



# Auburn First Baptist Church

Volume 7 Issue 44

*Building Community, Serving Community*

July 1, 2020

## WORSHIP

*The Wilderness is Wild*

By: Tripp Martin

- July 5th  
*Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
  - July 12th  
*Sixth Sunday After Pentecost*  
Genesis 25:19-34  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
  - July 19th  
*Seventh Sunday After Pentecost*  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
  - July 26th  
*Eighth Sunday After Pentecost*  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
Romans 8:26-39
- Lay Worship Leader for July:  
Drew Smith
- In the wake of the recent months as we have weighed the impact of a global pandemic, the experience of the Hebrew people leaving Egypt and wandering through the wilderness can serve as our guide. They discovered the wilderness is wild! It was not wild like a rollercoaster, but wild like the untamed desert.
- They faced limitations and uncertainty, elements outside of their control and threats beyond their reach. They were afraid and had to remember that God was with them on the journey. They found ways to worship, like building the Tabernacle, and learned to look for God's presence, even finding water from a rock. No one knew the answers to every question or the path forward, like holding a map in their hands.
- We have been forced to rethink so much! Even simple tasks have been changed by the threat of a pandemic. For the ministry of the church, we have had to rethink Vacation Bible School, Passport Youth Camp, and Passport Kids Camp. In our lives, we have had to rethink all of our activities, gatherings, and priorities.
- For the Hebrew people, what did they take with them from their experience, which speaks to us now? First, they realized God heard their cries. God did not turn away from their laments, grief, or struggles. Second, they saw their neighbor differently. They had a first-hand experience of needing the help of others, so in the future, they felt called to treat their neighbors differently, especially the vulnerable.

## REMINDERS

### Worship

Our worship service is live streamed on the website each week.

[AuburnFBC.org/Live](http://AuburnFBC.org/Live)

### Midweek Reflections

We are talking about "Creating Sacred Space in Our Lives." A video is posted on the website each week.

[AuburnFBC.org/Sacred](http://AuburnFBC.org/Sacred)

Lastly, they had to rethink what was truly important, like gratitude, repentance, and grace. They would give thanks for all that was good, knowing the power of gratitude to open us up to God's presence, as they acknowledged even the hidden grace in their lives. They also realized that repentance is an act of love. It is an act of love towards God and towards our neighbor.

If repentance is an act of love, grace is the reason. Grace is the reason we give thanks or repent. It is the reason we rethink our priorities or celebrate our joy. Grace is the reason we can navigate the wilderness, which is wild. It gives meaning for the journey and hope for tomorrow!

We do not have answers to all of our questions, but as we rethink so much, we can take note of those who have navigated this type of journey before.

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Connect with us on Facebook @AuburnFirstBaptist*

**Our Mission:** Believing the Spirit of God is alive in each one of us and in the world, we affirm that the mission of Auburn First Baptist Church is: to glorify God as the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of life; to call all people to God through Christ as Savior and Lord; to enable all people to be more like Jesus.

## MIDWEEK REFLECTIONS

Each Wednesday, a reflection on “Creating Sacred Space in Our Lives” is posted to our website. We are discussing the sacredness of each day, even in our different circumstances.

[AuburnFBC.org/Sacred](http://AuburnFBC.org/Sacred)

## FELLOWSHIP

### *PrimeTimers on the Move*

There will not be a meeting in July. Our schedule remains to be determined.

## SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

### **Sunday School**

During this time of social distancing, Sunday School classes are finding ways to remain connected. Teachers are sharing lessons, and classes are meeting virtually. We are thankful for these connections!

## ONLINE GIVING

We now have an online giving option available on our website. The primary option is to give to the General Fund via credit card. One aspect of this option is a 3% transaction fee by the company, which handles the secure transaction. Each giver has the option to include the fee in his or her gift. If this option is not chosen, the church will need to cover the fee. The giver can also set up a recurring monthly gift if it is preferable. We hope this will be a helpful option for the congregation, especially during this time we are apart.

A giver can also give through an ACH, entering a bank account number and pertinent information.

***This is only an additional option for giving!*** Everyone can continue to give as they have given in the past. Checks can be mailed to the church. If you have any questions about online giving, please email Kristina Hickman, [kristina@auburnfbc.org](mailto:kristina@auburnfbc.org).

[AuburnFBC.org/Give](http://AuburnFBC.org/Give)

## MISSIONS

### **Community Market and Food Bank**

At this time, when so many people who live paycheck to paycheck are out of work, demands on the Community Market are higher than ever. Food supplies are running low, and so are the funds to replenish them. A check in any amount made out to the Community Market (3810 Pepperell Pkwy, Opelika, AL 36801) or to the Food Bank of East Alabama (375 Industry Drive, Auburn, AL 36832) would help! A check is better than a bag of groceries because the Food Bank can make the money go farther.

## CHILDREN

### **Passport Kids in Auburn**

July 20-22

We will have a version of Passport Kids for 2nd-5th graders. Save the date!

### **Zoom with Pastor Tripp**

*Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.*

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Email Tripp for more information.

### **Children's Choirs (3\* year olds – 5th Grade)**

*Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Education Building*

\*We ask that all attendees be potty trained.

Not Meeting

### **Bible Encounter (1st – 5th graders)**

*Sundays, 6:00 p.m., Education Building*

Not Meeting

### **Spark Adventure**

*Thursdays, 5:50 p.m., Education Building*

Not Meeting

## COLLEGE

### **Bible Study & Breakfast**

*Sundays, 10:15 a.m.*

*College Room (Activities Building)*

Not Meeting

Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.

**Thursday Nights**

5:15 p.m. Dinner  
 5:45 p.m. Youth Hang Out Time  
*Not Meeting*

**Youth Choir**

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.  
 Choir Room  
*Not Meeting*

**Youth Sunday Nights**

Sundays, 6:00 p.m.  
*Via Zoom*

**Passport in Auburn**

July 6-10

**Youth Bibles**

Our youth Bibles are an important part of our youth ministry at AFBC. Youth receive a new Bible when they enter 6th grade. They use these Bibles throughout their time in the youth ministry of Auburn First Baptist, studying them during Sunday School and Youth Sunday Nights, taking them along to camps and retreats, making notes in them as they learn and grow in their faith. When students graduate from high school, they are presented with their youth Bibles to take with them as they continue their journey of life and faith. We hope these Bibles will represent a sense of rootedness in faith for our young people. As we approach a new school year, we invite our church family to purchase Bibles for the new group of students joining our youth ministry. Students will receive a letter letting them know who sponsored their Bible. They will know that you and your family have chosen to support their faith journey by providing a Bible for them. In this way, the Bibles will serve as an intergenerational connection point among members of our church. The Bibles will be NRSV, bonded leather, and will have the student's name on the front cover. Total cost is \$30.00 per Bible. Please prayerfully consider providing a Bible for one (or more) of our youth. Thank you!

**Names for the Bibles:**

Sophia Duzy  
 Emma Kate Parish  
 Annie Payne  
 Wesley Sabo  
 Elizabeth Summers

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Every Sunday*

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

*Every Thursday*

Brown Bag Dinner 5:15 p.m.  
 Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

The church office remains closed as our staff is working from home. The email addresses for the staff are found in the newsletter and website. If you need to contact the ministerial staff, Tripp Martin (334-332-4100), Morris Driggers (864-981-0963), or Laura Edgar (334-233-2267).

**Social Media**

During this time of social distancing, we have been creating connections online. Auburn FBC has several online outlets, which we are using more often during this time. Here is a list below, which you can subscribe to as it works for you. Feel free to share this information with others.

Facebook: Facebook.com/AuburnFirstBaptist  
 YouTube: YouTube.com/AuburnFBC  
 Twitter: @AuburnFBC

Apple Podcasts: AuburnFBC.org/ApplePod  
 Google Play: AuburnFBC.org/GooglePod  
 RSS: AuburnFBC.org/FeedPodcast

**Serving in June**

Our Counters, Sound & Light, and Extended Session volunteers remain to be determined.

**Ministerial Staff**

Dr. Tripp Martin  
 Pastor  
 tmartin@auburnfbc.org

Laura Edgar  
 Associate Pastor for Youth,  
 College and Young Adults  
 laura@auburnfbc.org

Morris Driggers  
 Associate Pastor for Music  
 morris@auburnfbc.org

Dale Peterson  
 Minister of Music Emeritus/  
 Composer in Residence  
 dalepeterson@charter.net

**Support Staff**

Bryan King  
 Organist  
 kingbry@auburn.edu

Dawn Driggers  
 Accompanist  
 ivorytklr@bellsouth.net

Milissa Clowers  
 CDC Director  
 milissa@auburnfbc.org

Kristina Hickman  
 Office Manager  
 kristina@auburnfbc.org

Lakin Coulter & Soraya Gun  
 Administrative Assistants  
 frontdesk@auburnfbc.org

*Listen to the service Sunday mornings  
 at 11 am on WAUD 1230 AM*