



CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Volume LXXVII, No. 06

SUMMER SERMON SERIES HARD SAYINGS SHAPE US



Join us in worship as Pastor John preaches from some of the difficult lessons Jesus teaches.

SUNDAYS IN JUNE AND JULY



A Note from the Pastor

Stay Generous, Stay Connected

As summer begins and our rhythms shift, it's easy to slide into the mindset that church life, like school schedules, slows down. But at First Baptist Greenwood, the work of Christ's church continues—whether the sanctuary is full or half-empty, whether you're in town or away at the beach. Ministry doesn't take a vacation, and neither does generosity.

Sociologist Christian Smith offers a compelling definition of generosity: "[Generosity] is a learned character trait... It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, and more—but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver."

Smith's definition speaks directly to the kind of life we're called to live as followers of Jesus. Generosity isn't a seasonal action or a financial transaction. It's a spiritual posture. It's a way of being in the world that reflects God's own self-giving love. When we give, we're not just helping someone or meeting a budget—we are intentionally investing in the well-being of others, seeking another's flourishing in Christ's name.

Summer brings its own unique opportunities to live generously. Maybe that means showing up to help with a Children's or Youth Ministry activity, even if you've got a busy week. Maybe it looks like writing a note of encouragement to a student going on their first Passport trip or sending a text to a Sunday school teacher just to say thank you. Maybe it means making a financial gift online the week you're away, or taking the time to pray for the church staff and volunteers who continue to lead worship, teach in bible study, engage with children and youth, and offer pastoral care to members in need.

These acts may seem small, but they are not insignificant. They are the fabric of a generous life. They remind us that generosity is more than what we give—it's about being present, being thoughtful, and being engaged in the life of the church, even when we're far from home.

We know summer is full of travel, rest, and well-deserved time with family. We celebrate that! But we also invite you to carry the spirit of generosity with you. Stay connected to your church family. Engage in worship online when you're away. Continue your financial giving so ministry can stay strong. Reach out to someone who might need encouragement. And when you're in town, show up. Your presence matters more than you know.

Generosity is not accidental. It's a choice we make over and over again, shaped by grace and powered by love. So this summer, let's keep choosing to be generous—with our time, our resources, and our hearts. Because when we do, we are living like Christ—and enhancing the true wellbeing of those we serve, worship, and walk alongside.

See you this Sunday... or see you online. Either way, we're grateful for your generous presence in the life of FBC Greenwood.

Your Pastor,



Worship in June

Sunday—June 1 Ascension Sunday

Scripture: Luke 10:30-35

Sermon: "Hard Sayings Shape Us:
Reimagining an Enemy"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"What Does the Lord Require of You?"
Chancel Choir with
Byron Hilley, flute; Cody Beard, trumpet

Sunday—June 8 Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 18:10-14a

Sermon: "Hard Sayings Shape Us:
A Scandal of Grace for Sinners"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"Spirit, Open My Heart"
Chancel Choir, with Becky Garner, oboe

Sunday, June 15 Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-15

Sermon: "Hard Sayings Shape Us:
Hey! That's Not Fair!"
David Corbitt

Special Music:
"Now Glad of Heart"—Chancel Choir

Sunday—June 22

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Sermon:
Sermon: "Hard Sayings Shape Us:
A Prodigal Father"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
Chancel Choir, David Corbitt, soloist

Sunday—June 29

Scripture: Luke 14:26, Mark 10:37

Sermon: "Hard Sayings Shape Us:
For the Love of Family"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"People to People" - Chancel Choir



Music Notes

Three in a Row

As our Easter season concludes, the beginning of June brings three big Sundays in a row: Ascension Sunday, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. We also celebrate Holy Communion on Pentecost, and the music for these three Sundays will reflect each event in different ways. On Sunday, June 1, for Ascension Sunday, we all sing the great celebratory hymn "All Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise," with Cody Beard on trumpet. Also this Sunday, John starts a sermon series on "Hard Sayings That Shape Us..." and the Chancel Choir will sing a lovely anthem inspired by the words of Micah 6: "What Does the Lord Require of You?" by Robert A. Hobby. "To do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with God" are our requirements, and the music is filled with a beautiful melody and luscious harmonies, accompanied by organ and Byron Hilley on flute. On Sunday, June 8, for Pentecost and Communion, the choir sings "Spirit, Open My Heart" with Becky Gardner playing oboe, which features the 'Martyrdom' hymn tune high above the melody of the anthem. On Sunday, June 15, for Trinity Sunday, the choir will sing a spirited anthem called "Now Glad of Heart" by K. Lee Scott, which features a melody reminiscent of a Scottish tune, with varied meter changes and wonderful outbursts of 'Alleluia.' John continues his sermon series throughout June and July, and the Chancel Choir will sing many familiar anthems. In addition to our anthems, a variety of soloists from our church will offer special music through the summer months. I hope you'll come and sing, and experience some wonderful music the summer:

*Then rise all Christian folk with me
And carol forth the One in Three,
that was and is and is to be.
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

"Now Glad of Heart" by K. Lee Scott
Text from *Christlich's Gesangbüchlein*
1568

August 6 Hamburgers 'n Hymns: Praise and Prayer



First Baptist will "kick off" fall programming on Wednesday, August 6, which will feature the fourth annual "Hamburgers 'n Hymns" event in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to the great meal, there will be the singing of hymns of "Praise and Prayer." The Chancel Choir and Bell Tower Trio will sing along with some soloists, and our own Will Thomas Cleveland will be at the piano with festive and reflective hymns of celebration, adoration, and meditation. Hymns will include "I Need Thee Every Hour," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Victory in Jesus," "Heavenly Sunlight," "Standing on the Promises," "There is Power in the Blood," and many more. Please make plans to be at this fun and joyous event as we kick off our fall season and our exciting activities for the new year.



O Sing to the Lord Chancel Choir Needs YOU

Have you ever thought about singing with the choir but have hesitated in the past? Well, hesitate no longer! The fall season is the PERFECT time to come and join Chancel Choir. You get your own folder with music, your own robe and stole (All of God's Children got a robe!) and you'll experience the joy of singing with a wonderful group of friends. Fellowship, food, and music await you as we start our fall rehearsals on Wednesday, August 13. We'll begin Christmas music in August, which is a fantastic way to 'beat the heat' of the humid summer months. Come and "Sing to the Lord" with your whole voice!



Music Positions Available Starting in August 2025

We are in need of leaders in our music ministry this fall:

- Music Makers (4K-First Grade)
- Young Musicians (Second Grade through Fifth Grade)

If you or someone you know would be interested in assisting with our music ministry, please contact Keith Jameson.

Thank you!



From the Heritage Committee

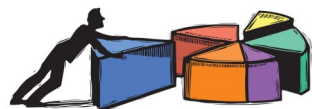
At this point in the year, our thoughts turn to the Red, White and Blue as we prepare to celebrate July 4 and remember with pride and appreciation our service men and women. FBC has its very own cherished wall of names of those who fought in World War II. These brave souls worshiped in the "old church" 80 years ago. Loved ones left on the home front prayed in a small solitary and unadorned room in front of these plaques for the safety and well being of these beloved service men and women. Please visit the FBC Betty (Beeka) Wise Colman Heritage Room to view and honor both the plaques on the wall and the names on the framed list below them on the display cabinet. If you find the name of a family member or friend, please share any information you have concerning these brave service men and women on the form available on the desk. Please leave the paper in the nearby basket. The Heritage Committee would also appreciate the loan of any mementos you are willing to share for our Patriotic Display in the Heritage Room from June through July. Thank you for your consideration and for helping us shine a light on those who fought for our country so many years ago.



Diaconate Update

In lieu of an in-person May Diaconate meeting, the Diaconate Executive Committee decided to handle the May meeting via email. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, pastoral care updates and April financials, the Diaconate approved two items of business.

- 1) April 2025 minutes
- 2) A recommendation from the Stewardship Committee to set a 2026 Ministry Plan cap of \$995,000. The Diaconate was also made aware that the 2026 Ministry Plan Cap is a goal to work toward. However, there are several unknowns associated with the development of the 2026 Ministry Plan. These include staffing transitions and insurance considerations.



Submit Your Ministry Plan Requests

2026 Ministry Plan

In accordance with the new First Baptist Church Ministry Plan Development Policy, the Stewardship Committee has begun working on the 2026 Ministry Plan. The committee has sent an email to committee chairs and others with line items in the annual Ministry Plan asking for their requests for 2026. All requests are due by August 3. Once all requests are compiled, a Ministry Plan Ad-hoc Committee will be formed to review requests and negotiate a final version of the annual Ministry Plan to be presented to the congregation at the end of September.

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Karen Thomas, mother of April Mauldin
- Martha Redick
- Kenneth Bowen
- Hepsy Parham, sister of Jeanne Hughston
- Jeremy Styron, uncle of Lauren Coker
- Suzanne Thomason Rowland, sister of Bill Thomason
- Jack Miller, nephew of Lewis Walker

Self: Michael Hammett

Home: Katie Funderburk, Rachel Stephens, Grant Wilkie, Jackie Dewberry, Amelia English, Frieda Penn, Beth Downtin

Birth

Levi Reed Ediger, grandson of Judi and Chuck Neufeld

A Reminder



In order to give our catering and kitchen crews a well-deserved rest, Wednesday Family Night Meals will not be offered during June and

July. The permanent reservation list will be revised in July. Watch the various church publications for information about fall kick-off events.

Financials

April 2025

April Receipts:	\$ 65,050.31
April Expenses:	\$ 81,871.53

May 4 – May 25, 2025

Period Need	\$ 82,958.82
Period Gifts	38,221.31
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	402,031.14
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	252,597.83
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	164
Worship Attendance (Avg)	191

Youth News



Sunday Night Live is on pause for the summer. Watch various

church publications for when and where *Sunday Night Live* will resume.



PASSPORT Mission Trip June 22-27, 2025 Mississippi Delta Community College Moorhead, MS

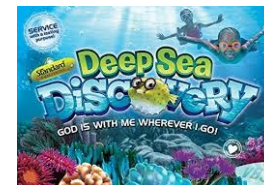
The Youth PASSPORT Missions Trip will be June 22-27, 2025, with the youth traveling to Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead, MS. This will be an exciting missions trip with a stop on Sunday afternoon, June 22, in Birmingham, AL. We have space for 12 youth, and 4 chaperones. PLEASE call the church office or reach out to Keith Jameson about registering your youth or chaperoning. **The cost per youth is \$150.00 and is needed with a release form by Sunday, June 8.**



Upcoming Dates for Children and Their Families

July 15-18: Camp PRISM
(children who have completed 3rd-5th grade)

July 16: Splash Pad
6:00 pm-7:00 pm



Children's Deep Sea Discovery a Huge Success!

What a great experience the children had visiting with Noah, Jonah, Peter, John, and Paul during Vacation Bible School. Approximately 48 children and 36 adults and youth spent the Wednesdays in May discovering that God knows us, hears us, strengthens us, loves us, and sends us. Along with visiting the various Bible characters, the time together included songs, games, crafts, supper, friends, fellowship, and fun. Vacation Bible School could not have happened without the help of many wonderful leaders. A **HUGE** thank you goes to:

Crafts: Claudia Burch, Velma English

Recreation: Mary Weaver, Jordan Hewitt, Lane Riley

Supper: Rosemary Benjamin Circle, Peggy Hollingsworth Circle, Laucis-Parham Circle

Bible Characters: John Uldrick, David Corbitt, Sonny Nodine, David Jennings

Preschool: Lauren Baggett, Jennifer Hudson, Amanda Moon, Kelly Rhodes, Ellison Rowe

Group Leaders: Haley English, Nancy Poston, Ayla Snead, Catherine White

Childcare: Alice Gilchrist

Youth: Kirsten Moon, Maddox Rhodes

Decorations: Claudia Burch, Haley English, Jordan Hewitt, Chelsea Lloyd, Amanda and Kirsten Moon, Kirsten Neufeld, Nancy Poston, Lane Riley, Sam Smith, Ayla Snead, Lynn Waldron, and Catherine White

Check out pictures on the church's Facebook page or the Children's Ministry's Instagram to see how much fun we truly had!

DEACON NOMINATIONS

The First Baptist Church Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is beginning the task of selecting and nominating individuals to serve in the sacred call of a deacon. Therefore, the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee is asking members of the church family to recommend individuals they believe would be worthy of the committee's consideration. Below is a list of the qualifications and duties of a deacon. Please use this as a guide when selecting individuals you believe worthy to serve in the sacred call of a deacon. The committee is seeking names from the congregation between Sunday, June 8 and Sunday, July 20. Names may be submitted through the Engage page of the church website. Paper copies are available in the church office and in the narthex. For additional information, please contact David Jennings by phone (229-5557) or by email at jenningsdaj@gmail.com.

Deacon Qualifications

- Minimum age of 21
- Active church member
- Care and service of members and others
- Commitment to Christ
- Faithfulness in attendance
- Faithfulness in stewardship
- Personal moral integrity
- Provide example to congregation that points to Christ and Christ's Spirit of love for all persons
- Seek to promote understanding and unity among all persons and groups
- Support the formulation of sound policies by the church
- Support the ministries of First Baptist
- Work to find spiritual solutions to major problems that affect the spiritual health of the church



Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Extended Session Openings

- **Children's Church:** First Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, and December
- **Toddlers (Two Spots):** Fourth Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, and December

Duties of a Deacon

- Minister to the spiritual and religious needs of the church and its members
- Committed to personal spiritual growth through Bible Study, church activities, and the offering of one's gifts
- Attend monthly Diaconate meetings and other meetings as called
- Lead in welcoming visitors and members to worship services
- Assist with observance of Communion
- Assist in other pastoral duties and needed



Please pray for:

- Safety for those who are traveling
- Rest, renewal, and refreshment for those who are weary
- Our youth and their chaperones during Passport Camp, June 22-27
- Our children and their chaperones during Camp PRISM, July 15-18
- Those working on the 2026 Ministry Plan
- Plans being made as a result of the three Congregational Conversations
- Plans for the fall
- Church leadership
- God's will in all decisions and activities of FBC



722 Grace Street
Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 229-5557 (864) 229-2561 Fax
Website: fbcgwd.org

Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers and Staff

John Uldrick
David Jennings
Keith Jameson
Lauren Coker
Will Thomas Cleveland
Claudia Burch
Mary Frances Thompson
Linda Miller

Senior Pastor
Minister of Administration
Church Music Director
Part-Time Youth Leader
Organist
Director of Cheerful Cherubs
Ministry Assistant
Financial Assistant

john.uldick@fbcgwd.org
jenningsdaj@gmail.com
keithjameson@hotmail.com
laurencoker@gmail.com
willthomascleveland@gmail.com
claudiaburch5@gmail.com
gfbcscc@gmail.com
lindamillerfbc@gmail.com

(864) 229-8051

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line