

August 7, 2019

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



August 4 Combined Worship was uplifting, unifying, and confetti-filled!

Upcoming Events

August 11, 18

10:15 am Inclusion Training

August 25

Fall Kick-Off

September 8

Invite-a-Friend Sunday

New Sermon Series: *What is the Bible?*



Roar!

Imagine traveling through a wildlife reserve with almost 70 of your newest friends. Each day, you get to meet fun and interesting characters like Zion the Lion, Savannah the Giraffe, Marge the Cape Buffalo, and Mack the Rhinoceros all the while learning about God's goodness!

Last week, our church was filled with the laughter, singing, joy, and curiosity of just under 70 kiddos learning that when life is unfair, scary, changing, sad, or good - God is good! During the Bible School portion of the day, the kids spent time bonding with their crews, playing games, eating snacks, making crafts, singing songs, and learning Bible stories through interactive lessons.

For the fifty children that participated in the extended session, they continued to learn about God's goodness through an action-packed afternoon. Their experiences included Imagination Station, recreation, This is Me! (a self-reflection activity), creating an awesome safari-themed painting, and we ended the week with a glow-in-the-dark dance party!

This year we added a separate preschool rotation, which added additional rooms on the 2nd floor and ensured better care and age-appropriate activities for our youngest of minds. This was a wonderful addition to our day-long ministry to our church and to our community.

Creating a fun and safe experience takes an amazing crew of volunteers. Great thanks go out to every person who helped make this week possible by creating decorations, decorating our spaces, gathering supplies, guiding crews, leading stations, transforming our spaces for Sunday, and providing all other forms of help and support. We could not do this without each and everyone of you.



And a special thanks to our Kids Camp Coordinators, Lillian Hoell and Shelby Myers. Thank you for the many hours, incredible care, and tremendous heart you put into this week. We are blessed to have both of you.

We are so thankful to have such wonderful children, staff, and volunteers to make First Kids Camp such a wonderful week.

Brittany McDonald-Null

First Kids Camp 2019





Summer Book Club



Book Review - *Inspired*

by Julie Walker

Inspired, published just one year before Rachel Held Evans' death in 2018, was motivated by this driving question, "How do our own stories intersect with the grander epic of God's redemption of the world?"

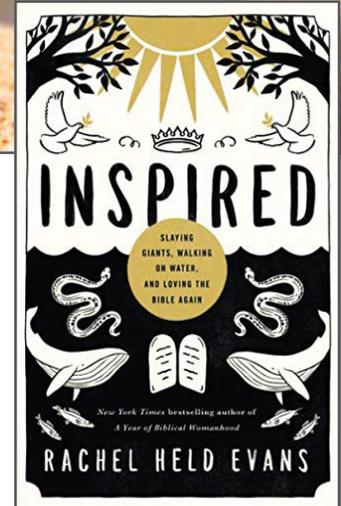
Held Evans valued stories and the ways they can be used to inspire, stating in the book that, "Whenever

humans try to make sense of their experience, they create a story and we use these stories to answer all the big questions of life. Spiritual maturity requires untangling these stories, embracing stories that move us toward wholeness, rejecting/reinterpreting those that do us harm."

Throughout this book, Held Evans breathes new life into the process of reading and rethinking scripture. Her life stories, personal insights and rewritten Biblical stories weave a narrative that is researched, informed, thoughtful and accessible. A number of Bible Scholars are quoted and referenced throughout. Personal memoirs, poetry, soliloquies and even a script are used to create interesting pathways through the faith "wilderness journey".

As a youth and young woman, Held Evans felt her questions were often treated like a "wildfire that needs containment". She came to the conclusion that "When Christians pick and choose scriptures. We have malnourished understandings of biblical law." She found it troubling that, "The very people who based their identity on God's liberating work in their lives would turn to xenophobia, violence and enslavement to conquer new territory and claim it." Held Evans left and re-entered the church 12 times and eventually left the evangelical church in 2014 to become an Episcopalian so she could "focus on building a new community among the church's "refugees": women who wanted to become ministers, gay Christians and "those who refuse to choose between their intellectual integrity and their faith." (excerpt from Rachel's obituary)

Having read this book, I feel I have a new vocabulary and some reference points to fashion my own informed and respectful retellings, questions and conclusions. I have and will continue to recommend it to others, specifically those who are struggling with a church environment and a gospel that feels stifling and exclusionary.



Julie is employed part time as a Love INC Liaison, but spends the rest of her time traveling (often to be with grandkids), gardening, taking walks, playing bridge, reading, and making music. She and her husband, Dave, joined First Baptist in 2017.



What is the BIBLE ?

Sermon Series
Sept 8 ~ Oct 13

What do I do with it?

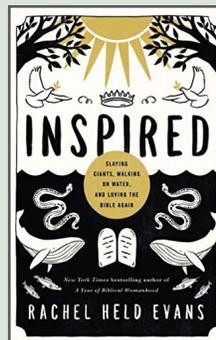
What is the Bible?

New Sermon Series
September 8 - October 13

During this sermon series, we are going to take a deep theological dive into the Bible. We will talk about what it is, how this ancient book speaks today, the parts of the bible that trouble us, and what we do with it.

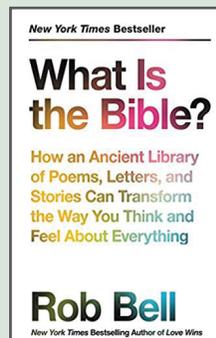
If you have been reading our summer book club selections about the bible, we wanted to let you know when the discussions will take place. The groups will meet during the Small Group Hour at 10:15 am in the Parlor on the Second floor.

Looking forward to the conversation!



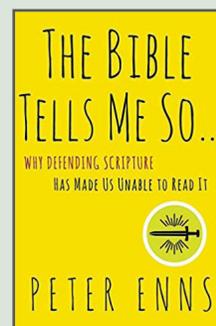
Inspired

by Rachel Held Evans
September 8 & 15
10:15 am, Parlor
led by Kim Siegenthaler



What is the Bible?

by Rob Bell
September 22 & 29
10:15 am, Parlor
led by Noah Hartsfield



The Bible Tells Me So

by Peter Enns
October 6 & 13
10:15 am, Parlor
led by Brian Ford



INCLUSION TRAINING

-Sundays at 10:15 am in the Parlor-

August 4 & 11

Inclusion of all genders, including people who are transgender and non-binary

August 18

Inclusion of people with disabilities

Inclusion Training

August 2019

One focus area that came out of our All In Visioning Process was “work toward increased accessibility and inclusivity in First Baptist ministries and facilities.” To do this, we have committed to expanding opportunities for inclusion education and experiences. We have identified two areas of inclusion that we want to work on this summer.

The first area of focus is the inclusion of all genders, including people who are transgender and non-binary. The second part of this session will be held on August 11 at 10:15 am in the parlor, Dr. Christy Hutton and Dr. Loren Bauerband from the University of Missouri will be leading this training.

The second area is the inclusion of people with disabilities, especially children. On August 18 at 10:15 am in the parlor, Christy Edwards, a minister and mother of a special needs child, will be talking about how faith communities can companion this population.

Online Giving

Many members have been utilizing the online giving portal. Have you tried it yet?

To give online, go to the church website:
www.fbc-columbia.org

There you can create your secure account and make a single payment or set up a recurring payment.

Please call the office if you need assistance:
573-442-1149





INVITE A FRIEND

Sunday, September 8



Invite-a-Friend Sunday September 8

We are declaring Sunday, September 8 Invite-a-Friend Sunday!

As a community of faith, we look forward to Sunday morning when we come to church, see our friends, attend small group and worship together. We love our church and believe other people would too if they came to visit. So, the Telling Team came up with the idea of Invite-a-Friend Sunday.

We thought if we agreed together to invite a friend, it would encourage us to issue the invitation. You can invite a co-worker, a neighbor, a family member, or a friend. Sunday, September 8 is the start of a new sermon series about the Bible- what it is and how it speaks today.

It is going to be a great time of learning, so why not invite others to join us?

Prayers & Concerns

-Prayer Requests-

- Eric Alexander, son of Kim Purcell, who is experiencing back pain.
- Mark Thomas, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- Kee Groshong, who is recovering from surgery.

-Celebrations-

- Unidiversity Youth Camp in Tennessee was a wonderful trip with many relationships built!
- First Baptist welcomed 70 kids into the building as they learned about God's goodness at First Kids Camp.

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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



August 7, 2019



Fall Kick-Off
August 25

As we look toward the end of summer, we are preparing for our annual Fall Kick-Off after Traditional worship on August 25. We will have a throwback to the 80's theme this year! The church will provide the chicken, as well as beverages and tableware. We know you will please the crowd with your delicious side dishes and desserts! Get out your scrunchies, headbands, and parachute pants as we kick off the new season in style.

the **SPIRE**

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