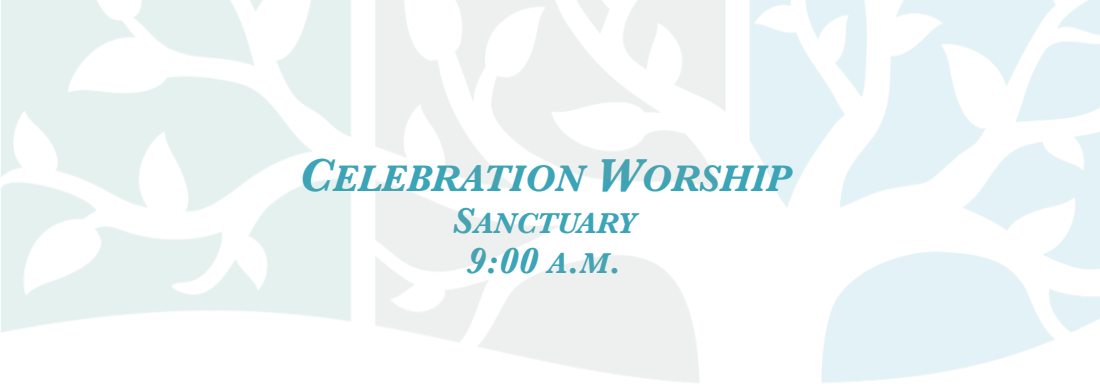




Childcare is available for children ages birth through 3 years in our Nursery. Ask a greeter for assistance if you would like childcare during service.

✝ When you see this symbol, we ask for those who are able to stand.

Chiming of the Hour Ruth Alexander

Prelude Branden Garner
Jesus Paid It All

Call to Worship Seth Brown

✝ Hymn 619 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine ASSURANCE

Welcome Lori Welborn

Prayer for Illumination
**Gracious God,
As we read your word,
give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts,
to receive what you reveal
and do what you command.
From your abundance, teach us generosity
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✝ Scripture Reading Jasmine Garner
Romans 8:26-39 (pew Bible page 919-20)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it

is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

A Litany of Blessing for Educators Steven Norris

As a new school year begins, we give thanks for all who teach, lead, and serve the children and young people of our community.
May they carry the grace of Christ into every classroom, office, hallway, cafeteria, and bus.

God of wisdom, bless our teachers with patience, courage, creativity, and compassion.
Help them see the worth of every student and create classrooms where all are welcomed, encouraged, and given room to grow.

When their work is difficult or unnoticed, renew their strength and remind them that their faithfulness matters.
Through their words and actions, may they embody gracious hospitality and generous love.

God of justice and peace, bless principals, counselors, district leaders, and all who guide our schools.
Give them wisdom in difficult decisions, humility in leadership, and compassion for everyone entrusted to their care.

May they support teachers, listen to families, protect students, and pursue what is fair and good.
Through their leadership, may they embody grace that seeks understanding and works for the good of all.

God of faithful service, bless secretaries, aides, nurses, lunchroom workers, custodians, bus drivers, and all whose work sustains our schools.
May their service help every student experience safety, kindness, dignity, and belonging.

Remind them that no act of care is insignificant and no faithful service goes unseen.
Through their work, may they embody the grace that notices, values, and cares for every person.

To our educators: May God guide your decisions, strengthen your hands, and sustain your spirits throughout this school year.
May Christ’s grace be seen in the way you teach, lead, encourage, protect, and serve.

And may we support you with faithful prayer, practical encouragement, and loving partnership.
Together, wherever God sends us, may we be a community of grace. Amen.

✝ Hymn 665 Because I Have Been Given Much SEMINARY

Offertory Prayer Sandra Burkhalter

Musical Offering Bow the Knee Sanctuary Choir

*There are moments on our journey following the Lord
Where God illumines ev’ry step we take.
There are times when circumstances make perfect sense to us,
As we try to understand each move He makes.
But when the path grows dim and our questions have no answers,
Turn to Him.*

*Bow the knee; trust the heart of your Father
when the answer goes beyond what you can see,
Bow the knee; lift your eyes toward heaven
and believe the One who holds eternity.
When you don’t understand the purpose of His plan,
in the presence of the King, bow the knee.*

*There are days when clouds surround us, and the rain begins to fall,
The cold and lonely winds won’t cease to blow.
And there seems to be no reason for the suffering we feel;
we are tempted to believe God does not know.
When the storms arise, don’t forget we live by faith and not by sight.*

✝ Presentation of the Offering: The Doxology OLD 100TH

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

Message Christ, Our Advocate Steven Norris

✝ Hymn 591 All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus HARRIS

Opportunities for Continued Service

Benediction Steven Norris

Postlude Ruth Alexander

SERMON NOTES

The eighth chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans represents the theological and spiritual climax of his writings. It unambiguously declares the saving power of Christ’s death and the new identity of Spirit-filled believers: adopted children of God. In today’s passage, Paul uses the metaphor of a courtroom to illustrate the ongoing role of Christ in a believer’s life and contrasts it with the role of our Enemy.

The _____ is the one pointing the finger.

(Job 1-2; Zechariah 3:1-2)

The _____ is the one pleading our cause.

(1 John 2:1)

_____ is the final verdict.

(John 3:16; 1 John 4:8)

AMOR, ERGO SUM!

**The band, Rend Collective, has a great song entitled, “My Advocate,” that highlights many of the same truths as this passage. As you reflect on this passage throughout the week, take a few moments to listen to that song as part of your devotional time.*

NEWS AND EVENTS

Educator Recognition

As our school system prepares to return for a new academic year, we want to set aside time to recognize our educators, pray for them, and encourage them with a special gift during our service today.

Journey in Grace

Do you have questions about faith or about First Baptist Church? We would love to have a conversation with you. You are invited to join us in our next Journey in Grace class on Sunday, August 2, from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room. A minister will lead this session. Light refreshments will be served.

Promotion Sunday

Our children and students will promote to the next grade level in Sunday school on August 2. Help us encourage them through prayer as they “Moove Up.” This Sunday would also be a great time to get involved in serving through our Children’s Ministry or Student Ministry. If you have been considering how you might help, please reach out to Lori Welborn or Seth Brown.

Wednesday Night Kickoff

When we gather on Wednesday nights, we are intentional about taking time to be present with our church family. Whether we are sharing a meal together at 5:00 p.m., studying the Word of God together in a small group, rehearsing for worship through the Music Ministry, or serving in some other capacity, Wednesdays afford us a special opportunity to build a stronger community. We hope you will join us for the Wednesday night kickoff on August 5th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center to learn more about Wednesday night activities. Supper is free that night, as is the excellent companionship you will find with your church family.

Live Generously: Pray for Our Schools

As part of our focus on generosity this month, we invite you to be in prayer for our schools, the students, the teachers, the staff, the administrators, and even the facilities. If you have not received a Prayer Guide for Schools, then you will find them in our Information displays in the Welcome Center and in the Family Life Center.

Floral Arrangements

If you would like to place flowers in the church in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Alice Blake or call the church office.

Giving

When you give to First Baptist Griffin, you positively impact the lives of people throughout your community and around the world. Giving can take many forms in our church — gifts of time, talents, presence, service, prayer, as well as financial resources. If you choose to give a monetary gift, we invite you to leave your gift in the offering plate, mail it to FBC Griffin, P.O. Box 908, Griffin, GA 30224, or consider giving online at our website: fbcgriffin.org/give. You may also text “fbcgriffin” to 833-245-5264 or scan the QR code to give. Thank you for choosing to support the church and its ministries, both here and abroad.



Ministers

Steven Norris
SENIOR PASTOR

Seth Brown
MINISTER OF STUDENTS
& COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Erin Clarke
MINISTER OF MUSIC

Ellee Hilley
MINISTER OF WORSHIP ARTS

Ron Murray
MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

Lori Welborn
MINISTER TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES



July 26, 2026

Christ, Our Advocate

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