter:</u>	Kim Wilkinson
<u>Streaming and Sound Team:</u>	Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Ash Henley

### 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.



### Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for August are peanut butter and jelly. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!



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



FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Startup Sunday Needs You! | September 10**

It's time to begin again! We're delighted to begin our new church year alongside the new school year on Startup Sunday, September 10. That morning, we'll enjoy coffee and donuts in the Commons at 10:30, try a new Sunday School class, enjoy colorful displays around the building, and step together into the new year with our focus on "Tending." (More to come!) Before then, we need your help! Please send a digital image of you or your family and/or your pet out doing something you enjoy to Olena at [olena@firstonfifth.org](mailto:olena@firstonfifth.org) by Wednesday, September 6.

### **Prayer Partner Care Package Event | September 10**

All prayer partners will gather in Kelly Auditorium immediately following worship for our annual care package packing event where our prayer partners (all kids K-5 and their older adult prayer partner) join together to pack care packages for our college students and educators. If you have any questions, please reach out to Amy at [amy@firstonfifth.org](mailto:amy@firstonfifth.org).

### **Interested in being part of our Coffee Team?**

The Hospitality Ministry Team is creating a group to help facilitate our church's coffee time on Sunday mornings. We are looking for folks who would be willing to make coffee at 9:15am before heading to their own Sunday school class, be in the Commons at 10:15am to keep the coffee brewing and prepare for the 10:30 - 10:50am Coffee and Conversation time, and clean up the coffee materials and space after church to prepare it for the following week. This is a great ministry opportunity that helps bring our people together for fellowship on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let us know by filling out the form in the newsletter or speak to one of the team leaders: Cindi Goins and Linda Stewart.

### **Interested in being a Sunday Greeter?**

Zack Jackson, our Pastoral Resident, is overseeing our new member ministry in his new role. As we transition from a slower summer into the regular rhythms of fall, he's working to recruit a greeter team to work in shifts on Sundays. These greeters would receive guests at commonly-used doors around the church house, aid folks in knowing what is available on Sunday mornings prior to worship, and know how to navigate our building. If this sounds like a way in which you might be

willing to serve, please let Zack know by Tuesday, September 5 at noon. He will host an information session and training on September 3, from 9:00-9:30 AM in the Baraca Room, with the intention of having the first round of greeters serve on September 10. Be in touch with Zack at [zack@firstonfifth.org](mailto:zack@firstonfifth.org) with questions, or to express interest in being a greeter!

### **Adult Ministry Team Seeks Your Input**

Thank you for your continued interest in the teaching and learning ministries of First Baptist on Fifth! Our Adult Ministry Team is excited to respond to our growing congregation and broadening interests. In order to best serve you, we ask that you complete the survey in the newsletter about what would best meet your curiosities and capacities for this 2023-2024 school year. Thank you for strengthening our ministry!

### **Tuesday Morning Devotional Classics Begins Again**

Curriculum: A study of *Thunder in the Soul: To Be Known by God*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel. This is a sampler of Heschel's many books and can be found on Amazon; see link in the newsletter.

Leader: David Williamson, [david@firstonfifth.org](mailto:david@firstonfifth.org)

When: Starting September 12, and continuing on Tuesdays, 7:30am, in the Baraca Room

### **Thanks for School Supplies!**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the School Supplies Drive benefiting The Dwelling! With your donations, as well as donations from Whitaker Chapel Methodist Church in Pilot Mountain, the youth were able to completely fill 14 backpacks for younger kids and 11 backpacks for older kids with extra supplies left over! Thank you for your generosity!

### **First Impressions | September 24, 9:15 AM**

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 September 24, from 9:15-10:30 AM in the Commons. Please RSVP to Zack at [zack@firstonfifth.org](mailto:zack@firstonfifth.org) by Thursday, September 24.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, August 27

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

MONDAY, August 28

TUESDAY, August 29

- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, August 30

- 10:00 am Staff meeting (*Commons*)  
5:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting (*online*)

THURSDAY, August 31

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

FRIDAY, September 1

SATURDAY, September 2

SUNDAY, September 3

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)  
9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults and Children  
(*in person*)  
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)  
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)

## CHURCH STAFF

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

Jacob Hill  
*Music Associate / Organist*  
jake@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1004

Zack Jackson  
*Pastoral Resident*  
zack@firstonfifth.org

Rev. Amy McClure  
*Associate Pastor*  
Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care  
amy@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1002

Rev. Emily Hull McGee  
*Pastor*  
emily@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1001

Rev. David Williamson  
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Olena Withrow  
*Ministry Assistant*  
olena@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1000

John Young  
*Facilities Manager*  
john@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1102

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday, 8:30am - 12:30pm



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