



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

May 2022

First Baptist Family,

2022 keeps on flying by! We've already made it to May, and things continue to go exceedingly well. Both giving and attendance remain strong, and we're seeing more and more visitors every week. Even better - many of these visitors are becoming regular attenders! That is worth celebrating. If you've been worshipping online and haven't joined us in person lately, I want to encourage you to rejoin us in the sanctuary. You'll see several new faces if you do. You'll also see that we have a lot to celebrate as a church.

April was a great month for us. We closed out a meaningful Lenten season with some powerful Holy Week services. We had our annual Maundy Thursday drop-in communion service, which is always impactful. And then we had a wonderful Good Friday service! If you weren't there, you really missed out. The service was very moving. There were quite a few people crying or on the verge of tears due to the power of the service. Leigh put together a beautiful service for us, and all of the participants did a fantastic job leading us in worship. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt was also a huge success! We had the largest crowd of children that I can remember us having for an Easter Egg Hunt. Several families from the CLC also joined us, so kudos go to Ben and the Children's Committee for putting on a wonderful event. And then there was Easter Sunday. We had a beautiful Sunrise Service with First Presbyterian and a fantastic service at 11 AM. In fact, our Easter Sunday service was one of the best attended worship services we've had since I've been here as your pastor! It was all very encouraging.

Then the very next weekend we hosted CBFVA's Mission Madness. We had roughly 100 teenagers from 6 different churches, counting our own, and they completed nearly 500 hours of community service in 1 day! The entire weekend was great, and this church performed admirably. We had plenty of volunteers, who were energetic and cheerful. Our teenagers were wonderful ambassadors for the church, too. I had several conversations with people over that weekend, including Rick Bennett, the State Coordinator for CBF of Tennessee, and Terry Maples and Mark Snipes, the State Coordinator and Associate Coordinator for CBF of Virginia, respectively. All three of them were effusive in their praise of the church! They talked about how organized we were, how hospitable everyone was, how happy and helpful all the volunteers were, etc., etc. They bragged on individuals, particularly Harry and Ben, and they bragged on the church as a whole repeatedly. If you helped with Mission Madness, I want to thank you for making the event such a huge success! I can't imagine it going any better than it did.

That weekend served as a type of infomercial for First Baptist Bristol, and we made ourselves look great to people both inside and outside this community!

As great as April was though, I'm looking forward to May. We'll celebrate communion this Sunday, May 1. We'll recognize the mothers and mother-like figures in the congregation on Sunday, May 8. We'll celebrate our graduates on Sunday, May 15. And we'll have a special worship service on the fifth Sunday of the month, May 29. You'll be hearing more about that special service soon. On Monday, May 16, our Move Group will officially start meeting at Sugar Hollow Park. They'll be walking together, an opportunity for both exercise and fellowship, and they'll be raising money for a good cause, too. If you'd like to learn more about our Move Group, please see me, Adrienne Osbourne, or check out the church website www.fbcbristol.org. You can find a link there where you can learn more information and sign up.

We've got a lot of good things happening right now at First Baptist Bristol. We've got mission opportunities and discipleship opportunities for people. There's an energy and excitement that's palpable. We're having more visitors in worship nearly every week, and they're becoming regular attenders. Giving remains strong. Seemingly every week we're seeing more children and youth. So, we have lots of reasons to celebrate. We shouldn't ignore or overlook those, but we can't waste this positive momentum either. If you've been looking for a place to serve but haven't gotten plugged in anywhere yet, now is the perfect time to start. Every church needs volunteers to help with children and youth ministries right now, and we are no exception. If you've been telling yourself that you need to get off the sofa and return to the sanctuary on Sunday morning for worship, now is the perfect time to rejoin us. If you've been thinking about inviting those friends or neighbors to join you for church but for whatever reason you've held off on doing so, now is the perfect time to invite them. If you've been attending regularly but haven't yet officially joined and become a church member, now is the perfect time to do so. Things are going exceedingly well, and we have plenty of reasons to celebrate as a congregation; and as long as we continue to do the work and move forward, the blessings and the celebrations will only increase. So, I hope you'll join me in doing that work because I can't wait to see what new blessings God will give us if we continue to work together.

As always, it remains a joy to be your pastor.
Grace and Peace,
Kris



Together for Hope

**Virtual Walk
Run Ride Swim
Go**

13.1, 26.2, 50, 75, 100, 140.6
miles or more this summer

Cost: \$30, which includes t-shirt and donation to TFH partner of your choice.

01. At your own pace-- May 15- August 15	02. Move your own way-- walk, run, ride, swim	03. Support Together for Hope friends and partners
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<http://cbfky.org/tfh-virtual-walk-run-swim-ride>

Together for Hope is hosting a virtual walk, run, ride, swim. Since several of us plan to participate in this event, we are starting a "Move Group" as part of a larger initiative. It's always more fun to walk with others, and we collectively will raise money for Together for Hope. This seems like a fun event to get churches, friends, families, and the community involved.

We plan to walk on Mondays and Wednesdays (weather permitting) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Sugar Hollow Park. Sugar Hollow caters to many abilities by offering a handicap-accessible path and uphill trails for those seeking a more intense walk. It also has a children's playground that can be seen from one of the walking paths. On the rare occasion that one of the facilitators can't be there, the group is encouraged to still walk.

The dates of the Together for Hope fundraiser are May 15-August 15. The fundraiser costs \$32.74. We have registered and created a "Move Group Bristol TN/VA."

If you can't make the Move Group, please consider participating in the virtual event or sponsoring someone else.

The Move group will be using Telegram to communicate. There is an On the Move Facebook group that participants can join.

YOUTH NEWS

2022 Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 12 - Wednesday June 15

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

We will need workers in all areas-

Recreation, Games, Crafts, Storytelling, Music, Food, Decoration Team, and Registration.

A flexible schedule will be provided if you cannot work every night.

See Ben for further details.

Youth Camp 2022 Unidiversity to Maryville College

We depart June 27 at 9:30 a.m. from FBC and
Return July 1 at 1:30 p.m. to FBC

What is required to go?

1. Commitment to work at any fundraiser to offset the cost.
OR
2. Commitment to pay \$180 toward your cost.
3. If you have scheduling conflicts-
alternative work projects can be scheduled.
4. Willingness to follow all rules set up.

TO REGISTER:

Turn in registration envelope, \$50, and
a Medical Release for 2022 to Ben Ondrak

Mission 2022 To Charleston, South Carolina July 16-24

We are working with
Sea Island Habitat for Humanity
helping build a family home.

We are staying at the
James Island Presbyterian Church Mission House.

The base cost is \$100
or commitment to work for 10 hours to offset the cost.
There are also training hours required TBA.
Flex times are available if needed.



Notes from Leigh...

Well, spring is finally here! I sure enjoy the warmer weather, longer days and signs of new life in nature. As Mark and I drive to and from Wise each week, we regularly comment on the new growth, the flowers, the trees budding, the water in the rivers – there is so much to see and to observe and to be grateful for! Yes, it is a longer commute than we would like for several reasons (cost of gas and wear on the car) but we really enjoy our conversations and just being together. It is not unusual for me to catch a nap, either! Getting involved from a distance is a challenge, but we have really made some wonderful friendships in our short time here and we look forward to getting to know more of you now that things are opening back up!

The Lenten Season at FBC was very meaningful. I am especially grateful for those who participated and attended the Good Friday service. Our readers, cross bearers and musicians combined their talents to create and present a dramatic and reflective look at the last hours of the life of Christ. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were also remarkable opportunities for worship.

Y'all, the fun doesn't stop and opportunities for worship and service just keep coming! During May we will have lots of special music from the choir and guest musicians. Jackie has been working with a group of youth on learning sign language to Christian music. They call themselves, "Silent Friends". In June, we will welcome the God's Light Youth Choir from Atlanta under the direction of Kim Duggins (formerly Kim Ballard). FBC will be the final stop on their summer tour. They will do a concert during worship on June 12. Please stay tuned for ways you can help host this group.

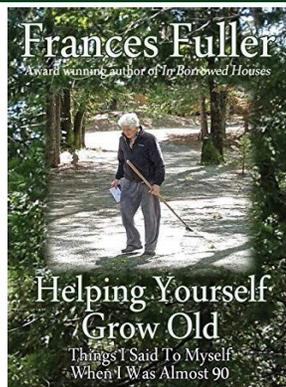
Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to Andrea and Jordan Pennington for hosting a cookout for the choir at their home on April 24. We had a beautiful day to enjoy the fellowship of friends and good food. We would love to welcome more friends into our midst...if you're interested in being a part of the music ministry, please let me know!

Blessings,
Leigh

Library Lines

May 2022

Our newest nonfiction acquisition, donated by Jane Eller, is *Helping Yourself Grow Old: Things I said To Myself When I Was Almost 90* by award winning author Frances Fuller. Writing from the overflow of a long and varied life, Fuller shares her experiences as a child of the depression and an extensive traveler who built a publishing house in the Middle East and survived several wars. She was a wife, a Bible teacher, and a public speaker while raising five children. Finding no guidebook, she had to figure out for herself how to live wisely through the puzzles and possibilities of aging--grief, loneliness, physical limitations, fears, and duties. While she learned, she wrote. In her book, she shares her daily life, enriched with memories of a life filled with fascinating experiences.



~May Tabor



The Bristol First Baptist Foundation wishes to acknowledge a gift from Audrey Doak. Audrey was faithful to First Baptist Church over a span of 90 years in many ways. She was a Sunday School Teacher, Sanctuary Choir Member, Bible Drill Leader, active leader with WMU and Training Union, and a supportive congregational member of First Baptist. Audrey Mae wished to name Bristol First Baptist Foundation as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy to ensure the church would continue in years to come. The foundation and the church are grateful for her love, care, and faithfulness during her life and her commitment to First Baptist in her passing.

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

Mr. Dennis Thomas.....Sexton
 Mrs. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse
 Ms. Terri Thomas Church Administrator
 and Financial Secretary
 Ms. Niki Judy..... Administrative Assistant



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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 May

May 01, 2022	Mike Browder
May 08, 2022	Jennifer Rouse
May 15, 2022	Mark Fuller
May 22, 2022	David Hicks
May 29, 2022	Mike Warren

FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

April 30 & May 01	Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934
May 07 & 08	Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795
May 14 & 15	Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934
May 21 & 22	Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795
May 28 & 29	Terri Thomas (423) 963-7576