

April 20, 2022

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Celebrating Easter @ **FIRST BAPTIST**





Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist Family,

When the pandemic began in March of 2020, the church staff and church council brainstormed ways to help. When we understood that meeting outside was safer, I contacted several downtown businesses with no outdoor space and offered our front lawn as a meeting or gathering place. One of the businesses I reached out to was alleyCat Yoga, which Susan Mathis owns. At the time, she appreciated the offer but had already moved classes online.

However, six weeks ago (March of 2022), Susan reached out to me to see if First Baptist might be willing to rent space for her studio. Their lease was ending, and they needed a new home. Susan's dad had been a pastor, and she knew churches often have space that goes unused during the week. In addition, years ago, Susan's daughter attended the Child Development Center at First Baptist. Thus, she was aware that the Center had closed. She wondered if there might be an opportunity to rent that space for classes.

Last week, the Church Council unanimously voted to enter a 6-month experimental lease with alleyCat Yoga. They will be renting one classroom, the Train Class, and offering 7-10 classes per week for adults and children beginning June 1. As you know, the Child Development Center has been closed for two years, and the board voted to dissolve the Center last fall. As a result, the classrooms have been sitting empty, and we have yet to tackle the enormous task of cleaning them out so we may repurpose them. The Church Council believes renting the space will give us the incentive to begin cleaning out the classrooms and dreaming of new dreams for the area.

Since Susan grew up as a pastor's kid, she understands congregations, and we believe she will be respectful of the space. It feels providential that her daughter went to the CDC and she will use this space to offer classes. In addition, at First Baptist, we talk about the importance of caring for our bodies and souls, so it looks like a natural fit to offer a space for yoga as a part of a holistic approach to spirituality.

The Church Council acknowledged we need to have a broader, church-wide conversation about the permanent use of the CDC space in the future. Therefore, we hope that this 6-month trial period will allow us to hold some town-hall-style meetings to reflect on the future use of CDC. We see this as a win-win for all these reasons and look forward to this period of experimentation and exploring future ministry opportunities.

Carl McIntyre



FIRST KIDS

Easter Egg Hunt

2022





Life of the Church



Odyssey
Chamber
music series



“Blessed Assurance: The Evolution of the African American Spiritual”

May 20, 7:00 pm at First Baptist

The First Baptist Chancel Choir was invited by Marques Ruff to join the program “Blessed Assurance: The Evolution of the African-American Spiritual”, sponsored by the Odyssey Concert Series. Performances and narration will be by Marques Jerrell Ruff, bass baritone; Jolie A. Rocke, soprano; Brandon A. Boyd, piano; Maya C. Gibson, narration; and First Baptist Chancel Choir. The concert will be held May 20 at 7 pm at First Baptist Church. Admission is free.

Journey Together: A First Families Event July 22-24

Journey Together, a new kids ministry event, will take place over a weekend and will have opportunities for meals and fellowship. Families 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! Registration opens May 22.

GREAT
BIG
beautiful
WORLD



Notes on Praying for Keith & Mary's Latest Project

"People I have never met became the people I prayerfully cheered on."

-Donna Ostercamp

"Greetings from a sunny Netherlands where tulips are blooming in the front yard and magpies are building a nest in a tree...We pray that you are surrounded by abundant signs of God's blessings, too."

So opened the March 24 email from Mary vanRheenen and Keith Holmes to FBC. As their encourager church, we pray for their work with the Romani. This was about a different project: dubbing a Jesus film (adult's and children's versions) and a Magdalena film into Flemish. In just 2 or 3 weeks! Cindy Giovanini, Donna Ostercamp, and Lynne Lampe from Missions joined their prayer team.

We received daily emails listing prayer requests and praises. Prayers for Mary, Keith, and their international team brought them close to heart. Donna says, "People I have never met became the people I prayerfully cheered on." They sought God's help in every way, from finding translators and voice actors to equipment issues to patience and clear communication. Cindy says, "I learned a lot about what it took to successfully make a Flemish film (scheduling, casting, recording, correct Flemish speakers, to name a few)."

Some days, we'd receive one update and then, just a few hours later, hear that prayers had been answered. Donna was drawn to pray for voice talent, a 9-year-old boy to read the part of Benjamin. She says, "God found a Benjamin, in fact several Benjamins. The right 'Ben' finally showed up toward the end of the recording work." Lynne notes, "The project touched people even before it was done," and Cindy says, "It was exciting to me to see how the Holy Spirit worked daily through the process." God answered needs up to the last minute, and the project ended successfully and on time.

It was great to make a more personal connection with Keith and Mary. We look forward to hearing how these films touch the hearts of those not familiar with Jesus.

-Cindy Giovanini, Donna Ostercamp,
& Lynne Lampe,

First Baptist Missions



**KEITH HOLMES &
MARY VAN RHEENEN**
Ministry with CBF



Spring Cleaning at First Baptist

Sunday, April 24



First Baptist Work Day Sunday April 24

Don't forget the First Baptist Workday following both services until 2:30 pm on Sunday, April 25.

Projects will include: mulching the parking island, cleaning up the playground, painting a storage closet, helping to clean and prep the former CDC classrooms, pressure washing the First Baptist sign in the front yard, and more.

Many hands make light work. We hope you can join us (pizza lunch will be provided).

ForColumbia Workday - April 30 Sign up today at 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 three 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.

If you need assistance signing up, email Michael McEntyre at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. We hope you will make plans to join this city-wide day of service on April 30.



UNIDIVERSITY *Youth Camp*



Unidiversity Camp - June 25 - July 11 **Signups are now open - Deposits due April 24**

Our youth are heading back to Unidiversity Camp this summer, June 25- July 11! We are excited to rejoin our camp friends at Maryville College in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. Unidiversity offers the opportunity for our students to meet, worship, and grow with other students from churches around the country. Unidiversity offers a good mix of fun, worship, and community that our students and leaders look forward to. As an added bonus, we leave Saturday and will spend Saturday and Sunday night at a lake house outside of Knoxville before camp. On Monday, we will drive up to the mountains for a hike and a picnic lunch before we head to camp. It's going to be a fantastic week.

The cost for camp this year is \$375, but thanks to the generosity of our congregation's support in the past we are able to cut that cost down to \$250 per camper, with a \$30 discount for additional siblings. As always, further financial assistance is available if needed. Please contact Michael at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org if you have any questions. You can also visit www.university.org for more details. \$50 deposits for camp are due by April 24. Two \$100 payments will be due May 15 and June 12. Friends are welcome and encouraged to join us for camp.

Attention All Graduates!

First Baptist would like to honor all of our high school and college graduates on Sunday, May 8. Graduates will be recognized in both of our worship services and there will be a light brunch between the service in the Children's Building Hallway. We are asking that all graduates (or parents of graduates) send your graduation information to the church no later than Sunday, May 1 so it may be featured in the Spire. (For high school students this includes your name, senior photo, school graduating from, and future plans. For our college and post college grads, please include your name, recent photo, parent's names, school you are graduating from, degree you are graduating with, and future plans). Information may be brought to the church office or emailed electronically to mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. We do not want to miss celebrating any of our graduates' accomplishments so please help us honor all the graduates within our congregation by sending in this important information soon.



Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor
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 & Administration
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Music Staff:

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Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



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Next Brunch Worship

May 1, 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

We invite you to join us for Brunch Worship on Sunday, May 1 at 10:15 am. This will be a combined worship, with no 9:15 or 11:15 am services.