

November 9, 2022

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Celebrating 200 Years of Ministry

On Saturday, November 22, 1823, eleven people gathered at the home of Charles Hardin and founded what is today as First Baptist Church. I wonder if they dared to dream that the church they founded would still be worshipping God and ministering to the community nearly 200 years later.

-Pastor Carol

**#kindness
FIRST**
200 ACTS OF KINDNESS

200 Acts of Kindness (#kindnessfirst)

In honor of our 200th anniversary, we are focusing on kindness over the next year. Kindness takes practice. Therefore, we are challenging First Baptist family and friends to participate in acts of kindness in honor of our 200 years of ministry. #kindnessfirst will launch on November 13. Each month, our community will receive a new kindness focus as we work towards co-creating a kinder world.

Guest Preacher Dan Day - November 20

Leading up to our 200th anniversary, First Baptist is welcoming back their former pastors to the pulpit. On November 20, during both worship services, Dan Day will be preaching. Dan Day became pastor of FBC, Columbia in early 1985, coming from a pastorate in his native state of Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and also earned graduate degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.) but spent most of his ministry years as a pastor of churches in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, and North Carolina. Upon his retirement as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, NC, he spent five years as a faculty member at Campbell University Divinity School in NC, teaching Preaching and Worship. We hope you will join us in giving Dan a warm welcome back!

MEET OUR NOV. 20 GUEST PREACHER

Dan Day





Word from the Pastor



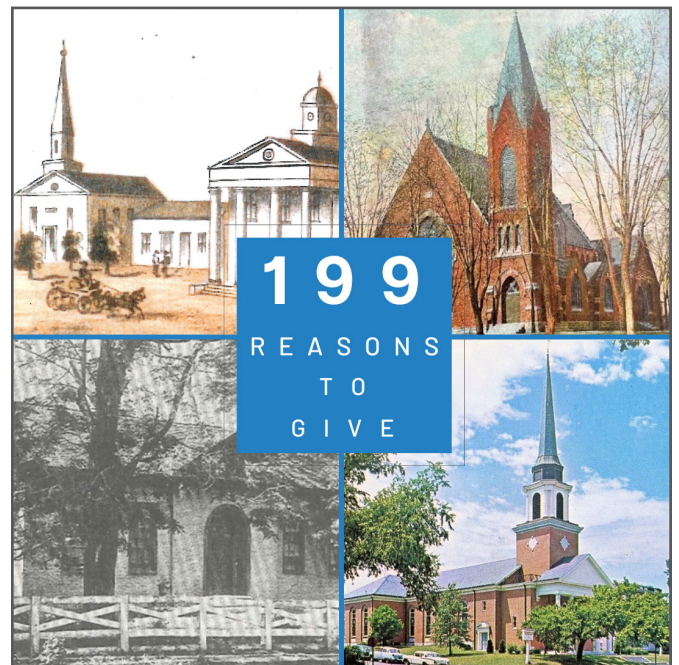
Word from the Pastor

199 Reasons to Give

Each November, as we begin our budget planning process for our next year of ministry, we ask our faith community to consider partnering with us by pledging their financial support. Our theme for this year's annual pledge drive is *199 Reasons to Give*, which anticipates First Baptist's upcoming 200th anniversary. We give because it helps support our flourishing children's ministry. We give because it helps facilitate our racial justice work. We give because it helps maintain our beautiful church building. We give because we believe in First Baptist's mission partners like the Voluntary Action Center and Love Columbia. These are just a few of the 199 reasons to give.

Your pledges help us determine our ministry budget and shape the year to come. We hope you will consider pledging because every financial gift helps First Baptist fulfill our calling today to be a community of faith expressing itself in love. We are a unique voice for progressive Christianity in Columbia, seeking to form Christ-like disciples in authentic community, working for the liberation and healing of the world, based on the good news of Jesus.

Your pledge ensures that our unique progressive Christian voice will continue. On Sundays, November 20 and 27, there will be a time set aside for people to offer their pledges during the worship services.



Quarterly Financial Update

As we approach the end of the financial year, we find ourselves in good financial shape. We continue to be blessed with leaders that are good stewards of our resources and a generous and faithful congregation. Through the end of September, we have received about \$223,000 in pledged and unpledged gifts of an anticipated \$297,000. Thank you for giving! Your contributions help fund our mission's efforts, church ministries, pastors' salaries, and beautiful facilities. As you approach the end of your financial year, please keep First Baptist in mind. We can't do it without you.

Carl McIntyre

-Ken Hammann, Treasurer & Stephen Hoell, Finance Committee Chair



honest advent

2022 Advent Worship Series



Honest Advent

Can you believe Advent is less than a month away? This year our theme is Honest Advent. The Honest Advent theme is based around the work of Scott Erickson, a painter, illustrator, and self-described “creative curate.” His 2020 book, *Honest Advent: Awakening to the Wonder of God-with-Us Then, Here, and Now*, features his artwork along with 25 daily devotionals for the season.

Reflecting on what led him to create Honest Advent, Erickson writes, “It seemed to me the brand of “Christmas” had traded its honest edge with sanitized characters in a never-ending winter scene. So I began to create an alternative symbol set for this story that differed from what I had seen in contemporary culture. I needed something honest. Something real. Something with some human grit and a little less green and red.”

Thus Erickson created, according to his publisher, “space for you to encounter the Incarnate Christ in unexpected places: like a pregnancy announcement in an era of political unrest and empirical bloodshed, the morning sickness of a Middle Eastern teenager, and the shocking biology of birth that goes far beyond the sanitized brand of Christmas as we know it.”

We invite you to come with an open mind and curiosity as we explore the themes of vulnerability, love, identity, embodiment, and participation. Devotionals will be available for purchase for \$15 beginning November 20. In addition, the art show, which accompanies the book, with its alternative symbols for the season, some of which are beautiful, others provocative and thought-provoking, will be on display in our worship spaces and hallway.

Through Erickson’s book, an art show, and worship services, we will ask, “is Christ’s incarnation still happening in our midst?”

The Hanging of the Green, which marks the beginning of Advent, is November 27 during both worship services.



VAC Family Holiday Program Support



It is that time of year again! With the holiday season right around the corner and the kickoff of our 200 celebration and acts of kindness campaign this Sunday, we hope you will help us support the good work of Voluntary Action Center's (VAC) holiday program this month. VAC is one of our longstanding local ministry partners. This non-profit exists to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gap between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County. Each year VAC coordinates the collection and distribution of food and gifts for approximately 4,000 people during the holiday season. This year, First Baptist is sponsoring 13 individuals across 3 families to help support this work.

On Sunday, November 20, Christmas "wishes" for individuals will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall between the worship spaces. You can get involved by choosing an item that you would like to purchase and donate, take the card, then return the purchased item to the church by December 4. Items must be brought in by the 4th as they will be delivered to VAC on Monday, December 5 to be distributed to families. Please do not wrap items but do secure the card from the bulletin board to your gift.

If you do not have time to shop but still want to participate, you can make a monetary donation by December 4. Simply indicate "VAC Family Christmas" on your check or offering envelope. A few of our "shopping elves" will be making a trip to pick up last minute items.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Administration, Youth, and Missions, at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 11, 5pm - Fellowship Hall

We would like to invite you to join us for our
Annual Christmas Dinner
on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

Come prepared for a lovely meal of
turkey, ham, and beverages
provided by the church,
and wonderful side dishes and desserts
prepared by you and your First Baptist friends.

Come feast and celebrate with us!





Chiming Kids Choir -cKc

Attention friends 2nd grade and up - cKc is up and ringing! You had a chance to hear them on Sunday, November 6, do you want to be part of the action? We are looking at learning a piece to play at the church Christmas Dinner. cKc rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm. We will begin rehearsing Christmas music on November 9. The group will not rehearse the week of Thanksgiving (11/23). You don't need to know how to play an instrument or read music. Just come ready to try hard, learn, and have fun! If you'd be interested in joining this great group of young musicians, please let Handbell Director Noah Hartsfield know. You and your parents can reach him at nhartsfield2010@gmail.com, (660) 341-5418, or catch him on Sunday morning.

Special 12-Bell Opportunity

Back in August, Handbell Director Noah Hartsfield offered a short commitment opportunity to learn how to play handbells. After hearing from several church goers, the opportunity is back! We will meet on Monday evenings from 7 pm to 8 pm; November 7 through December 12 (we will not rehearse on Monday, November 28) and learn an Advent/Christmas tune to play on Sunday, December 18. This is a short commitment - 5 weeks of rehearsal is all. It's a great way to learn about the bells and try something new! You do not need to have experience ringing or even reading music. Come willing to learn, have fun, and lift our musical prayers to God! If you are interested, please reach out to Noah at nhartsfield2020@gmail.com or (660) 341-5418 for more information.



Contemplative Retreat

Last weekend, November 4-6, eighteen First Baptist folks gathered for a contemplative retreat at Conception Abbey led by Pastor Carol McEntyre. Participant Betty Felts offered the following reflection on her experience:

Sitting on a wooden pew in beautiful Conception Abbey and gazing up at its intricately-painted ceilings and numerous archways, I marveled at the grandeur and the amazing workmanship of its builders in this secluded place in northwest Missouri so many years ago. Soft lights cast a warm glow on the small group of us gathered there that cold, rainy evening in early November for a contemplative retreat. Magnificent organ music began wafting from the rafters as our Colleen Ostercamp delightedly settled in at the huge pipe organ, and I felt as though I was being transported into the very throne room of God.

Like the prophet Isaiah, I sensed "God's glory filling the temple" and his feeling of being "a man of unclean lips dwelling among a people of unclean lips."

Thoughts of experiencing triple by-pass surgery a couple years ago to open up the flow of blood through my heart caused me to reflect on my need now for God's help in removing obstacles that were blocking His love from flowing freely through me.

As we were leaving the abbey that evening, my heart was joyfully overflowing with love, and I wanted to give a big hug to everyone around. We were at a silent retreat, and hugs are very silent!

-Betty Felts





First Baptist in the Downtown Christmas Parade 2022

As part of our 200th Anniversary Celebration, we seek not only to remember our history and give thanks for the ways God has been faithful to us in the past but also to foster outreach in the present. One of the avenues for getting the word out about our great congregation is to participate in Columbia's Christmas Parade! We are planning to have a float and walkers taking part in the parade. Anyone in the congregation who wants to join the fun is invited! Stay tuned for more information!



First Families ADVENTure: Christmas Campout Sunday, November 20 from 4-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Hey, First Families, it's almost time to celebrate the season with a fun camping trip-themed event. The best part is . . . you don't have to go anywhere! We are bringing great outdoors to you with a cozy, indoor Christmas Campout. Families are invited to prepare for the Advent season with camp-themed snacks, fun crafts, and exciting activities to help families spend time together learning about the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Families will get a chance to learn about Advent and leave with practices for Advent season.

Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor

mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org

Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions
& Administration

mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation

bnull@fbc-columbia.org

Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist

gostercamp@gmail.com

Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director

smyers@fbc-columbia.org

Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional

jray@fbc-columbia.org

Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant

churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

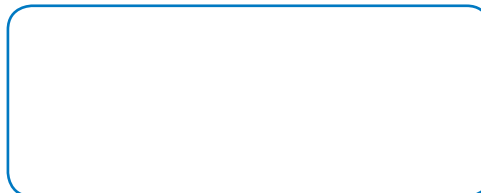
Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator

brice@fbc-columbia.org

Mike Ide, Custodian

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First Baptist Church 200th Anniversary

This week in worship, we are kicking off a year-long celebration leading up to our church's 200th Anniversary on November 22, 2023. Over the next year and beyond, there are numerous opportunities to join us and commemorate the historic milestone.

On November 20, Dan Day, Senior Pastor of First Baptist from 1985-1996 will be returning to the pulpit as our guest preacher for both services.

To learn more about this and all the activities happening over the next year, visit fbc-columbia.org/200 or scan the QR code.



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