

## A Blessing When You Realize Everyone Is Suffering

by Kate Bowler

Blessed are you who have realized  
that life is hard.  
And it's hard for everyone.  
Your awareness came at a cost.  
You lost something you can't get back.  
You were diagnosed with chronic pain or degenerative disease.  
Your family fell apart and things have never been the same.  
Blessed are you who gave up the myth  
that the good life is one of happiness, success, perfection.  
The life that looks beautiful on Instagram,  
—but isn't real.  
You who realize it is okay to not be okay.  
To not have a shiny life because no one does.  
Blessed are you who see things clearly,  
where struggle is everyone's normal.  
You walk among the fellowship of the afflicted,  
a club no one wants to join.  
And while this life isn't shiny,  
it does come with superpowers.  
Superpowers of ever-widening empathy  
and existential courage that gets you back up after another fall  
and a deepened awe at the beauty and love that can be found amid life's rubble.  
Like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk.  
These virtues blossom in you.  
And thank God for you.  
Blessed are all of us who struggle,  
for we are in good company,  
and we'll never walk alone.



Kimberly Stephens, *Bleeding Woman*

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, June 7, 2026 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *A Walk on the Shore*

Annie Winkelman, Oboe  
Lauren Winkelman, Piano

J. Leslie

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyle Caudle

Leader: We gather in your presence, O God, in our need,  
and bring with us the needs of the world.

**All: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,  
and you know by experience what human life is like.**

Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;  
we come with our hopes and with our fears.

**All: We come as we are, because you have invited us;  
and you have promised never to turn us away.**

CALL TO PRAYER: *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

J. Berthier

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call  
 an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.  
 Come and lis - ten to me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Williamson

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.

ANTHEM: *Room at the Table*

D. Lantz

Sanctuary Choir

There is room at the table, a place at the feast. There is room for each burden  
 you long to release. Every heartache you carry, each private despair; bring them  
 all to the table, surrender them there. There is room for the bread that is  
 broken in two. It is offered for all that is broken in you. Simply take it and eat it,  
 and hunger no more. You must only accept; be fully restored. There is room for  
 the cup that is filled with the wine. It is offered to you at this table of mine.  
 Come be filled with remembrance of My sacrifice. All your emptiness ended,  
 your thirst satisfied. There is room at the table, so come take your place. Taste  
 the bread of forgiveness, the cup of My grace. Not a meal for the body; a feast  
 for the soul. O come to the table and you will leave it whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rick Matthews

Leader: Today God offers us a feast for the soul:  
 the bread of forgiveness and the cup of grace.  
 Let us confess any afflictions that separate us from God's love  
 so that we may be healed and made whole.

**All: Healer of our souls, have mercy on us.**

Leader: For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent,  
 and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,

**All: Healer of our souls, have mercy on us.**

Leader: For the times we have not respected another's freedom to be different from us,

**All: Healer of our souls, have mercy on us.**

Leader: For the times we have betrayed a friend  
and the times we have been betrayed.

**All: Healer of our souls, have mercy on us.**

Leader: For the times we have ignored suffering in our community  
and for the times our own suffering has been ignored.

**All: Healer of our souls, have mercy on us.**

**Compassionate God,  
you came to us in the person of Jesus Christ  
to heal all sickness and suffering.  
May we be bearers of your healing image,  
so that this broken world may be made whole. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: James 5:13-16

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Friends, through Jesus Christ we are healed.

**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 these words of peace with those around you.)*

\*HYMN 540: *We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

YE BANKS AND BRAES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Emily Hull McGee

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *"How to Be Human: Suffer"*

Emily Hull McGee

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 57: *Be Still, My Soul*

FINLANDIA

*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

Bethany Leggett

*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. If you would like to give online, you will find additional information in this worship guide and on our website, [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org).*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Mélodie*

A. Foote

Annie Winkelman, Oboe  
Lauren Winkelman, Piano

## 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

Emily Hull McGee

### POSTLUDE: *Trumpet Tune*

D. German

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

### SERVING TODAY

Acolytes and Crucifer:

Karly Parker, Annabelle McGee, and Kyla Caudle

Deacon of the Week:

Bethany Leggett and Rick Matthews

Greeters:

Youth

Safety Team:

Day Pinto, Dean Culler, Karen Brown, Chris Gambill

Streaming and Sound Team:

Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Jeff Burchette,  
Judy Eustice, Julie Hall, Amber Myers, Meredith Parker

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### 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. 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 WIFI 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.





FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**How To Be Human**

*Summer Worship at First Baptist on Fifth*

One has only to scan the headlines to feel despair at all things human. The rise of AI, threats to our climate and our collective well-being, and widespread conflicts around the globe causes us to wonder: how can we stay human amidst all that hopes to divide, distract, or diminish humanity? This summer in worship, we'll listen to Jesus's guidance on human living through the Gospel of Matthew, trusting the God who enlivened us at creation to enliven us once again.

June 14

*How To Be Human: Discern*  
Matthew 9:35, 10:1-16

June 21

*How To Be Human: Dissent*  
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

*How To Be Human: Welcome*  
Matthew 10:40-42

July 5

*How To Be Human: Rest*  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
Communion Sunday

July 12

*How To Be Human: Sow*  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

*How To Be Human: Complexify*  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

Children and Youth-Led Worship

August 2

*How To Be Human: Discover*  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
Mary Kaylor, proclaimer  
Communion Sunday

August 9

*How To Be Human: Take Heart*  
Matthew 14:22-33  
Blessing of the Backpacks

**June 12 | First Films!**

This summer we will test the conventions of the film musical with three independent features that use music to drive the narrative. Join us in Kelly for the first of three unique unresolved love stories, *Yellow Rose* (2019). Popcorn and refreshments provided.

**Sunday Summer Choir**

During the summer months the Sanctuary Choir will take a break from Wednesday night rehearsals and meet for rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the choir room. The Sunday rehearsal is dedicated to preparing music just for the worship service that day at 11am. This summer schedule provides a great opportunity to sample the Sanctuary Choir without a long-term commitment! If you would like to join us on any Sunday during the summer, please contact David or Jake and we will have music ready for you!

**June 13 | WS Pride Festival**

The Community Engagement Ministry Team would love for you to help represent First on Fifth at the Winston-Salem Pride Festival on Saturday, June 13! You can find all the information you need to be a part of this meaningful day in your newsletter. Contact [mary@firstonfifth.org](mailto:mary@firstonfifth.org) with any questions.

**June 14 | IAF Founding Assembly**

The Missions committee invites you to join with hundreds of leaders for the IAF Founding Assembly to present our community power organization publicly and announce our inaugural campaigns on Education, Housing, and Mental Health. Read more and register at the link in your newsletter. Contact Kyle or Linda Jones with questions.

**June 20 | Youth Pool Party**

Splash into summer with a youth pool party on Saturday, June 20 from 5-8pm. All youth and families are invited for swimming, games, and fellowship at Roper's house. Please bring a drink and snack to share. For more information contact [kyle@firstonfifth.org](mailto:kyle@firstonfifth.org)

**June 26 | Older Adults Ice Cream Fellowship**

Join us at 2:00pm at TJ's Deli (5017 Country Club Rd., Winston Salem) for a sweet treat and fellowship. All you need to bring is money for your ice cream and yourself! RSVP in your Newsletter.

**June 28 | Kids Pool Party**

Splash into summer with kids and parents as we join together for another summer pool party at Roper's house this year on Sunday, June 28 from 4-6pm. Please bring your own chair to sit by the pool, towel, sunscreen, drinks and any snacks or games you'd like to share with the group. RSVP in your Newsletter.

**Seeking Donations | Crisis Control**

The gifts for June are Peanut Butter & Jelly. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, June 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*)
- 12:00 pm Safety Team Huddle (*Baraca*)
- 12:30 pm Young Adults v. Youth Kickball Game (*offsite*)

MONDAY, June 8

- 4:00 pm Membership Task Force (*online*)
- 6:00 pm Leadership Council (*Commons*)

TUESDAY, June 9

- 12:30 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)
- 5:30 pm Personnel Committee (*Conference*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, June 10

- 11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)
- 5:45 pm Passport Kids Meeting (*Kelly*)

THURSDAY, June 11

- 9:00 am Downtown Walking Group (*offsite*)

FRIDAY, June 12

- 6:30 pm First Films (*Kelly*)

SATURDAY, June 13

- 9:00 am WS PRIDE Festival

SUNDAY, June 14

- 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*)
- 12:30 pm Deacons Meeting (*Baraca*)
- 4:00 pm Forsyth IAF Founding Assembly (*offsite*)

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites donations of cereal and bouillon cubes for Una Bendición, which connects Spanish-speaking families with community resources. Place donations by the Crisis Control bins. Thanks!

## CHURCH STAFF

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FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH

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BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.