

"The great revolutionary virtue is endurance."

+ Father Daniel Berrigan

"But Christianity isn't fundamentally about our radical faith in God. It's about God's astonishing faith in us. Astonishing because when it comes to trust, no one would seriously trust us. And astonishing because even when we do begin to get it, we mostly kid ourselves that belief is an adequate response. This is how to read Hebrews 11. Don't spend your energy feeling guilty you're not so brave or get defensive and dismiss these stories as distant or far-fetched. Allow yourself to be humbled, moved and inspired by the astonishing revelation of God's faith in us. And then gently, simply and tenderly allow yourself to trust God in return ... Because one day, thousands of years in the future (as these celebrated characters in Hebrews are thousands in the past), someone will themselves be humbled, moved and inspired by that great cloud of witnesses. And tucked away in that cloud - lost in wonder, love and praise - will be you."

+ Samuel Wells

A Gathering of Spirits, Jan Richardson

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, August 31, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Elevation D.P. Benoit

Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP Olena Withrow

Leader: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses –

witnesses who encourage us through the testimony of their lives

to run with perseverance the race set before us.

People: Mindful of the grace we have received

and confident of God's provision for the journey forward,

we will keep our eyes on Jesus,

the pioneer and perfector of our faith,

the cornerstone and foundation of all who seek God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Sheree Jones

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Williamson

Leader: Trusting in God's hopes for us,

let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace.

All: God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care... our doubt of your providence... our blindness to signs of your love.

> We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love.

Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy McClure

Leader: God hears our confession, rejoicing in our desire

to live more faithful lives as disciples of Jesus. God lifts us from our despondency to rejoice in the company of saints who have gone before us. God acknowledges the forces that separate us,

and grants us peace.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us share the sign of a forgiven people:

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share the peace with those around you.)

ANTHEM: Amazing Grace

C. Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see. Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free! The Son of God, the righteous One, is crucified for me. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free! The Son of God, the righteous One, is crucified for me. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun. Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free! The Son of God, the righteous One, is crucified for me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kyle Caudle

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 77: In Heavenly Love Abiding

NYLAND

SERMON: "Pioneer and Perfector"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 637: Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

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

Anna Harris

The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship of which all are invited to participate. In a moment, offering plates will be passed for you to share your 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 on our website, firstonfifth.org.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Kaylor

*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 Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: March L. Mourlan

Jacob Hill, Organ

^{*}Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u> Anna Harris 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 after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply within the life of 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 kindergarteners is available in the nursery on the first floor. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring extra distance. We're so glad you're here!

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK OF LOVE THROUGH FIRST BAPTIST ON FIFTH

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates 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.



LISTENING ASSIST AVAILABLE

To access the listening assist system please, scan the QR code to download the Listen Everywhere app to your smartphone. Make sure you are connected to the firstonfifth-guest WIFI network. Password: boldandboundless. Select the main channel on the app, ensure the sound is unmuted in the bottom left corner, and listen through your headphones or hearing aids.







ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 5 | Board Games Affinity Group

Join us for a fun-filled Churchwide Board Game Night every first Friday at 7pm in the Commons! Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just looking for a casual game, we'll have a variety of options to suit all ages and skill levels. Come connect, compete, and enjoy a night of fellowship and friendly competition! Bring a friend and let the games begin! Contact Dana Patrick with any questions (dpatrick@wakehealth.edu).

September 7 | Marion Thomas Ordination

With joyful affirmation from the Deacons, Ordination Council and congregation, all are invited to gather for Marion Thomas's ordination to the gospel ministry on Sunday, September 7, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.

September 12 | First Films, 6:30pm

This fall we explore the path to adulthood in three diverse films. Join us as we experience stories of coming of age in 1970s rural Illinois, present day Uganda, and post Civil War Massachusetts. We'll gather at 6:30pm in Kelly Auditorium.

September 14 | First Impressions, 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 14 from 9:15-10:30 AM in the Commons. Please RSVP to Mary at mary@firstonfifth.org

September 14 | Prayer Partner Care Package Event

All prayer partners and their families 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 Pastor Amy!

September 14 | Youth Lunch and Games

All youth are invited for lunch and games in the Baraca Room following worship on September 14. For more information please contact Kyle Caudle at kyle@firstonfifth.org.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for September are Instant Grits and Oatmeal. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

September 17 | Older Adult/Active Retiree Event

All throughout Forsyth County, you will find Dr. John Beck, a percussionist who plays for us on Sunday mornings at First on Fifth for big events like Lessons and Carols and Easter, entering retirement communities, schools, the Intergenerational Center, and churches to lead a fantastic program called HealthRHYTHMS. A fun element is that it involves drums! This is a proven way for Active Retirees and Older Adults to engage in a healthy and creative activity. We are delighted to host Dr. Beck on September 17 at 10:00am in Kelly. We will provide light snacks. This program is limited to the first 50 people who sign up, so sign up today in the newsletter to claim your spot!

September 21

100th Anniversary of our Church House

We will kick off our celebration of 100 Years on Fifth: Home in the Heart of the City with a special lunch after worship on Sunday, September 21. You can RSVP in your newsletter.

Home in the Heart of the City Celebration Cookbook

In honor of the 100 on Fifth: Home in the Heart of the City celebration the planning task force would like to invite YOU to help us compile a commemorative cookbook. Share your favorite recipes from entrees to appetizers, side dishes to desserts. Please submit your recipes by Monday, September 1. You can submit your recipes via email or in written form to Nathan Mitchell (mitchellnathan30@yahoo.com) or to the box in The Commons.

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate diapers size 3, 4, 5, and 6 to Una Bendición, which provides a point of connection between Spanish-speaking families and the many available resources in our city. Please place donations by the Crisis Control bins.

Mark Your Calendars!

October 5 - World Communion Sunday

October 6 - Older Adults Apple Trip

October 19 - CROP Walk

October 24-26 - CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat

October 26 - First on Fifth 101

October 28 - Quarterly Church Conference

November 2 - All Saints Sunday

November 23 - Thanksgiving Pot-Luck

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, August 31

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (online)

9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, &

Children (in person)

10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (Commons)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary & online)

MONDAY, September 1

Labor Day- Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, September 2

10:00 am Care Notes Ministry (Commons)5:30 pm Personnel Committee (Conference)

8:00 pm Evening Prayer (online)

WEDNESDAY, September 3

11:00 am Staff Meeting (Commons)

5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

(Sanctuary & Music Suite)

6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, September 4

FRIDAY, September 5

7:00 pm Board Games Affinity Group (Commons)

SATURDAY, September 6

9:00 am Deacon's Retreat (offsite)

SUNDAY, September 7

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (online)

9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, &

Children (in person)

10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (Commons)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary & online)

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

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