

November 30, 2022

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 11 at 5pm

We 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 excellent side dishes and desserts prepared by you and your First Baptist friends. To help ensure we have a variety of food, we encourage you to bring a side dish if your last name begins A-M and a dessert if your last name begins with N-Z. The Children's Ministry is working on a simple Christmas pageant for the dinner, and they will be practicing in First Kids Sunday School for the next two weeks. Come feast and celebrate with us!



Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

With joy, we will celebrate the coming of Christ with carols, the retelling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles as we sing "Silent Night." Bring family and friends and join us as we worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 pm.

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
11:00 pm
in the Sanctuary**



Christmas Day Combined Worship

Sunday, December 25 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary

We will celebrate Christmas with one Combined Worship Service at 11:15 on Sunday, December 25, in the Sanctuary. There will be no 9:15 worship, First Kids Sunday School, Adult Small Groups, or childcare. The service will be an abbreviated Festival of Lessons and Carols.



Traditional Worship Pre-service Music

Leading up to Christmas, we invite those who attend Traditional Worship to come early and hear pre-service music to celebrate the season.





Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist family and friends,

As the 200th anniversary team planned our year of celebration, we wanted our festivities to include giving back to the community. We discussed making a grand gesture, but then, an idea sparked that we all loved. So, over the next year, we are challenging First Baptist family and friends to perform acts of kindness in honor of our 200th Anniversary.

#kindnessfirst launched on November 13. Each month, our community will receive a new kindness focus as we work towards co-creating a kinder world. Our kindness focus for December is retail workers. You can record all your intentional acts of kindness on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby of the Education Building. We have stickers that say, "#kindnessfirst" For every act of intentional kindness you do, you are invited to put a sticker up!



I am already enjoying hearing some of your "kindness" stories. For example, here is a story from Tim Wahl about enacting kindness:

We went to Lexington last weekend, and the day before Thanksgiving, I went to McDonald's drive-thru for breakfast. They were swamped, and the food window was stalled, so I began to chat with an employee. I asked her if she was ready for Thanksgiving and indicated that I was looking forward to homemade chicken and dumplings. She told me she hadn't had any good chicken and dumplings since her grandma died, and no one had her recipe. I had printed off some extra copies of my family recipe for Sydney (my daughter) and her friends, so I returned to Sydney's apartment, got a copy and took it back to McDonald's. When I walked up to the window, she saw the recipe, grabbed my hand with both hands, and just held them there. We both almost teared up. It felt so good to be kind!

— #kindnessfirst

"It felt so good to be kind!"

-Tim Wahl

[*Recipe on pg. 7]

Carl McIntyre



Downtown Christmas Parade 2022





VAC Family Holiday Program

Your support for the VAC Holiday program this season has been amazing. Almost all of our gift cards have been selected and funds are coming in to purchase remaining items. If you did not have a chance to choose a gift but would like to financially support our efforts, you can do so by check or electronic giving through our website. In both cases, please note VAC Holiday Program in the memo line to ensure your contribution is applied to the correct account. Thank you for helping to spread kindness to those in our community this holiday season.



World Mission Offering

Thank you to our First Baptist family for supporting our mission's partnership with the American Baptist Churches- USA. Through of your generosity, we collected over \$2,300 for ABC's World Mission's Offering. This offering supports the collaborative work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. Thank you for spreading kindness through your gifts.



thecalling

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Sunday, December 4: All youth who can participate are invited to join us after church to shop for items for our VAC families to fill in needed presents. We will leave the church to eat lunch (youth will need money for food) and shop before returning to help sort presents and prepare them for delivery.

The Calling- Youth mid-week gathering: Youth will meet at the church on Dec 7 and 14. On Dec 14, we will spend the evening creating Christmas treats to be delivered to those in our church family who are not always able to join us in person. The Calling will break from December 21 until we kick off the new year on Wednesday January 11.

Sunday Morning Small Groups: Our Youth Sunday Morning Small Groups will remain on our normal schedule throughout the season, meeting at 10:15 am in the youth suite each week, with the exception of December 25 and January 1.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE: Our annual chaotic Youth Christmas Party has been moved to Tuesday, December 20. This is a big event to end our weekly Wednesday gatherings until the new year (January 11). We'll meet at the McEntyre's house from 6 to 8pm. The highlight of the party will be our gift swap. It is a mix of game show, competition, festivity, and fun as youth go through rounds of gift giving and gift thieving to try and come out with the best presents. Alas, the game does not do a good job following the Golden Rule, but it is good fun and always quite memorable. Youth are each asked to bring a gift (between \$5 and \$10 if possible). The goal is to bring something others would really hope to get (fun toy, clever creation, entertaining trinket, or a gift card in a pinch). We'll take it from there. Dinner and snacks will be provided.

July 8 through July 14- Unidiversity Youth Camp!:

I know this date is a long way off, but I wanted to make sure it gets on everyone's calendars. We will be returning to Maryville College in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains for a great week at Unidiversity. More details to come in 2023!

-Pastor Michael McEntyre

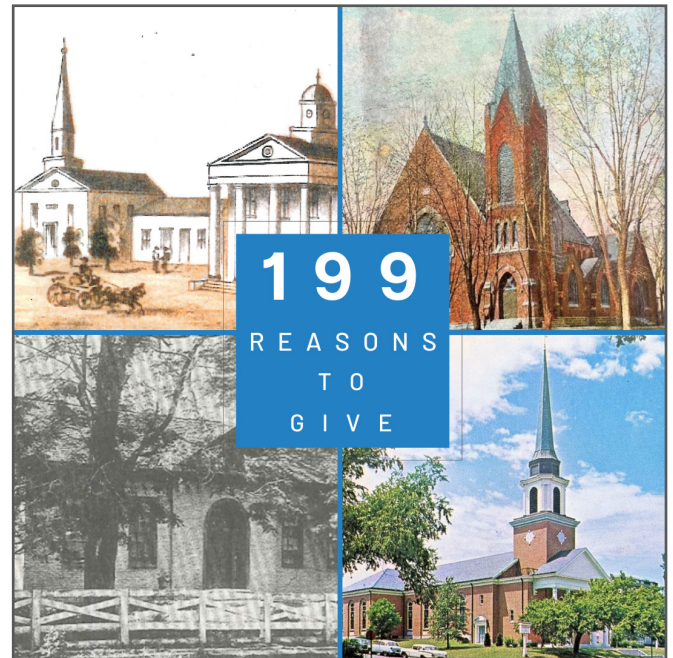


2023 Pledge Update & 2022 Financial Report

With our pledge season well underway, we wanted to give you an update on where our commitments stand. Last year we received 66 pledges totaling \$272,483 to support the life and ministry of First Baptist Church. We are hopeful that the conclusion of our *199 Reasons to Give* pledging, your generosity and dedication will help us plan well for the future of ministry in 2023. As of Sunday, Nov 27, we have received pledge commitments from 44 individuals/households totaling \$176,164 for next year. If you are planning to share your pledge goal with the church this year, we are asking that you fill out your pledge card and send it to the church this week. If you don't have a card, you can visit the "Giving" page of the church website for a link or scan the QR code here to go straight to the page and submit it electronically. You can also cut out and mail in the printed card from the Spire if you prefer.



First Baptist uses pledging to plan its annual budget as an encouragement to our church family to be mindful of the ways their support can impact all that we do. Annual pledges fund the church's operations and support its many ministries, including funding our growing children's ministry (which now includes 55 active children and their families!), supporting our Extra Mile House, facilitating our racial justice work, maintaining our beautiful church building, compensating our fabulous staff, and so much more. Every financial gift helps First Baptist fulfill our calling today to be a community of faith expressing itself in love yet pledging goes beyond this by establishing a commitment to our community, affirming its good work, and connecting us together in ministry and mission. We hope you will consider sharing your commitment to First Baptist by making a pledge for 2023. Thank you for your support.



2023 Commitment Card

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

In 2023, my/our plan is to give:

\$ _____ per week
\$ _____ per month
\$ _____ one time gift
\$ _____ other

Online Givers-please circle one:

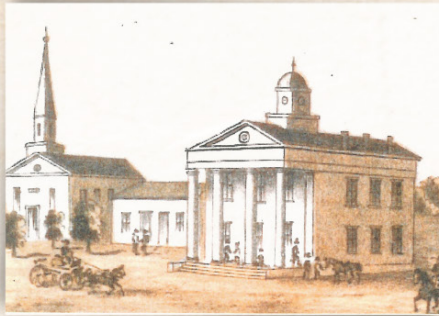
- I will continue my online contribution for 2023 and make any necessary adjustments through my giving portal.
- I want to start giving online and will set up my 2023 ongoing pledge through the church website giving portal.
- I would like help in setting up my 2023 pledge online, please call me.



FIRST BAPTIST HISTORY

with Ken Hammann

On Saturday, November 22, 1823, at the corner of 5th and Locust Streets, eleven Baptists met in the home of Charles Hardin, Columbia's first postmaster and the father of a future governor, to organize Columbia's first Church of any denomination. In addition to Hardin, the original founders included William Jewell and his mother, father and sister. They called it Columbia Church. Two Baptist churches were established earlier in Boone County, Bethel Church in 1817 and Little Bonne Femme Church in 1819 before the founding of the City of Columbia in 1821.



The Baptists met in private homes until 1828 when they moved their worship services to the Boone County Courthouse. The first minister, in 1823, was Anderson Woods, one of the first judges of the Boone County Court and the first pastor at both Bethel and Little Bonne Femme churches. When Columbia Church moved to the courthouse in 1828, Alan McGuire served as minister for the next eight years without compensation.

By 1830, the Church had grown to 50 members. In 1832, the Church showed a balance of 62½ cents in its treasury. In 1836, William Jewell and Moses U. Payne, a Methodist, erected a building known as the Union Church, used by both denominations at their own expense. It was built on the southwest corner of Walnut and Guitar streets. It remained home to both Baptists and Methodists for two decades.

In 1856, the Baptists finally built their first sanctuary, a 40 by 60-foot brick structure located just west of the old courthouse. By 1891, members felt the need to expand. The building on the courthouse square was sold to the county, and land was purchased at the corner of Waugh and Broadway. A \$30,000 Gothic-style sanctuary was erected. A student center was added in 1927 (our current Education Building). By 1955 the Gothic-style sanctuary was in disrepair and was demolished and replaced by today's Sanctuary building, dedicated on May 5, 1957. First Baptist still has our original inaugural document from 1823.



WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Should snow, ice, or other inclement weather fall on the weekend, Sunday morning Awakening Worship and Small Groups will be canceled; we will join together in one combined 11:15 am worship service.

On the weekdays, our policy is to cancel all scheduled church events if Columbia Public Schools are canceled. Depending on the severity of the weather, the office may remain open. Call ahead to verify. Notification of cancellations will be made on the church Facebook page or at these local media stations: KFRU (1400 AM), KPLA (101.5 FM), Zimmer Radio Groups, KOMUTV8, and KMIZ-TV17. We will be listed as First Baptist Church-Columbia.

New Year's Day Worship

We will celebrate New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, with Brunch Worship at 10:15 am and gather in the fellowship hall around tables to worship God through song, food, and conversation. You can contribute to worship by bringing a yummy potluck dish to share. There will be no virtual option for worship on January 1, no 9:15 or 11:15 am services, First Kids Sunday School, or Adult Small Groups.

Wahl Family Chicken & Dumplings (*from page 2)

- 5 chicken thighs
- 1 Tsp Salt
- Water
- 32 Oz chicken Broth (with salt) if you use low sodium broth add 1 tsp more salt to the broth.

Dumplings

- 2 Cup Flour
- 1 Tsp Baking Powder
- 3/4 cup milk (2% or whole)
- 1 Tsp Salt
- 2 Eggs

Place chicken in your roasting pot and fill until water just covers the chicken, add salt, bring to boil, then lower heat to low boil and cook until chicken is done, usually 20-25 minutes. Remove chicken from water, remove skin and bones, and then shred using two forks. Strain the water you used to boil the chicken in to remove any floating stuff, then pour it back into the roasting pot and add 32 oz of chicken broth. Keep on low until you are ready to add dumplings.

Dumplings - Add baking powder and salt to flour, add eggs (beaten and without shells) and milk, hand mix until the batter is stiff. Roll out the dough on floured dough board (as you do with pie crust) until thin. This is important! Let the dough sit and set for 15 minutes (it needs to dry out some), then cut into strips. (I usually shred my chicken while the dumplings are drying).

Bring broth to a slow boil and drop dumplings in slowly (shake off as much flour as you can before dropping them into the broth), stirring as needed. Add shredded chicken. Once the dumplings are in and a few minutes have gone by, turn the heat down to Med-Low and cook for 20-25 minutes, then serve.

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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 was to participate in Columbia's Christmas Parade! Pictures are on page 3!

November 30, 2022

the SPIRE

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