



Sunday, September 25, 2022

Welcome to Rally Day and the launch of the new program year at First Baptist Church in Beverly!

The many hands that have been busily preparing for this day over the past many weeks have been energized by the hoped-for return of a more “normal” Rally Day experience. While their creative accommodations to the pandemic realities of the last two years were exciting in their own respects, there is nothing like getting ready for a morning full of activities like this one (With people! Inside the building! Talking and playing! Eating breakfast!). While I am new to the FBC Rally Day routine myself, I can attest that if the normal experience involves tireless efforts of dozens of people undertaken in hopeful anticipation of big things to come, then the run up to this day certainly qualifies. But the main ingredient that makes the day what it is is **YOU**, so we could hardly be more excited to have you join us this morning! Thank you for being here.

Beyond this day we look ahead to a year filled with opportunities to grow and learn, to explore and question, to worship and serve, and even to create together at First Baptist Church. This year we will consider the many facets



of our church-wide annual theme of **(re)Creation**. This theme will have us exploring the variety of ways we can enjoy and engage with the wonder of God’s creation. It will also encourage us to recognize the value of freely and responsibly playing (yes, playing!) with the good gifts of God that are scattered all over the created world. And it will challenge us to weigh how we ourselves may actively participate in God’s ongoing work of creation, redemption, and re-creation.

The ministers and staff of FBC, along with our church school teachers and members of our Christian Education Committee, firmly believe that education is for all people of all ages, as each of us is called to move forward in the journey of faith. Moreover, the work

of education—both the teaching **and** the learning—is for all people of all ages as well. The work of re-creation, of being continually remade in the image of Jesus Christ, is a community work, and we are very excited to have your family as part of our strong, vibrant, and dynamic CE program. Thank you for enriching the life of our church family with your presence!

Please make sure to pick up the registration forms for our Children’s Class/Childcare experience and return those, completely filled out, as soon as possible. Our Christian Education staff at the registration table today will be happy to collect them from you today, if you wish to fill them out immediately! Having completed forms for all children and youth in our care helps us to be able to contact you to share important information about programs and events *and also* is critical to our being able to provide the best and safest care for all young people.

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, our teachers, and our ministerial staff, I want to welcome you (or welcome you back!) to First Baptist Church in Beverly. It is our great joy to have you here with us for this exciting new program year.

Peace,

Daniel Johnson