

Introducing: Rev. Justin Moser

Candidate for Senior Pastor

Dear First Baptist Waynesboro Family,

I am so excited to meet you! When I first read your church profile I was impressed by your clarity of purpose and your heart for serving your community. As I spoke with your pastor search committee for the first time, I was captivated by their spirit of hope and joy. As our conversations deepened, so did my appreciation for you. I learned about the love and care you have for one another, the ways you instill and inspire faith through worship and spiritual formation, and your passion for missions and ministry. The more I heard, the more I wanted to know and the clearer God's call became.



Now here we are! I am incredibly grateful to have been nominated by your search committee to be your next Pastor and help carry on the legacy of First Baptist Waynesboro. I am looking forward to meeting each of you this weekend and, should you call me to be your Pastor, to get to know your stories and passions in the coming days, months, and years. Likewise, I am excited for you to meet my family. Ellie and I have been married for 14 years. She is passionate about books, literacy, and education. She is currently working on her masters degree in education to become a media specialist (school librarian).

We are blessed to have 2 boys. Micah, turns 12 on Nov 30. He loves to read, play soccer, video games, and spend time with his friends. Lewis is 8 and is one spunky dude! He keeps us on our toes with his quick wit and adventurous spirit. He enjoys time outside, animals, baseball, football, and he too, enjoys a good video game.

God has a wonderful dream for the future of First Baptist Waynesboro. I'd be honored to minister alongside you to make that dream a reality as we do, love, and walk like Christ in this world.

Filled with gratitude and hope for the future,
Justin Moser

Education:

Master of Divinity, Congregational Ministry
McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science
Friends University, Wichita, KS

Work Experience:

FBC Saint Simons Island, GA
Associate & Youth Minister (2014- present)

Buckhead Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
Student Intern (2012-2014)

Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mtn, GA
Recreation Intern (2011- 2014)

All About the Mosers



The Moser family:
Justin, Ellie, Micha (11), Lewis (8)

What is your favorite place you've ever visited?

Justin: Anywhere with mountains. I've traveled to both the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Both were amazing experiences.

Ellie: Nashville or Disney World

Micah: Disney World

Lewis: Okefenokee swamp and Disney world



Would you rather travel 10 years into the future or 100 years into the past?

Justin: 10 years into the future. The 1920s were rough!

Ellie: 10 years into the future for a glimpse of my kids and to see the evolution of technology.

Micah: Future

Lewis: Future



What is one thing you won't move without?

Justin: My guitars

Ellie: My cats! After my family of course.

Micah: Cats!

Lewis: Blankie



What is your all time favorite food?

Justin: Cinnamon rolls|

Ellie: Homemade guacamole

Micah: Chick-fil-A chicken sandwich

Lewis: A lot of foods are tied



List the seasons in order of favorite to least favorite.

Justin: Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter

Ellie: Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter

Micah: Winter, Spring, Fall, Summer

Lewis: Summer, Winter, Fall, Spring



What are your favorite teams to cheer for? Or do you care?

Justin: Kansas Jayhawks, Golden State Warriors, Kansas City Chiefs, more than anything I just like seeing good, competitive games.

Ellie: Not a sports fan...I like ballet and musicals. I will watch pieces of basketball games if my family is watching.

Micah: Boston Celtics

Lewis: Golden State Warriors

More About Justin

Belief Statement

I believe in the one true God who has eternally existed as three persons in perfect relationship. God the Father creates, sustains, and rules over all things. God the Son became human in the person of Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, who through his life, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection reveals the character and nature of God and secures salvation for those who would trust and obey him. God the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, gives gifts to the members of Christ's church, and guides the people of God. I believe the Bible is the true word of God, revealing God's story of redemption and, when interpreted through the ministry and salvific work of Jesus Christ, carries full and final authority in matters of faith and practice. I believe that the core of Baptist identity is not a confession, but rather what Walter B. Shurden calls the "Four Fragile Freedoms" (Bible freedom, soul freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom).

What's been your biggest joy in ministry?

There is so much about ministry that I love, but what brings me the most joy is getting to experience what God is doing in the lives of people. Whether it is through a teaching, a sermon, a mission trip, a conversation, officiating a wedding, or being in the hospital room when someone finds out there is nothing more the doctors can do, these are holy moments. Even when the moment is hard and the circumstances are dire, it is a privilege to get to experience how God is alive and active in each of them.

As a church member, what can we do to encourage and support our pastors?

There are so many things that a church member can do! Ultimately, pastors are people too. We will have good days and bad days. We will sometimes surprise you and at other times disappoint you. We need members who believe in us. And when we dream and fail, because we most certainly will at some point, we need people full of grace who will walk with us as we find a better way forward. We need people who will love and support our families. While pastors might hold the responsibility of taking the lead on ministry, the work of ministry is ultimately the work of the entire church. In short, pray for us, love us, love our families, show us grace, and do the work of ministry alongside us.

What strategy do you employ for regular biblical study?

Regular engagement with Scripture is, obviously, critical for our growth in Christ. In Scripture we find the story of God and God's people, how people have responded to and interpreted God's actions, and then we are invited to see the world a new way. The way I engage with Scripture on a personal level isn't complex or rocket science. I pick a book of the Bible, rotating it between the different main genres (ex: Old Testament and New Testament; law, history, prophet, wisdom, gospel, Paul's letters, general epistles, etc.) so that I constantly expose myself to the breadth of Scripture. Then, four to five times a week, in addition to the time I already take to prepare lessons and sermons, I take time during my morning to first be silent before God, invite the Spirit into the time of reading usually a chapter or less depending on how long the chapter is, and spend time journaling about things that stuck out to me, surprised me, challenged me, bothered me, encouraged me, and any insights that the Spirit spoke to me about what God might want me to know, who God might want me to be, and what God might want me to do. Honestly, it probably looks a lot less like a strategic method, and more like a conversation between myself, the text (and therefore our ancestors in faith), and God.

Why is it important to come to church?

Church is a vital part of the life of any disciple of Jesus. There are many reasons for this, but, for me, the two most important are these: at church we encounter the inescapable beauty of God's diverse community and during worship at a healthy, God honoring church, we are shaped and formed more and more into the image of Christ. In almost every other area of our lives, we have the ability to be the gatekeepers of who we encounter. But in a church community, God welcomes all and, therefore, we never know who we will meet and how that encounter might further transform us. We were created to be in relationship with God and others. Church is a great place where we can live into both of those purposes. Likewise, everything we do, read, watch, consume, and engage with in this world forms who we are and who we become. Given the fact that the vast majority of our lives are spent in a world that is promoting its own set of values, goals, and visions of what the "good life" looks like. Church, and especially worship, becomes a regular habit that puts us in the position for God's Spirit to form us into the Kingdom's values, goals, and vision for the "good life."

From the Pastor Search Committee

Dear First Baptist Waynesboro Family,

The Pastor Search Committee is thrilled to introduce Rev. Justin Moser to the First Baptist Waynesboro family. As you have the opportunity to meet Justin, learn about his faith story and calling to ministry, and hear him preach, we feel that you will be as excited as we are about the future of First Baptist Waynesboro with the possibility of Justin as our next pastor.

The Pastor Search Committee began its work in February of this year. As we began the journey, we quickly realized the daunting task in front of us. However, we drew comfort from intentional prayer of holy indifference inspired by Luke 22:42, "Father, not my will, but yours be done."

After receiving several resumes and referrals from the Baptist General Association of Virginia and members of our church, we partnered with the Center for Health Churches (CHC), to help identify more potential candidates and assist in vetting candidates based on our core beliefs and a summary of the "must haves" from the listening sessions. CHC provided the committee with the names of nine potential candidates along with resumes, links to sermon videos, and a brief summary of why the CHC felt each candidate was a good potential pastor for First Baptist Waynesboro. Over the next several weeks, we first conducted 30 minute introductory interviews and then two hour interviews with each candidate. During this phase of the discernment process, committee members were also viewing the candidates' sermons and completing score cards based on the priorities identified in the congregational listening sessions.

After completing all the interviews, the team met for prayer and much discussion during which we were led to focus on three candidates. Each of these three candidates were invited to an additional more in-depth interview and the team began a deeper time of prayer, discussion, and discernment as well as reaching out to the candidates' references. Everyone agreed Justin was the candidate to whom God was leading us. We invited Justin and his wife, Ellie, to Waynesboro as an opportunity for them to learn more about our community and for us to learn more about their ministry individually and as a family. Without hesitation following our in-person time with Justin the Pastor Search Committee unanimously decided to present Justin to the congregation as the candidate God was leading us to.

We have been blessed to serve our God and our church in this process. As you meet Justin and his family, we hope you will sense God's calling as we have.

Grace & Peace, The FBW Senior Pastor Search Committee

*"I have been most impressed with Justin's engaging personality and feel he will work to build relationships with all members of our congregation."
-Cheryl Rosberg*

*"Justin's spiritual gifts of leadership, compassion, humor, and patience were quite evident throughout the entire process. I truly believe integrating his spiritual gifts with the ministries of First Baptist, WE are destined to grow the Kingdom of God right here in Waynesboro."
-Tom Woodworth*

*"The congregation of First Baptist Church entrusted in us the mission of finding a pastor who will lead us individually and collectively to Do, Love and Walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I believe we found this person in Justin Moser."
-Ed Morse*