



125 Sedgefield Street  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

May 2024

First Baptist Family,

It's already May! This year has flown by so far, and now Summer is almost here. I hope that you're enjoying the warmer weather as much as I am! We've had a great year thus far, and May is shaping up to be a wonderful month in the life of the church, too. In fact, we've got several events this month that I want to bring to your attention.

**First, on Sunday, May 5, we're going to have our monthly family breakfast at 9 AM in Rosser Hall.** Chef Harold will be busy in the kitchen, so come and enjoy a good meal and better fellowship before heading off to Sunday School. **That day in worship will also be exciting because it's our Graduate Recognition service. If you know of someone who is graduating, please let Terri and/or Niki know in the church office. We don't want anyone to be forgotten about or overlooked.** **Then, on Sunday, May 12, we'll not only celebrate Mother's Day by honoring the mothers and mother-like figures in the church, but we'll be celebrating our Children's Ministry as well. That Sunday will be our Children's Sunday.** Many of you will remember that we had a Sunday last year in which our children led us in worship. **They will be doing that again on Sunday, May 12, and Emma Vance will be preaching.** So, I know that you'll want to be here both Sundays, both to support our graduates and to support our children. **Then, on Sunday, May 19, we'll celebrate the church's birthday – not First Baptist Bristol's, but the church universal's as we celebrate Pentecost.** Pentecost Sunday is the day we change our paraments to red to symbolize the Holy Spirit appearing as tongues of fire in Acts 2. **Consequently, you are invited and encouraged to wear red yourself on Sunday, May 19 as part of our celebration.**

In addition to the special Sundays we have in May, there are a few other things I want you to know. **First, after a study of the 10 Commandments, we've started a study of the Johannine Epistles (1, 2, & 3 John) on Wednesday nights.** Specifically, we're exploring how the Johannine Epistles provide us with tangible ways to put the 10 Commandments into practice. If you don't normally join us on Wednesday nights, now is the perfect time for you

to begin. In addition to Bible study, you'll get a good meal and get to experience even better fellowship. **Our last Wednesday Night before our summer break will be Wednesday, June 5.**

**Next, you've heard me mention the online Bible study I've started leading.** I've been encouraged by the traction that it's getting, and I want to ask for your help. **Terri has started including the links to the Bible study in the weekly e-news for those of you who aren't on Facebook. For those of you who are, however, please like, comment, and share as you are able. The purpose of this Bible study is for us to reach people beyond the walls of the church. We're trying to take the church to the people, and you can help us do that in small but impactful ways.** The online Bible study will conclude at the end of May, but after a break for summer, I'm planning on resuming it in August.

As you get ready for the school year to end and gear up for summer, I want you to encourage you to continue to be faithful in your church attendance. We've got lots of great things going on and now is the perfect time for you to bring someone new with you. So, I want to encourage you to join us and to bring your friends with you. I know that you'll be glad 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 May 5 to reserve spot.

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

We have a team of 17 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 – Harry Scanlan, Ben Ondrak, Emma Vance, Jamie Barger, Alex Ondrak, Amy and Darin Denton

Youth – Ryan Roller, Marquez Pinkston, Markus Pinkston, Peyton Lomans, Anna Boyles, Lottie Boyles, Riah McCold, Elayna Makres, Nevaeh Ondrak, Haley Kelly

**Graduate  
Recognition  
Sunday is  
Sunday, May 5.**  
Be sure to join us as we  
recognize those who  
have graduated from High  
School and College.

A photo booth will be provided!

The Ondrak's would like to invite you all to celebrate with us! Our daughter Nevaeh Ondrak is graduating from Tennessee High School! We are Having a celebration 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Steele Creek Park Pavilion Shelter A. It is the first Shelter to the left as you enter into the park. We will have snacks, games, and activities if you would like to stay and play or feel free to drop by between 3 and 5 p.m. and share our joy with her as she moves into the next exciting steps of her life. Please let them know you are headed to the Ondrak's Party and you will get in free.

**Children's Sunday  
Is  
Sunday, May 12.**

The children will be leading us in  
worship, and  
Emma Vance  
will be preaching.



**Luke  
McMurray**  
Was Baptized  
on  
April 21, 2024

## Notes...from Leigh

By the time you read this article, I will hopefully be well on the road to recovery. I had a total knee replacement in my left knee on April 23. Way back in 1989 I was on spring break from teaching in Athens, GA. My dad called to ask if I wanted to come play in the regular 3 on 3 basketball game during lunch at the church gym. I loved basketball, so I was excited to go and play. During one game I went up for a jump shot and landed very awkwardly. It was immediately evident that something was wrong. Turns out my ACL was completely torn, and it would require surgery. For the most part, my knee has been great. But arthritis has crept in, and it has become increasingly difficult to manage over the past two years. I am looking forward to better days ahead!

Our mission trip is scheduled for June 7-14 to Folly Beach, SC. We have a great team committed to going on behalf of the church: Debbie and Nelson Gwaltney, Jodi and Chris Tipton, and Mark and Leigh Clark. Our main work will be to partner with the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity. We will also partner with Folly Beach Baptist Church on some mission projects for their members on the island.

While it is impossible for everyone in the church to GO. It is not impossible for everyone to have a part. So...how can you help and be involved?

Be a prayer partner. A prayer partner will agree to write in advance a note of encouragement to one of our team members for everyday of the trip. You will give them to me before we go, and I will distribute them every day.

Provide snacks. These could be some homemade goodies for our travel, or items that can be used for our lunches everyday (individually wrapped snacks/chips).

Provide drinks. If you'd like to do this, I will poll our team and see if they have any special requests. But certainly, water and Gatorade will be needed.

Financial gift. Currently there is no budget for an adult mission trip. Thankfully, we are staying in the same house with the youth, so our lodging is covered. But we have the expense of transportation and food. So, if you would like to contribute, please let me know.

Thank you for your prayers and for your faithfulness! I will see you in person in just a short while. In the meantime, reach out and let me know how you would like to be involved!

Blessings,  
Leigh



**Having a  
Mary Heart  
in a Martha  
World** by  
Joanna  
Weaver is

available to First Baptist Church readers. The life of a woman today isn't that different from the lives of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary and Martha, we either feel that the demands of a busy world won't leave us alone or we want to serve but struggle with weariness and feelings of inadequacy. Then Jesus comes and He extends to us the "better part;" a life of intimacy that flows into loving service. Joanna Weaver shows how we can grow closer to our Lord and strengthen our service with less stress and greater joy.

**Sunday, May 05, 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 Pennington .....Organist

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 April

May 05, 2024	Eldon Wilson
May 12, 2024	Melissa Roberts
May 19, 2024	Roberta Yowell
May 26, 2024	Jamie Bargr

### April FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

May 04 & 05	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
May 11 & 12	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
May 18 & 19	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
May 25 & 26	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795