First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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Hymn Sing

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2:00 PM, ROOM 105

Jim McCall Annual

Pickleball Benefit Event

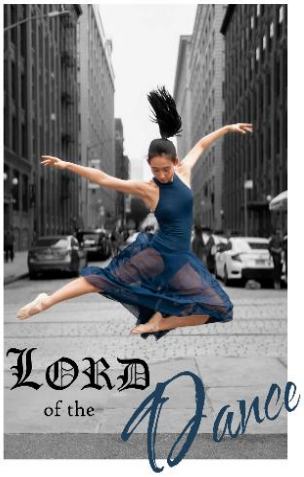


The Annual Jim McCall Pickleball Benefit Event will be held Sunday, November 1, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., at Jackson Square tennis courts. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided. Donations accepted for the Agape Help Center at First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge in Jim's honor. For more information on this event, contact Jodie Johnson.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"



There's a new sermon series beginning this week. The title of the series comes from a hymn that I didn't encounter until I was in seminary. That's not saying much because I didn't know very many hymns at all before seminary, but this one was different. It's a fun, lilting, almost running tune in the phrasing. And the playfulness carries into the lyrics. The particular line that stuck out to me on first hearing was, "*It's hard to dance with a devil on your back!"* Wild. We're a far cry from Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.

Over the years, I've come to love that funny little song and to appreciate the wisdom in its message. To live a Christian life is to follow the lead of the one leading the dance. Jesus. Jesus is the lord of the dance and we are to follow his lead. Which, big whoop, right? Nothing all that new or striking there.

Except, unfortunately, there is!

It has become rare for the leader of the dance to be Jesus, even in the church! I've heard people complain about how their preacher is "too woke" or has "sold out" or is a "fundamentalist mouthpiece" or any number of other things. I've witnessed first hand the indignation and rage from people in a church who could not stomach the Bible being rather plainly preached with only the barest hint of commentary, and even that was pretty vanilla. Why? Because they have another lord of their dance. And they expect church, worship, the sermon, and even *the Bible* to dance to that tune. Jesus must fit their life.

But our lives must fit Jesus. We don't contort Jesus to conform to the steps of our macabre dance. No, we learn his steps. We obey his rhythm. We follow his lead. We are not the lords of the dance, and neither are the people on the TV or social media or the news or even the people we're voting for this Fall. There is one Lord of the Dance. And it ain't us!

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

"I heard the voice of Jesus say, come"... "I came to Jesus as I was."

If you read and understand what this hymn is actually saying, it reads like a very personal testimony from actual experience on the part of the writer. Each stanza confesses the hearing of Jesus, what it was that Jesus said, and then an obedient response. So what? Good for him? Nice story?

He's telling you what can happen for you if YOU hear and obey. This kind of safety rope keeps me believing, keeps me as a man of faith, keeps me sane, really.

I don't really want to think about it but there can be a weary side to this faith journey. How many times have I prayed for someone to be freed from pain, and they hurt anyway. How many times have I prayed for someone struggling with really difficult family issues only to have them end up divorced or estranged. And how many times have I prayed for someone on their deathbed, and they died anyway. "Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast." That is the invitation of Jesus. He KNOWS that illness doesn't always go away when we pray for it to. He knows that loved ones die, even if we pray for them.

Interestingly, a close look at the life of the hymn's writer reveals a man who appears to have been personally and intensely familiar with this concept. He was a reformer in the Free Church of Scotland who, presumably, became at one point, weary with the Church of Scotland. If we could sit with him over a cup of coffee and hear his stories, this hymn would leap off the page.

"Come here," Jesus says. And what he offers is infinitely greater, more miraculous and more amazing than the healing of or life of a loved one. Think about that. I can think right now of a family member who suffers from intense, chronic pain that, so far, has evaded treatment or any sort of mitigation. His pain relief would brighten life beyond imagination. But what Jesus ultimately offers is GREATER! A LOT greater! Same with my oldest sister, Jackie. Her life was precious to me and all of my family, and a lot of others besides. What Jesus offers, if we come unto Him is even greater than having Jackie beat pancreatic cancer! I could list others. But it makes me a weary one to ponder them too long. So, instead, I go to Him, weary, worn, and sad, and I find in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad. You come, too, and rest, my friend. Rest.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place, And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quench'd, my soul revived, And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk, Till trav'ling days are done.

In Christ, **Tim**



MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

Movie: Temple Grandin (2010), starring Claire Danes.

Viewing: Streaming on many platforms for - $4.

Time & Place: Friday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home.

Oak Ridge Philharmonia Fall Concert

- Saturday, October 17, 2026
- 4:00 PM 5:00 PM
- First Baptist Church Oak Ridge
  1101 Oak Ridge Turnpike

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, October 18
11am Nursery ..... Susan Williams & Karry Garcia
Children's Church ..... Lida Bunton & Lela Moore

SUNDAY, October 25
11am Nursery .....Bev Burgan & Jodie Johnson
Children's Church ..... Debbie Johnson & Polly Smith

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
11am Nursery .....Mitzi Thomas & Jackie Laney
Children's Church .....Linda Bunton & Lela Moore

SUNDAY, November 8
11am Nursery .....Tedi Newman & Bev Burgan
Children's Church .....First Christian & Hannah Simic

SUNDAY, November 15
11am Nursery ..... Susan Williams & Karry Garcia
Children's Church ..... Jackie Laney & Hannah Simic

SUNDAY, November 22
11am Nursery .....Bev Burgan & Jodie Johnson
Children's Church ..... Debbie Johnson & Polly Smith

SUNDAY, November 29
11am Nursery .....Mitzi Thomas & Jackie Laney
Children's Church .....Linda Bunton & Lela Moore

Women's Retreat

LADIES, LISTEN UP!

Ladies, listen up! November 7th is just around the corner, and you do not want to miss the FBC One Day Women's Retreat! Our theme this year is **BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE CALLED,** and it is going to be an absolutely incredible day of renewal and inspiration. We'll be here from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration is officially open! To lock in your spot, simply email Lola at FBCoffice@fbcoakridge.org. You can also grab a flyer with all the details out in the lobby. Sign up soon, and let's get ready for an amazing day together!

Celebration of Life for Norval Ziegler

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. November 7th for a Celebration of Life Service for Norval F. Ziegler, a member of First Baptist Church Oak Ridge for over 70 years. The service will be held in the church sanctuary; lunch will be served following the service in the church Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for lunch and perhaps share a story or memory about Norval. To ensure we have enough food, please RSVP via text to Melissa Z at 865-414-7847, with the number in your group joining us for lunch by October 28th. Thank you.

PASSPORT CAMP NEWS

It's time to get ready for Passport Youth Camp 2027!

- When: June 13-18
- Where: Converse University, Spartanburg, S.C.
- Your Cost: $150

This year, the ticket cost per student is $553. Because of this, we need your help to join in our two fundraising events so we can keep the student price at $150.

- Each student can earn $20 dollars off for each distinct shift they or a family member volunteers at the Pumpkin Patch. You can sign up in the church lobby. I will review the sign up sheets and note how much of a discount your student has accrued so that it can be applied when they register for camp.
- Every student is required to attend the spaghetti dinner and dessert auction this spring.

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Mark Clary. Lynn Edd Story. Karen McCall. Susanna Naeve. Mary Norris, friend of Lois Scott. Sandra Clift, Melody Turner's stepmother. Linda Williamson's friend, Faye. Ann Shassere. Revs. Jason & Amanda Taylor (support staff at First Baptist Clinton). Gwen Phillips, Doug Turner's friend. Jim Walls. Fred Johnson, friend of Jim Williamson. Ellin Ward. Michelle, friend of Diane Ray. Miriam Griffin. Elaine Pike, Carol O'Shaunessy's cousin. Josh Smith. Mark & Debra Belvin's friends, Pat & Mary Ann. Dave Bunton's friend, Jane. Jim Gibson. Ray Seiber, Diana Giles' father. Junell Brock, Peggy Geldmeier's niece. Beth Ingle. Harold Matelski, Lee Howell's father-in-law. Mark Bunton, Linda & Dave Bunton's son. Jason Byrd & Anna King. Dayton King, Diane Williams' brother. Becky Seiber, Diana Giles' mother. Katie Emmerson, Ellin Ward's daughter. Robert Darnell, Diane Qualls' brother. Larry Carter. Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Adrian Flory.

LONG TERM: Julie Ann, friend of Diane Ray. Jo Ann Tunstall. Ulrika Leander, Charlotte Bounds' friend. Vicki Heidle. Andrew Bobbett, son of Diane Ray's friend, Nan. Cheryl King, Diane William's sister-in-law. Sandra Burns, Johelen Stephenson's cousin. Megan Elliott, friend of the Turners. Carolyn Maples, Brandon Weaver's aunt. Ben Davidson, Tom Davidson's nephew. Wanda Vines, friend of Sandy Davidson. Virginia Griffith, Lisa Bowers' mother. Larry Fields. Theresa Bowers.

fbc Oak Ridge

Loving God, Loving Others

Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming

Nursing Homes Assisted Living

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE:
Jim Walls, RM. 112.
Katie Landis, RM. 217.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING:
Dot Senn, RM. 105.
Lynn Edd Story, RM. 107.

MORNING POINTE HARDIN VALLEY, THE LANERN:
Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

THE GROVES:
Raymond Irminger, RM. 119.

Our Ministry Continues Throughout the Week

Church Office: 483-4615 /483-4657

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rory Naeve
Minister of Music: Rev. Tim Bounds
Minister of Children: Hannah Simic
Minister of Youth: Rev. Shawn Simic
Church Secretary: Lola Murray
Facilities Manager: Chris Peterson

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Feast (Youth)