



July 26, 2026

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ♦ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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"Let God use your home, apartment, dorm room, front yard, community gymnasium, or garden for the purpose of making strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family. Because that is the point—building the church and living like a family, the family of God."

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

Announcements

Quarterly Members' Meeting & Evening Worship

There is a quarterly members' meeting this afternoon, **July 26**, at 6:15 p.m. Evening Worship will follow at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Adult Bible Study begins at 6:45 p.m. There are no Youth or Wacky Wednesday activities this week due to Children's Camp.

Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission

Tom Keller will teach and serve lunch at the Old Savannah City Mission on Saturday, **August 1**. The DeLoach family, Kelly Zittrouer, and Eleanor Bowden are scheduled to help. If you would like to help now or in the future, contact Janice Donaldson to be added to the schedule.

After Church Lunch

We will have lunch after church on Sunday, **August 2**. Please bring a covered dish to share. Invite your friends!

Crochet Club

Crochet Club will meet Saturday, **August 8**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth House. All are welcome!

Women of Light Night Out

The Women of Light will meet at Carey Hilliard's on Waters Avenue on Friday, **August 14**, at 5:30 p.m. Sign the list in the hall so Amy Keller can give them a number!

Adventure Club Kick-off and Wednesday Night Suppers

Our Wednesday Night suppers will resume on Wednesday, **August 19**. This is also the night for the Adventure Club Kick-Off. More info and sign-up sheets to come.

Continued on p. 4

July 26, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 113:4-6

Pew Bible p. 510

Prayer of Praise

Greeting

(When singing begins, please make your way to your seats and sing along!)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness.

With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn, bulletin p. 5

"All Praise to Him"

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner

Psalm 32:3-5

Pew Bible pp. 462-463

Hymn #37, bulletin p. 6

"How Great Thou Art"

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 7:15-29

Lance Ficek

Pew Bible pp. 556-557

Hymn #50, bulletin p. 7

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Message

Bob Dimmitt

No More Light

Matthew #139

Matthew 21:23-27, Pew Bible p. 826

Hymn, bulletin pp. 8-9

"Benediction"

No More Light

Matthew #139

Matthew 21:23-27

The Greek word *exousia* (“authority”), in Hebrew the word and this concept is *mikhah*, meaning “leaning” or “laying” on of hands in the ordination ceremony for a judge, elder or rabbi.

Here the leaders are basically asking: “What kind of ordination did you receive that entitles you to teach as authoritatively as you do, to decide points of Jewish Law as you do, and to disturb the peace in the Temple courts?”

Matt 7:28-29

D A Carson - In one sense the Sanhedrin enjoyed not only the right but the duty to check the credentials of those who claimed to be spokesmen for God.

William Hendriksen: An important practical lesson is taught here. Christ’s opponents failed to see the truth because they hardened themselves against it. The reason why many people know so little about Jesus and about the joy of living the Christian life is that they refuse to submit themselves to his will.

Continued from p. 1

Home Fellowships

Home Fellowships are scheduled for Sunday, **August 23**. We need three more host homes. Please let Dawn in the office know if you can host a group!

Men's Fifth Saturday Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, **August 29**. This begins at 7:15 a.m. with a hearty breakfast followed by great teaching and fellowship. Signup sheet is up!



We are recruiting monthly volunteers for kitchen duty on Wednesday nights, beginning August 19. There is a list on the bulletin board for Set-up and Servers, Dishwashers, and Clean-up Crew. We need two for each job for the month. The first half of the season is almost full! Thanks for helping out!

Important Upcoming Events



July:

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 26 | Quarterly Members' Meeting | 6:15 p.m. |
| 27-30 | Children's Camp | |

August:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: DeLoach family, Kelly Zittrouer, Eleanor Bowden | 11:00 a.m. |
| 2 | After Church Lunch | 12:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Elders' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Crochet Club | 10:00 a.m. |
| 11 | Deacons' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 14 | Women of Light Night Out: Carey Hilliard's, Waters Ave. | 5:30 p.m. |
| 14 | Young Adult Social | 6:00 p.m. |
| 19 | Wednesday Supper and Adventure Club Kickoff | 5:30 p.m. |
| 23 | Home Fellowships | 6:00 p.m. |
| 29 | Men's Fifth Saturday Breakfast | 7:15 a.m. |

September:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | Elders' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 5 | Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Wise and Donaldson families | 11:00 a.m. |
| 8 | Deacons' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 20 | After Church Fellowship | 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 | Life Line Health Screening in the Fellowship Hall | |

All Praise to Him

Based on the hymn "All Praise to Him Who Built the Hills" by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)
Music and additional words by Matt Merker and Bob Kauflin

$\text{♩} = 74$

C F G C/E F G

1. All praise to Him, the God of light, who formed the mountains by His might.
2. All praise to Him Whose love is seen in Christ the Son, the ser-vant King,
3. All praise to Him Whose pow'r im-parts the love of God with-in our hearts.

Dm7 Am F Gsus C

All praise to Him who names the stars that sing His fame in skies a - far.
Who left be-hind His glo - rious throne to pay the ran - som for His own.
The Spir - it of all truth and peace, the fount of joy and ho - li - ness.

Am F C Am F G

All praise to Him Who reigns in love, Who guides the gal - ax - ies a - bove,
All praise to Him Who hum - bly came to bear our sor - row, sin and shame,
To Fa - ther, Son and Spir - it now our souls we lift, our wills we bow.

F G Am F Gsus C C

yet bends to hear our ev - 'ry prayer with sov - reign pow'r and ten - der care.
Who lived to die, Who died to rise, the all suf - fi - cient sac - ri - fice.
To You, the Tri - une God, we raise with lov - ing hearts our song of praise.

CCLI Song # 7096636

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How Great Thou Art!

37

CARL BOBERG, 1859-1940

O STORE GUD

Trans. by Stuart K. Hine, 1899-

Swedish melody

Arr. by Manna Music, Inc.

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er
2. When thru the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in- That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

REFRAIN

thun-der, Thy pow'r thru-out the un-i-verse dis-played!
gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze, Then sings my
bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin!
ra-tion And there pro-claim, my God, how great Thou art!

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

* Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

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Fairest Lord Jesus!

CRUSADERS' HYMN

From *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677

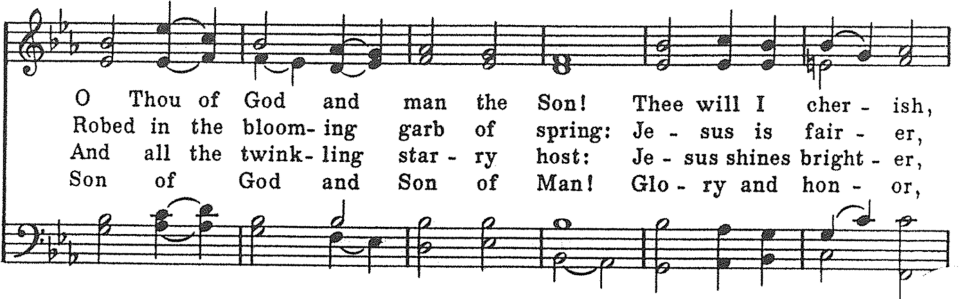
4th vs. trans. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

From *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

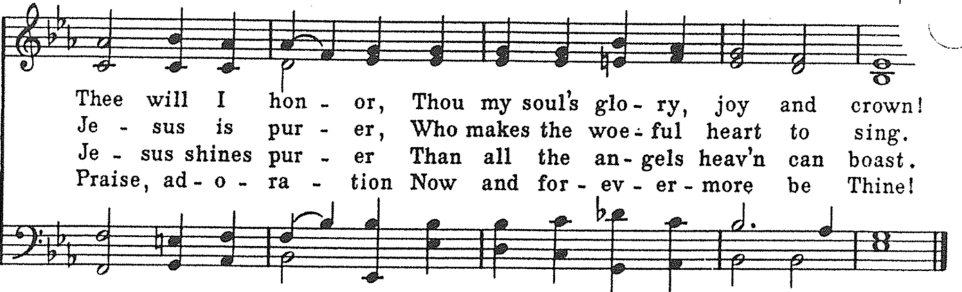
Adapted by Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Rul - er of all na - ture!
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!



O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou my soul's glo - ry, joy and crown!
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
 Praise, ad - o - ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!



Pray for our Children's Camp!
 July 27 through 30!

Benediction

Stuart Townend &
Keith Getty

F/A B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ B $\flat$

1. May the peace of God our heav - 'nly Fa - ther,
2. May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,

Gm7 Cm7 F sus F

and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,

F/A B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ B $\flat$

and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of His com - mun - ion

Gm7 Cm7 F sus F

keep our hearts and minds with - in His love,
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

CCLI Song # 4506980

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Benediction, p. 2

B $\flat$ /D F Gm7 F/A F E $\flat$ /G E $\flat$ B $\flat$

And to Him be praise for His glo - rious reign,

B $\flat$ /D F Gm7 F/A F E $\flat$ /G E $\flat$ B $\flat$

from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.

F Gm7 F/A D/F# Gm F6 E $\flat$

We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain:

B $\flat$ /F F sus F B $\flat$ sus B $\flat$

Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings!

Articles

Why Would Demons Need Spaceships?

By Rich Bitterman

By now many Christians have seen the claim making the rounds online. Supposedly there has been, or may soon be, some kind of government meeting with pastors about UFOs, disclosure, and possible implications for faith and Scripture.

Whenever stories like that begin to spread, they tend to produce the same reaction. Some people become uneasy or fascinated. A Christian should probably do neither.

Even if such a meeting did take place, it would not put the believer in any spiritual crisis or shake the authority of the Bible. And it certainly would not mean the church needs to start taking its cues from rumors, government briefings or internet speculation.

The Christian faith does not stand on secrecy. It stands on revelation and God has already spoken. That is where our footing has to remain.

For many years now, there have been people trying to use UFO claims and strange readings of history to explain away the Bible. These theories may sound impressive at first, but once examined they usually rest on poor scholarship, exaggerated claims, misused evidence and badly distorted Bible interpretation.

That is still true. **One of the great temptations in every age is to take whatever sounds mysterious, dress it in scientific language and then use it to push God to the margins.** That is why these theories often gain traction. They offer people a thrilling way to talk about the unknown while avoiding the living God who made heaven and earth.

But Scripture begins by settling the central question, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

The Christian does not start with rumors in the sky. He starts with God. The heavens and the earth is His creation. **The Bible does not present man as one intelligent race among many equal rivals in the universe. It presents man as uniquely made in God’s image and uniquely accountable to God.**

That matters greatly because once you lose that truth, every other truth begins to unravel. Sin is reduced to a defect and then salvation becomes self-improvement. Scripture keeps bringing us back to this reality: the great issue is not whether there are strange things in the heavens. The great issue is that man has sinned against God and stands in need of redemption.

That is why Christians should be very cautious whenever someone says a new discovery will force us to rethink the Bible. **Usually that means the Bible has already been set aside in favor of speculation. The faith is then rebuilt around fear and the thrill of hidden knowledge.** That spirit is very old.

A great many UFO reports are exaggerations and some are deliberate hoaxes. Some may be spiritual deception, since the devil has always loved counterfeit wonders. Christians do not need to mock every report, but neither should we be naive. The world is full of misread events and overconfident claims.

This is where a calm mind helps.

The Christian does not have to become excited every time the culture points upward. We are allowed to say that the universe is vast and that there may be many things we do not yet understand. But mystery itself is not a threat to biblical faith. In fact, Scripture already teaches that creation is filled with things beyond our grasp. *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever"* (Deut 29:29).

That verse is a great help here. God has not told us everything. He has told us what we need to know for life, salvation, obedience and hope. The church does not live on classified information. The church lives on revealed truth.

And above all, God has spoken finally and clearly in His Son. Hebrews says, *"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,"* and then gives the line that steadies the whole church, *"but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."*

Christianity is not waiting for a government unveiling to complete the story. God's final and fullest Word is Jesus Christ.

That means whatever may be discovered in the heavens, it cannot outrank Christ. It cannot revise Christ. It cannot sit in judgment on Christ.

The Lord Jesus is not one interesting figure in a crowded universe. He is the eternal Son of God through whom all things were made. He entered this world as a man, lived in perfect obedience, went to the cross for sinners, rose bodily from the grave and now reigns at the Father's right hand.

The center of Christian faith is not unexplained lights, hidden civilizations, or secret encounters. The center is a crucified and risen Savior. That is where the gospel comes in.

Man's deepest problem has never been that he lacks information about unusual things in the sky. His deepest problem is sin. We have broken God's law and have loved darkness rather than light. We stand guilty before the God who made us. And no government disclosure can fix that. No secret meeting can reconcile a sinner to God.

Only Jesus Christ can do that. At the cross, He bore the wrath sinners deserve. In the resurrection, He conquered death. And now He calls men everywhere to repent and believe the gospel. That remains the great need of the hour. Not inside information about cosmic speculation.

The need is forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace with God through His Son.

So how should a Christian respond to all this?

First, refuse panic. If something is true, it will still be true tomorrow. You do not have to surrender your peace to a headline. Christ still reigns.

Second, refuse gullibility. Claims should be examined carefully. Evidence should be tested. Scripture should be handled rightly. The church should never be impressed by a confident tone alone.

Third, refuse theological drift. The moment a theory starts diminishing the God of Genesis, the Christ of the Gospels, the cross, the resurrection, or the uniqueness of man as God's image-bearer, it is leading you away from the faith, not deeper into it.

Fourth, keep your eyes on the main thing. The church has a commission from Christ....we preach the gospel, make disciples, worship God and we bury our dead in hope.

We wait for the return of Jesus. Rumors about government meetings do not alter that calling for one second.

In the end, the believer can be steady. Even if the government says more, Christians can listen without fear. Since the church can still open its Bible and say with confidence that God has spoken, Christ has come, Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again.

That is enough. Actually, more than enough.

The church does not need a new word from the sky. The church already has the living Word who came down from heaven to save sinners. And because of Him, the Christian can meet every rumor, every claim, and every supposed unveiling with a settled heart and an open Bible. ❖



Self-seeking leads to the loss of real life, and our experience of this loss is often what we define as “there is something missing.” This is what sends us on a perpetual search for that one next thing. For many, that one next thing seems to lie in the relational arena. Single women want to be married. Married women want a better marriage. Childless women want babies. Mothers want happier children. Empty-nesters want grandchildren. For some it’s more meaningful work. There’s nothing wrong with these desires—we’re hard wired to want them. BUT at the same time, if we live to get them, we’re sure to find them hollow when we do.

Yet more reasons why the Gospel is so needed and is the only true answer for man: We live today in a vast, homogeneous world market, in which human beings are programmed to maximize their self-interest...the world seems more literate, interconnected and prosperous than at any other time in history...but the reality is that the promised universal civilization—one harmonized by a combination of universal suffrage, broad educational opportunities, steady economic growth, and personal advancement has not materialized. Add to that the fact that older forms of authority have been weakened we have an explosion of unpredictable actors from Somali pirates, human traffickers, anonymous cyber-hackers to Boko Haram. There has been a massive shift in which people understand themselves in public life primarily as individuals with rights, desires and interests...as a result we have a tremendous increase in mutual hatred and universal irritability of everybody against everybody else.

from *Age of Anger*, by P. Mishra

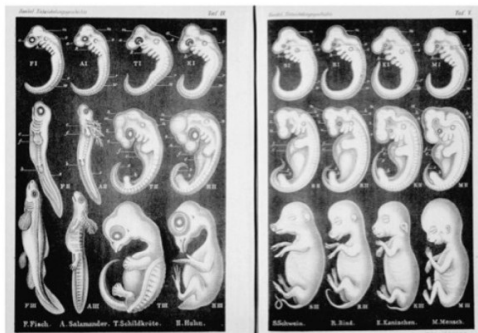


Creation Moments

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Were You Once a Fish?



"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." - Romans 1:25

In 1866, a German scientist and strong supporter of Darwin, Ernst Haeckel, got into trouble. He had supposedly shown that embryos go through the earlier

evolutionary stages of their species. The scientific community investigated his so-called discovery and found that he had faked his drawings. Sadly, some textbooks today still present this fake evidence in support of evolution.

One of the most widely used "evidences" used to support this idea still today, is the claim that the developing human fetus has "gill slits" at one point in its development. The truth is, the developing fetus has folds of skin around its neck that contain the developing organs found in the neck. These folds have nothing in common with gills.

While no scientist today accepts this theory – and it is even refuted in most encyclopedias – it can still be found in some high school textbooks! Why? It would seem that few scientists have the courage to challenge this idea, which they know is wrong because it might make them appear to oppose evolution. But even worse is that this anti-scientific idea continues to be used as a "scientific" justification for abortion. Yes, a wrong view on origins can result in some disastrous "science" as well as human suffering.

Image: Haeckel Anthropogenie (Haeckel's drawings) 1874, Lithograph by J. G. Bach of Leipzig, PD, via Wikimedia Commons.



Scan the QR code after service to watch a related video!

CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

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Missionary of the Week

Ralph & Elaine Elliott
Cru - Antwerp, Belgium

Recapping Six Months of Campus Ministry

In the last six months in Belgium, our Agape Life Belgium ministry has seen God at work in many areas. Perhaps the greatest movement has taken place with our University ministry. We shared with you about our spring break trips from our partner campuses in Indiana and Illinois. These US students had great conversations with Belgian students. Worship nights have been a gathering opportunity for the student ministry. In addition, as our students have returned, many have been able to continue the relationships they began via social media.



On April 25 our campus ministry held an all day gathering focused on discipleship. The instructors were highly qualified men from a local seminary in Belgium as well as a Cru staff member and seminary grad living in Budapest. Forty students were in attendance during this all day event. Many commented on how helpful and life changing this day was.

In May and June (for a total of 4 weeks), we were blessed to have a second visiting international team, not just from Indiana and Illinois but from many different states. This team followed the same approach of meeting students randomly, mainly on the KU Leuven and University of Antwerp campuses. The campus director for Belgium, IL Tae—originally from South Korea—had the vision to stretch the campus influence to the southern French side of Belgium called Wallonia. So our US students took one day to pray and meet students on the French side of Belgium in a city called Liege. In both the Flemish speaking north and the French speaking south, our student teams found Belgian students interested in spiritual conversations.



South Korea

Last summer, some of the students asked our South Korean leader about the University movement in Korea. IL Tae shared about the annual gathering of over 10,000 Korean students. They are vibrant, have a love for Christ, and want to make Him known. The students said they would love to see that gathering, so IL Tae took four Belgian students to that gathering this summer. The group left the third week of June and will return in July. They were part of this massive gathering of Korean university students. No one goes to a Christian university student conference in Korea and returns the same person. We are praying for this investment into the lives of these four Belgian students to reap a giant harvest for the future. Thank you for your investment in this ministry to university students! You make a difference!

Keeping you posted on the great things in Belgium,

*Ralph and Elaine
Elliott*

Nursery July 26

Babies:

Amy Horton, Lisa Rowe

Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Jan Boyett

Preschoolers:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter



Nursery August 2

Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Jan DeLoach,
Kayla Duero

Toddlers:

Cindy Dimmitt, Rebekah Helmick

Preschoolers:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Right Now Media

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or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the foyer offering box indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC!

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Quarterly Members' Meeting	6:15 p.m.
Evening Worship	7:00 p.m.

Monday

Children's Campers check in to leave for camp	8:30 a.m.
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Tuesday

Women's Bible Study: Hebrews, Part 1	11:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: Hebrews, Part 1	6:15 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus	6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study	6:45 p.m.
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Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Children's Campers return to church	~1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday

Lunch at OSCM: DeLoach family, Kelly Zittrouer, Eleanor Bowden	11:00 a.m.
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Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for July:	Bill Bailey, Dennis Brittingham
Lockup Deacons for August:	Danny Edwards, Howard Ernst

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

Questions & Answers	Fellowship Hall:	Bob Dimmitt
1 Peter (Sinclair Ferguson)	Youth House:	Steve Posner
Systematic Theol.: Bibliology	Gym Overflow:	Tom Keller

Children and Students

Babies	Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Sandra Bridges
Toddlers	Room 24:	Lynn Ernst, Savannah Martin
Pre-K	Room 25:	Dustin & Emily Herb
K, 1st and 2nd Grade	Room 28:	John & Pam Humphrey
3rd-6th Grade Boys	Room 202:	Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
3rd-6th Grade Girls	Room 204:	Jess Dimmitt, Karen Law
Youth Guys & Girls	Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion, Avalon DeLoach