

# ***Sunday Morning Worship***

*July 13, 2025*



**FIRSTBAPTIST**  
**CHURCH**  
**UPPERMARLBORO**

**7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

**301-952-0117 :: [www.fbcum.org](http://www.fbcum.org) :: [fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com)**

# ***Order of Worship***

***July 13, 2025***

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Baby Dedication**

**Silent Prayer**

**Call to Worship — Psalm 100:4-5**

***Song — Come Now, Almighty King***

***Song — As Long as You Are Glorified***

**Scripture Reading — John 10:1-18**

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Song — Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me***

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Message — Zach Schlegel**

**“Goodness and Mercy, Every Day”**

**Psalm 23**

***Song — The Lord Is***

**Benediction**

**Comfort Rooms:** To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

**Visitors & Guests:** Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

## Baby Dedication Commitments

---

### To the parents:

Do you agree to regularly seek after God in His word, thru prayer, and gathering together with the people of God in an effort to honor God as a spouse and a parent? Do you, with God's help, commit to diligently teach the truths of God's word to your children, to speak of them in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise? Will you regularly pray *for* your children, pray *with* your children, and make clear the way of salvation to them by teaching them the good news of Jesus Christ? Will you, with God's help, seek to be an example to your children to follow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? If so, please say **we do**?

### To those who are members of this church:

In recognizing that we are a church *family*, do you commit to helping these parents by praying for them and their children, being an example to them in word and deed? Do you commit to teaching and seeking the salvation of these little ones in appropriate ways? If so church family, please say **we do**.

## Call to Worship — Psalm 100:4-5 (ESV)

---

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Come Now, Almighty King

Bob Kauflin | John Spiro | Martin Madan

---

### Verse 1:

Come now Almighty King  
Help us Your name to sing  
We will declare Your praise  
Righteous in all Your ways  
Father all glorious  
O'er all victorious  
Come and reign over us  
Ancient of Days

### Verse 2:

Come now incarnate Word  
Take up Your mighty sword  
Our humble prayers attend  
Faithful until the end  
Come and Your people bless  
And give Your Word success  
Lord of all righteousness  
On us descend

### Verse 3:

Come Holy Spirit come  
Your perfect will be done  
Brighten our darkened hearts  
Your precious life impart  
Guide us into Your truth  
So we might bear more fruit  
Fill us with more of You  
Spirit of power

### Verse 4:

To the great One in Three  
Eternal praises be  
Timeless unchanging Lord  
Now and forevermore  
Your sovereign majesty  
May we in glory see  
And to eternity  
Love and adore

## As Long as You Are Glorified

Mark Altrogge

---

### Verse 1:

Shall I take from Your hand Your blessings  
Yet not welcome any pain?  
Shall I thank You for days of sunshine  
Yet grumble in days of rain?  
Shall I love You in times of plenty  
Then leave You in days of drought?  
Shall I trust when I reap a harvest  
But when winter winds blow, then doubt?

### Chorus:

Oh let Your will be done in me  
In Your love I will abide  
Oh I long for nothing else as long  
As You are glorified

### Verse 2:

Are You good only when I prosper  
And true only when I'm filled?  
Are You King only when I'm carefree  
And God only when I'm well?  
You are good when I'm poor and needy  
You are true when I'm parched and dry  
You still reign in the deepest valley  
You're still God in the darkest night

### Bridge:

So quiet my restless heart  
Quiet my restless heart  
Quiet my restless heart in You

## Scripture Reading — John 10:1-18 (ESV)

---

<sup>1</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

# Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Johnny Robinson | Rich Thompson | Michael Farren

~~~~~

## **Verse 1:**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love  
My deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine  
I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

## **Verse 2:**

The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side the Savior he will stay  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley he will lead  
Oh the night has been won  
And I shall overcome  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

## **Verse 3:**

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven  
The future sure the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released  
I can sing I am free  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

## **Verse 4:**

With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For he has said that he will bring me home  
And day by day I know he will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to him  
When the race is complete  
Still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

## Sermon Notes

### **“Goodness and Mercy, Every Day” :: Psalm 23**

~~~~~

# The Lord Is

Bob Kauflin | Pat Sczebel

~~~~~

## **Verse 1:**

The depths of Your grace who can measure  
You fully supply all I need  
You restore my weary soul again and again  
And lead me in Your righteousness and peace

## **Verse 2:**

You're with me through every dark valley  
There's nothing that I have to fear  
You are there to comfort me again and again  
Protecting me assuring me You're near

## **Chorus:**

The Lord is  
The Lord is my Shepherd  
The Lord is  
The Lord is my Shepherd  
I shall not want

## **Verse 3:**

You gave Your own life for my ransom  
So I could rejoice at Your side  
You have shown Your faithfulness again and again  
There's nothing good that You will not provide

## **Bridge:**

I will dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
I will dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life



## This Week at First Baptist Church

### **Sunday, July 13**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Baby Dedication  
12:00 PM Starting Point Seminar  
12:00 PM Youth Leave for Summer Camp

### **Monday, July 14**

Youth Summer Camp  
6:30 PM Semi-Annual Budget Review

### **Tuesday, July 15**

Youth Summer Camp  
6:30 PM Elders Meeting

### **Wednesday, July 16**

Youth Summer Camp

### **Thursday, July 17**

### **Friday, July 18**

### **Saturday, July 19**

### **Sunday, July 20**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
12:00 PM Church Directory Photo Updates

## Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

### **Sunday, July 13**

Baby Dedication

### **Sunday, July 13**

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service  
(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)

### **July 13—17**

Youth Summer Camp

### **Monday, July 14**

6:30pm — Semi-annual Budget Review

### **Sundays, July 20 & 27**

Church Directory Photo Updates

### **Sunday, August 24**

Church Members Meeting — immediately following worship service

# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of July 13

### **Prayer of the week:**

Consider using the Apostle Paul's prayer from the book of Colossians 1:11 as a springboard for your own prayer time this week. If you're praying through the church directory, this is a great prayer to use as you pray for your church family this week.

*"we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may... be strengthened  
with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy"*

We recognize our need for God's help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

### **Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God's word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God's glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

### **Prayer items outside our church:**

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)

- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

**Particular prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray that God would help our church family use the summer season for unique opportunities of evangelism, to build each other up, and to love one another well (Rom. 12:9-21)
- Pray that God brings good spiritual fruit in the lives of our children and students through Vacation Bible School (June 23-27) and Youth Summer Camp (July 13-17). (Gal 5:22-23)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

**Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim and Pat Ernster, Lucie Lowe, Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker**

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

# Ministry Spotlight: Overview

## Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” is meant to bring to your attention active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope that each month you will pray for all those serving and consider how you may support their efforts. *You may notify us if you would like to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM by using the Digital Communication Card (see QR code on the back of this bulletin). Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

Beginning in March 2025, we began focusing on the ministries at First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro through this ‘Ministry Spotlight.’ Our hope is that you would come to know that there are opportunities throughout the church to serve. This week we will review some of the ministries that have been covered since March 2025.

### Audio/Visual Ministry /Leader Deacon Mosi Winder.

This ministry provides a service to all of our members. New volunteer technicians will learn how to provide audio/visual recordings for live stream (YouTube) and closed circuit television (comfort rooms) and display projections for congregational singing, responsive readings and images displayed for speaker support. Technicians will also learn to switch cameras and how to adjust visual and audio quality while maintaining the cadence of song lyrics. Additionally, technicians will learn details about lighting the stage. Summer provides a great time to begin your training to serve in this ministry. **You are encouraged to speak to Deacon Mosi Winder for details and to get started.**

### The Book Stall/Leader Deacon Isaac Neal.

This ministry provides a service to all of our members by presenting Elder approved literature that will help all of us grow as believers. Although the Book Stall is open to the congregation on Sundays, there are other activities that can be done on a week day if you prefer. Some of these include, updating the catalog descriptions when new books are added, receiving shipments, monthly inventory, labeling, and restocking shelves. **This is a great time to begin working at the Book Stall, please contact Deacon Isaac Neal for more details and to join this ministry.**

## Ministry Spotlight: Overview

### Children's Ministry/Leader Pam Jensen.

This ministry has several areas **Children's DiscipleLIFE, Awana Program, and ChildLIFE**. This is a vital program of the church where children are engaged to grow in the knowledge of Christ. These programs are designed for leaders with curriculum that engages children from babies through sixth grade to learn and comprehend the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful place to serve in our church, whether you join Children's DiscipleLIFE, Awana, or ChildLIFE, you will see how children thrive when they are taught the gospel and how that impacts how they make decisions. **Please contact Pam Jensen for Children's DiscipleLIFE, Ronnie Sweetman for Awana, and Ashley Meekins-Smith for ChildLIFE.**

### College Students Ministry/Leaders Evony Smith & Ashley Smith.

This ministry is moving forward to engage May 2025 graduates out of the Youth Student Ministry to keep the channel of communication open and assist as they transition as young adults. They have a plan of action to stay connected, and everyone is asked to pray for our young adults. **You are invited to join this ministry with Evony & Ashley.**

### Counting Ministry/Leader Tanya Joy.

This ministry is being a steward of the tithes and offerings and must be done at the church only. **If you are interested in serving in this area and can be discreet, please contact Tanya Joy at the church office.**

### Deacon Benevolence/Leader Deacon Mike Whittaker.

This ministry requires strict confidence and discretion. When needed persons supporting this ministry will be asked to research information and provide contact information for confirmation purposes. **Please contact Deacon Mike Whittaker for more details.**

### Disaster Relief/Leader Tanya Joy.

This ministry is a partnership with the BCM/D Disaster Relief (DR). Members of FBC receive training through BCM/D to become certified in DR service areas; Feeding, Laundry, Recovery, and Chainsaw, to name a few. Once certified, DR members receive call outs and can elect to serve local disasters or deploy to other regions based on the need. **Contact Tanya Joy for information about upcoming training opportunities.**

**Please continue to pray for all of our ministries at First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro.**

# Announcements

## **1. Interested in Church Membership? Attend the Starting Point Seminar — TODAY.**

Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Join us immediately following the worship service TODAY in room 115. A light lunch will be served. We usually wrap up between 2 and 2:30pm.

**2. Church Directory Photo Updates.** Attention all church members! On Sundays, July 20 & 27, immediately following the worship service, we would like to update your directory photo. If your last photo was taken five or more years ago (or you would just like a new one), stop by the photo station in the foyer and take a new photo. Questions?... contact Tanya Joy in the church office.

**3. Mid-Year Financial Review :: Tomorrow, July 14, 6:30pm.** All church members invited.

**4. Mid-Year Giving Statements.** The church is happy to supply a mid-year giving statement to those that request it. As a reminder, your giving statement is always available online through our giving portal ([fbcum.org/give](http://fbcum.org/give)). Please contact Tanya Joy ([fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com)) in the church office to request your statement. Thank you for your generous support of the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro

**5. Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- online: click the link or scan the QR code,
- in-person: designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- by mail: send to the church office.



Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.



## **Digital Communication Card**

Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.

# Praying Psalm 23 — Goodness and Mercy, Every Day

~~~~~

For 2 or 3 days this week, set aside 15 minutes to pray through Psalm 23. For help on how to pray the Psalm, refer back to the insert “Singing and Praying the Psalms Guide”

Psalm 23 A PSALM OF DAVID. <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Praising God:** *What does Psalm 23 teach about who God is that is worthy of praise? What difference does God’s shepherding care, presence, and provision make?*

**Confessing Sin:** *What are other ‘shepherds’ you tend to trust in and look to (other than God) to care for you and your needs? How are you tempted to think ‘wrongly’ about God?*

**Following God:** *Pray for the grace to let God’s idea of what’s good and right shape our wants. Pray we are restored, strengthened, and guided by God and His Word more than our subjective feelings. Pray we live confidently in light of God’s presence with us.*

**Things to Pray for First Baptist Church:**

- 1. Pray that we reminder each other of God’s goodness, sovereignty, and watchful care throughout the week.
- 2. Pray that the reality of God’s presence would be known and vanquish sinful fear in our lives.
- 3. Pray for those who are weary to be restored by the Spirit of God using the Word of God.
- 4. Pray for the under shepherds to faithfully point our church to *the* Chief Shepherd, Jesus.

# Singing Psalm 23 — “The Lord Is”

~~~~~

Having prayed through Psalm 23, now take the time to sing the truths of Psalm 23. A recording of “The Lord Is” by Sovereign Grace Music can be found anywhere you stream music online. The lyrics can be found in this bulletin.

# Singing and Praying the Psalms

## [Psalm 23](#)

“Goodness and Mercy, Every Day”– July 13, 2025



### Introduction

This Psalm is probably the most well-known Psalms in all the Bible. In fact, it is probably the most well-known passage of scripture in all the Bible. This Psalm has brought comfort to those in need. It is filled with comfort and hope for the people of God. Do you long for comfort? Do you long for a lasting rest?

While these words bring comfort and hope, they can also be dangerous. If taken out of context, these words lead to a false sense of security. We often look for contentment and rest in other places. True rest only comes by relying on God. Where do you look for rest and protection? From God? Or do you look in other places?

This Psalm offers profound comfort and solace, but this Psalm is about God - Who He is and what He is like. The ability to say, "I shall not want;" "I shall fear no evil;" and "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord," are only found in God! We see two pictures of God in this Psalm: God as our Shepherd and God as our Host. He is the one Who takes the initiative to care for His people.

### Sermon Outline

1. Follow the Good Shepherd. Vs. 1 - 4
2. Feast with the Good Host. Vs. 5 - 6

### Read & Discuss

#### 1. Read vs. 1 - 4

David was a shepherd, and eventually, he was chosen and anointed as King of Israel. Don't think of David as a delicate, "momma's boy" who spent his time writing poetry. He was a strong man, able to kill what would be a danger to the sheep. As David looked back at his life, he was able to see that God was his shepherd who protected and provided for him.

The book begins and ends with "The LORD" - God's covenant name. God's name shows who God is. It shows His character. In [Exodus 3:13-15](#), He tells Moses to tell the people of Israel that He is "I AM" - the eternal, never created, self-existent One who relies on no one but Himself. He never grows weary. Don't forget who your Shepherd is! He is the LORD. He can meet all of our needs. ([Psalm 24:1-2](#))

Notice Davis says that "the LORD is 'my' shepherd." This relationship is personal. Contentment comes from knowing God personally as your shepherd. Can you say that He is your Shepherd? To have that personal relationship, you must walk through the door of the sheepfold. ([John 10:1-18](#); [John 14:6](#)) It is then that we experience His good care. You shall not want for ANYTHING, EVER! The word for "want" here does not mean that God will give us all that we ask for. The word "want" means "not lacking what we need." Do you need to calibrate your sense of need to be in tune with what God provides?

As you read verse two, slow down and enjoy the imagery. Do you see the green grass and rolling hills? They are vast with plenty to satisfy. Weary sheep find rest in these pastures. What does this mean practically? How can we move to this? It is through God's word, our soul is revived. ([Psalm 19:7](#)) The still water is imagery of the Holy Spirit who enlightens and cleanses our soul. The food is an image of God's word. Is your soul weary? Have you been neglecting the green pastures of God's word? ([Matthew 4:4](#)) Read God's word on a daily basis, and make it a priority to gather as a church family to sing, read, pray and hear the preaching of God's word.

Sheep need a shepherd. Jesus, our Good Shepherd leads because He knows what is right. When you look back, do you see how God has led you? Could you have ever imagined that He would have led you down the paths on which you have traveled? It isn't wrong to make plans, but you must hold them with an open hand. We must be careful to not put our feelings and plans in the driver's seat where Jesus must be. He knows what is right and good. Will you trust Him? You may not be able to see or understand God's providence now, but when you look back, you will see that He has led you, over and over, in paths of righteousness. Why can we be confident of this? It is for His glory! By binding His honor and name to this, we can be confident of His care. It is not based on your performance; it is based on the sake of His name!



If you pause the Psalm here, you will be tempted to think that life is easy and pleasant all of the time. Verse four shows us something additional and different - the wilderness and deep darkness. In verses one through three, God is the Good Shepherd Who leads. In verse four, He is still leading, but sometimes the paths of righteousness are through the valley of the shadow of death. Does that sound strange to you? God's rule extends to the valley; His sovereignty includes the valley. What valleys have you been through? Are you in the valley now? Do you feel lost, confused, or overwhelmed? Jesus is not lost or confused. It is HIS valley. He is in charge of the valley, and He knows the way out. He is the living Shepherd Who will not fail!!

Jesus laid down for the sheep. ([Isaiah 53:6](#)) In your sin and rebellion, you deserve death and Hell. Jesus willingly laid down His life in your place as a substitute for those who would trust Him. He went through the valley of the shadow of death, but on the third day, He rose from the grave victorious! Left to yourself, you are alienated from God by sin. You must turn from your self-reliance and turn to God. Trust in Christ today! You will not stay in the valley; those who walk through the valley, emerge triumphant. The Shepherd is WITH you!! The deeper the valley, the closer your Shepherd is to you. You need not fear.

The rod mentioned in verse four is a weapon used by the shepherd to protect the sheep. The staff is used to pull sheep out of a ditch and to count the flock. Each sheep matters. If you are drifting or missing, the Shepherd will go after you. The Christian life is personal, but sheep are always part of a flock. It is important to be a part of a local church where we can encourage, admonish, and pray for one another and where pastors can point church members to the Good Shepherd.

## 2. Read vs. 5-6

The imagery shifts here from a shepherd to a host. We find ourselves as a guest at a table with a Host who has prepared a lavish feast. God's care is so complete, loving and personal, meeting all the needs of the guests. He embraces you, welcomes you, and anoints your head with oil. There is a beautiful feast prepared by the host. This is a celebration - the best food on the best dishes! He fills your goblet to overflowing because He is generous. He is a glad hearted host! Do you see God this way?

When you see the truth of Who God is, it changes the way you live - even in the presence of your enemies. You can feast and enjoy because He set the table. Your care is banked on His name. God is good, and He has your good in mind. Satan will try to convince you otherwise - that is a lie, and he has been doing this since [Genesis chapter three](#). Don't believe the lie!!

See God's goodness in verse six. Goodness and mercy will "pursue" or "chase" you all the days of your life! Sometimes we run from God because we mistake Him for the bad guy. He is not out to get you and make you miserable. He is the Good Shepherd and the generous Host. He pursues you with goodness and steadfast love ALL the days of your life. You can dwell in the house of the LORD forever. You will dwell with God in Heaven forever. ([Revelation 21 & 22](#))

Why does God lead you through the valley if He is the Good Shepherd and the generous Host? He wants something better for you. He wants Himself for you. True and lasting contentment is only found in God. Come to Him. He will restore your weary soul.

## Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org).

|                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Next week's sermon text: <a href="#">Psalm 94</a> "The Cares of My Heart Are Many" |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Family Guide for week of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



### Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

## Family Guide for week of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



### **Bible Intake:** (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Acts 10:1-8

Day 2 – Acts 10:9-16

Day 3 – Acts 10:17-23

Day 4 – Acts 10:24-33

Day 5 – Acts 10:34-43

\*Read **Psalm 94** preparation for church on Sunday, July 20, 2025

### **Prayer:** (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 17 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God to help you reflect His mercy today. Ask God to give you opportunities to show kindness and forgiveness to others and ask Him to also give the strength you need to do so..

### **Sing together**

"The Lord Is" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

### **Memory verses for the month**

**Jeremiah 10:6** *"There is none like you, O Lord, and your name is great in might."*

**John 20:31** *"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in his name."*

### **Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>**

**Question 52: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?**

**Answer:** *That we will live with and enjoy God forever, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be forever freed from all sin in a renewed, restored creation.*

---

<sup>1</sup> *New City Catechism* (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)