



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

October 2024

First Baptist Family,

October always proves to be a busy month in the life of the church, and this year is no different. While we have a lot going on this month, there are a few things I want to bring to your attention. First, as many of you will remember, October is Stewardship Month at First Baptist Bristol. Each week in worship we're going to have a Stewardship Moment, and in these moments, you'll hear more about how your gifts of time, talent, and treasure go to support the missions and ministries of this church. You'll hear more about how your gifts help maintain the facilities of the church, how they enable us to have strong children, youth, and music programs, how they enable us to have meaningful discipleship ministries, and how they help us be the hands and feet of Christ in this community and in this world through the numerous missions and ministries we support. Simply put, we as a church can't function without you and your willingness to give. So, to highlight the participatory nature of stewardship, you're going to have several ways in which you can respond. We'll have pledge cards again this year, and we will have two of them. One card will be for financial pledges, and the other will be for pledges of time and service. You will still be able to make your financial pledges on Realm, as well. Everything will culminate at the end of the month.

We'll have Consecration Sunday on Sunday, October 27. During that service, we'll have a time in which you will be able to walk forward and place your pledges (both financial and time pledges) in the church replica we use every year (we will not livestream this portion of the service). After worship that Sunday, we'll have our Quarterly Business Meeting. And since October is also Minister Appreciation Month, the Board of Administration is organizing a Staff Appreciation Luncheon immediately following the business meeting in Rosser Hall. We'll have spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and dessert for lunch. While there is no cost for the meal, donations are encouraged. We'll have a donation basket on the table near the entrance to Rosser Hall. And there will be little notecards where you can share words of encouragement with the staff. Finally, on October 27, we're going to have our Fall Festival from 4-6 PM that afternoon and evening. All that to say, October 27 will be a good, full day in the life of the church.

Also in October, I'm going to be resuming FBB 101. We'll meet for 3 weeks during the Sunday School hour in Rosser Hall on October 6, October 20, and October 27. If you are a new member, a frequent visitor, or if you're a long time member who would like to learn more about the church, I invite you to join me as we look at what it means to be Baptist and the kind of Baptists we are here at FBB, the organization and structure of the church, and ways in which you can get more involved in the life of the church. As a reminder, if you are unable to make one of these sessions, I will be leading it again in January. I lead this study the first month of each quarter minus July.

Finally, we're going to finish the church calendar year in prayer. You should have already received a separate email from me about this, but in case you haven't, **beginning on Wednesday, October 16 we're going to start 40 Days of Prayer for Unity.** Like Lent, this is going to be for 40 days not counting Sundays, but from Wednesday, October 16 to Saturday, November 30 we're going to have a prayer calendar in which we are all invited to pray for the same thing each day. Each day will contain a different prompt or item to pray for, excluding Sundays which will have the same prompt each week. The calendar goes to Saturday, November 30 because Sunday, December 1 is the beginning of Advent, which serves as the beginning of a new year for the church. So, I hope you'll join me in finishing out the church calendar year in praying for unity for our church, our community, our country, and our world. I think that you'll be glad that you did.

It's a great time to be at First Baptist Bristol. We have lots of great things going on, so I encourage you to commit yourself to being here regularly. Be a good steward of the time, talent, and treasure that God has given you, and look for ways to use them here. Join in as we all seek to grow God's Kingdom from the corner of State and Sedgefield Streets. Not only will you be blessed, but you'll have the opportunity to bless someone else, too.

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

Grace and Peace,
Kris

FBB 101

October 6

October 20

October 27

(Sunday School Hour)

Come and join Kris and learn about what it means
to be Baptist
and what FBB has to offer!

Deacon Nominations

October is the time to begin the
deacon nominating and election process
for 2025-2027. To that end, we solicit your
assistance and participation

We want to give you this opportunity to
nominate members of the congregation.

You may submit up to seven names.
The deadline to submit a nomination form
is Sunday, October 6.



October 27

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Hot Dogs

Chips

Drinks

Cup Cake Walk

Races

Face Painting

Games

Pumpkin Lawn Bowling

Balloon Animals

**If anyone is available to help,
please see Ben ASAP.**



Sunday, October 27, 2024

Sunday, October 6, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Family Breakfast
Rosser Hall

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

Mission Outreach:

Seven (7) volunteers are needed on
Saturday, October 19, from 5:00-7:00 pm,
to serve a meal to homeless and low-income
individuals at the Sharing Christ Worship Center, lo-
cated on the corner of State and Sixth Streets.
If you are interested, please contact David Haga
(423.967.9155).

Notes... from Leigh

Being your Minister of Music is a great honor. I began serving at First Baptist Bristol in the fall of 2019 as the Interim Minister. The congregation called and affirmed me to the position in December 2019. I love my job because I work with tremendous people – those who are on staff and many who are volunteers/servants.

I would like to highlight one person in particular this month – Nevaeh Ondrak. Nevaeh was in 8th grade when I first arrived. Her parents told me that she was interested in music. I took that information, made contact with Nevaeh, and a beautiful friendship began. We would meet on Wednesdays in the handbell room. We would talk a little, sing a little, talk some more. It wasn't long before we had our first song chosen for her to sing - "Does Anybody Hear Her?" by Casting Crowns. We never looked back!

Nevaeh's voice has grown and matured so beautifully. But more than that, she has grown into a leader, a mentor, and friend to our younger youth. Her faith and faithfulness are strong.

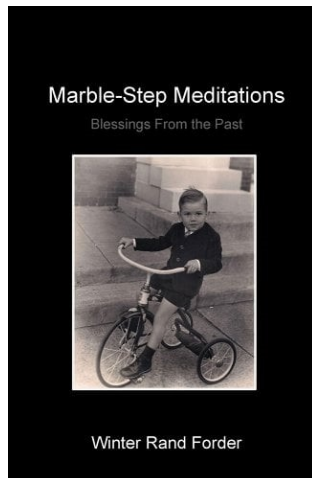
She graduated from Tennessee High in May. She started classes at Northeast State this fall. Because of her faithfulness and meaningful contributions to the music ministry at First Baptist Bristol, the music committee voted unanimously to award Nevaeh the Joann Feazell Music Scholarship, which is renewable each semester that she is in college. We presented the scholarship during worship on September 29. Nevaeh is an amazing young lady with a very bright future. She is excited about the award, and she plans to continue with her many contributions to the music ministry of our congregation.

Christmas rehearsals have begun for our annual cantata. You are officially invited to join us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. We begin at 7 with an emphasis on our weekly music and transition to our Christmas anthems around 7:25 pm. Please pray about it and then give me a call or see me.



Marble-Step Meditations, Blessings from the Past by former pastor Winter Rand Forder is the

newest book in our First Baptist Church Library. A gift from the author, it is a small book, only 106 pages, but it is captivating from beginning to end. Rand takes each early experience recalled from childhood and ends it with a short, meaningful devotional thought. Each story is only 3 or 4 pages in length but each contains a message that is relevant for the reader and can be applied to his/her own Christian Life.



BYLAWS Proposal Absentee Voting

- A. If absentee balloting is required, members may join the meeting using an online or digital platform (like Zoom or some other online meeting platform). For their votes to be recorded, they have to be written in the chat feature of the digital platform. Additionally, members joining online must turn on their cameras or otherwise identify themselves to ensure that the church continues to abide by the "one member, one vote" principle

Proposal for the October 27, 2024
Business Meeting

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Our **Quarterly Business Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, October 27**, after the morning worship service. According to our church's by-laws, chairs of teams and boards are asked to give a quarterly report of the group's activities. The report can be either written or oral. If the report is written, please give a copy to the church office so copies can be made for the membership. If at all possible, please submit the report **no later than Wednesday, October 16**. The information you share will be helpful in keeping the membership informed of what is happening in our church.

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 October

October 06, 2024	Leroy Doran
October 12, 2024	Leigh Glei
October 20, 2024	Bob Love
October 27, 2024	Tom Makres

October FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

October 05 & 06	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
October 11 & 12	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
October 19 & 20	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
October 26 & 27	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795