

March 9, 2022

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Palm Sunday

April 10

9:00 am Downtown Palm Sunday service at the Boone County Courthouse Amphitheater

9:15 am Awakening

10:15 am Small Groups

11:15 am Traditional

Good Friday

April 15

6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with an online option

Easter Sunday

April 17

9:15 am Awakening

10:15 am Small Groups

11:15 am Traditional

Easter Sunday at First Baptist

April 17

Join us for Easter Worship on April 17. We will celebrate Christ's resurrection, the day hope is realized, in the Awakening Contemporary Worship service at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall, and the Traditional Worship service at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary.

At 10:15 am, there will be pastries and beverages to enjoy. You can grab a treat and head to a small group or gather with friends on the courtyard patio.





Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist,

I wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity on the horizon for me and, ultimately, the church. A few years ago, I read Lutheran theologian Dr. Andrew Root's book, *The Pastor in the Secular Age*, and last year I read his book, *The Congregation in the Secular Age*. These two books are part of a trilogy he wrote about why faith is so difficult in the modern era and how churches can respond. He talks about how faith has become fragmented in the modern era due to a loss of Transcendence. The Enlightenment, emphasizing the material world and scientific reason, has made it difficult to believe in things we cannot see and touch. This has drained all the mystery out of the world and along with it, God. Even though God has not changed, our capacity for faith has diminished. Thus, the "secular age" is characterized as a culture where people seek the good life without God and many people have left the Church as a result.

I have found Dr. Root's work insightful. So, this summer, I took an online class with him, in which a thousand people from multiple countries participated! At the end of the course, Dr. Root announced that he had applied and received a Lilly Endowment Grant to create two cohorts of pastors to explore how we help people recognize experiences of transcendence in their daily lives. These Resonance Cohorts will first learn about the Secular Age and then develop experiments in their congregations around cultivating resonance. Resonance is one antidote to the secular age. Resonance is an awareness of being alive, feeling the interconnectedness between oneself and the world, and encountering something beyond oneself- the Divine.

As I mentioned in the January Business meeting, I applied to participate in one of the Resonance Cohorts and was accepted into the program. The cohort is a three-year commitment. Year one will focus on reflecting on the loss of transcendence and the need for pastoral action, which can create opportunities for resonance. Year two will focus on action, creating experiments and initiatives to explore transcendence in our congregations. Year three will be about evaluation. The Lilly Grant will pay for the cost of travel to the meetings, and in addition, the church will receive a \$10,000 stipend to assist in our 2023 experimentation. March 9-11, I will be traveling to my first cohort meeting in Scottsdale, AZ. I am looking forward to seeing where this takes us!

Carle McIntyre



What a fantastic kick-off to Brunch Worship last Sunday! Highlights included an abundant feast, rich conversation around the tables, children leading in worship, and everyone pitching in to help clean up afterward. We look forward to our next opportunity for Brunch Worship on April 3 at 10:15 am.



First Baptist
BRUNCH WORSHIP



First Baptist 101 **March 13 & April 3**

If you sense that God is drawing you to the community at First Baptist, we celebrate that, and we want you to have a chance to get to know our church! First Baptist 101 is a class that is open to adults who are new members or for those who are interested in learning more about First Baptist.

Sunday, March 13, 4:00 pm - Understanding First Baptist leadership structure, the church staff, committees, goals, and vision of the church taught by Pastor Carol McEntyre

Sunday, April 3, following Brunch Worship- Overview of First Baptist ministries, opportunities to serve, and a building tour

For more information or to sign-up for child care, contact Pastor Carol McEntyre at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org or 573-442-1149.





Letter from Jon Ludwig

Hello, First Baptist Family!

I wanted to reach out and give an update on my progress toward professional chaplaincy and how life is going for our family.

First off, we wanted to thank you all for your love and support! Moving to Fresno was a huge life event and knowing that the church believes in us and is praying for us has been a huge encouragement. Even though we are 1,800 miles away, we have remained a part of our small group and continue to “go to First Baptist” online. Our small group has been such a huge source of support and I can’t imagine not having them there to lean on. This would have been a much lonelier experience without our connection to First Baptist. Tuning in via Zoom has had its own set of challenges, but just getting to see everyone’s faces each week is a huge blessing!

Fresno has been a great place to explore. We live close to the mountains and are about three hours from the ocean. We take frequent day trips and have done a fair amount of exploring the surrounding areas. The boys love the beach and the mountains, and Sydney has discovered a love of the redwoods. Sydney is staying at home with the boys and is so happy to have the opportunity to spend this extra time with them. Westley is enrolled in online school, which Wyatt watches over his shoulder.

At first, I was almost too busy with work, constantly on-call and away from my family much more than I would have liked. Praise God, things have gradually gotten better and I am able to spend much more time with Sydney and the boys. I am just now reaching the halfway point of my residency. I have already learned so much and am getting so much out of the program. I have six months left and am beginning to look forward to what comes next. I am pursuing board certification for professional chaplaincy and am thinking I might like to work at a VA hospital. I have been endorsed to chaplaincy by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and feel greatly supported by them as well!

Thank you again for all the prayers and encouragements! We feel blessed by your continued friendship and would greatly appreciate ongoing prayers as we continue our adventure. We look forward to sending more updates as things unfold. We miss you all!

Sincerely,

Jon Ludwig and Family



Jon Ludwig

First Baptist had the opportunity to ordain Jon to the gospel ministry in 2021 and bless the Ludwig family as they moved to CA!



No plans for Spring Break? Come lend a hand at the church!

You may have noticed several updates and additions around the church lately. Our Trustee team has been hard at work with several projects (updating sidewalks, repairing roofs and leaks, addressing facility needs), as well as assisting with the work voted on as a part of the Toward 200 recommendations (new entrance ways and updates accessibility into the church, upgrades to our network infrastructure, conference room renovations, webcast support, and more). As a result of this work, we have created quite a list of smaller odd jobs that we could use some help with moving forward. As we journey towards Easter (April 17), the Trustees are looking for church members who might be able to lend a hand in assisting with some of these finishing touches in order to make our church as beautiful and inviting as possible for Holy Week.

Projects include:

- Several small painting projects and touch up throughout the building
- Cleaning/organizing of spaces
- Assistance with network cabling project
- Replacing stained ceiling tiles
- Light carpentry work

Our current plan is to gather small groups of volunteers for specific projects to work on these tasks over Spring Break. If you plan to be in town the week of March 28- April 1 and would like to lend a hand, please email Michael McEntyre at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org to sign up.

Save the Date!
April 30, 2022

ForColumbia
Serving Columbia, side by side.

FOR COLUMBIA 2022

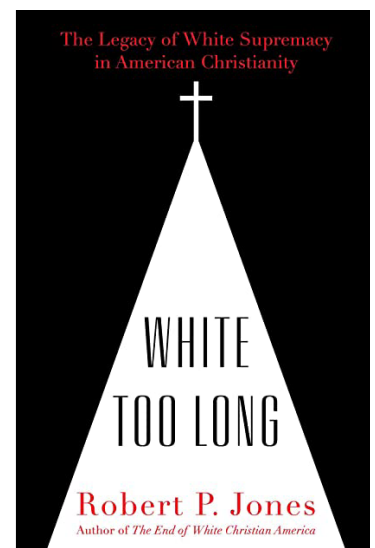
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White Too Long **Book Discussion**

March 27, 7pm in the Fellowship Hall

On March 27 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, First Baptist will be holding a discussion following the Robert P. Jones' event *The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*. Join us as we debrief the event and discuss his award-winning book, *White Too Long*.





Update on Our March Missions Giving Opportunities

First Baptist Serving Team commits \$4,000 in matching funds for donations given to support CBF Global Missions and CBF's Ukraine Relief Fund

Last week we announced that First Baptist is expanding its March Missions Giving to CBF Global Missions to include specific support for CBF's Ukraine Relief Fund that has been created to work with field personnel Gennady and Mina Podgaisky through their ministry in Kyiv, Ukraine (more information below). We also highlighted the work of several CBF field personnel, whose work is supported by gifts to the larger Offering for Global Missions, who are also working to assist in the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



**OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS**

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS



Earlier this week, we received an update from Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen, CBF field personnel whom First Baptist serves as their Encourager Church. Keith and Mary shared that their partner congregation, Bethlehem Baptist, in the Romany village of Vulcanesti, along with their sister congregation in Nispori, Moldova, are hosting 44 Romany refugees from Ukraine.

The refugees stay in the church building in Nispori because that building has a reliable heating system, some indoor plumbing, and a kitchenette. The evangelical churches in Moldova are also working together, through Operation Mobilization, to assist refugees coming over the border

from the region around Odessa. They have set up a tent on the Ukrainian side of the border to offer warm food, blankets, information, and whatever other assistance they can. So, in addition to hosting refugees in their church building, the Roma believers from Vulcanesti and from Chisinau are committed to helping at the border.

Keith and Mary also mentioned the work of CBF field personnel Dianne and Shane McNary, who are helping the Baptist churches and others coordinate relief efforts in Slovakia. One such effort is taking place in this Romany church on the Slovak side of the border. Shane and Keith both know the pastor of this church because the Roma pastor is involved in translating the Old Testament into the Eastern Slovak dialect of Romani. This dialect is also widely understood in Ukraine. Your gifts to the Offering for Global Missions will assist with efforts like these and more around the world.



CBF Global Missions



Additionally, this week Baptist News Global ran an excellent article highlighting Gennady and Mina Podgaisky's story and the work they are doing. You can find it by going to baptistnews.com and searching for Kyiv. Money given to CBF's Ukraine Relief Fund will first go to the continued work of these CBF field personnel in Kyiv. Surplus donations will be directed to The Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid Development (BFAD), the international disaster response work of our partners at the Baptist World Alliance. They are working actively with Baptist leaders and others in Ukraine to identify the most essential use of funds.

Throughout the month of March, you can choose to support either or both of these giving opportunities through our March Missions Offering for CBF Global Missions. To give online, visit the church website, select the "online giving options" link and then choose either the CBF Offering for Global Missions or CBF's Ukraine Relief Fund.

To give in person, make your check out to First Baptist and indicate your desired area of support (Global Missions or Ukraine Relief) in the memo section. In our worship services, you may also use one of the Offering for Global Missions envelopes and write in your instructions on the back of the envelope.



At the conclusion of our March Missions Month, First Baptist will match the funds given (up to \$4,000) and send all contributions to CBF Global to be dispersed appropriately.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you and your family can support the broad work of CBF Field Personnel around the world and the immediate need of those impacted in Ukraine and beyond. Thank you for your generosity.

-The Serving Team
First Baptist Church

Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor
mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org
Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions
& Administration
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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
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Music Staff:

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Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org
Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
brice@fbc-columbia.org
Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



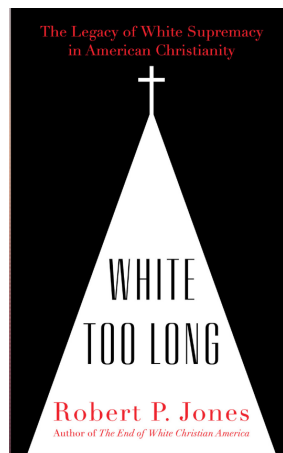
**Join Us for the Legacy of White Supremacy
in American Christianity Event
with Robert P. Jones**

- **Saturday, March 19 at 2:00** Stephens College,
Windsor Auditorium

*Email the church office to sign up for childcare.

- **Sunday, March 20 at 10:15
& 11:15 at First Baptist**

- 10:15 am Q & A with Robert Jones in the First Baptist Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 am Robert P. Jones will preach at First Baptist in the Sanctuary



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the **SPIRE**

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