



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

August 2022

First Baptist Family,

Fall is almost upon us. School has started back, and Fall activities are ramping up here at FBB. August is going to be a busy month! **On Saturday, August 6, we've got two separate events. That morning at 10:30 Matt Chandler is going to be leading a Football 101 Pigskin Primer in Rosser Hall!** This will be a fun event. People are invited to wear their favorite team colors and we'll have lunch afterwards. **The cost is \$5. To make sure we have enough food for everyone, please register in the office. Then, that evening at 6 PM, Clary and I are going to host a Young Adult Bible Study kickoff at our house.** We're having BBQ, sides, and banana pudding for dessert. If you have any questions, please let me know. **Wednesday, August 10** at 6PM we're having our Wednesday Night Kickoff. We're having a cook-out with hamburgers, sides, and dessert. We had some church members do some international traveling this summer to sites that are mentioned in Scripture. They're going to share some pictures and tell us briefly about their travels. Leigh and I will also share more about the book studies we'll be leading this Fall. Leigh will be leading a discussion on the book *Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Maker* by Margaret Feinberg and I'll be leading a discussion on the book *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most* by Martin Thielen. These studies will begin Wednesday, August 17, which is when our Wednesday Night programming will start back in earnest. Regardless of which one you choose, I would recommend purchasing the book.

Beginning Friday, August 12 through Sunday, August 14, we're going to have a guest with us. Terry Maples, Coordinator for CBF of Virginia, is going to be joining us that weekend to lead both an asset mapping exercise and a small group facilitator training. **The asset mapping sessions will be Friday, August 12 from 7-8:30 PM and Saturday, August 13 from 10-11:30 AM. The small group facilitator training will Saturday, August 13 from 2-4 PM.** If you are a Sunday School teacher, small group leader, or if you are interested in potentially leading a small group, the Saturday afternoon session is for you! We hope to grow our small group offerings here at the church and the best way to do that is to have lots of folks willing and confident to facilitate discussion. This training is designed to help do just that. The asset mapping sessions are for those interested in current missions of the church and those who have ideas for new ones. This training will encourage us to think about the many assets we have as a congregation and how we can do mission work out of the abundance God has given us. Both trainings will be great, so I encourage you to check them out. Terry will also be with us in worship that Sunday, August 14 and will wrap up anything he didn't finish in the above-mentioned sessions after worship during our team meetings that afternoon. **Then, on Sunday, August 28, we're going to have our Annual Church Picnic. We'll be meeting in Steele Creek Park, and we're also going to have worship in the park!** We will have lunch first, and then we will have a casual, abbreviated worship service afterwards. **Lunch will begin at 11:30 AM.** You don't want to miss it!

In addition to August events, there are a few other things you'll be hearing more about this Fall. First, you probably remember the

statement I sent out regarding the SBC sexual abuse report. I told you that staff and the Board of Administration would be reviewing our current policies and looking for ways to do more to keep people safe. We've been doing that. While I was in Dallas for CBF's General Assembly, I attended some workshops on that very topic and they were helpful. In the workshops, I learned that it isn't enough for volunteers to be familiar with policies and procedures, but that keeping people safe is the responsibility of the entire church. And that when the entire church is committed, the likelihood of such an incident goes down considerably. Consequently, we're going to hold a church-wide meeting after worship later this Fall. In this meeting, we will share with everyone our current church policies, some basic recommendations everyone can follow, and we'll make clear exactly how to report if you see something troubling. The date for this meeting is still to be determined, but I want to make something clear. The purpose of this isn't to view one another with suspicion or to make people scared. Rather, the purpose is to ensure that we work together to keep one another safe, especially our children, because we love one another. You'll be hearing a lot more about this in the coming weeks and months, so please make every effort to attend.

In our quarterly business meeting, you also heard about our technology fund and the need to improve our video capabilities in the sanctuary. Unless machines can also experience resurrection, it looks like our projector has finally given out. We are waiting to hear back from Higher Ground, the company that installed our sound system and live-streaming equipment, about the recommendations and what that will cost. Once we get all of that information, we will share it with the entire congregation. I can tell you, though, that will be using our technology fund to purchase any equipment, which means that we cannot move forward with it until we have the money in hand. If this is something you care about, I'd encourage you to donate, above and beyond your tithe, to our tech fund.

Finally, you're going to hear a lot about generosity this Fall. Many of our small groups are going to be centered on that theme, but generosity is more than just money. Generosity is a way of life; it's being intentionally generous with all that God has given us whether that's money, time, or talents. Back in January, I mentioned that our theme for this year is "Forging the Future." And the more I think about it, the more I'm convinced that God is calling us to do three things. I believe our future involves being well-disciplined, intentionally generous people who are equipped to serve our neighbors so that we might glorify God. The focus on generosity this fall, the small group facilitator training, the asset-mapping exercises, all of it is designed so that we might more fully live into the bright future I believe God has for this church. Fall is usually a time of harvest, and I believe that we're getting ready to do just that ourselves. Join us for these events; invite some people to join you for them and for worship; remember that you are connected hands and feet of Christ and that we are called to reach out to others so they might join us. Our present is good, but our future will be better, especially if we continue to follow God's leading and we all work to help forge it together.

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

Grace and Peace,
Kris

YOU ARE INVITED!

FOOTBALL 101

Pigskin Primer for men and women

Starring:
Matt Chandler

August 6, 2022 10:30 a.m.
Rosser Hall, First Baptist Bristol

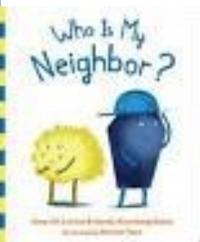
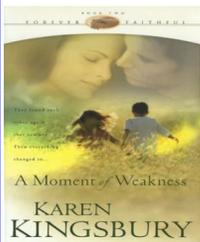
Tailgate Lunch (\$5.00 donation)

Wear your favorite school colors!
Make reservations with Niki
niki@fbcbristol.org or
276-669-8191

Library Lines

August 2022

Who Is My Neighbor? by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy E. Sasso is a colorful, delightfully-illustrated retelling for children of the Parable of the Good Samaritan from the Gospel of Luke 10:30-37. Reasons for group identification and isolation are emphasized. However, one brave color decided to risk offering aid to the injured other color and, thereby, broke the cycle of group isolation. Friendships were established, differences were minimized, and the Blues and Yellows began their reconciliation.



Fans of Karen Kingsbury will find in our fiction collection *A Moment of Weakness*--a novel offering reassurance that our God is a God of second chances.

~May Tabor



Thank you to this Dirty Duo - aka - "Shanan" for all of their work on the prayer garden.



If anyone would like some monkey grass, please feel free to pull some up.

(Only the monkey grass please)

Dennis Thomas, our custodian extraordinaire, has announced his retirement at the end of August 2022. Dennis has been with at FBB since 2014. We will celebrate his retirement next month.



If you or anyone you know is interested in fulfilling the part time obligation of our building custodian, please contact the church office, 276-669-8191, for an application or email a resume to terri@fbcbristol.org.

Notes from Leigh...

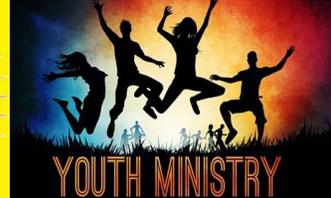
Let me begin with **Thank you**. I am appreciative of the many ways this church reached out to me and Mark during this last month of recovery. Believe me, we felt the prayers. I am also very grateful to work with a staff that is supportive and encouraging. And Jackie and David did an amazing job leading worship. My recovery is ongoing. Much to Mark's surprise, I have behaved myself way better than he expected!

It's hard to believe that Fall is just around the corner. That means our Wednesday night activities will be in full swing soon. I enjoy the fellowship and discipleship of the mid-week service. It helps me to stay connected and to rejuvenate my spirit. For the kickoff, August 10, Mark and I will have a short presentation on our recent trip to Turkey. There are a lot of Biblical connections to that region AND we took a lot of great pictures. So, I hope you'll be able to join us for the cookout and program.

Beginning August 17, I will lead a small group on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. We will discuss the book, "Taste and See" by Margaret Feinburg. It is a wonderful book on discovering not only the food of the Bible, but also the "food" that nourishes our souls. Get your book in time to read the introduction before our first class. (Oh, there may be some cooking/tasting involved!)

Finally, let me invite you to become a part of the music ministry. We have choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and the praise group rehearses on Sunday mornings. It is my hope to re-start our hand bell group this fall if there is enough interest. Maybe you play an instrument, let me know and I will make every effort to get you involved. We are blessed with a lot of talent but there is always room for more people to be involved!

Blessings, Leigh



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



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 August

August 07, 2022	Mike Browder
August 14, 2022	Nelson Gwaltney
August 21, 2022	Brad Talbert
August 28, 2022	Michael Warren

FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

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