

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My heart breaks as I hear of the suffering taking place in people's lives. I know suffering is a part of life. One of the major world religions says simply, "life is suffering." An aged author from years ago wrote, "life is difficult." It was one of four major realities people must learn if they were to be whole. Life is difficult. If you live long enough you will suffer. As I often say, "Life will work you down to a nub."

At the same time life is full of beauty. Joy rises every day as surely as the sun rises every day. People celebrate births, success and love every day.

The balance between suffering and joy seems to be the place of life. Remaining hopeful depends upon the balance between the two. Peace is only found in betwixt the two. One of the more vivid descriptions of this journey is found in the book of Ecclesiastes. Koheleth, as he is sometimes called, wrote about the ambiguity, the vanity of so many experiences as well as the joy of simple pleasures found in joyfully eating, drinking and making merry in the gifted moments.

I find myself praying for the balance to embrace the suffering with empathy while remaining hopeful and peaceful.

And in the midst of the two I think of God's heart. How a God who loves so deeply carries the suffering and the joy in such a way as to remain God! So I find myself praying for God. Maybe that sounds strange, but it's more a wonder for me than anything else – that God remains God in the midst of human suffering and joy. And the Biblical stories tell us God has been doing this from the beginning of time – being an ever patient, forgiving and present God throughout the myriad engagements with humanity! Indeed, blessed be the Lord. And what wonder with which to gather for worship!

Join us this Sunday to worship with song, prayers, scripture and presence. May God be strengthened as we do so!

**See you Sunday,
Craig**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE



Join us this summer for
**Vacation Bible School
at Rocky Railway.**

VBS will start Wednesday June 16th
and end Sunday June 20th.
The schedule is below
for specific times and rotations.

Please register at
www.firstbaptistatonton.org/vbs-sign-up
or call the church office.

If you have any questions please call the
church office at 706 485-3331.

Registration forms are due by June 11th.



VBS Schedule June 16 – June 20



Time	Crew 1 (Grade 3-5)	Crew 2 (Grade 1-2)	Crew 3 3 – 5 Year old's
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6:00 – 6:20 pm* Saturday 10:00 – 10:20am	Sing and Play Express		
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6:25 – 6:40 pm* Saturday 10:25 – 10:40am	Bible Adventure	Imagination Station	LocoMotion Games
6:45 – 7:00 pm* Saturday 10:45 – 11:00am	Chew Chew Snacks	LocoMotion Games	Bible Adventure
7:05 – 7:20 pm* Saturday 11:05 – 11:20am	Imagination Station	Bible Adventure	Chew Chew Snacks
7:25 – 7:40 pm* Saturday 11:25 – 11:40	LocoMotion Games	Chew Chew Snacks	Imagination Station

7:45 – 8:00 pm* Saturday 11:45 – Noon**	Rocky Wrap Up		
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* The schedule reflects 5 Minute's in between each rotation to get to the next station

**Family Picnic and water slide afterwards on Saturday starting at Noon.

Sunday June 20th please have your children at the church by 9:45 AM
to rehearse songs for service at 10:50 AM



Our Journey Inc.

MISSION PROJECT FOR VBS 2021

Vision

Our Journey, Inc. is a non-profit organization working to address the desperate situation of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya.

Our vision is to improve the community health and well-being through community driven, self reliant programs. We aim to empower rural women who are the caregivers for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. We do this by building their capacities economically and socially as we seek to promote their livelihood strategies.

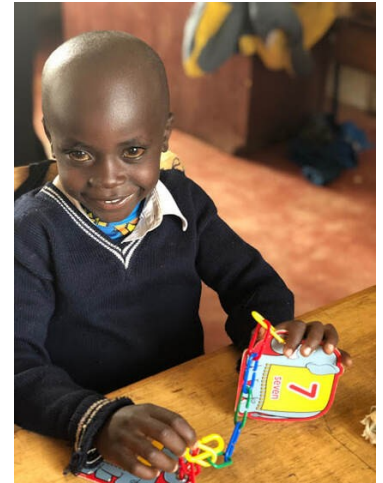
Junior Academy

The Our Journey Sunshine Junior Academy educates and feeds (twice daily) deeply impoverished children in Njoro, Kenya. Even on the weekends, children come to eat and play at our school. Our enrollment is typically between 80-100 students. We strive daily to be a resource for these children, their families, and the local community by offering routine special meals small business opportunities for women. Our goal is to be a hand up, not a hand out.

Our school is a Pre-K and Kindergarten, providing a foundation for education for years to come. Each year, we graduate 25-30 students.

Sewing Classes

In the year of COVID , through the generous donations of a church women's group and yard sale, OJ started a weekly sewing school for 4 local women in the community around our school. One sewing/embroidery machine as well as 3 Singer food pedaled machines were purchased to help them feed their families. We will be looking for our next class of sewing students in the fall of 2022 and will need support to fund these classes with supplies and teacher salary. This new sewing class is just one way OJ is helping to empower women in Kenya.



Other Journey Projects

Other OJ projects include our village blanket and show ministry as well as our sewing school for women.

**This year during Vacation Bible School,
our Mission Project will be Our Journey Inc.**

**Please consider praying
and or donating to this ministry**

For more information, visit their website at www.ojsunshineschool.weebly.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Christmas on the Avenue” Organizational Meeting

Sunday, May 23 at 3:00 in our Choir Room,
we will organize how we will continue our unique
community-wide Christmas program, despite
the loss of its spark plug, Boyd Dennard.

We're looking for help in every area of this project,
from publicity to stage crew and more.
We welcome you to come join us.

Summer Choir begins June 3, and continues
through August. Anyone of any age can sing with us,
guests included. Just meet in the choir loft at
10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.
You'll know the songs.

No Wednesday rehearsals, no robes or special outfits.
We'll sit in the congregation after we sing.
Come sing with us this Summer!

KAREN PECK  NEW RIVER



June 27 at 3pm
The Plaza Arts Center
305 N Madison Ave
Eatonton, GA 31024
\$20.00 tickets
706-923-1655

Concert in memory of
Rev. Boyd Dennard

STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER

STEPPING STONES LEARNING CENTER
PRESENTS...
CAMP WILDERNESS
GETTING S'MORE OUT OF JESUS

HELP NEEDED FOR SUMMER CAMP

Stepping Stones is looking for a high energy, creative
soul who is excited about teaching school age children
about God to help work in our Summer Camp program.

Ideal candidate would be a college student
looking for a fun summer job.
Please contact our office, or pass
on the word if you know an individual
who might be interested.

Summer Camp starts June 14th, but hours for work
are available now for applicants.

Please contact Denise or Brenda at 706-485-0690
for more information.

SSLC FAMILY IN NEED

Our young mom in need of a heart
transplant, Brittany Walker, lost her
earthly battle last week and is now pain
free and with our heavenly Father.
Our heart breaks for her family, and her
two beautiful children she left behind.
We are currently collecting clothing,
monetary donations, and tuition
assistance for both of her young children
at Stepping Stones Learning Center.

Please keep the family, and precious
children in your prayers to help them
find comfort and guidance through
this difficult time.

Clothing sizes

12 month clothing, size 4 diapers,
size 4-5 shoes

3T-4T clothing, size 4T pull ups,
size 7-8 shoes



MAPPIN FUND



Requests are being accepted for the Mappin Fund Scholarship.

Please contact the church office for details.
Application Deadline is Thursday, June 10.



COVID-19

We assume you are following the ongoing story of the spread of the COVID-19. We are doing everything we can to provide a safe, healthy environment here at our church.

We want you to know we are taking the following proactive steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We will appreciate your help in doing your part.

If you have been exposed to Covid-19 or have symptoms, a fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath, we respectfully ask you stay home.

BIRTHDAYS

5-21 Patrice Underkofler
5-25 James Ryan
5-26 Dot Eaton
5-26 Tristan Lower
5-26 Linda Reagin
5-27 Tara Rocker
5-28 Edge Farley
5-29 David Dixon
5-30 James Cheney
5-31 Joni Dixon
5-31 Thomas Ralston
6-01 Lily Kate McElhenney
6-02 Blake McDaniel
6-03 Allie Scott
6-03 Jim Thomas



ANNIVERSARIES

5-23 Ronald and Gail Harley
5-24 John and Michelle Hood
5-25 Ennis and Caroline Lankford
5-31 Grady and Martha Strube
6-02 Mark and Joann Smith

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weeks of May 9 and May 16, 2021

<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>20,144.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>25,518.00</u>
<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>201,440.00</u>
<u>Budget Receipts YTD</u>	<u>197,632.06</u>

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, May 09	102
Sunday, May 16	129

First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3400
Eatonton, GA 31024
Return Service Requested

ANNOUNCEMENTS

J.U.L.I.E.T.
Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together

Ladies, Join Us For Lunch
Tuesday, May 25
Town 220 in Madison

The bus will leave the church at 11:00 a.m.


Ladies
Summer Bible
Study

Six Week study
on Tuesday's starting June 8th to
July 13th

6:00pm

Contact Lauren Brown at
706 816-1342

The Summer Bible Study will kick off Tuesday, June 8th
at the home of Lauren Brown, 606 Oconee Springs Road in Eatonton.



JOIN US FOR A
FISH FRY

Wednesday, May 26
6:00 P.M.

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE



please join us for a

Baby Shower &
Covered Dish Luncheon
for
Sarah and Jacob Roberts

A Foxy Little Lady
is On Her way!



Sunday, June 6 at 12:00 Noon
First Baptist Fellowship Hall
Registered at BabyList.com

Please bring casseroles, vegetables, salads and desserts.
The church will provide meat, tea, and bread.