



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

June 2024

First Baptist Family,

Summer is finally here! Students have finished the school year. People are planning or going on vacation, and we're all experiencing a little bit of a break in order to rest and recharge our batteries. Still, summer promises to be a busy time in the life of the church and much of what we have planned will take place in the month of June. Consequently, I want to let you know more about all of it.

First, on Sunday, June 2, we'll have our monthly family breakfast at 9 AM in Rosser Hall. Then, in worship that day, we're going to be commissioning the youth and adults who will be going on mission trips.

This promises to be a special service, so I encourage you to join us that Sunday. **Then, on Wednesday, June 5, we'll have our last Wednesday Night service before our summer break. The aforementioned mission groups will be leaving and going to Charleston, SC on Friday, June 7 and will return on Friday, June 14.** Leigh has already shared with us ways we can participate even if we can't all physically go ourselves, so I want to encourage you to find one of those ways to participate. And even more importantly, I want you to join me in praying for both the adults and the students on these respective trips.

After a weeklong reprieve, things will crank back up on Sunday, June 23 through Wednesday, June 26. That's when we'll be having Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year will be Nazareth and VBS will be from 5:30-8:00 PM. This VBS is open to the community, so if you know of any children who might be interested, please let their parents know about this. Dinner will be provided for the whole family at 5:30 PM, and we have online registration. While we want to have as many children participate as possible, that means we also need adult volunteers. If you can help, I would strongly encourage you to do so. I've never known anyone who volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School and regretted it. And I don't think you will be the first. It's always a joyous time, and you will be missing out on the fun if you aren't there! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact either Emma or Ben. Please also be in prayer for Emma, the volunteers, and the children who will attend Vacation Bible School.

After Vacation Bible School is over, we're going to host the youth group from the First Baptist Church of Orangeburg, South Carolina for a couple of days and they are going to join our youth in doing some local missions projects. The group from Orangeburg will be with us on Thursday, June 27 and Friday, June 28. Then, finally, on Sunday, June 30, we're going to celebrate Baptist Women's Heritage Sunday, and this promises to be a momentous occasion. First Baptist Bristol hired JoAnn Fezell to serve as our Minister of Music 70 years ago, in 1954, and we as a church have honored the ministerial giftedness of women ever since! And that is worth celebrating, not just JoAnn, but all the women in this church whom God has called and whom we have affirmed. **Consequently, we're going to have a guest preacher that day. Rev. Leslie Park will be joining us. Rev. Park is the Pastor of Warsaw Baptist Church in Warsaw, Virginia, and she also serves as the Director of Baptist Women in Ministry for the state of Virginia. During worship, we will also recognize all the women from this church who have served as deacons and as missionaries. While we have put together a list, we don't want anyone to slip through the cracks, so if you know of someone, please let us know.** A letter will soon be going out inviting all of those women to join us for worship on that day. **Then, after worship, we will have a celebratory luncheon in Rosser Hall. I want to strongly encourage you to put that date on your calendar and be in church if at all possible. Like some of you have heard me say, this is about honoring and remembering who we've been, who we are, and God will-ing, who we will continue to be in the future.**

June promises to be another great month in the life of the church, so I hope you can join us for the events mentioned above. As you hear me say frequently, now is the perfect time for you to get more plugged into the life of the church, and now is the perfect time for you to bring someone with you, too. I know that you'll be glad that you did.

As always, it is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Kris

Youth Camp 2024 Unidiversity Update

Registration is still open for youth to participate in Camp Unidiversity at Maryville College July 8-12. We camp with about 15 other church groups at Maryville College with Bible Studies, Games, Worship and more! It's one of the most exciting events we have each year! If you would like to participate -Total cost for youth is \$180. \$50 of that is due to hold registration spot. Turn in a form to Ben by June 5 to reserve spot.

Mission Trip 2024 To Charleston Sea Island Habitat for Humanity and More!

We have a team of 14 youth and adults going to stay at the FBC Charleston Folly Beach house June 7-14. We will be working with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, Folly Beach Baptist Church, and Pet Helpers to do several different mission projects!!! Let me introduce you to our team...
Adults – Ben Ondrak, Emma Vance, Alex Ondrak, Amy and Darin Denton

Youth – Ryan Roller, Marquez Pinkston, Markus Pinkston, Anna Boyles, Lottie Boyles, Riah McCold, Elayna Makres, Nevaeh Ondrak, Heath Swaggerty



Austin Ealey - West Ridge High School
Ellyson Kovacs - Tennessee High School
Nevaeh Ondrak - Tennessee High School
Elizabeth Rouse - Tennessee High School
Christopher White - John S. Battle High School

Hannah Davidson - East Tennessee State University
Charlie Kelly - East Tennessee State University
Collin White - University of Virginia

Vacation Bible School

JOIN US!!!!

June 23-26, 2024

5:30 till 8:00 p.m.

Registration online at fbcbristol.org

This VBS is open to the community, so if you know of any children who might be interested, please let their parents know about this. Dinner will be provided for the whole family at 5:30 PM, and we have online registration. While we want to have as many children participate as possible, that means we also need adult volunteers. If you can help, I would strongly encourage you to do so.

Ben: 423-217-8934

Emma: 423-863-6668



Notes... from Leigh

Last month I shared information with you regarding our adult mission trip to Folly Beach, SC. Plans and preparations are in place and we will leave on Friday, June 7. I am excited about the work that we will do and even more excited about the impact it will have on our congregation. You see, when a congregation “sends” a group out on a mission, that group always comes back *changed*...the experiences, the blessings given and received, the relationships built and strengthened, the spiritual growth...and the change is contagious. Many of you have committed to being prayer and/or financial partners for our mission work. There is still time – just let me know how you would like to help! The members of our team are: Debbie and Nelson Gwaltney, Jody and Chris Tipton, and Leigh and Mark Clark.

Also, on June 30, we will celebrate and affirm women in ministry at First Baptist Bristol. We have reached out to those who have previously served in a leadership capacity and asked them to join us for our time of worship and for lunch to follow in Rosser Hall. I hope and pray that you will make worship a priority for you and your family that day. We will have a guest speaker from Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) and of course, the time of special recognition.

Blessings, Leigh

PS: Thank you for your prayers following my knee replacement surgery. I’m not sure I have been the best “patient” for Mark, but I am healing and getting stronger every day.



~May Tabor

“Lives are
Transformed
One Stitch at

a Time.” In our fiction title, *The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club* by New York Times Bestselling Author, Wanda Brunstetter, quilting brings six unlikely men and women together under the roof of an Amish quilter. But how will God work to transform each of their lives one stitch at a time? While Emma grows to realize her ability to share her passion for quilting and her faith, the beginning quilters learn to transform scraps of fabric into beauty and their fragmented lives begin to take on a new shape with the helping hands of others and the healing hand of God.

Sunday, June 02, 2024,
Family Breakfast
Rosser Hall

9:00 a.m.


There will be a full or partial breakfast available at no charge. So, come and enjoy a meal and some fellowship before heading off to Sunday School.

First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Ben Ondrak.....Associate Pastor
 Rev. Leigh Clark.....Minister of Music
 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



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 You can also find us on
 Facebook. 



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 125 Sedgefield Street
 Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for June

June 02, 2024	Leroy Doran
June 09, 2024	Leigh Gleib
June 16, 2024	Bob Love
June 23, 2024	Tom Makres
June 30, 2024	Susan Banks

June FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

June 01 & 02	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
June 09 & 10	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
June 15 & 16	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
June 22 & 23	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
June 29 & 30	Terri Thomas	(423) 963-7576