

“Learning when and how, to what, and to whom to give our yes or our no is a lifelong project. It is learning to live not merely in dull balance or tedious moderation but in passionate, disciplined choice and action... Sustaining and realizing our yes from day to day is only possible when negative and destructive behaviors are supplanted by positive and generative ones, when we redeem the routines of our daily lives, when we choose and carry out commitments that give and support life.”

+ M. Shawn Copeland, *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*

The endless cycle of idea and action,
endless invention, endless experiment,
brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness;
knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word.
All our knowledge brings us nearer to our ignorance,
all our ignorance brings us nearer to death,
but nearness to death no nearer to God.
Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

+ T. S. Eliot, “Choruses from ‘The Rock’”



Dennis Hare, *Crossroads*

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 13, 2026 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Rubrics, IV. The Peace may be Exchanged*

Jacob Hill, Organ

D. Locklair

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CHORAL INTROIT: *Spirit of the Living God*

Sanctuary Choir

D. Iverson

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyle Caudle

Leader: Revealing Light, show our sightless feet clear paths of right and mercy.

All: Spirit of God, breathe on our hearts, make us your new creation.

Leader: Cleansing Fire, sear away our hesitancy about proclaiming your love.

All: Spirit of God, breathe on our hearts, make us your new creation.

Leader: Rushing Wind, whip away our wraps of violence and shame.

All: Spirit of God, breathe on our hearts, make us your new creation.

Leader: Peaceful Dove, wing us into the reign of God on earth,
granting us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

All: Spirit of God, breathe on our hearts, make us your new creation.

*HYMN 285: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

PSALM LESSON: Psalm 1

Joe Bircher

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy McClure

Leader: Friends, God is gracious beyond measure
and wants nothing less than abundant life for us.
Let us confess those times we have chosen poorly.

**All: Guiding God,
how we desire to follow the paths of your choosing.
Yet we often find ourselves accepting poor advice,
respecting the counsel of those far from you,
and ignoring your life-giving law.
Forgive us, God of life and prosperity.
Your promise is that we will be as trees planted by streams of water–
the sign and symbol of the abundant life you desire for us.
You have set before us choices: life and death, blessings and curses.
Teach us to choose well.
How could we desire anything less? Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy McClure

Leader: Beloved, your sins are forgiven.
Therefore be at peace to follow the good road,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

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.)

ANTHEM: *Alleluia*

E. Harris

Sanctuary Choir

Come adoring and confessing, Alleluia. Come to God, receive His
blessing, Alleluia. God of Gods and King of Kings, Alleluia. Maker of all
wondrous things, Alleluia. Sing we praises unto you, Alleluia. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mary Kaylor

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 76: *If You Will Only Let God Guide You

NEUMARK

SERMON SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Emily Hull McGee

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “*Practicing Our Faith: Saying Yes and Saying No*”

Emily Hull McGee

HYMN OF RESPONSE 71: *Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

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**

Rayce Lamb

The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship in 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Kyle Caudle

***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: *Sortie*

T. Dubois

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes and Crucifer:

Nora Arredondo, Eva Robertson, Kyla Caudle

Deacon of the Week:

Rayce Lamb and Joe Bircher

Greeters:

Nancy Nathan and Minerva Fox

Safety Team:

Beth Sabbagh, Terry Lefler, Dean Culler, Caleb Sabbagh

Streaming and Sound Team:

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Call to Worship is written by Lani Wright, Cottage Grove, Oregon, and used by permission of PracticingOurFaith.org, ©2026.

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.



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

FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Practicing Our Faith

Dorothy Bass calls Christian practices “shared patterns of activity in and through which life together takes shape over time in response to and in the light of God as known in Jesus Christ. Woven together, they form a way of life.” Using her book *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* as a guide, our worship this fall will center on twelve core Christian practices that have anchored the faith over centuries: honoring the body, hospitality, household economics, saying yes and saying no, keeping sabbath, testimony, discernment, shaping communities, forgiveness, healing, dying well, and singing our faith, alongside scriptural stories and wisdom for living them out. Further resources throughout the fall will enhance our exploration. In a full and fractured cultural landscape, may this season of sharing Christian practices ground us for the living of our days!

September 20

Practicing Our Faith: Keeping Sabbath

Mark 2:23-3:6

September 27

Practicing Our Faith: Testimony

Acts 4:1-21

October 4

Practicing Our Faith: Hospitality

Luke 14:7-21

Communion Sunday

September 15-16 | Adult Sabbath Retreat

The Adult Ministry Team invites you to an overnight sabbath retreat of rest and renewal at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, NC. The retreat will begin at noon on Tuesday, September 15, and conclude after lunch on Wednesday, September 16. Cost is \$75/person and includes lodging and meals. Both solo and couple rooms are available. Space is limited to 10 rooms. To RSVP or for more information, please contact kyle@firstonfifth.org.

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!

September 15 | Devotional Classics Resume

The Tuesday Morning Devotional Classics group will begin a study of *The Listening Life* by Adam McHugh on September 15. This book calls us to a focused life, cultivating attentiveness in a world of distraction. The group meets in the Commons on Tuesday mornings from 7:30-8:30 am and is led by David Williamson. All are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact Pastor David.

September 16 | SPIRE Ringer Rehearsals Resume

SPIRE Ringers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30 pm in the music suite on the 3rd floor. Whether you are a returning player or new ringer, we welcome 3rd graders and up to join us!! Handbell ensembles rely on careful planning and consistent attendance, so please email Jake if you plan to ring with us this season so he can assign bells accordingly. Our church loves the SPIRE Ringers, and Jake is excited for this new fall semester of music-making!

September 20 | Bread for the World Event

The Missions Committee invites youth and adults to a letter-writing event for Bread for the World from 12:30-2 pm on Sunday, September 20. This event will teach you how to advocate for addressing hunger and will feature a presentation by Jason Blanton from Bread for the World. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP or for more information, please email Pastor Kyle at kyle@firstonfifth.org.

September 21 | YA Mission Project for Pivot Ministry

Young Adults will gather in the Commons at 6:30 pm for a mission project benefiting our mission partner, Pivot Ministry. Together, we'll learn more about what Pivot does and write letters to graduates of their program. Feel free to bring your dinner and join us to help Pivot Ministry!

September 27 | Mochas with Mac - Doughnut Style!

Mochas with Mac is back! Kids in 2nd-5th grade are invited to a gathering with Pastor Amy Mac at Krispy Kreme (259 S. Stratford Rd.) on Sunday, September 27, from 3-4 pm. There is no cost to families. RSVP in your newsletter so we can best prepare!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, September 13

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*)

MONDAY, September 14

5:30 pm Longest Table Task Force (*Conference*)
6:00 pm Leadership Council (*Commons*)

TUESDAY, September 15

Adult Ministry Sabbath Retreat
7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)
5:00 pm Finance Committee (*Conference*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 16

Adult Ministry Sabbath Retreat
11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)
5:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
5:30 pm SPIRE Ringers Rehearsal (*Music Suite*)
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, September 17

10:00 am Downtown Walking Group (*offsite*)

FRIDAY, September 18

SATURDAY, September 19

SUNDAY, September 20

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 Bread for the World Event (*Kelly*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

Olivia Blake
Ministry & Communications Assistant
olivia@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1000

Rev. Kyle Caudle
Associate Pastor
Youth, Missions, Adults
kyle@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1005

Paige Hatcher
Childcare Specialist
paige@firstonfifth.org

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

Christina Johnson
Childcare Specialist
christina@firstonfifth.org

Ryan Jones
Media Contractor
ryanjones@dogoodbrands.biz

Rev. Mary Kaylor
Associate Pastor
Newcomers, Young Adults, Community Engagement
mary@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1006

Gary Knight
Transitional Facilities Manager
facilities@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1102

Rev. Dr. 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
Associate Pastor
Worship, Arts, Administration
david@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1003



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

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