

September 28, 2022

the SPIRE

 **First Baptist Church**
columbia



FALL FUN FEST OCTOBER 30



Trunk-or-treat,
food, mini golf,
& so much more!



Fall Fun Fest & Trunk-or-Treat at Midway Golf & Games Sunday, October 30, 3:00 pm

Save the date for our annual Fall Fun Fest at Midway Golf and Games. The Golden Pumpkin is back for the best-decorated trunk at our trunk-or-treat, and fun activities including archery tag and mini golf are in the works.

Activities will begin at 3:00 pm. Dinner is a suggested donation of \$5. Whether you plan to play games or simply hang out in the picnic area and chat, we hope you will join us for fellowship and fun! A schedule of the events will be available soon!





Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

Can you hear it? The buzz of conversation! It is still lingering here at the church from Sunday's listening session. This was the beginning of our work with Station 19 Architects and the evaluation of our building and new dreams for the future of ministry in this place.

This is not the first time our congregation has begun this difficult task, but I believe we are at the right place to see this through. In the last 30 years, we have had at least two separate efforts to lay out a strategic vision for the future of our buildings and ministry needs. First, in the early to mid-1990s, a team gathered to address the renovation in the Sanctuary including refinishing the pews, purchasing new cushions, and addressing accessibility in the education building. That team brought forth an impressive multi-phased plan for our facility. Phase 1 of that work resulted in constructing our elevator lobby, reshaping our entrance to the education building, and laying the groundwork for future dreams. But the project did not move beyond phase 1.

In the late 2000s, a long-range planning team formed to revisit our facility needs and ministry directions. Again, this team worked extensively to provide options that would update our facilities and address our needs and concerns. Unfortunately, these plans were not pursued with the financial situation in the late 2000s and other concerns. Shortly after I became your pastor, we picked up some of the work they had done and were able to update our Fellowship Hall and create a beautiful space. We also got another estimate to redo the pews in the Sanctuary, but we didn't have any broader conversation about right-sizing the sanctuary or connector building. Eventually, a Sanctuary refurbishment was left out of the project.

In 2018, the Church Council had several conversations about the possibility of adapting the Sanctuary to fit our current needs, recognizing that our worshipping congregation is much smaller now than it was when the Sanctuary was built in the 1950s. We also discussed the possibility of addressing the accessibility issue in the Sanctuary. At that time, we were introduced to Station 19 Architects by our friends at First Baptist Jefferson City, and members of the Church Council had a three-hour onsite exploratory meeting with them. Then, in 2019, during the church-wide All In Visioning process, the church named "explore what it would take to address the accessibility issue in the Sanctuary" as a specific action item for the future. Finally, in 2021, when the Child Development Center permanently closed due to the pandemic, church leaders committed to engaging in a church-wide discussion about the future use of that space. All these conversations and realities lead the Church Council to reach out to Station 19 this year to help. Discussions about changing sacred spaces are challenging, and we recognize that we need help navigating what is possible and what could be. However, I am optimistic that we can and will find a way forward. I believe that as a faith-family, we can do this work.

Next Steps with Station 19: We are collecting all the notes from the listening session on Sunday and those sent by email and will share them with Station 19. Then, on Thursday, October 13, Station 19 will conduct small group interviews with church leadership and staff members. We anticipate that Church Council, trustees, children and youth ministry leaders, music ministry leadership, and others will be involved in these interviews to help capture the life and mission of First Baptist. Following these conversations, Station 19 will create a picture of our current needs, values, and missions and ministry work. With this information, they will create a **"Vision to Serve People" that will be presented in person at a church-wide meeting on Thursday, November 3 at 6:00 pm.** At this meeting, our church family can listen, ask questions, and provide valuable feedback on Station 19's initial findings.



Keith & Mary
CBF Field Personnel

First Baptist welcomes Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen home on furlough Oct 9-15

We look forward to welcoming Keith and Mary back to First Baptist on Sunday, October 9 and are planning several opportunities for them to connect with our congregation that week. In January of 2020, First Baptist officially took on the role of an Encourager Church for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen. Keith and Mary serve as resource coordinators for Romany and those working with Romany throughout Europe. An Encourager Church is one that covenants with field personnel to promote and share about their ongoing mission efforts, provide prayer support for the ministry, help with administrative needs when stateside, engage with the work being done, and offer faithful financial support.

Give to American Baptist Churches-USA Mission Offering This October



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

This October, our First Baptist family will have the opportunity to support the mission efforts of our American Baptist partners at home and around the world through our annual ABC-USA missions offering. Contributions should be made out to First Baptist Church. Please be sure to put ABC Missions Offering in the memo line of your check and/or place it in one of the special missions offering envelopes. We hope you will give generously to support the work of the American Baptist Church throughout the world and take advantage of this unique opportunity.

-First Baptist Serving Team

Calling all Kiwanis and Rotarians

Are you involved in a club or service organization? If so, will you let us know? In preparation for First Baptist's 200th Anniversary Celebration in 2023, Pastor Carol is looking for speaking opportunities. She would love the chance to share with your organization about the history of First Baptist, our celebration plans, and perhaps additional topics of interest to your group. So, if you are involved in Kiwanis, Rotary, or other civic groups, please check with your chapter to see if they would be willing to host Pastor Carol.



Ministerial Staff:

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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



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In This Issue:

- Fall Fun Fest & Trunk-or-Treat
- Word from the Pastor
- Keith & Mary Visit
- Give to American Baptist Churches-USA
- Pastor Carol Speaking Opportunities
- African American Heritage Trail Hike or Driving Tour

African American Heritage Trail Hike or Driving Tour

On Sunday, October 16, from 2-4, join us for a tour of the African American Heritage Trail, a two-mile urban trail in the heart of Columbia, Missouri. The trail honors Columbia's black community from the city's first 200 years. You can choose to either walk the trail or take a driving tour. This event is co-sponsored by First Baptist Racial Justice Team and Hiking Club. Meet at 2nd Baptist at 2 pm. For more info, contact Julie Walker.