



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA
3500 WALTON WAY
AUGUSTA, GA 30909
706.733.2236

The

INTERPRETER

FIRST THOUGHTS...

August 2020



August Sermon Series

Everything Out of Nothing

August 16th
"There is Always More"
2 Corinthians 6

Augusta 23rd
"How to See the World"
John 9:1-41

August 30th
"From the Belly of Nothingness"
Matthew 27-28

August Worship

11:00 In-person
worship (Sanctuary)

Please register on our
website at:
discoverfbc.org

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Streaming worship on
our website or on our
Facebook page at
[https://
www.facebook.com/
firstbaptistchurchofau-
gusta](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchofaugusta)

Dear Church,

I hope that by the time you receive this letter, you have already heard the news about our new worship schedule beginning September 13, 2020. If you haven't heard the good news, take a moment and watch this five-minute video.

<https://vimeo.com/446498133>

Over the course of the past few months, the leadership team at our church has been asking deep questions about how we can continue to live into the vision of our church, which is to "connect people to Jesus Christ and this community of faith". After multiple meetings and hours of prayer, we believe that the best way we can continue to live into our vision is to do two things. First, we are going to continue offering worship on Sunday morning. Worship is central to everything we do as followers of Jesus Christ. Second, we are committed to finding ways for our small group communities (Sunday School, Bible Studies) to meet on our campus. We believe that this best way for this to happen is to offer a new schedule for our Sunday mornings, beginning on September 13th.

9:00- Outdoor worship at the amphitheater outside our sanctuary.

10:00- Sunday School classes that will be meeting either outside or in our largest indoor spaces.

11:00- Indoor worship that will take place in our sanctuary.

As you will hear in the video listed above, this new schedule allows us to take advantage of our campus in way that safely enables us to gather on Sunday morning. Another important element that makes this new schedule so exciting is that we will have Sunday School and worship, not only for adults but also for our youth and children. Worship Care will be provided for our children, birth-four years old. We have heard from our families and know that providing worship and educational opportunities for our children is a significant priority! Over the course of the next two weeks, you will hear directly from Melissa and David regarding plans for their ministry areas that will hopefully address all of your questions.

Regarding adult Sunday School and small group communities, if you have an interest in meeting on our campus, please reach out to the leadership of your class and let them know you are interested. We are working diligently to designate spaces for each group that wants to meet on our campus. This is the quickest and most efficient way to make your voice heard!

I am not going to go into significant detail in my letter, as you can find more information in this edition of the Interpreter. We will also continue to update you via video with the latest information.

Today, I just want you to know one thing. I am proud to be the pastor of this church. Time and time again over the past five months, our people have stepped up. You have been patient with our leadership. You have been generous financially. You have served our city! I can't wait to see your faces again soon. Make sure to watch the video and if you have any questions, please reach out to me at willdyer@fbcaugusta.org.

Discover the Difference
DiscoverFBC.org

Grace and Peace,
Will

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Expanded Opportunities for Worship and Bible Study

Begins September 13

In our next phase, we offer the opportunity for outside worship as one of two worship options on Sunday morning. The shift in worship opportunities and use of space allows greater flexibility for groups to use interior space, as well, on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Schedule

9:00AM Worship outside

- Will meet on the front lawn of the church. Bring your lawn chair or blanket!
- Worship Care provided (Preschool Building).
- No inclement weather plan. You will be able to sign up for text notification regarding cancellations.
- Get ready to sing!
- No registration required.

10:00AM Bible Study

- Children's Ministry will provide worship in the Missions and Activities Center (MAC) and activities for preschoolers (Preschool Building).
- Youth Ministry will offer Bible study in the Walton Building.
- Adult Communities and Sunday school classes who desire to meet in-person will be assigned meeting locations in our larger rooms. Groups who choose to meet outside will have a room assigned in the event of inclement weather. Contact your community or group leader to discover if your group is planning to meet.

11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary

- Children's Ministry offers small groups in the Missions and Activities Center (MAC).
- Worship Care provided (Preschool Building).
- Registration required.

CHURCH-WIDE NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Copeland Elementary Support

Bookbags and School Supplies

In our continuing partnership with Copeland Elementary School, we are providing 150 bookbags for students filled with school supplies. This year, to make it easier and safer for shopping, we are purchasing the supplies and assembling the bookbags at the church. What we need from you is a donation of \$20 per bookbag. So, we welcome your financial support for 1, 2, 5 or more bookbags! You can send a check made out to the church with "Copeland" in the "for" line or you can give online by clicking [here](#).

Supporting our community is important in these days. And helping to provide school supplies for kids in our community is a tangible way we continue to demonstrate Christ's love.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Fellowship and Small Groups for August

Please join us each Sunday evening in August on August 16, 23, and 30 from 6 p.m. – 7:30 for a time of Youth Fellowship and Small Groups. We will be meeting outdoors around the MAC so dress comfortably, bring water, Bible, and tailgate chair or pic nic blanket if you desire a place to sit other than the ground.

Please remember to be connected the following ways for important updates!
Remind Text Blasts – Text @riseym to 81010
Follow Us on Social Media - @YMRise for Facebook Page // FBC Augusta Student Ministry for Facebook Group // @rise_ym for Instagram

Newsletter and Emails – Sign up for our weekly newsletters and email blasts by sending your most up to date email to Elizabeth Chao at echao@fbcaugusta.org.



Staff Anniversaries

Susan Jones - 9 Years

Lori McPherson - 12 Years

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

Children's Ministry During a Pandemic!

During this most different time everything that we were used to doing that seemed normal and humdrum has flipped upside down and turned inside out. "Doing Ministry" for children, parenting, teaching, coaching, etc. while living through this pandemic has made us grow at our edges, evaluate our own emotional intelligence, and it has made us wait. As I look back on the last six months and look forward in hope, I realize there has been much change and learning happening. I realize that much of my "doing ministry" is now being viewed as "being ministry" with children. We want to be together. We want to be the church through worship. We want to be a friend and help our neighbors. We want to be with God and for God to be within us wherever we may "be" at the moment.

Everything we create and plan is intentional. We are planning and creating with purpose, evaluating and investigating with fervor, praying and faithfully leading with diligence, and trying ideas to connect our church families with Jesus and each other. I am thankful to all of our teachers from the baby room through fifth grade who have stayed engaged with their classes through notes, phone calls, and surprises on doorsteps. I am thankful for parents who have engaged and walked the journey, doing Sunday School virtually, Worshiping with their children at home, worshiping with children in person when possible, doing VBS In The City!2020. I am thankful for those families who are being honest with their feelings, sharing their ideas, voicing their needs and comfort levels, sharing their journeys on our Facebook page, and most importantly praying continually with me and for me.

As we dream I will tell you we have put VBS 2021 on the calendar for June 7-11 and Passport Kids Camp will be July 17-20 at Rock Eagle Camp in Eatonton, GA. We are also planning for this month some Wednesday night fun "appropriately distanced" game nights. You have received an email to sign up to let us know you are coming. We encourage parents to remain and enjoy the fun with their kids. The schedule is:

August 12th- 6:00-7:15 pm 3rd - 5th graders
August 19th- 6:00-7:15 pm K-2nd graders
August 26th- 6:00-7:15 pm Preschoolers 2 years-4 years (parents must be present)

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

Our summer looked different, felt different, and was different. We learned about Serving Jesus, our Families, our Neighbors, during VBS. I look forward to new Children's Ministry opportunities in the coming months. I am praying daily for our kids who have started back to school and will start back in whatever capacity, in person, LFH, or homeschool. I am praying for teachers, staff, and administrators. These are hard times. As a parent I feel it, as a minister I pray with you. I am here to listen and help as you need, I'm only a video chat or phone call away. I miss you, I love you, and I will see you soon.

With Joy,
Melissa



WEEKDAY EDUCATION

A prayer for Weekday Education

Lord as we enter this new school year... Bless the smiles, joy, and laughter of little ones as they fill our classrooms once again. Bless the teaching, learning, and playing that will happen each day. Bless the hands that will write, cut, color and glue as they create beautiful pieces of art. Bless the voices that will sing praises to You and the feet that will run and play. Strengthen the friendships that will be made and the love that will be shared. Help teachers as they prepare to welcome new students who may be scared or unsure. Calm anxious hearts and troubled minds of parents sending their children into our care. Guide leaders who are making decisions and looking over the safety of our program. Give us patience as we enter a year filled with uncertainty, help us to trust in You. Above all, help us to share Your light with all we meet as we learn and grow each day.

Pastoral Ministry

Will Dyer, *Senior Pastor*
Jim Walls, *Associate Pastor*
R. J. Robinson, *Pastor Emeritus*

Music Ministry

Ryan Heritage, *Minister of Music*
Dan Gaudinier, *Minister of Contemporary Worship*

Faith Development Ministry

David Hughes, *Minister to Students*
Melissa Willis, *Minister to Preschool & Children*
Martha Kate Hall, *Director of Weekday Education*
Lori McPherson, *Nursery Coordinator*

Operations Ministry

Kelly Rose, *Church Administrator*

Interpreter Contact

Elizabeth Chao
echao@fbcaugusta.org

GIVING REPORT AUG. 2 & 9

(08/02) Weekly Requirements	\$55,161
Budget-Building Receipts.....	\$28,190
Budget-Building to Date.....	\$1,496,465.69
Budget-Bldg Requirements.....	\$1,709,991
(08/09) Weekly Requirements	\$55,161
Budget-Building Receipts.....	\$49,022.48
Budget-Building to Date.....	\$1,545,488.17
Budget-Bldg Requirements.....	\$1,765,152

PRAYER TEXT MINISTRY

Eva Johnson (706) 731-4463

Julia Scott (480) 341-1718

Text "733" to the number provided to let the individual know you have prayed.



BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Tuesday AM: no start date but will meet at 7 AM when they start back. Contact Steve McPherson at swmcphrsn@aol.com for more information.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: meets Wednesday 7 AM. Contact Cone Underwood at cone.underwood@yahoo.com for more information.

Men's Friday AM: starts September; more information coming. Contact Bill Thompson at Bill.Thompson@qnbtrust.bank for more information.

Grace Class: meets Monday at 10:30 AM in chapel or via Zoom. Contact Marcia Buck at marrb321@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday AM Women's Bible Study:
"Finding God Faithful" by Kelly Minter

Wednesday August 12th -September 30th

9:30 am til 10:15 am Small groups in three different locations (see below)

Location 1 At your HOME on Zoom online or phone in to participate. Lead by MaryLu Brecher & Faye Skinner

Location 2 OUTSIDE Breezeway between Fellowship Hall and Adult Building. Lead by Pam Thompson, Sherri Hollar & MaryJo Fitts

Location 3 INSIDE Fellowship Hall Dark Room. Lead by Pauline Wickens, Petra Fordham, & Rebecca Elkin.

Due to Covid 19 we CANNOT offer childcare and babies/children are NOT permitted in small group areas.

11:15 am til noon Teaching Video by Kelly Minter shown via Zoom online or call in to listen on your phone.

Mandatory registration contact Rebecca Elkin at rpelkin@knology.net or text/call 706-840-3541

Order your workbook online at Lifeway.com or call 1-800-458-2872