



The Worship of God ✠ September 24, 2023 ✠ The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910

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The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 24, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 17th Sunday after Pentecost*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PIANO PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. David Davis & Mr. Pace Davis, Acolytes

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Bazemore

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray
The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mary McDonald

+HYMN OF PRAISE 323 *How Great Thou Art*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Thompson

People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

**Our prayer is that they grow up to be like Jesus—strong and brave,
full of grace and truth, and that we will help them.**

✠ ✠ ✠

COMMISSIONING OF PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie
September 24, 2023

Commissioning of the Pastor Search Committee

*Don Joyner
Claudia Morris
Ashleé Perry
Mary Page Pierce*

*Chuck Revelle
Cheryl Slachta
Jim Wiggins
Lee Wilson*

To the Committee Members

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, you have been selected by your church family to a very significant task of serving on the Pastor Search Committee on behalf of this congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we take time in this worship service to affirm your willingness to serve, to express our gratitude for the service you are undertaking and to remind all of us that you do not carry out this task alone; for you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the support for each other and the prayerful support of the members of the First Baptist Church.

Covenant of the Committee Members

Do you, this day, faithfully commit to carry out the task of searching for a Pastor for First Baptist Church?

I Do.

Do you so pledge, with God's guidance and your daily prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all that you do, all that you will say, and all decisions made?

I Do.

Do you commit to building a harmonious working relationship within the committee; to listen to one another with grace and respect, to be open to hearing God's voice in each member of the committee, to lay aside any and all personal preferences for the good of the committee and this church?

I Do.

Do you commit to maintain strict confidentiality in all you read, say, and hear within the committee, caring for the privacy of each other and the potential candidates?

I Do.

Do you commit to review all candidate profiles with open mind and heart, treating all candidates fairly and justly as you seek who is best to lead this church into the future as the Pastor?

I Do.

Your work is so very important in building a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

Pledge of the Congregation

We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to pray daily for you, and to offer our support and our words of encouragement throughout this process.

We pledge to respect you and the work you will do.

We pledge to be patient with you, and honor the need of confidentiality in your task.

We are grateful for your commitment to serve, and we believe you will be obedient as guided by the power and presence of God's Holy Spirit as you seek the next Pastor to minister with us.

Commissioning Prayer

+HYMN 482

Here I Am, Lord
Sing Stanza 1, then the chorus twice.

HERE I AM LORD

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 96:8-9

Mrs. Jamie Burns

In Pew Bible, page 677 of Old Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God;
thanks be to God.

+PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Burns

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

EPISTLE LESSON

James 4:13-15

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 280 of New Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God;
thanks be to God.

SERMON

Looking Ahead

Dr. Bazemore

✠ ✠ ✠

INVITATION

It is our tradition to offer a time of response near the end of worship. A response may take the shape of a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and desire to be baptized, a request for church membership, or the sharing of a prayer concern or praise which may be communicated with the congregation or safely kept between the sharer and minister. Please respond as you feel led during the Hymn of Response.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 495 *Step by Step*
Sung Three Times

STEP BY STEP

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Bazemore

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

As the chimes strike three times—in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—our corporate worship ends, and our opportunity begins to be the presence of Christ in the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

RECESSIONAL OF THE LIGHT

PIANO POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Rick & Jamie Burns, in honor of their grandchildren, Adalyn, Wade, & Wyatt.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

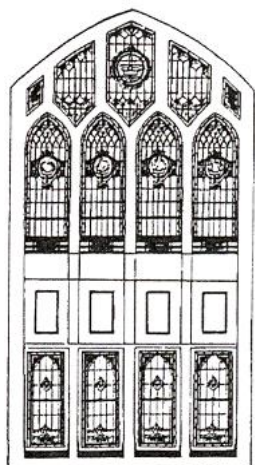
Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Dennis N.
Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Brayden Conboy
Youth Minister

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Music Associate/Pianist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

September 24, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

♦ **The Christian Year** – We are continuing our journey through the season of Ordinary Time, concentrating on our growth as disciples of Jesus and as a church. During this season we will observe World Communion Sunday on October 1, and All Saints Sunday on November 5. The Christian Year ends with Christ the King Sunday on November 26.

✠ Childcare During Worship

We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today in Extended Session while we worship:

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Will Blanchard & Michelle Boyd

Kindergarten: Volunteers Needed

✠ Wednesday Night Schedule | Beginning October 11, 2023

5:15—6:00 PM Meal is served.

6:00—7:00 PM •Children's Music & Missions

•Prayer Meeting—Bible Study for Adults & Youth (Grades 6-12)

7:15—8:15 PM Sanctuary Choir

8:15—9:00 PM Vocal Ensemble

Meal Costs: Adults \$8 Children (Ages 3-12) \$4

Meal reservations are required. They may be made on a weekly or permanent basis. To make your reservation, place each name on the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the second floor hallway or call the church office at (252) 332-4003.

✠ Fall Picnic | October 15, 2023

The deacons will host a picnic for the entire church family on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Please gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 PM.

✠ Women's Bible Study | September 28, 2023 | 10:30 AM

A Women's Bible Study began on September 14, 2023, at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying "Bad Girls of the Bible," by Liz Curtis Higgs. Meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Invite your friends—it's not just for FBCA women! Questions? Contact Jayne Frei at (757) 478-6194.

✂ In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Alex Britton in the September 17, 2023 passing of his 92 year old paternal grandmother, Julia Britton of Galatia. She was the grandmother-in-law of Sarah Grace (Malette) Britton, and great grandmother of Corbett and Wells Britton.

✂ Youth Ministry | Grades 6-12

On Sundays at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall, Brayden Conboy, will host a meal and discipleship time for students in grades 6-12. For more information, contact Brayden at (757) 633-1278. Meal providers are needed. Prepare for approximately 15 youth, and the church will reimburse expenses. Please contact Jamie Burns at (252) 332-9461 if you can help with this ministry.

✂ Churchwide Mission Project | September - October 1, 2023

We are collecting school supplies for the 7 elementary schools in our association. A collection basket is located in the missions closet across from the kitchen. Items needed:

- Marble Hardback Notebooks
- #2 Pencils
- Earbuds
- Band-Aids
- Disinfectant Wipes & Spray
- Headphones
- Pink Erasers
- 1 Subject Notebooks
- Microfiber Cleaning Rags
- Colored Pencils
- Tissues (Boxed)
- Glue Sticks
- Hand Sanitizer (Medium Sized)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Crayons
- Gift Cards for Teachers
- Kindergarten ABC/123 Writing Notebooks (Dollar Tree & Dollar General)

✂ Looking Ahead

♦ Monday, September 25

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

5:45 PM Girl Scouts

♦ Wednesday, September 27

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

♦ Thursday, September 28

10:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

♦ Friday, September 29

8:30 AM Christian Women's Job Corps, The Gathering Place

♦ Sunday, October 1

11:00 AM World Communion Sunday

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