



music &
worship

Member Guide

2023 Revision

*Sing to him a new song,
play skilfully,
and shout for joy!*

Psalm 33:3 NIV





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A Word from Jonathan...



I am thrilled to know that you are joining the journey with us in music ministry this season! I want you to know that if there is anything that I can do to help you, minister to you or your family, or to simply encourage you, please do not hesitate to ask. It is my pleasure to serve you!

The Music and Worship Ministry at FBCCH has come a long way. We have by no means arrived at our destination; But the journey getting there is half the fun! I'm glad you are here.

Never underestimate your role in this ministry. **God has called you here with intent, reason, and purpose.** If we are going to have a relevant and viable ministry that impacts our community, region, and world, it will require faithful participation and commitment from every team member. Settle in your heart that this is where you are supposed to be. Buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Most importantly, as we engage in corporate worship at FBCCH, understand that it is an outpouring of your very own, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Memorize this great truth: "The corporate worship at my church will never be greater than my private worship at home." **Before we are singers, instrumentalists, musicians or anything musical, we are first and foremost worshipers!** As a member of this great ministry, it is very important that you personally maintain a regular, ongoing, "worship lifestyle" relationship with Jesus. I promise you this, if every member will keep to this promise, we will see an outpouring of the Holy Spirit like never before! That, my friend, is exactly what I am praying for!

Welcome, I'm glad you're here!

Jonathan Moore, Worship Pastor
First Baptist Colbert Heights



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Why Music Matters

"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For He is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD."

2 Chronicles 5:13

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and glorify Him with thanksgiving."

Psalms 69: 30

"My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song."

Psalms 28:7b

"And He hath put a new song in my mouth. Even praise unto our God: many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

Psalms 40:3

"Sing to the Lord, you saints of His, praise His holy name...You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give You thanks forever."

Psalms 30:4, 10-12

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing."

Psalms 100:2

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."

Psalms 33:1-3

From Your Senior Pastor...



To the FBCCH Music and Worship Ministry:

I am so thankful for your willingness to use your talents to serve the Lord! Your ministry is crucial to the success of our church, and I challenge you to give your very best in preparation, rehearsals, and in platform ministry. **The best worship leaders are not necessarily the ones with the most talent, the best worship leaders are GENUINE worshipers!** The most important preparation you can do is to spend every day in the presence of the Lord, loving and worshipping Him. Then, when you step on stage on Sunday morning, your worship is simply an overflow of what God has done in your heart all week long.

May God bless you as you serve, and again, thank you!

Seth Hood, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church Colbert Heights



music & worship

ABOUT MUSIC & WORSHIP @ FBCCH

At FBCCH, the worship team, comprised of all players and singers, is the prime, **single** instrument for ministering to the Lord and leading the congregation through music and, more specifically, through praise. We exist primarily as a worship leading (not performing) ensemble.

Music Ministry @ FBCCH is organized around what is referred to as the Four Lamp-stands of a Worship Leading ministry. They are:

1. **FOUNDATION**—everything biblical, spiritual, and essentially fundamental that forms the ministry's bedrock (purpose and meaning)
2. **RELATION**—underscores the importance of our ministry being a “family with purpose and calling” (in-reach, outreach, assimilation, and fellowship)
3. **EDUCATION**—speaks to the imperative of the ministry's members working to develop the musical gifts and spiritual foundation to their fullest (rehearsal, training and understanding)
4. **CELEBRATION**—is the manifestation of what we have planned, prayed and prepared for as we stand and lead our congregation in worship through music (platform ministry)

By being a part of this ministry, you have the opportunity to gain:

- *The profound honor of being used by God in the encouragement of others as you assist in the awesome task of leading others in worship through praise*
- *A family who cares for you*
- *A significant growth in musicianship, in the enjoyment and employment of your talent, and in your understanding of and participation in worship*
- *The joy of seeing others worship the Father in spirit and truth as a result of your willingness to answer God's call on your life*

REQUIREMENTS

To be a member of the FBCCH Music & Worship Ministry, a person must:

- *Be a believer (word and deed) in Holy Scriptures and the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *Be a faithful attender and supporter of the overall ministry of FBCCH*
- *Be 17 years of age or older, unless otherwise approved by the director/worship pastor (Student worship teams as approved by Student Minister)*
- *Obtain the ability to play/sing your part with others as a group*
- *Be able to play/sing and participate harmoniously with others*
- *Be able to attend rehearsals and ministry opportunities as required*
- *Complete a 2-Part Series Training (Formally known as FBCCH School of Music)*
- *Have access to email and/or Smart Phone Technology in order to receive, accept and/or decline scheduling requests and notices*
- *Accept the calling of God placed on your life to lead others in [spirit and truth] worship (John 4:24)*
- *This ministry is open to FBCCH members and regular (active) attenders.*

VISION AND PURPOSE

Worship isn't music. It's relationship. It's about a heart that is turned toward God in obedience and dependence. One of the ways we foster this daily lifestyle is by spending time alone with God in His Word, in prayer, and in private worship. At FBCCH, we believe that corporate worship will never be greater than private worship. Genuine worship begins and ends with our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **Powerful praise and worship in the corporate setting comes from an overflow of what is happening every day in a true worshippers life.** What spills out of our worship gathering when we come together corporately is a great indication of what has been "poured in" all week long.

Why We Exist

The music and worship ministry does not exist to perform each week. We are a large group of **lead worshipers** whose role is to **worship God and lead others to do the same.** It's not about performance, showmanship, or to draw attention to ourselves. It's about worshipping to an audience of One. Though we desire to strive for excellence in all areas of our ministry, it's not even about musical precision. It's about **spiritual passion.** It's not about bringing momentary pleasure; it's about the Spirit working through us to **change lives.**

Worship **is** our **active response to God** whereby we declare His worth. It is not passive, but **participative.** Worship is not a mood; it is a response. Worship isn't a feeling; it's a life declaration (Romans 12:1).

Purpose Statement (See Appendix Creating Space for The Experience)

The purpose of music & worship ministry at FBCCH is:

- 1) To worship Abba Father in spirit and in truth**
- 2) To lead others into His presence**
- 3) To multiply and cultivate authentic worshippers**

EXPECTATIONS

Certain expectations of each and every member are necessary for ministry to be both relevant and successful. **We desire for every member to contribute willingly and faithfully to the objectives and goal of the ministry.**

Basic Team Commitments

We'll explore the following in greater detail, but here is a basic breakdown of the expectations that is required of all FBCCH Music & Worship team members.

- **Be Prepared** — If you're called to be part of the Worship Ministry, you are called to be **skilled**. Temple musicians were skilled musicians (1 Chronicles 25). Psalm 33: 3 says, "Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy." Practice and rehearsal are two different settings—more on that later.
- **Be Faithful, Be Early**— Our rehearsal times are very limited. In order to accomplish what we need to accomplish and in order to end on time, we need to start on time. Rehearsal will move fast and your **active** participation benefits the whole. So, as it relates to purpose— It's in your hands.
- **Invest— Musically, spiritually, relationally.** This will be discussed in greater detail as time progresses. Just know that our ministry goals, purpose, and intent can all be accomplished simply by your:

1. **Commitment to prayer & personal worship**
2. **Commitment to preparation & practice**
3. **Commitment to run-throughs & rehearsals**
4. **Commitment to the purpose & vision of the ministry***

In addition,

1. **Weekly practice must be your priority.**
2. **Attending weekly rehearsal must be your priority.**
3. **Platform Ministry must be your priority.**
4. **Full participation in the ministry systems of our ministry must be your priority.**
5. **Faithful participation in the overall mission and vision of the church must be your priority.***

**The church needs to see you connected and involved off the platform just as much as on. These expectations parallel our church vision statement which is summed up in three words: Passion, commitment, ownership.*

Member Status

A member (or prospect) of the music & worship ministry of FBCCH may be assigned and classified as any of the following:

- **ACTIVE/CURRENT**—A member who is currently and faithfully attending and participating in the systems of FBCCH Music & Worship Ministry including, but not limited to, rehearsal and platform ministry
- **INACTIVE**—A member who has recently/previously served actively in both rehearsal and platform ministry
 - *Non-Participatory Inactive (NPIA)*— An inactive member who has not given reason or explanation for no longer serving (This should never be the case. It is your job to communicate your participation commitment to the ministry)
 - *Requested Inactive (RIA)*—An inactive member who has indicated the need to step down either temporarily or indefinitely from ministry with given purpose
- **SEASONAL**—An active member who only participates in seasonal events throughout the year
- **PROSPECT**—Potential members who have given indication of giftedness in the area of music and worship ministry either directly or indirectly.

Rehearsal

Every music ministry member is required to be faithful and participate in rehearsal. You should plan to attend all rehearsals, but sometimes there are good reasons why you cannot. You will never be reprimanded for missing a rehearsal, but please communicate when you are unable to attend. Consecutive absentees from rehearsal will result in a contact made to you. **As a general rule, you are expected to attend all rehearsals.** To help you understand the importance of this, here are a few good and bad reasons for missing a rehearsal:

GOOD REASONS: *You or an immediate family member is in the hospital; your work is causing you to miss or be delayed, you are sick and very contagious or, you are the caregiver of someone in your household who is sick and very contagious.*

BAD REASONS: *Uncle Henry and Aunt Sylvia are visiting from Commiskey, IN (Yes, it is a real place) and you have to clean the house in preparation for their arrival; Uncle Henry and Aunt Sylvia dropped by for an unannounced visit (bring them to rehearsal with you); it's raining outside or, you had a bad day at work; your not going to be here on Sunday; you have a stuffy nose.*

Ok, so your house is dirty? We get it! But which is more important in the grand scheme of things? A clean house for your uncle and aunt— they'll love you regardless. **Or be skillfully prepared to wage war against principalities and powers each Sunday morning?** Understand this: **We are an army of praise leading in the battle of such.** (Ephesians 6:12)

In-season rehearsals (August—May) are held each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. Off-season rehearsals and/or special event rehearsals (Summer months, Christmas, etc.) are scheduled on a week-to-week basis. During these times, an adjusted schedule may be distributed to members listing those times.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Most of the time, rehearsal is fun! Enjoy the fellowship and company of others—both before and after scheduled rehearsals. However, once rehearsal begins, please be tentative and focused. When rehearsing sections and/or individual parts, be mindful and respectful of those rehearsing around you. If it's not your turn, keep chatter to a minimum using your “inside” voice. This is the respectful thing to do— it is respecting your director and your fellow team members.

Personal & Private Rehearsal

Every music ministry member should allow time to prepare personally, individually, spiritually, and musically for any service. Pray. Then use the rehearsal tools and systems available to you to equip, and familiarize yourself with the ministry. Each member should plan to spend a minimum of 20 minutes of private, **musical** practice in addition to our scheduled weekly rehearsal. Finally, pray more. We are to pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Rehearsal is not practice. Rehearsal is developing and initializing that which is already practiced. Systems are provided and in place to help you adhere to this policy.

Platform Ministry

Platform Ministry is what we call (anytime we lead) worship from the platform. Regardless if that is on Sunday morning, Sunday night, or any special program or event where we are presenting an offering of praise through music. This is the platform for our work of ministry. Everything we do in preparation is for these moments. This is the sacred ground in which we are called to “Create Space.” (See Appendix “Creating Space”)

Guarding platform ministry requires a healthy understanding of your position and calling to the worship team. You will have opportunities to explore this idea on your own in the days to come. But, the thought of guarding platform ministry not only requires a faithful commitment to the time we are there, but also for the spiritual formation that is shaped by your private worship (Romans 12:1). You will hear this mentioned often: “We should not expect our platform/corporate worship to be greater than our private worship.” In other words, “Corporate worship will never exceed our personal worship.” (i.e. we can't expect God to do more on Sunday in our corporate times of worship if we are not allowing him to move in our personal times with him throughout the week.”

Platform ministry is the ministry term that we use to describe what we do on Sunday mornings, or for any special program or event that we will be leading.

Attitude and Mannerism

A positive, servant heart and attitude are essential to an effective worship-leading ministry. Questions are encouraged, input is great and will be considered, but any kind of malicious, critical spirit is unacceptable. We must always support, exhort, and love one another—including faults and failures. Everyone has them. Guess what? So do you! Love like Jesus loves. (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:32)

Guard your heart against jealousy. One of the hardest things to overcome as a human being is the sense of being undervalued, overlooked, or passed by. There are a number of enormously gifted people in our ministry. The Lord will cause to rise up whom He will, when He will—making the foolish to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). Please pray for wisdom and discernment for your director as he strives to make right choices and provide opportunities for ministry. Remember, Satan is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Resentment and bitterness always aid him in his mission. (1 Peter 5:8)

Cultivate a sense of expectancy about our ministry. Be ready and open to grow and learn. Always give God glory for each and every result! These will be reflected throughout eternity.

Always support the purpose, vision and ministry of the ministry. Do your part with joy and gladness.



Character

James 3:1 says, "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." Maybe we don't think of ourselves as a teacher in the sense of a pastor or leader, but we are "teaching" and "leading" our congregation in how to worship through the giving of our praise, including our expression and heartfelt gratitude. **We should take our ministry very seriously.**

Furthermore, we are in the direct view of our congregation when we engage in platform ministry. Never be something on Sunday morning that you are not Monday through Saturday. Hypocrisy is a tool that Satan is using to discredit today's church. We are not perfect people, but we cannot use grace as a license to continue in sin. Repent, and continue the straight and narrow. (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 6:1)

Music & Worship Ministry at FBCCH will follow the measures of church discipline outlined in Matthew 18:15-20 for any member that is "living" in un-repentant, known sin. On a personal level, you and God know what is in your heart. Deal with it accordingly. If there is something in your life that you feel would keep you from serving in platform ministry, please let the director know that you would like to take time off to deal with personal issues. Unconfessed sin can be a resistance, delay, or obstruction to what God wants to do in and through our ministry.

Dress Code

We believe that our ministry is a representation of— and an encouragement to our fellowship in worship. For that reason, and because we do not wear robing apparel, we will wear clothing similar to that worn by those attending services at our church. However, please note that you should avoid any clothing that may be interpreted as "suggestive" or inappropriate. This includes clothing which is unusually tight fitting, or which exposes indiscreet amounts of skin in any body area. Remember, you may be the only first impression someone gets at FBCCH.

For special programs, services and events, specific "concert" attire or dress requirements may be requested of you.

Platform Ministry Dress Preference at Minimum is:

Men: Long pants or dress jeans, button or polo style shirt. Unless otherwise noted, no (graphic) t-shirts or shorts (unless otherwise approved and adapted by the ministry for specific events).

Women: Modest dresses, dress jeans or pants, blouses and skirts— loose fitted. Unless otherwise noted, no (graphic) t-shirts or shorts (unless otherwise approved and adapted by the ministry for specific events). No short skirts, low neck tops or blouses, yoga or exercise pants. Leggings with tunic is permissible.

PLATFORM PRESENCE

What in the world do I do with my hands during worship? Raise them! After all, it is a biblical posture. (Psalm 28:2; 63:4; 132:4; 141:2; Lamentations 3:41; 1 Timothy 4:8...) But if that's not your personality, don't fret. Simply drop them to your side...

WE ARE VISUAL STORY TELLERS (See Appendices 1-3)

Both by command and by example, the Bible teaches us to employ our whole bodies in worship. We are to love our God with our entire being (Dt 6:5; Mt 22:37). Feet, tongue, hands, head, knees, face, eyes, heart, etc. are employed in various aspects of worship. There is no reason to believe that these were limited in their application either in the Old Testament or New. It is, however, important to note that **your body language, consciously or subconsciously, is sending a message to the congregation.** For instance, arms crossed in front of the chest are an indication of defensiveness. Open palms lifted upward are an indication of honesty, sincerity, submission and innocence. Hands clasped behind your back are a sign of anger, frustration, or apprehension, etc. You may not deliberately feel this way or mean to express this emotion, but it can be interpreted this way. Proper stance in worship, when not using your hands or body as an expression of worship (e.g. lifting your hands in praise, bowing in reverence, clapping in celebration, etc..) **should be straight with your hands simply dropped by your side.**

Expression is a key part of what we do as a worship team. It is important that we learn to be VERY EXPRESSIVE during our worship services. This means that you must remind your face that you love to worship God! There's not much worse than watching someone worship God who looks like they really don't like worshipping God. It is one of our goals that through our expression, people would be drawn into the presence of God. We want to be so full of the presence of God that it spills out of us onto our local congregation. When you worship God with your face, it motivates and encourages others. Let your face tell the story of worship. **At the very least, SMILE!** Smiling is very contagious.

At FBCCH, there is freedom to worship authentically. Genuine worship will not be a distraction for others. Be certain, however, that your expression and/or posture is following that of authentic worship as opposed to showmanship. God knows your heart. The congregation does not. This can be both positive or negative in expressionism. Spiritual discernment is necessary. Our desire is to lead everyone forward. Not leave them behind. Be mindful of the privilege and people you lead on a weekly basis.

PRAYER

Prayer is not something that we should list as a "check-off" for all things good and spiritual. **It is the lifeblood of all that we do together in life and ministry.** Expect to spend much time in seeking prayer. What is "seeking" prayer? The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the Kingdom of God, live righteously, and [God] will supply everything that you need." (NLT) We will specifically and intentionally seek God and pray together for:

- 1) **God's favor and blessing**
- 2) **The manifest presence of the Holy Spirit in our Lives, ministry and church—**
- 3) **Revival in our church, community, nation, and world**
- 4) **The rescue and redemption of the lost**

*FBCCH House of Prayer should be a priority. If you have nothing else to pray for or reason to seek God, use this time to pray for our ministry. Then expect God to answer in big ways!

SYSTEMS & COMMUNICATION

In today's society, communication capability is at our fingertips. Technology has made it possible for us to be "reached" in almost every geographical location where large masses of people reside. Communication is necessary for the success of any endeavor involving people. **It is imperative that you as a ministry member be faithful in intentional communication and engage** with the ministry through our systems such as:

Planning Center Online – All members of the FBCCH Music & Worship ministry are granted access to our online management application (www.planningcenteronline.com). With a valid email address, personal computer and/or smart device, ministry members are scheduled weekly for platform ministry through email invitation including information pertaining to rehearsal details, weekly call times and service elements. In addition, attachment links, sheet music, charts, and song samples for your personal practice time are included. Members should "Accept" or "Decline" all scheduling requests and submit a [decline] response (when applicable). **At minimum, ministry members are expected to "Accept" or "Decline" all scheduling requests to maintain "active" status in the ministry ASAP, or as soon as an intent is known by you. In addition, a minimum of fifteen to twenty minutes per week of your personal rehearsal time should be spent in planning center. This is the approximate equivalent to each Sunday's worship set time.**

Planning Center scheduling requests are typically emailed by Tuesday evening for the upcoming Sunday. Be intentional. Check your email!

LOOM (New 2023)— Ministry Minute(s) & Extended Teaching & Training videos via FBCCH App or by visiting www.fbcchapp.com.

Breeze Member Text & Emails— Email and text messages may also be sent through Breeze. Your member profile must be up to date with correct contact information. Please visit www.firstcolbertheights.com and click **[Update Member Profile]** found under "Quick Links" to update your contact information.

FELLOWSHIPS & TEAM BUILDING

The Music & Worship Ministry of FBCCH will be intentional about scheduling social events and/or fellowships throughout the season in an effort to grow our relationships with one another and/or new members of our ministry. In an attempt to offset the cost of these events, donations are always accepted and sometimes requested. NOTE: Donations of bottled water are also asked of ministry members. When you are grocery shopping and pass by the small bottles of water, consider picking up an extra pack to donate to our hydration supply— follow a "Take one, replace one" rule of thumb.

AUDITIONS

While auditions are not required to sing with the FBCCH Worship Choir, some musical skill and ability is needed in order to participate *skillfully*. You should at least be able to sing in key with other members of the choir whether melodically or harmonically. This is a requirement at minimum. Auditions are required, however, for all soloists, praise team singers, and instrumentalists. If you would like to audition or would like more information about these positions, please schedule an appointment with the worship pastor, leader, or director.

Soloists and Praise Team Singers*

The director will assign solos and praise team groups for weekly services. The principal concerns for soloists are, faithfulness to your calling as a worship [choir] leader and, appropriate voice and style for the solo or group, sing rhythmically on time and, on correct/center of pitch.

In addition, praise team singers should possess the following: A blending voice—flexible for differing styles, obtain the ability to read/follow music rhythmically (including click tracks), can memorize, sing straight tones and center of pitch— not below (flat) or above (sharp) as well as harmonize individually and as a group.

*Unless otherwise approved by the director, ALL soloist and praise team members are ACTIVE and faithful participants of the FBCCH Worship Choir being committed to both rehearsal and platform ministry. In other words, soloists and praise team members come from, and return to the choir when they are not scheduled to sing a soloist or part of a praise team.

SONG SELECTION - It is important that all music at FBCCH honor the Lord Jesus Christ and give glory to His name. Some liberty is given to soloists and special groups who wish to provide special music during specific services and/or special events. However, just because a song mentions the name Jesus does not mean it is doctrinally sound or has its place in the assembly (e.g. Carrie Underwood, "Jesus, Take the Wheel"). Song selections should be pre-approved. For additional details, contact your leader and/or director.

Instrumentalists

Auditions are also required for all instrumentalists. As a musician with the FBCCH Music & Worship ministry, you must possess adequate talent and skill to: Play in all/various keys, follow (at minimum) a lead sheet (trainable), play in time (including/with the use of click tracks), and be committed to practicing individually on a weekly basis (as much time as it takes) all scheduled and/or upcoming songs. In addition, you must possess the ability to play with a band and as a band.

CONCLUSION

Our desire at FBCCH is that every member and attender experience and sense great excitement and anticipation when we gather to worship and respond to our great God with passionate and powerful praise.

Whether singing an ancient hymn or modern worship song, we pray that God will find the kind of true worshiper He describes in John 4:23-24 when Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "Yet a time is coming and now has come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

You are not here by accident. You have purpose and God has intent for your part in this ministry. Thank you for being faithful to that call.



NOTES

