

March 23, 2022

# the SPIRE



First Baptist Church  
columbia



## april events AT FIRST BAPTIST

3  
APR

### BRUNCH WORSHIP

*Conversation & Connection*  
10:15 am - Fellowship Hall  
with a Zoom option



3  
APR

### FIRST BAPTIST 101

following Brunch Worship



10  
APR

### PALM SUNDAY

9:15 am Awakening  
10:15 Small Groups  
11:15 am Traditional



13  
APR

### YOUTH EASTER EGG SCAVENGER HUNT

5:45 pm - 7:30 pm



15  
APR

### GOOD FRIDAY

6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall  
with an online option



16  
APR

### FIRST KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT

10:00 am



17  
APR

### EASTER SUNDAY

9:15 am Awakening  
10:15 Small Groups  
11:15 am Traditional





## First Kids Easter Egg Hunt April 16, 10 am

Join us Saturday, April 16 at 10 am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Kids are invited to join in the Fellowship Hall for Easter snacks and crafts before our egg hunt takes place at 10:30 am.

Kids will be divided for age-specific hunts. Following the egg hunts, families are invited to participate in sack races, lawn games and 9 square.

## Youth Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt April 13

On Wednesday, April 13, our youth are invited to participate in the Amazing Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Race! Students will meet at the church a little early (5:45pm), be given instructions, divide up into teams (each team will have an adult leader driving), and be given clues that will lead them to various locations around the city in search of their "egg" that contains the next clue. The team that finds the most eggs and returns to the church by 7:15 pm wins the hunt. We hope all of our students will join us for this "big kid" Easter Egg hunt, Wednesday, April 13 from 5:45 to 7:30pm.



## Easter Sunday at First Baptist

April 17

When the women find the tomb empty, they are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing—and yet, they remember. Even in utter shock, they return to their deep knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope?

Join us in person or online Easter Sunday, April 17 at 9:15 for Awakening Worship and 11:15 for Traditional Worship as we celebrate the resurrected Christ together and reflect on the promises of expansive life.



## **Journey Together: A First Families Event** July 22-24

During the 2019 All-In Visioning, the church reflected an overwhelming desire for more intergenerational experiences and family events. As such, over the past 2 years, providing opportunities for intergenerational and family spiritual growth has become a core-value of First Kids. From take home kits to family-oriented parties, each opportunity has been designed with the goal of providing space for adults and children to have faith-conversations together.

With this in mind, our Compassion Camp Director, Lillian Hoell and I sat down to reflect on how we could make this vision a reality. Back in 2020 we had hoped to try something new: an intergenerational Family Camp, *Journey Together*. Of course, these plans shifted as so many plans did.

Instead, we held 5 weeks of virtual Compassion Camp. In 2021, we launched preschool camp which served as a beta test for *Journey Together*. Preschool families worshiped, played games, and wondered about God and compassion together. I believe this gave us great groundwork to build our next event and confirmed this passion is still alive. In other words, *Journey Together* has been a dream for a while and I think this holy experiment is full of possibility.

This means Compassion Camp will look a bit different. Instead of being a drop-off event, an adult will remain with their children. Families will be invited to journey together. It will also take place over a weekend in order to enable more people to participate and will have opportunities for meals and fellowship. Everyone will begin together with large-group worship followed by rotations of Bible story, art and science, and games with other family groups and each session will conclude with songs and prayer.

This year's theme is *Great Big Beautiful World*. Adults and children alike will come together to remember God's care for all creation and see how they can be a part of preserving the created world. A more detailed schedule will be shared as the date approaches. We are looking forward to the ways your family and our church family will make memories, grow in faith, and connect with other families during this special event!

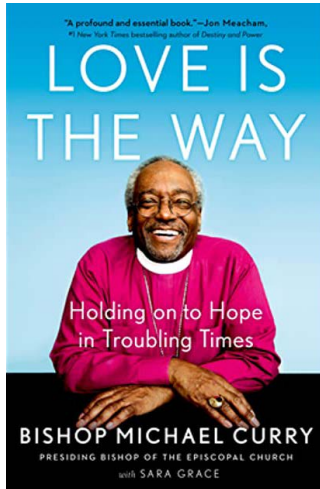
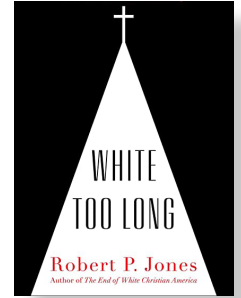
**GREAT**  
**BIG**  
**beautiful**  
**WORLD**

*Brittany McDonald-Null*



## **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 to debrief the Robert P. Jones' event, *The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*. Join us as we reflect on the event and discuss his award-winning book, *White Too Long*.



## **Women's Bible Study - *Love is the Way*** via Zoom, Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 am

Our Women's Bible Study group will begin a new study of the book *Love is the Way - Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry on Thursday, March 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m. In 2015, Bishop Curry was the first African-American elected to lead the Episcopal Church. Curry's message in this book is that by following the path of Love for God, for others and for ourselves, we find all we truly need.

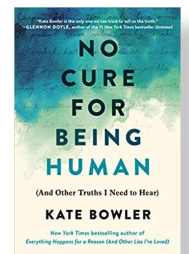
Ronda Wahl is leading the study. We would love to have you join us. If you have questions, please contact Betty Felts (573-442-6650) or via email: [edleybettyfelts@gmail.com](mailto:edleybettyfelts@gmail.com) to obtain our Zoom website information.

## **First Baptist Book Club**

The First Baptist Book Club will meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 6 pm in the Office Commons for April and May. Purchase or check out books on your own and come prepared for snacks and great discussion. Below are the books for April and May.

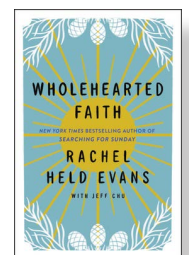
### **April - *No Cure for Being Human* by Kate Bowler**

With dry wit and unflinching honesty, Kate Bowler grapples with her cancer diagnosis, her ambition, and her faith as she tries to come to terms with her limitations in a culture that says anything is possible. She finds that we need one another if we're going to tell the truth: Life is beautiful and terrible, full of hope and despair and everything in between—and there's no cure for being human.



### **May - *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu**

At the time of her tragic death in 2019, Rachel was working on a new book about wholeheartedness. With the help of her close friend and author Jeff Chu, that work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, ourselves, and our world. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging.





## **ForColumbia Registration is now Open!**

**Sign up today at [forcolumbia.com/volunteer/](https://forcolumbia.com/volunteer/)**

ForColumbia is a city-wide day of service that brings together churches in Columbia to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. On April 30, First Baptist will join with volunteers from more than 45 partner churches to serve. First Baptist will be taking the lead on 3 projects this year: working at the Reentry Opportunity Center, outside work at our Extra Mile house, and building a wheelchair ramp for a community member. However, your service is not limited to those sites.

Currently there are many unique ministry opportunities around the city you could participate in that day. There are morning and/or afternoon time slots available. You can find out more about these sites on the ForColumbia webpage. You can list your skills and preferences on the registration page and ForColumbia can place you where you are most needed. Be sure to put in your email address so your site leaders can email you with updates and needs for your serving site.

To sign up at one of the sites First Baptist is leading, you need to select yes for the registration question: "Are you intending to work as part of a small group or with specific individuals like family members?" And for the next question: "If you selected "Yes", please enter the name of the group (this should be a unique word/name, such as the last name of one person in your group). Please do NOT use your church name."

- If you wish to serve with us at the Reentry Opportunity Center, type ROC
- If you wish to serve at our LoveColumbia transition house, type EXTRA MILE HOUSE
- If you wish to help construct a wheelchair ramp, type ACCESS RAMP

Complete the rest of the form and click Submit Application. If you need help, email Michael McEntyre at [mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org). We hope you will make plans to join this city-wide day of service on April 30.



## No Plans for Spring Break? Come Lend a Hand at the Church!

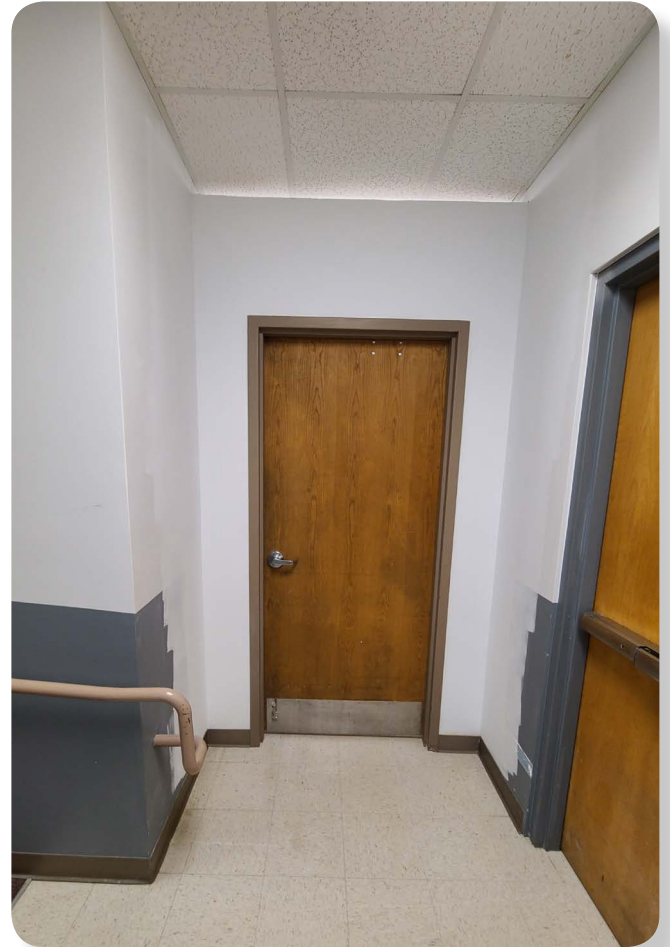
On Tuesday and Thursday of Spring Break (Mar 29 and 31), we are looking for some volunteers who can come lend a hand with several smaller odd jobs around the church.

As we journey towards Easter, Sunday, April 17, the Trustees are hoping to make our church as beautiful and inviting as possible for Holy Week.

Projects include:

- Several small painting projects, including the new Conference Room closet and the IT closet on the 1st floor.
- Touch up painting throughout the building
- Cleaning and organizing of spaces, with tackling our paint closet as a main goal.
- Assistance with network cabling project. We need a few people working together to make this go more smoothly.
- Light carpentry work, such as mounting TV's, hanging a desk, etc.

You can sign up with Sign Up Genius on the church website or email Michael McEntyre at [mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org) to let him know when you can help.



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## Updated COVID Policy from Church Council

Beginning Sunday, April 3, we will no longer require masks during worship or other First Baptist events. If you want to wear a mask, you are welcomed to do so. We also encourage everyone to be mindful of those in our congregation with compromised immune systems, especially when interacting with folks in the church building. We will continue to space the chairs out in the Fellowship Hall, and the Sanctuary has ample seating. Those who may desire more distance can choose their seats accordingly. We are grateful to our church for doing so well at honoring the wishes of our leadership, wearing masks consistently, and working hard to protect those in our community. With this lull in COVID cases, Columbia is now considered low risk; we think it is wise to officially relax our policies instead of putting people in the position of slowly choosing to stop following our mask policy. There are few spaces left in our community where masks are required. With brunch worship having us unmask around the table to share a meal anyway, we feel this is a logical step. We will continue to require the nursery workers to be masked to help protect our youngest members who cannot get vaccinated yet. Finally, if the numbers surge, we will reevaluate, and we may need to ask people to mask again.



## CBF March Missions Month Giving Update

As we approach the last week of our Cooperative Baptist Missions Emphasis Month, giving continues to be strong for both our support of the Ukraine Relief Fund and our CBF Field Personnel around the world. Currently we have raised over \$6,000 of unmatched funds for these efforts, and I hope to see that grow in the week ahead. CBF has been releasing regular updates on their Ukraine relief efforts, including an in-depth article about Mary VanRheenen and her work, on their blog. You can find this at <https://cbfblog.com>. The Serving Team hopes you will take some time read about the good work we are supporting, and continue to pray for those in Ukraine and the CBF Field Personnel around the world. If you haven't had the chance to give, you can do so by visiting the online giving page on the church website, [fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org).



OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS



## Brunch Worship April 3

We will have Brunch Worship on Sunday, April 3 at 10:15 am. This will be a combined worship, with no 9:15 or 11:15 am services.

The meal will be a potluck. You are invited to contribute to worship by bringing whatever entree, dessert, fruit, salad, muffin, or store-bought contribution you

want to make! All children and youth are invited to be full participants in Brunch Worship. Childcare will continue to be available for children from birth through kindergarten. A Virtual Brunch Worship option will be available via Zoom for our church family who cannot join us in person.

## First Baptist 101 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. On Sunday, April 3, following Brunch Worship, there will be an 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](mailto:mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org) or 573-442-1149.



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**Bethany James**, Nursery Director  
**Mike Ide**, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



March 23, 2022



**Brunch Worship**  
April 3

Our first Brunch Worship was so much fun! You don't want to miss the next opportunity for worship and connection.

We invite you to join us for Brunch Worship on Sunday, April 3 at 10:15 am. This will be a combined worship, with no 9:15 or 11:15 am services.

the **SPIRE**

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