

# THE *Messenger*

First Baptist Church  
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## *From Your Pastor*

I have a hard time comparing myself to many characters in the Bible. I would like to believe that my faith in God would overshadow my human frailty, and by His power, I could experience the same reality as did a Daniel or a Moses. But, I don't know about a lion's-den-kind-of-faith, a firey-furnace-conviction, or even a Red-Sea-walk-of-obedience and the kind of faith that produces such a testimony? Don't read into my confession that I don't trust God. I do, but I know myself too. However, in all of my hope-so-wonder, I can say with great confidence that I am pretty sure I would fit right in with the disciples of Jesus. In John 11, they traveled to the other side of the Jordan, where they felt they were a safe distance from the threat of the religious leader in Jerusalem. They are kicked back, comfortable, and reminiscing at the place it all started for them. They are at the familiar place where Jesus was baptized. After a little over a month after the baptism (40 days to be exact), each of them, one by one, were called to follow Him. I can imagine they sat around a campfire like a bunch of 12-year-old boys telling stories; "hey, remember when...". Jesus laughed with them. Oh, what a great time to enjoy being with Jesus. John 11:3 tells a message was delivered that their good friend, Lazarus, was sick, and they were bidding Jesus to come. You can almost feel the thickness in the air. Their laughter was silenced, and these men began to stare into the fire. Lazarus and his sisters only lived a few miles from Jerusalem. The last time Jesus was in that area, the religious leaders picked up stones to kill him. They all knew the danger of going back, especially so soon. They were somewhat relieved that Jesus didn't start packing up to go. He didn't make preparations the following day either. At the end of 24-hours, they were eased. Someone whispered, "I bet the Master pulled a "nobleman's son" and healed Lazarus without even having to be there!" By the time nighttime drew them back to the fire on the second day, each of them was listening even more intently than usual. They kind of expected Jesus to use this incident, as He had done so often, as a

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teachable moment. I imagine one or two might have been watching the road from Bethany. No one would have been surprised if Lazarus himself topped the hill and came strolling into their camp. Needless to say, they were almost caught off guard when Jesus, after two days, said, "Let's go to Judea again." Near pandemonium gripped them. They objected in John 11:8, reminding Jesus of the danger. Then, the teachable moment happened; a lesson about walking in the light, but they weren't jotting that lesson down. They were scared and just stood there frozen in the spot with their eyes fixed. Then "Doubting" Thomas said, "Load up boys ... 'Let us go, so that we may die with Him.'" They may not have wanted to go, but they did. They were perhaps afraid to go, but they did. They even objected to going, but they did. And at the end of the day, they learned the lesson that what they feared the most did not actually happen that day. They discovered that even the hopelessness of death was obedient when Jesus commanded it to loosen its grip, even after death had invited corruption to the party. Yep, I can relate to the disciples. Hesitant, scared, argumentative, sarcastic ... but most of all: amazed and in awe! Everything we face today is just as much in submission to King Jesus, so be amazed and in awe!

Your Pastor and friend,  
Dale



Church family!

We will not have children's activities this evening; we will not meet for Sunday school this coming Sunday; however, we WILL have children's worship for

the 10:15 service. Josh and Lacey Funderburg will be teaching our little ones.

\*\*Bible Drill start date has been altered once more—the first meeting is now September 19th.

I would like to introduce our new children's ministry intern! This is Jimbo Harrell. Jimbo is from Summit, MS; he is a communications major at Mississippi State University. His first official day will be this coming Sunday, August 29th; he is eager to begin serving and investing here at FBC West Point. Let's welcome him well!!!

Joyfully His,  
Morgan



# Ginger's Notes



*"We love Him because He first loved us!"*

During our last Multi-Gen Worship Service, we sang a new arrangement of the old hymn "My Jesus I Love Thee." This hymn was written by William Ralph Featherston at the age of sixteen! It is believed that he wrote this hymn as a poem celebrating his conversion to Christ. Reportedly he sent it to an aunt and it was published as an anonymous hymn in a British hymnal in 1864. Little else is known about the origin of the hymn or the author. The arrangement that we sang included an added chorus by Tommy Walker.

**Thank you** Josh and instrumentalists for leading us in worship Sunday.

**There will be NO choir rehearsal this week.** We plan to resume rehearsal Wednesday night, September 1 at 6:00 in the sanctuary.

**Youth Girl's Ensemble** will not meet this week. We plan to resume rehearsals Wednesday, September 8 at 5:00 in the choir room. All girls in grades 7-12 are invited to participate.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**MUSIC on MONDAYS** will resume on Monday, September 13 from 3:30-5:00. We will meet for 3 weeks in September (13, 20, 27). This is for children in grades 1-6. They will lead in morning worship Sunday morning, October 3.

**ADULT HAND BELL REHEARSALS** will resume on Mondays in October. More information soon!

He keeps me singing!

## First Students

*Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
since He who promised is faithful.  
Hebrews 10:24*

**Prairie Arts Parking Lot  
Student Fundraiser  
Saturday, September 4**

There are 3 shifts with the first one beginning at 6:30 a.m. Please contact Emma to sign up for one of these shifts. Parents are needed to help.

### TITHES & OFFERINGS AUGUST 22, 2021

Undesignated	34,949.00
Child Care	7,774.84
Total Operating	42,723.84
Designated	550.00
Total Deposit	43,273.84

### AUGUST 22, 2021 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

147

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25**

No Activities

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

Morning Worship Only - 10:15 a.m.

Just a reminder. If you are uncomfortable with attending in person, we understand and encourage you to join us via Facebook Live, YouTube, or the week-delayed broadcast on WCBI-MyMs. If you have been fully vaccinated and are comfortable attending, we ask you to please practice social distancing and wear a mask until you are seated. If you have not been fully vaccinated, I will lovingly ask you to be considerate of our most vulnerable by wearing a mask at all times. Please continue to be faithful in the prayerful support of all in our church family.

I know this plan is not what any of us want. Hopefully, we can reinstate our small groups next week. Time will tell as we wait to know God's grace in the meanwhile.

Bro. Dale

**THEREFORE THE LORD WILL WAIT,  
THAT HE MAY BE GRACIOUS TO YOU**

*Blessed are  
all those who  
wait for Him*

Therefore He will be exalted,  
that He may have mercy on you  
For the Lord is a God of justice



**ISAIAH 30:18**

## First Baptist Church

Rev. Dale Funderburg, Pastor  
Ginger Fowler, Minister of Music  
Morgan Spotts, Children's Ministry Interim  
Laura Langford, Early Childhood Ministry Director  
Madison Johnson, Music Ministry Intern  
Emma Hicks, Student Ministry Intern