



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Rev. Evan Guse, Senior Pastor
Tyler Griffin, Associate Pastor

From the Pastor's Pen

It's hard to believe we're turning the page into August. Summer always seems to move quickly, but that speed can be a holy reminder: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Time is a gift and we are wise when we live each day with intention, gratitude, and faith.

We've continued to walk through our "Added" sermon series from 2 Peter 1:5–9, and I hope it's invited you to consider what it means to keep growing in your faith. Peter writes that we are to "make every effort to add to our faith," and it's in that process that we become more mature and fruitful in our life with Christ. This journey of transformation is never about perfection, but about attentiveness to the Spirit's work in us.

Summer has offered plenty of opportunities for continued growth as a church family. I've been grateful for our time at Sips & Scripture on Thursday mornings at Lucabe, where meaningful conversations over coffee have helped anchor our weeks as we've explored 1 Peter. It's been good to share great conversation with so many of you! We've also enjoyed the first round of Sunday Suppers where life has been shared around multiple dining room tables across Columbus. These rhythms of community are important expressions of our life together in Christ.

One of the great joys of my summer has been seeing more children up front and in our pews on Sunday mornings. I sense there's a renewed energy among us sparked by the youngest in our congregation, and I'm so thankful for how God is adding to the life and joy of our church through them. We also had six children attend Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp this summer, where they learned more about Jesus and experienced the love of God in real, tangible ways. Please continue to pray for these young hearts!

Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). There is something powerful in the way children approach faith, with wonder, openness, and simplicity. May we learn from their example. In a world that often teaches us to hold back or protect ourselves, the faith of a child reminds us to draw near to God without pretense. May it be so for each of us.

Thank you for being a community that values every generation. Thank you for your love for God, each other, and the world around us. I'm grateful to walk this journey with you and look forward to the month ahead.

Pastor Evan



FBC News

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of July! This month has been a full one, and my heart is thankful for the many opportunities God has given us to grow together and see His hand at work.

One of the highlights for me has been our "Sips and Scripture" gatherings at Lucabe. Our conversations were rich with great questions, deep discussions, and laughter. Thank you to everyone who came, brought a friend, and dove into God's Word together over coffee. It's a beautiful reminder that discipleship does not only happen inside church walls but also around coffee tables where we share life and faith with one another.

Another incredible blessing has been serving as the summer-long camp pastor at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve in this role. This summer, we have seen at least 10 decisions (that we know of) made for Christ! Praise the Lord! There is nothing quite like witnessing young people step forward in faith, surrendering their lives to Jesus, and beginning their journey as His disciples.

Camp ministry is powerful in the lives of children and youth. According to studies on camp ministry effectiveness:

- 80% of adult believers made their decision to follow Christ before the age of 18.

- Half of all who accept Christ do so before age 12.

The focused, distraction-free environment of camp allows students to hear God's voice and respond in faith. Campers often develop spiritual disciplines (daily Bible reading, prayer, devotions) and healthy Christian friendships that encourage them long after camp ends. In a world full of noise, screens, and pressures, camp offers a sacred space for kids to slow down and experience God's creation while hearing the truth of the Gospel. Seeds planted during these days often bear fruit for a lifetime. Thank you, church family, for supporting this vital ministry. Your prayers, giving, and encouragement make it possible for our children and youth to encounter Jesus in life-changing ways.

"When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'" -Mark 10:14-15 (NLT)

Jesus teaches us something precious about faith: it is not complicated or reserved for the "qualified." It is open, trusting, and humble, like the faith of a child. Children do not approach Jesus with a list of credentials; they come with hearts ready to receive, to believe, and to follow. As we reflect on the fruit of this summer, may we remember that God calls us, too, to come to Him with childlike faith. To trust Him with our questions, our fears and our doubts. To believe He is good, even when life is hard. To receive His love without trying to earn it. This is what we see in the lives of campers each week: young hearts hearing the Gospel, believing Jesus is who He says He is, and stepping forward to follow Him. It is a reminder to us all that the Kingdom of God is near, and we are invited to come, just as we are, to Jesus.

Thank you for being a church that loves and invests in the next generation. Let's continue to pray for the seeds planted this summer, trusting God to bring growth, and let's seek to cultivate childlike faith in our own hearts as we walk together in Christ.

It is a true joy to serve alongside you in ministry. I am looking forward to what God has in store for us!

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Tyler

Around The Church ...

Sunday Suppers

*Sign up in the Gathering Place
for Sunday Suppers.*

Final Date is August 24th.



Church World Service Offering in September

Instead of collecting the individual kits (hygiene kits, period packs, and school kits) for Church World Service throughout the year, we will designate September for a special offering. We will send the donations directly to them so that they can purchase whatever kits are needed. This will also save on expensive shipping. Thank you in advance for giving!

Richards Open House Hospitality Tables

Once again our church family will be providing cookies and lemonade for the Richards Elementary School's open house on *Monday, August 4th from 5:30-6:30 pm.* To make this a success this takes a lot of people and lots and lots of cookies.

There are many opportunities to help out.

- If you are baking cookies please bring them to the church by 10 am on Monday.
- We will need volunteers at 10 am to package them in small paper snack bags.
- At 4:30 pm, we will need helpers to get our tents, tables, and trash cans taken over to the school and set up.
- We will need some help getting the lemonade made and transported.
- We will need people to help fill cups of lemonade and hand out cookies from 5:30-6:30 pm.
- We will need help with clean up afterwards.

If you have a FBC Logo shirt wear it and let folks know who we are and that we care about our community. Bring a lawn chair to sit when you can, and a smile. Sign up at the Gathering Place!

Tech Team Volunteers Needed!

Please contact Jessica or Kenny King.

Around The Church ...

SACRED MUSIC IS MADE TO BLESS NOT IMPRESS

Once again the choir of First Baptist looks forward to a season of being a blessing through Sacred Music. This blessing is offered to those who make the music as well as those who listen. If you are interested in being a part of this blessing, join the choir family to make it happen. We don't ask for trained musicians, but for those who love to sing and share their musical gift as an offering to God.

We begin the season with a "Sing-A-Long", an opportunity to read through some of the anthems to be used this Fall.

Join us for a trial run....

Wednesday August 20

7-8PM in the choir loft

We begin at 7:00 and end as close to 8:00 as possible.

Join us to Bless, not impress.

Lois Griffith, Interim Choir Director



Begin collecting now for your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Items not allowed are : SOAP; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. *Boxes are available in the Gathering Place.*

60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

For Jon & Jan Carlstrom on

Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 2-4 PM in Fellowship Hall

RSVP to the Carlstroms (text: 812-344-8070 or email joncalstrom@gmail.com) or sign up at the Gathering Place.

No gifts please, just the gift of your presence.



Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

Aug. 3rd: Paula Pickup & Linda Mayfield
Aug. 10th: Bob & Jean Langdon
Aug. 17th: Heidi Jones & Charlotte Oestreicher
Aug. 24th: Ron & Peggy Lane
Aug. 31st: Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed

Emergency Responder Schedule

Aug. 3rd: Mike Compton
Aug. 10th: Jean Williams
Aug. 17th: Cole Bennett
Aug. 24th: Lindsay McIntosh
Aug. 31st: Judy Rhude

Bible Study to Begin in September

Starting Thursday September 4th at 9 am, both the Men of Faith and the Ladies LIGHT group will begin a 6 week study, "6 Parable of Jesus" by Bill Griffin. The sessions include:

- Sept. 4th: The Unjust Judge and the Persistent Widow
 - Luke 18:1-8
- Sept. 11th: The Pharisee and the Publican
 - Luke 18:9-14
- Sept. 18th: A matter of Faith: More or Less?
 - Luke 17:3-10
- Sept. 25th: The Talents
 - Matthew 25:14-30
- Oct. 2nd: The Growing Seed
 - Mark 4:26-32
- Oct. 9th: The Good Samaritan
 - Luke 10:25-37

All are welcome to join in. Hope to see you there!

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls will be available at the Gathering Place the 2nd Sunday of each month for any who would like to pick one up as an encouragement to someone. See Judy Alexander for any questions.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your loving concern, prayers, food and encouragement as I underwent the surgery and recovery to repair the tear in a hip muscle. I've truly felt the love.

In Christ, Deb Steele



Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, August 3rd. For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

Around The Church

August Birthdays

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. ~ Ron Lane | 21. ~ Barbara Campbell |
| 3. ~ Anna DeHaven, Soozi Ford, Kerry Richmond | 23. ~ Jim Bokleman |
| 5. ~ Lori Cash | 24. ~ Danny Burton |
| 10 ~ Debra Steele | 25. ~ Juanita Atkins |
| 14. ~ Paige Babb | 26. ~ Lyman Snyder |
| 16. ~ Forest Daugherty, Anna Emmert | 28. ~ Daryl McMath |
| 18 ~ Ina Mae Aulby | 29. ~ Jennifer Kelley |
| 19. ~ Nancy Wagner | 31. ~ Dot McMath |

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Janet Bailey, Dorothy Abney, Kim Shane, Susan Carter, Tim Pickup, Priscilla & Roger Day, Bobbie & John Walker, Cathy Stiles, Frank Eldridge, Daryl & Dot McMath, Joyce Sutton, Jenny Wilkerson, John & Liz Lipson, Jon Carlstrom, Marge Betz, Anita Burton, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Claude Wright, Jr. "Bub", Anita Yancey, Allen Rea, Larry Alexander, and Roger & Ben Glick and all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

Looking Ahead to August

- 3- Communion (9:30 am)
- 4- Richards' Open House (5:30-6:30 pm)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 16- Carlstrom Anniversary Celebration (2-4 pm)
- 19- Church Council (5:30 pm)
- 31- Coffee Fellowship I-Q (10:45 am)

Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Weds. at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
(in-person worship & Live Stream)

2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org

