



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

September 2025

First Baptist Family,

Fall promises to be a busy season in the life of the church, and that is especially true for the month of September. So, I hope you're looking forward to this month because we've got a lot of good things planned, good things that you'll want to be here for, good things for which you'll want to invite others to join you. Consequently, there are a few dates that I want to bring to your attention.

The first is Wednesday, September 3. That Wednesday we'll be having a cook-out for supper – hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and brownies and ice cream for dessert. While we typically have a back-to-school cook-out on our first Wednesday night back, we chose to push it back for a few weeks for some logistical reasons. Regardless, I hope that you'll join us, even if you normally don't come on Wednesday nights (which you should because you're missing out). **That Wednesday I'll also be starting a new study on N.T. Wright's "Surprised by Hope". This will be a video study, which is something we haven't done before, but I think it will be a big hit with those who come. So, I hope that you'll join us.**

Sunday, September 7 also promises to be a very busy day in the life of the church. We will have family breakfast that morning, so come enjoy some of Chef Harold's cooking, stay for Sunday School, and then join us for worship. In worship, we will be taking communion together. Then, after worship, we will have a special, called business meeting. In this business meeting, the church will be introduced to and vote on Andrea Cottrill, the candidate chosen by the search committee for our vacant Director of Music Ministries position. You will notice that the title is Director of Music Ministries rather than Minister of Music. That is simply because Andrea is not ordained, and the title of minister is reserved for those who are. Neither the job responsibilities nor the pay for this position will change because of the new title. And provided everything goes smoothly with the vote, Andrea has been informed that if she feels called to be ordained once she gets settled, we can discuss what that might look like and change her job title accordingly.

On Sunday, September 7 you are going to have the opportunity to get to know Andrea, and we will have a bulletin insert with her picture and a brief bio. Please make every effort to be here that Sunday.

We're also going to have some special services on Sunday, September 21 and Sunday, September 28. September 21 is for Rhythm & Roots weekend. As most of you will remember, we have had a special concert that Sunday during the last several years. **This year, however, we are doing something different. Instead of having a special concert, we're going to have an abbreviated and more informal worship service on the front steps of the church.** The goal of the concert was to bring new people into the church who were going to Rhythm & Roots. To be honest, though, that simply hasn't worked. **Rather than continuing to do something that isn't working, we're going to try to go out to meet the people where they are instead. So, you are encouraged to dress a little more casually and bring a lawn chair with you as we worship from the sanctuary steps on Sunday, September 21.**

Then, on Sunday, September 28, we're going to worship outside again. September 28 is the date for our church picnic. So, we will have Sunday School like normal and then worship outside on the church lawn. Then, we'll have our picnic luncheon immediately following worship. As in years past, the church will provide BBQ and drinks, and church members are invited to bring sides and desserts. You're encouraged to dress more casually (it is a picnic after all) and bring a folding chair this Sunday as well. If there is inclement weather on either Sunday, we will move everything inside.

As you can see, there are a lot of exciting things happening this month, so I want to encourage you to be here for as many of them as you can. I want to encourage you to bring someone new with you, too. Both you and they will be glad that you did. As always, it is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Kris

BREAKFAST!!

Sunday, September 07, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Rosser Hall

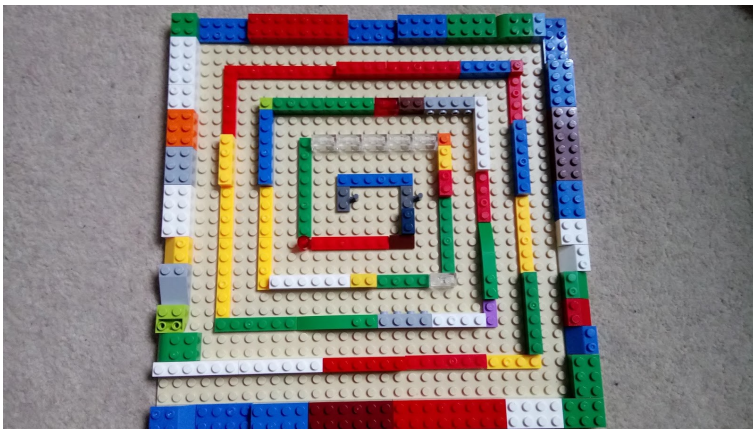
There will be a full or partial breakfast available at no charge.
Fellowship before heading off to Sunday School.

The Ministry Team will be starting the process of filling positions on our teams and boards for the 2026 -2028 term. If you are one that rotates off your team this year, we appreciate your service and hope you will want to fill a slot on another team or board. If you are rolling off and would like to remain on said team for another three year term, that is possible one time. If you are ending a two-term obligation, you must roll off. If you are a team chair, the Ministry Team must know if any of these members would like to stay on another term by October 1. If we are not contacted, we will assume we need to fill the vacancy. When you are contacted, we trust you will prayerfully consider and accept the opportunity to serve FBC in this capacity. If there is a team or board you are particularly interested in serving on, please contact any member of the Ministry Team, and we will make that happen. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Ministry Team Members: Nell Campbell, Diane Cloyd, Dena Cunningham, Anna Bee DeHart, David Hicks, Linda Pruner, Jennifer Rouse, and Chris Tipton.

Lego Labyrinth Prayer Practices

September 24, 2025



SEE EMMA FOR MORE INFORMATION.



September 28, 2025

*What to bring: Your favorite side dish or dessert. Chairs

*What the Church is providing: BBQ

*Dress like you would for a picnic.

*If it rains, we will hold it in Rosser Hall.



SEPT. 19-21, 2025 • BRISTOL, TN & VA

Volunteers Needed!

Rhythm and Roots is coming!
You can help us park cars to raise money for the youth fund.

We need help on:
Friday afternoon from 2-9 p.m.,
Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.,
Sunday afternoon 12 noon - 4 p.m.

Please let Ben know if you can help.
Also, if you want a parking space, see Ben.



Church Kitchen:

If you have borrowed from the church kitchen, please return as soon as possible.
No questions asked. Thank you.

Back to School!



First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Ben Ondrak.....Associate Pastor
 Mrs. Jackie Burnette.....Pianist
 Mrs. Andrea PenningtonOrganist

Ms. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse
 Mrs. Emma Vance.....Ministry Asst. for Children
 Ms. Terri Thomas Church Administrator
 and Financial Secretary
 Ms. Niki Judy..... Administrative Assistant



Contact Information:
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Hours: info@fbcbristol.org
Website: www.fbcbristol.org
 You can also find us on
 Facebook.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street
 Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for September

September 07	Leigh Gleib
September 14	Harry Scanlan
September 21	Terri Cook
September 28	Roberta Yowell

September FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

September 06 & 07	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
September 13 & 14	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
September 20 & 21	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
September 27 & 28	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795