



Community, by Julie Lonneman

“The best testimony to the truth of the gospel is the quality of our life together. Jesus risked his reputation and the credibility of his story by tying them to how his followers live and care for one another in community... How we live together is the most persuasive sermon we’ll ever get to preach.”

... Growing into the likeness of Christ and into the church as it’s supposed to be cannot be separated from the messiness and disappointments that are part of human relationships. We can protect ourselves from such difficulties only by cutting ourselves off from our relationships, and that is rarely a satisfactory option. Nevertheless, we can build and maintain congregations – just like we do with marriages, families, communities, and businesses – in better and worse ways. Good communities and life-giving congregations emerge at the intersection of divine grace and steady human effort.”

+ Christine Pohl

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 7, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Suite Gothique, III. Prière à Notre Dame*

Jacob Hill, Organ

L. Boellmann

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Williamson

Leader: God said, “Let there be light;”

All: And there was light

Leader: O Lord, let my soul rise to meet you

All: as the day rises to meet the sun.

Leader: This very day the Lord has acted;

All: May God’s name be praised.

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me;

All: And let us exalt his name together!

*HYMN 319: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Ancient Words*

L. DeShazo

Sanctuary Choir

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world, they resound with God's own heart; O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Michael Briggs

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SILENT REFLECTION

Let us consider our own thoughts and actions in the illuminating light of scripture.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Forgiving and gracious God,
we confess our sins and the sins of the world:

**All: We have neglected the common good.
We have withheld our abundance from those in need.
Our lives are seldom free from the love of money
for we are seldom content with what we have.
Our love for one another is often conditional.

Forgive our passive acceptance of the way things are,
and inspire us toward a greater and greater mutual love.
Just as your love will never let us go,
may our love for one another mirror your constancy and your grace.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
His forgiveness extends to every generation.

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: *O Love*

E. Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holly Kessler

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 440: *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

GIFT OF LOVE

SERMON: “*Love Continues*”

Emily Hull McGee

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

HYMN OF RESPONSE 670: *Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

MADILL

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**

Joani Hughes

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

Olena Withrow

***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: *Triumph Song*

A. Rowley

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

At the conclusion of the worship service today you will be given an opportunity to contribute to the Benevolence Fund. This fund provides confidential financial assistance for individuals in times of crisis and is made possible by designated contributions. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to First Baptist Church, designated to the Benevolence Fund. Any cash offering received that is not designated in an envelope will be allocated to the Benevolence Fund.

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes:

Eli Steen and Silas McGee

Deacon of the Week:

Joani Hughes and Holly Kessler

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. Restrooms are available on either side of the Narthex at the back of the sanctuary and on every level in the back half of our building. 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, and ensure the sound is unmuted in the bottom left corner.



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.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for September are Instant Grits and Oatmeal. Please drop off gifts 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

Home in the Heart of the City

Worship this Fall with First on Fifth

100 years ago, the people called First Baptist Church planted their new home at 501 West Fifth Street. After two other locations they called home, the third time got it right. They found their home right in the heart of the city, and one hundred years later, so do we! This fall at First Baptist on Fifth, we'll kick off our year of celebration with worship centered around themes of home: from the home we inherit to the home we create, and every shade of meaning in between. We'll look back to stories of the God who created humans to be place-makers, who came close to dwell among us, and in whom we are always welcomed home again.

September 14

Why We Celebrate Anniversaries
Deuteronomy 6:1-12; Luke 15:1-10

September 21

100 Years: Home
Ephesians 2:12-20

September 28

100 Years: In the Heart
John 14:1-3, 15:4-5

October 5

100 Years: Of the City
Matthew 4:23-25; Psalm 127:1-2
Communion Sunday

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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 9 | Tuesday Devotional Classics, 7:30 am

The Tuesday Devotional Classics group will begin a new study of Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy* on September 9 at 7:30am in the Commons. Contact David Williamson for more information or to enroll in the study. All are welcome!

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. Our first film this fall is **5-25-77** (2008), run time- 2hrs 12mins.

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.

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 Lunch for 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. Please RSVP in your newsletter or online by September 12th!

Home in the Heart of the City Celebration Cookbook

Share your favorite recipes from entrees to appetizers, side dishes to desserts for our Celebration Cookbook. You can submit your recipes via email or in written form to Nathan Mitchell (mitchellnathan30@yahoo.com) or to the box in The Commons through the end of September.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

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*)
4:00 pm Marion Thomas Ordination (*Sanctuary*)

MONDAY, September 8
3:00 pm Building Project Task Force (*Commons*)
6:00 pm Community Engagement Ministry Team (*online*)

TUESDAY, September 9
7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca*)
3:00 pm 100th Task Force (*Commons*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 10
11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
5:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsals (*Sanctuary & Music Suite*)
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, September 11

FRIDAY, September 12
6:30 pm First Films (*Commons*)

SATURDAY, September 13

SUNDAY, September 14
9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
9:15 am First Impressions (*Commons*)
9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, & Children (*in person*)
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
12:00 pm Prayer Partners Event (*Kelly*)
Youth Lunch and Games (*Baraca*)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

Claudia Amaya
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