



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

May 2025

First Baptist Family,

It's hard to believe that summer is already here! Students have finished the school year, and Seniors have graduated. People are now planning or have already started going on their summer vacations, and all of us are looking forward to a little bit of a break. Still, the work of the church continues. That's why I want to let you know more about some of the good things we have planned for the month of June. Before I get to some of our upcoming events, however, I think it's necessary that we reflect on an absolutely wonderful month of May. Back on Sunday, May 11, our children led us in worship, and we all heard a great sermon by Emma. Our children read Scripture and wrote out and prayed their own prayers. It was a powerful service. One of them, Isaac, even came forward at the end of worship as a candidate for baptism. And his baptism is scheduled for Sunday, June 22. Then, on Sunday, May 18 we ordained the now Rev. Adrienne Osborne to Gospel Ministry, and at the end of that service, Deb Mitchell came forward to join the church by transfer of letter. Then, finally, on Sunday, May 25, we had our graduate recognition service, heard a great sermon by Ben, and commissioned our two mission teams before they left to go to Folly Beach and Charleston, SC. The fact is, we've had lots of really powerful services lately. We've had several tangible examples of the ways in which God is at work in and through First Baptist Bristol. And these signs of life, well, they need to be recognized and celebrated! All these good things have me thinking, though. **That's why I'm doing an informal survey, and I need your help. Don't worry - it's just two questions. First, why is First Baptist Bristol the church for you? And second, when you invite other people to join you at church, what do you say to them? I want you to think about these two questions and share your answers with me. You can text them, email them, or share them with me face to face, but please let me know how you answer these two questions as soon as you get the chance. I was talking with a church consultant and clergy coach recently, and he told me that people are six times more likely to visit worship for the first time if they are invited by someone other than the pastor. SIX TIMES! So, what you tell people about this church and how you invite them matters. And the fact is, there is a lot of good things to tell about First Baptist Bristol, especially right now.**

Like I mentioned, June also promises to be a great month in the life of the church, and we have lots of things planned for you and those you bring with you. **On Sunday, June 1, we're going to have our monthly Family Breakfast and we'll later serve communion in worship. Then, on Sunday, June 8, we'll celebrate Pentecost. I invite you to wear either red or orange that day, and then after worship, we'll have a recep-**

tion in Rosser Hall for Mark and Leigh as we celebrate their ministry with us before Leigh's retirement. On Sunday, June 15, we'll not only celebrate the fathers and father-like figures in the church, but we'll also have a Men's Choir to lead the music. In addition to special Sundays, we're also going to have some exciting things happening during the week throughout the month of June. **On Friday, June 6, we'll welcome back our youth and adult mission teams, which is why I want to encourage you to join me in praying for them while they are gone. On Monday, June 9, our youth are going to start their Massive Monday activities.** They are called Massive Mondays because these events will all be on Mondays, and they will be MASSIVE amounts of fun. **You can find the full schedule on our church website, and if you have any questions, I encourage you to talk with Ben.** We're also going to be doing VBS a little differently this year. **Rather than having one week, we're going to split up VBS over four weeks with children meeting on Wednesday evenings for four weeks consecutively. So, beginning Wednesday, June 11 until Wednesday, July 2, we're going to host Vacation Bible School from 5:30-7:30 PM. Food will be included, of course. If you are interested in volunteering or signing up your children or grandchildren, please contact Emma. Adults, you aren't being left out of the fun, though.** The reason we have changed the way we're doing VBS this year is because we're also going to have something for parents. **Adrienne is going to be leading a book study on *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From* by Meredith Miller.** The basic premise of the book is that Miller argues for parents to help their children form a resilient and flexible faith rooted in knowing and trusting God rather than them seeing God as an inflexible taskmaster and faith as nothing more than rigid rules filled with obedience-focused models. As you can see, this year's VBS promises to provide a lot for both children and adults. So, if you're interested, I would encourage you to either contact Emma or register online through the church website.

Like I keep saying, good things are happening here at First Baptist Bristol. These are good things that other people need to know about, and you are the perfect person to tell them. So, I want to encourage you to do just that. Both they and you will be glad that you did.

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

Grace and Peace,
Kris



YOUTH CAMP 2025 UNIDIVERSITY TO MARYVILLE COLLEGE July 7-11

- 1. COMMITMENT TO COME, PAY OR WORK FOR \$200 TOWARD THE COST.**
- 2. COMMITMENT TO WORK AT THE FUNDRAISER.**
- 3. WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW ALL RULES.**
- 4. FILL OUT AND SIGN A CAMP COVENANT.**

To register: Turn in registration, \$100, and Medical Release for 2025.

Congratulations 2025 Graduates!

Wilson Boyles-Tennessee High School
Ariel Harman-Tennessee High School
Haley Kelly-Sullivan East High School
Brody Puckett-Tennessee High School
Aiden Smith-Tennessee Online Public School
Keegan Worthy-Homelife Academy

Bradán Talbert Beckham-Lincoln Memorial University
Abbie Chandler-East Tennessee State University
Tripp Crockett-United States Naval Academy
Hannah Chandler Hurley-Augusta University
Grace Love-Lincoln Memorial University
Cole Talbert-University of Tennessee

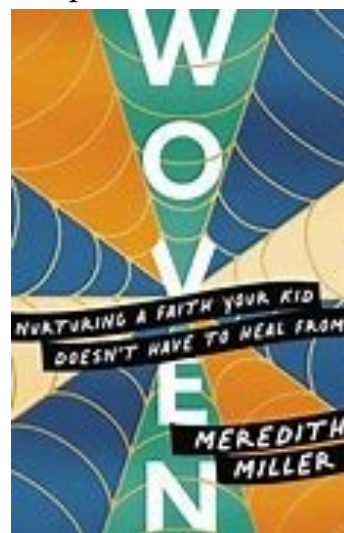


VBS 2025

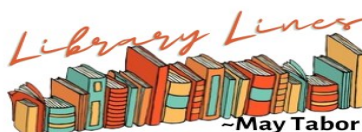
The children will travel back in time to explore Egypt!



Every Wednesday for four weeks starting
June 11, 2025-July 2, 2025
5:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner at 5:30



Rev. Adrienne Osborne will be simultaneously leading an adult VBS. We will be working through the book: *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From.*



A novel in our church library by Leisha Kelly is *Rachel's Prayer*, the second in her Country Roads Chronicles. Set in the time just after Pearl Harbor, 1941, young men in the rural community where the Wortham Family has lived since the Great Depression are enlisting for the service. Since Samuel and Julia Wortham's son Robert and three other local boys have gone to fight, Julia's heart aches for the boys while Robert's girlfriend offers a prayer that changes the lives of all who hear it. Those left behind struggle to find their place and God's plan amid the chaos of war. Memories of those of us who were alive during that time period will be rekindled.

Notes from Leigh...



We experienced wonderful moments of worship together during the month of May! We recognized and honored all of the women in our lives, we affirmed and confirmed the calling of Adrienne Osborne to the Gospel Ministry, we celebrated all of our graduates, we remembered the sacrifice and love of Jesus through Holy Communion and our children and Emma reminded us of the hope that is ours through God's steady guidance. And, I might add, the music each week was incredible! The choir and the Praise Band have really worked hard and faithfully to prepare new and meaningful music for worship each week. WOW!

Mark and I are trying hard to "finish well". We started here as visitors in 2017. After choosing a church closer to home for a while, we made our way back in 2019 to serve on staff. Our time here has been a Godsend in so many ways. God brought us here and it has been exactly what we needed – affirmation, confirmation, healing, encouragement, friendship, love, and so much more. Thank you, First Baptist Bristol, for opening your arms to us. We are forever grateful and forever changed. We look forward to the few remaining weeks of service together.

Blessings, Leigh

Let's Celebrate Leigh Clark's Ministry

Sunday, June 8, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Make plans to attend a retirement luncheon for Leigh after worship on June 8, 2025. FBB will provide the meal. It will be a great time of fellowship as we say good bye to special folks, Mark and Leigh Clark.

BREAKFAST!!

Sunday, May 1, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Rosser Hall

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.



**Welcome
Deborah Mitchell!
She joined the church on
May 18, 2025**

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



Contact Information:
Church Phone: (276)669-8191
Fax: (276)669-5082
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 June

June 1	Terri Cook
June 8	Jennifer Rouse
June 15	David Crockett
June 22	Darin Denton
June 29	JoAnne Barbour

June FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

May 31 & June 1	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
June 7 & 8	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
June 14 & 15	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
June 21 & 22	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
June 28 & 29	Terri Thomas	(423) 963-7576