



“At the most profound level, Christians talk about faith because it is a truly human act to want to tell the truth... Christians believe that we cannot tell the truth, not the whole truth, without talking about God, and if we cannot tell the whole truth, we cannot be fully alive as human beings.”

+ Thomas Long, *Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian*

“Words are the fires we carry to each other, but the embers do not originate with us. They were handed to us by messengers from generations past, and now we pass them on to others.”

+ Jonathan Merritt, *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*

“God could have made us stone creatures, tree creatures, sea creatures, winged creatures, but God made us speech creatures instead. Human beings made in God’s own likeness, which is to say, capable of joining God in the work of creation by speaking things into being ourselves.”

+ Barbara Brown Taylor

Testimony, Jan Richardson

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 27, 2026 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *O Gott Du Frommer Gott*, op. 95

Jacob Hill, Organ

S. Karg-Elert

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CHORAL INTROIT: *Doxology*

Sanctuary Choir

TALLIS CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Scott Hudgins

Leader: Let us declare the greatness of our God.

All: Let us give witness to God’s awesome works in the world.

Leader: Let us sing the glory of God’s name.

All: Let us testify to the Lord’s faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips;

All: and our mouths shall declare your praise.

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.

ANTHEM: *Come Find His Rest*

E. Dewar/arr. D. Forrest

Sanctuary Choir
Sally Mir, Soloist

Come, weary one, leave thy labors; come, lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend.
His arms are opened wide; O soul, be satisfied. Come find his rest. Take his yoke
upon thee, for he is gentle and lowly in heart. So learn from Christ the Lord, thy
Portion and Reward. Come find his rest. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come
unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad. Take his yoke upon thee, for he is gentle and lowly in
heart. So learn from Christ the Lord, thy Portion and Reward. Come find his rest.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Jesus said, "Come to me,
all you who are weary, and I will give you rest."
Let us confess our sins to the Lord
that we may be forgiven and find his promised rest.

**All: Forgive us, merciful God, for our actions do not match our words.
We talk about love, but we avoid the lonely.
We talk about mercy, but we neglect the poor.
We talk about humility, but we fail to serve each other.
Forgive us for the misalignment of our words and our deeds.
May our very lives give bold witness to your bold love.
May we preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: 1 John 3:18-24

Mary Foskett

Leader: Friends, let your hearts be at rest,
for 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 these words of peace with those around you.)

TESTIMONY: "Why Church Matters"

Megan and William Strollo

*HYMN 581: *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 4:1-21

Emily Hull McGee

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "*Practicing Our Faith: Testimony*"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 619: Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

ASSURANCE

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

Rick Matthews

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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Amy McClure

*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.

SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes and Crucifer:</u>	James Cook, Eva Robertson, Lilyana Salisbury
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Rick Matthews and Mary Foscett
<u>Greeters:</u>	Carolyn Matthews and Rick Matthews
<u>Safety Team:</u>	Charlie Patrick, Dana Patrick, Karen Brown
<u>Streaming and Sound Team:</u>	Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Jeff Burchette, Judy Eustice, Julie Hall, Amber Myers, Meredith Parker

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

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, 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!

October 4

Practicing Our Faith: Hospitality

Luke 14:7-21

Communion Sunday

October 11

Practicing Our Faith: Singing Our Lives

David Williamson, proclaimer

October 18

Practicing Our Faith: Healing

John 5:1-9

September 27 | Youth Serving at the Dwelling

First on Fifth Youth and Adults are worshiping at the Dwelling today, September 27, and will be serving meals to 250 hungry folks downtown.

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!

October 1 | OA Lunch & Learn with World Relief

Join us for a lunch and learn in Kelly Auditorium as we welcome the good folks from World Relief, one of our very own mission partners here at First on Fifth. To help us best prepare for the lunch that day, please RSVP in your newsletter. A suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated, but not required. We hope you can join us!

New Church Cookbook - Buy Yours Today!

Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and months of hard work, our new church cookbook is ready for you to enjoy! Delicious recipes range from Cheerwine Punch to Ambrosia Salad to Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya to Grandma's Fudge. Copies are \$20 each, and we anticipate they'll be ready for pickup in the church office by the end of October. To reserve your copy, click the link in your newsletter! Payment is due upon pickup.

October 2-4 | CBFNC Youth Fall Beach Retreat

We invite everyone at First on Fifth and beyond to begin praying for our 14 youth, along with their 4 chaperones, as they return to Fort Caswell for a weekend full of worship, Bible study, dance party, and lots of beach time.

October 4 | Joining Sunday

Taking the step to join a church can feel intimidating. We want to help make it a little less so with a "Joining Sunday." At the conclusion of worship on October 4, we invite our visiting friends who are at this place in their journey to take the step toward membership together. For more information, please contact Mary Kaylor at mary@firstonfifth.org.

October 4 | Longest Table

It's almost time for The Longest Table! Together with fellow downtown churches, we'll gather on 5th Street for an evening of food and fellowship. You can now sign up to be a part of this special gathering through the link in your newsletter. Also, keep inviting your friends and neighbors to fill our tables!

October 10 | YA Fellowship at Top Golf

Bring your best swing and join us at Top Golf in Greensboro on Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 am. We've reserved bays for play, and spots are limited, so RSVP in your newsletter to claim your spot!

November 22 | Building Dedication & Celebration

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our Building Dedication and Celebration has been moved to November 22. More details to come in the coming weeks.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, September 27

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study: Adults, Youth, & Children (*in person*)
- 10:15 am Youth to Serve at the Dwelling (*offsite*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 12:15 pm Fellowship Ministry Team (*Conference*)
- 3:00 pm Mochas with Mac (*offsite*)

MONDAY, September 28

TUESDAY, September 29

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 30

- 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, October 1

- 10:00 am Downtown Walking Group (*offsite*)
- 11:30 am OA Lunch & Learn (*Kelly*)

FRIDAY, October 2

- CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat
- 7:00 pm Board Game Affinity Group (*Baraca*)

SATURDAY, October 3

- CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat

SUNDAY, October 4

- CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat
- 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*)
- 5:00 pm The Longest Table (*outside*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.