



The Beacon

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The Blessing and Challenge of Worship Planning

Enter God's gate with thanksgiving and the Lord's courts with praise! Psalm 100:4

I have been thinking a lot about worship lately. It is perhaps the main thing we do as a church (It is debatable whether that ought to be the case). It is also one of the rare moments we are all together as a church: old-timers and newcomers; men, women and children; dyed in the wool lifelong Baptists, folks who aren't sure what they are and everything in between. We are all together worshipping God. This diversity is one of our strengths. Worship expresses our desire to represent the whole body of Christ and so we work to make room for a broad swath of God's people. And while this is a central value of our worship life together it can also pose many challenges. How do we design worship that meets everyone where they are? How do we create an environment that uplifts everyone? How do we create connection with God and with each other in such a diverse setting? How do we choose music, say prayers, preach the Word in a way that is relevant to young and old, committed and seeking, those in crisis and those filled with Joy? While this may be a goal, I doubt we ever fully achieve it.

However, the effectiveness of the worship planning really begins with the orientation of the worshipper. We can have the best worship in the world but unless we are oriented toward worshipping God in an authentic and relevant way, it will always fall flat. It begins with understanding that worship is not something that is offered to us or put on for us, but it is something we do. Furthermore it is something we do for God. Brad Berglund, in his book, *Reinventing Sundays* lists some assumptions in the preface of his book about worship and I find them to be helpful as I think about worship. 1. I believe worship should be offered to God as worship, not as evangelism or as Christian Education. 2. Worship is what we, the worshippers, do for God. 3. Although many skills transfer, leading worship is not a performance. Leaders or worship prompt those in the pew to offer their lives to God. They are skilled mediators of a cosmic drama between Creator and those created in the image of their creator.

4. If we open our hearts to God's presence, worship can transform our lives and relationships and make us more trusting and faithful human beings. 5. Jesus asks us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Therefore, worship should activate our whole self, including our bodies. 6. Jesus asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves. God-centered worship expands our souls, makes us generous, and sends us into the world to love and serve. 7. Like a weekly mini-pilgrimage, worship is an adventure, a journey into the unknown toward God. In that way, worship has flow and movement. (Brad Beglund, Reinventing Sundays: Breakthrough Ideas for Transforming Worship, 2001, Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA)

I have said many, many time from the pulpit that I never feel God as close as I do when we are worshipping together. It is my fervent prayer and my role to help us all have that experience. To that end, over the next few months, I wish to dedicate my articles to the art of worship. In the meantime, I invite each of us to go into worship on Sunday desiring to experience true worship and actively offer ourselves to God in this act of commitment.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

June at FBC

June 6: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm

June 8: AB Women's Brunch at 10:30

June 20: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm

June 27: Council of Ministries meets at 5:45 pm

Happy Birthday to: June 1: Vicki Firestack. June 3: Henry Winn June 7: Christel Fox. June 8: Jim Guilkey, Greg Allen. June 9: Joel Everts. June 10: Melinda Canfield June 11: Austin Bond, June 13: Gabriel Vasso. June 14: Susan Thompson, June 15: Joe Ellis, June 18 Chan Hansen, June 20 Glenda McNulty June 21: Dustin Wolters. June 22: Jeannette Flamming, Shirley Rogers. June 23 Micha Salmon June 25: Susan Everts, June 26: Greg Roth. June 29: Joel "Jay" Agustin

Katy and I wish to express our gratitude to all of you for your generosity at our wedding. It was a deep joy for us to be able to exchange vows with our church family and we are so grateful that we are in this place at this time in our lives. Your gifts and donations were above and beyond and helped us have the wedding we really wanted to have. Thank you for everything.

Katy and Curtis Price

Parking Lot Information:

On Friday each week, we will send out a Parking Notice about where to park for the following Sunday. If you do not get emails, you can call the church 801-582-4921 after 11 am and we will record a message with the information.

We are trying to keep the month of June rather free of events due to the parking.

Congratulations to our 2017 High School Graduates: *Celine David, Josh Davies, Taylor Hekking, Jack Price, Kade Riding and Henry Winn.* We wish you the very best in your next phase of your life. Celine and Josh will be attending the U of U, Taylor will be at Weber State, Henry will be going to Boston at Boston Ballet Kade Riding will be attending SLCC and then the U of U and Jack will be working for a bit before going to SLCC.

And speaking of college—congratulations to ***Nick Chaney*** for graduating from Utah State, ***Matt Chaney*** for graduating with his Master's degree from the U of U, and ***Emily Brown*** who graduated from Law School in Kansas.

Summer is here and with it comes vacations and family events and lazy weekend mornings. If any of the events keep you away from worship, please keep your pledges and offerings current. You can always mail them in, drop them by or electronically send them. The work of the church goes on all summer long and your pledges and offerings are vital in helping us keep the bills paid. Thanks for your assistance.

There will be an informational meeting regarding the mission trip to New Orleans on Sunday, June 11, following worship. This meeting is for both adults and youth. Questions: Contact Karen at rkcarter1@comcast.net

I was privileged to recently participate in “Connect, Cultivate, Change,” at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. “Connect, Cultivate, Change” is a new denominational emphasis to show us how to respond to the challenges facing Christian mission today. A major focus of this new mission approach features the creation of aligned action networks of passionate American Baptist Disciples in geographic clusters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for sharing assets, resources, best practices, actionable ideas and passion for ministry to be transformed into ministries that meet human needs. Participants at the event were from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Northern California and me. Watch for more information in the future.

Karen Carter

Loretta, our cook in our Child Development Center for 20 years has retired. She has been hurting and feeling slowed down after a medical procedure in April. She told me a few weeks ago she planned to retire at the beginning of June. On Friday, 5/12 she told us that her doctor doesn't want her to work anymore. All of us wanted to have a party for Loretta to celebrate her 20 years of service to FBCDC, but historically even birthday celebrations make Loretta so uncomfortable that she has left the room while a group of us sang to her. With that in mind, I'm sure she would not want a retirement party. We will be sending cards of thanks to her, and you're welcome to bring a card and we will send it to her.

It's not too late to join us at Intergenerational Sunday School Class Tearing Down Walls. Everyone is welcome ages 3—90. This is an opportunity for our young ones to be taught by you and for you to be taught by them. We will sing, pray and learn together for the month of June. Please join us!

MAKE SUMMER COUNT! The fun begins on July 9th through the 15th Come to Camp Utaba for a week of friends, fun and faith. Connect with old friends and make some new ones, having fun and getting closer to God. Our camps are open to young people of all faiths. So don't let summer go to waste, make it count at Camp Utaba! Talk to Pastor Curtis for an application.

Plea for the Angel Fund: No child should have to miss camp because they cannot afford to go. We ask all those grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousin to help by donating to our Angel Fund. This fund insures that all our kids get a great camping experience. And if you know kids who are camp age, please encourage them to get their registrations in NOW!

Rummage Sale News:

BIG NEWS:

Yes we are having the Rummage Sale this year.

Yes it is now an entire church project!

Yes the dates have changed—here they are:

Rummage Sale 2017 Schedule

- Aug 12: Tarps and tables down in the gym
- Aug 13: Move to gym after worship
- Aug 14: Sort and set up begins at 8 am
- Aug 15: Sort and set up
- Aug 16: Sort and set up
- Aug 17: Finishing touches to set up
Sale opens 2 – 7 pm
- Aug 18: Sale opens 8 am – 7 pm
- Aug 19: Sale opens 8 am – 4 pm
- Aug 21: Straighten and Clean Up
- Aug 24: Sale opens 12 – 7 pm
- Aug 25: Sale opens 8 am to 7 pm
- Aug 26: Sale opens 8 am –4 pm clean up begins
- Aug 27: Move tables upstairs and clean up following worship
- Aug 28: Pick up of unsold items—tarps up

We will have signup sheets available soon. We need everyone's help this year.

If you have items to donate remember:

We do not accept TV's or monitors. We cannot sell used mattresses.

We would ask that you wait to bring items for the sale until after the parking lot is completed as getting things into the building is a bit tricky right now. Thanks!

Come join the fun as we raise money for missions and projects here at FBC!