

FROM THE PASTOR

Affirming Our Faith: We believe in God . . .

Since the end of October, we have been saying together in worship a brief Affirmation of Faith, stating in summary form the essence of the biblical story. Everything in scripture somehow relates to the loaded but simple phrases in this affirmation. I hope you will try to memorize it. I have inserted this piece into worship because worship is a time and place where we remember who God is, who we are, and what we are called to do, as we are forever held in the loving presence of God. From time to time throughout this year, I will offer in this space reflections on the meaning of each phrase until we get to the end. This week "We believe in God."

Apart from worship and prayer within the community of faith, life can wear us down and diminish our faith. Hard experiences can even make us question our belief in God. After we have listened to and prayed and sung our songs and words and prayers, we respond in worship by affirming our faith in God. During those particularly difficult seasons of our lives when affirming our faith seems too hard, we can listen and be strengthened by the faith of our brothers and sisters in Christ as they affirm their faith beside us. There are even times when we have to speak our way into believing again. The affirmation of faith gives us the opportunity to remember all that God has done for us and gives thanks for the many ways God has been faithful to us. So we say together: *We believe in God . . .*

Members in Care Facilities

Maple Court (Tifton): Virginia Hughes & Pruitt Health (Ocilla): Drew Fountain

Homebound Members – Fitzgerald

June & Don Morris

Homebound Members – Out of Town & State

Lois Eppes – Middleburg, FL & Lois Freeman – Newnan, GA

Prayers for Our People

We are praying for you and all that God will do for you.

Let us pray for: Denise Bowen, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Polly Davis, Wendy Dix, Joni Wiggins Fox, Gene Mason, Allen Maye, Don Morris, June Morris, Jane Stuart, Gage Stubbs, Kelly Sumner, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil

Sympathy

We express our Christian sympathy to Blane and Barbara and family, in the death of her mother, Sue Tucker, who passed away on January 4, 2023.



Thank you to everyone that helped with Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Ministry. First Baptist members collected 112 shoe boxes and \$426.00 to donate. Please continue to pray that our boxes will spread the word of Christ by reaching children throughout the world. Thank you.



WNL this week at 6pm, Sunday School and Worship this Sunday at 10am and 11am. Sign up is now up for Youth Sunday which is set for March 12th which is time change Sunday so it will be a sacrifice of sleep that day. There are a lot of options to participate that Sunday! Sign up is also open for our Summer Youth Mission Camp which will be June 11-14. Deposits for Summer Youth Camp are due on March 12th. See You Soon!



The adult handbell choir will practice THIS SUNDAY at 9:15am in the Sanctuary. This week, the choir will sing *You Are My All in All* as our special music. Orchestra and handbells will play with the hymns. We are looking for people who want to join the choir and handbell choir. See You Sunday!



Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday, January 15, 2023, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Alvin Giddens and Gary Giddens by Joyce Giddens, Johnny & Gail Giddens and family, and Betsy Giddens and family.



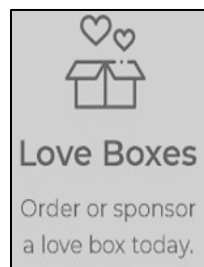
On behalf of the Sue Tucker family, thank you so much for allowing us to use the Church Sanctuary to hold the funeral of our dear mother. Thanks for the beautiful flower arrangement you sent and thanks to the Sportsman Sunday School Class for your provision of paper products. *Barbara and Blane Jacobs*



JANUARY CALENDAR EVENTS

January Ushers: James Campbell, Bill Bryant, Van Waters, Mike Raynor, Donald Wiggins, Phil Stokes, Stan Bryant, Keith Wood, Jeff Thompson, Drew Wiley, and Reid Luckie.

- Jan 11** Wednesday Scheduled Activities resume at 5:30pm & 6pm: (Children's Choir above Breezeway), Mission Friends, and GAs
- Jan 17** Women on Mission Bible Study (10am Library)
- Jan 18** LOL Food Box Orders and Money is Due
- Jan 28** LOL Food Box Distribution Day (10am Gym)



Maximum Impact Love Food Boxes Distribution Day is Saturday, January 28. The cost is \$57. Money is due by Wednesday, January 18. Volunteers from our church unloading the truck will be needed at our gym starting at 7:00 that morning, and volunteers packing boxes will begin at 8:30. Box pick-up time is at 10:00. Menu items are still being determined at this time.

Ms. Carly's Corner for KIDS

Children's Choir, RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends have all resumed. Come join us each Wednesday.



AFTER THE HOLIDAYS:

- **Children's Choir:** Every Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Children's Choir room above the Breezeway.
- **Mission Friends, GAs and RAs:** 6pm every Wednesday!
- **Sunday School:** 10am every Sunday!



January Sunday Children's

Church Volunteers:

- January 15.....Justin and Elizabeth Phillips
- January 22.....Ross and Kristin Campbell
- January 29.....Carla and Clint Revels



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Easter Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th

Children's Sunday

Sunday May 14th

RA RACING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8TH, 2023 AT 6PM IN THE GYMNASIUM

All ages are invited to join us to support the RA Racing night on Wednesday, February 8th. GAs will also be selling pizza, drinks, and snacks as well. Join us for a great night of fun to support our kids!



CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Daily Scripture: Acts 10.34-43. Psalm 29

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Daily Scripture: Matthew 3.13-17. Psalm 29

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir*
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Daily Scripture: Isaiah 49.1-7. Psalm 40.1-11

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9. Psalm 40.1-11

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Daily Scripture: John 1.29-42. Psalm 40.1-11

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

EPIPHANY 3

9:15 AM.....Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Worship Service*
 4:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Daily Scripture: Isaiah 49.1-7. Psalm 40.1-11

4:15.....Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9. Psalm 40.1-11

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Daily Scripture: John 1.29-42. Psalm 40.1-11

LOL FOOD BOX ORDERS AND MONEY IS DUE

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir*
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Daily Scripture: Isaiah 9.1-4. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1.10-18. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Daily Scripture: Matthew 4.12-23. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

EPIPHANY 4

9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Worship Service*
 4:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

Daily Scripture: Isaiah 9.1-4. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

4:15.....Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1.10-18. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Daily Scripture: Matthew 4.12-23. Psalm 27.1, 4-9

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir*
 6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*
 6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*
 6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

Daily Scripture: Micah 6.1-8. Psalm 15

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1.18-31. Psalm 15

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Daily Scripture: Matthew 5.1-12. Psalm 15

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

EPIPHANY 5

9:15 AM.....Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM.....Sunday School*
 11:00 AM.....Worship Service*
 4:00 PM.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

*Nursery Staff available for these events.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, closed all day Friday

8:30am-12:15pm (12:15-1:30 closed for lunch & office errands) 1:30pm-5pm

Our Stewardship Review

2022 End of Year Totals

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Weekly Budget Required..... | \$12,134.96 |
| Weekly Budget Received for 12/29/22 – 12/31/22..... | \$41,910.00 |
| Monthly Budget Required..... | \$52,584.84 |
| MTD Budget Received..... | \$127,437.02 |
| YTD Budget Requirement..... | \$631,018.04 |
| YTD Budget Giving Received..... | \$713,068.46 |
| YTD Budget Expenses..... | \$625,804.56 |
| Prayer Garden Budget Requirement | \$38,000.00 |
| Prayer Garden Budget Giving Received..... | \$14,800.00 |
| Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 12/29/22 – 12/31/22..... | \$3,070.00 |

Church Staff

Pastor..... Greg Pope
 Minister of Music & Youth.....Blane Jacobs
 Administrative Assistant..... Dana Luckie
 Director of Children's Activities.....Carly Harper
 Custodian.....Jeffrey Morgan
 Housekeeping..... Antoinette Hill
 Church Organist..... Barbara Jacobs
 Church Pianist..... Susan Spivey

Contact us at 229-423-4367 or by email at fbcf@fbcfitz.com. You can also check out church information and activities on our website www.fbcfitz.com.

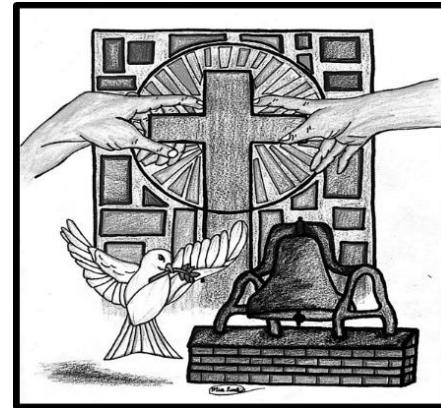
First Baptist Church

P. O. Box 367
 (402 S. Merrimac Drive)
 Fitzgerald, GA 31750
Return Service Requested

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 31750

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First Baptist Church

OF FITZGERALD, GA.

First Baptist Church is a loving and caring Christian community seeking to extend the open hand of God's grace to meet physical and spiritual needs through worship, education, ministry, fellowship, and spiritual nurturing.

**Wednesday Vespers 6pm Burch Hall
 Sunday School 10am
 Worship Service 11am Sanctuary**

Sunday January 15 - The Third Sunday in Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11,

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Sermon: *Come and See: An Invitation to Jesus*

Music: *You Are My All in All* (Sanctuary Choir)

Sunday January 22 - The Fourth Sunday in Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1,4-9,

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: *Come and Follow: An Invitation to Discipleship*

Sunday January 29 - The Fifth Sunday in Epiphany

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15,

1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: *Blessed Are Those*

Wednesday Vespers - 6:00 BURCH HALL (through August)

Beginning January 4

Bible Study Through Paul's Letter to the Philippians

"Joy Beyond the Walls of the World" (January-May)