



125 Sedgefield Street  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

July 2024

First Baptist Family,

It's hard to believe that it's already July! It feels as though the first half of the year has flown by. I'm happy to report that we had a strong June. Both our youth and adult mission trips went exceedingly well. Emma did a great job with our Vacation Bible School this year, and much fun was had by all – both children and adults. And we had a wonderful celebratory event on June 30 as we celebrated Baptist Women's Heritage Sunday and recognized the women from the church who have served as deacons, missionaries, and on the church's ministerial staff. My time at CBF's General Assembly was rejuvenating and educational, too. All that to say, June was a good month in the life of the church, and it has me excited about the rest of 2024.

As most of you have probably noticed, things at the church slow down a little bit in the month of July. That's the case this year, too. July is not only a time in which people are trying to get in their last bit of vacation before the school year starts back in August, but it gives us a chance as a staff to catch our breath and fine-tune the plans we have for the Fall. Consequently, I don't have as many events to update you on for this month. Still, there are a few I want you to keep in mind. **Please note that we will NOT have a Family Breakfast on Sunday, July 7 since it is only 1 week after our big June 30<sup>th</sup> celebration. Also, please be in prayer for Ben, our youth, and our adult chaperones as they leave for Camp Unidiversity in Maryville, TN. They'll leave on Monday, July 8 and return on Friday, July 12.** Camp week is always one of the highlights of the year for our youth, so I hope you'll join me in praying that they will not only arrive and return home safely but that the trip will be spiritually nourishing and formative for them. **Finally, Sunday, July 28 will be Youth Sunday. Our youth will be sharing more about both their mission trip and their camp experiences as they lead us in worship that morning.** I know that you'll want to be in church that Sunday in particular.

Because summer is rapidly coming to a close, know that we're finalizing our plans for the Fall and that you'll hear more about them as we get closer to those respective dates. In the meantime, however, I'd like for you to do something for me. If you remember back in the middle of June, I preached on the parable of the growing seed and

the parable of the mustard seed. And at the end of worship, I challenged and encouraged all of you to be on the lookout for the random, ordinary, and unexpected places you saw God's Kingdom sprouting, taking root, and growing. That is what I'd like for you to keep doing. **Take pictures of where you see God's Kingdom infiltrating the kingdom of this world. Take pictures of the places where God is creating hope, the places where you sense God at work, even though it might not be obvious or particularly grand. In fact, I want you to pay particular attention to the holy ordinariness of things. And finally, I'd like for you to take pictures of where you see the harvest being brought in.** You've got 2 whole months to take and collect these pictures, and then in September, I'd like for you to be prepared to talk about them. **On Sunday, September 8, we're going to have Worship and Dinner on the Grounds. Rather than meeting at Steele Creek Park, we're going to have everything outside in front of the Educational Building at the church. I'd like for us to share the pictures you take with everyone, and I'd like for everyone to hear the testimonials that you have to share.** I know they will be powerful. Initially, I was going to preach a sermon entitled "Knowing Your Value" that Sunday, but I can think of no better way for us to all know our value than by talking about God's great love and by more closely examining God's peaceable kingdom. There's just no telling who might be moved and inspired by what you see God doing in the world, so bring some folks with you if you can. After all, good things are happening here at First Baptist, and you are the best person to tell others all about it. So, I hope that you will.

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 to reserve spot.



### **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 July 28, 2024 Business Meeting

Passed by the Board of Administration on  
Monday, June 17, 2024

### **ATTENTION:**

Check your calendars. It is time to schedule meals for Ballad Hospice. We are responsible for one meal each day during the first two weeks of August. Call Nell Campbell to let her know when you would be available. She will also be calling folks. So, be prepared to say "Yes". Her number is 423-764-4919. When you sign up you don't have to prepare the meal by yourself. Ask some friends to help you. These meals are for the families of patients. They are very appreciative of this service.



## Notes... from Leigh

On behalf of the mission team – THANK YOU! We had a wonderful and productive trip to Folly Beach, SC. We partnered with the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, God's Good Hands Thrift Store, and Folly Beach Baptist Church. We worked hard and we accomplished alot! Thank you for all of the prayers and support. It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to plan another trip in the near future.

I hope you will plan to be here for July 7<sup>th</sup> for worship. The Townsends and members of their family will be here to share a lot of music with us that day. I'm certain it will be a treat! We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

Blessings, Leigh



*52 CHURCHES: a Yearlong Journey Encountering God, His Church, and Our Common Faith* by Peter DeHaan. Dr. DeHaan spent a year visiting different Christian churches every Sunday:

Protestant mainline, evangelical, charismatic, nondenominational, Roman Catholic, and more. He learned the essential dos and don'ts when you have a visitor. He discovered traditional church practices that no longer made sense. He saw what wasn't working and gave suggestions about what to replace these with. This book is a gift that offers encouragement, hope, and ideas on how our church can thrive in today's culture.


An easy-to-read, informative, and relevant book.

## 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



**Contact Information:**  
**Church Phone:** (276)669-8191  
**Fax:** (276)669-5082  
**Hours:** [info@fbcbristol.org](mailto:info@fbcbristol.org)  
**Website:** [www.fbcbristol.org](http://www.fbcbristol.org)  
 You can also find us on  
 Facebook. 



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street  
 Bristol, VA 24201

### Deacon of the Week for July

July 07, 2024	Jeff Burnette
July 14, 2024	Bob Love
July 21, 2024	David Crockett
July 28, 2024	Darin Denton

### July FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

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