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August 18 – A Great Night | A Message from Jim Everette

After having to delay our Tailgate Worship Gathering for a week, God provided a beautiful evening for us to gather outdoors at the Activity Center for a wonderful time of connecting, celebrating and worshipping. One of our Sunday School classes arrived an hour early and had dinner together in a circle while seeing each other face-to-face. Great idea for other classes to consider for upcoming gatherings. Our Leadership Council came together in a circle on the grass for a meeting before the worship service. Guests joined us and remarked about how welcoming their new FBCW friends are. Wasn't it fun to see the joy and excitement spilling over from the First-Grade children as they heard their names called when they came forward to receive their new bibles as a gift from our Children's Ministry? Many of them ran across the parking lot as fast as they could to get their new bible. The Sixth-Grade students were just as excited as our Student Ministry welcomed them to Youth Group, but they restrained themselves as a way of remaining "cool" as they transition from being mentors among the Children's Ministry to beginning middle school. Singing the Psalms like the ancient Hebrews and being inspired by the story of how God provided for Moses from infancy to leading God's people to a new beginning served as reminders that God is with us in the midst of these unsettling days. God heard us as we prayed for the children of all ages that are beginning a new school year in creative ways and as we prayed for the teachers and school administrators that are beginning a new year in ways they have never imagined. God heard us as we prayed for parents that are uneasy because they are taking their children away to college or helping them as the homeschool teacher, something they may feel ill prepared to do. God was present last night as your faces shined with hope as we face an uncertain future because we are certain that God is with us, providing for us and guiding us. Someone asked me, "How many are here tonight?" My answer was, "I don't know how many people are here, probably around 200, but God is here, and that is all that matters." God is with you today, no matter your situation, and that is what matters. I hope to see you on ZOOM for Congregational Conversation #2 on Sunday at 4pm. It will be another great time together. Hopeful!