

July 2, 2020

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



New Sermon Series – July 5

On Sunday, July 5 we are beginning a new sermon series on Compassion. The sermon series coincides with Compassion Camp, our virtual, at-home children's ministry VBS or Kids Camp for the summer where kids and their families are exploring what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world.

Compassion Camp utilizes a very simple definition of compassion: I see your hurt, I feel your hurt with you and I'll work to ease your hurt. It is a reminder that compassion is rooted in a Latin word meaning "co-suffering." Compassion is seeing someone who is hurting and practicing empathy. However, we know that as followers of Jesus, empathy is not enough. Compassion, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ must move us toward action, toward alleviating suffering. The Bible does not just call us to believe in the faith, but to act on it. We are all sent by Jesus into the world to work for the good of the world. Throughout this series, we will be exploring different places in our lives where we might cultivate compassion.

The scripture passages that we will be utilizing in worship each week are also the passages being used by Compassion Camp. If you want read them ahead of time, here they are:



Compassion at the Table

Luke 15:11-32

Compassion to the Neighbor

Mark 2:1-12

Compassion for Myself

Mark 12:28-31

Compassion Along the Way

Ruth 1:1-22

Compassion with the World

Leviticus 25

Letter from Church Moderator

Carol McEntyre officially took over her duties as Moderator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) on June 24. Moderator is the highest elected officer of the Fellowship and we are honored to have her represent our First Baptist Church community. Carol spoke during the Friday morning (June 26) plenary and urged all those watching the virtual General Assembly to work for racial justice. Carol shared some of her dreams for the Fellowship:



“Churches in our fellowship are at many different places of engagement with cultivating diversity, with racial justice and reconciliation. Some churches are just awakening to this call of God, while others are further along in the work. One of my dreams for the Fellowship is that we would seize this moment, this movement that is filled with possibility and hope, and equip our churches to take the next step in their journey.”

Carol also talked about the need to work for racial justice work at a policy level and shared, “It is my desire as your moderator to see our Fellowship not only equip our congregations to create beloved community, but also that we would find ways to marry our desire for diversity and racial justice with our passion for advocacy.”

We are honored and blessed to have Carol as our pastor-- sharing a vision of racial justice and reconciliation to us, other churches, and leaders of the CBF. Thank you, Carol!

Blessings,

Dave Walker, *Church Moderator*



Compassion Camp Drive-Thru Launch Party

"I am so excited to begin Compassion Camp and I am super grateful to journey alongside families as we grow in compassion together through a virtual camp experience. Continue to be in prayer for our campers, their families, and our volunteers as we navigate the new waters of online Vacation Bible School. May we all continue to grow in our love for God and compassion for one another this summer!"

-Pastor Brittany





Hymn Sing in Honor of Marques J. Ruff

On Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m. we will gather on the front lawn at the church for a hymn sing in honor of Marques J. Ruff. Since August of 2019, Marques has served as our Interim Director of Traditional Music. We are so grateful for his ministry among us and want to wish him well. In order to take the necessary precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we are asking that all in attendance wear a mask. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided for you. We are also asking you to bring your own lawn chair. If you cannot make it to the Hymn Sing, you can send a card to the church office at 1112 East Broadway. Marques' last Sunday leading us in worship will be July 26.

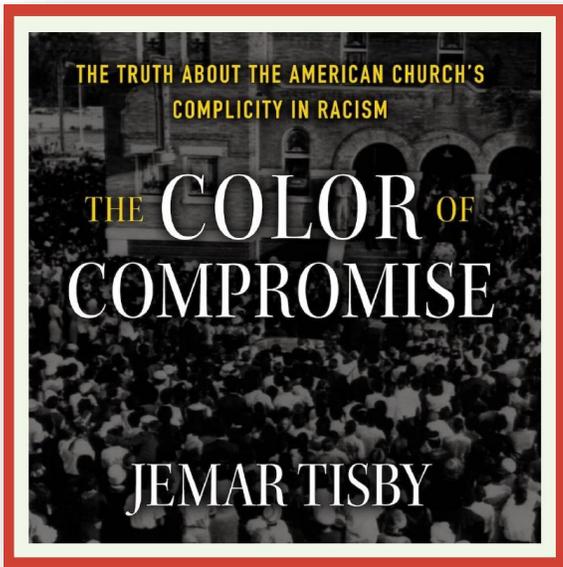
A promotional graphic for a book club. The background is a photograph of a bookshelf filled with various books. A white rectangular box on the left contains the text 'FIRST BAPTIST book club' with a small icon of books. To the right, a dark blue diagonal banner contains the title 'I'm Still Here' in a large, white, cursive font, followed by 'BY AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and 'AUGUST 2020' in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

FIRST BAPTIST
book club

I'm Still Here
BY AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN
AUGUST 2020

First Baptist Book Club – August 2020

First Baptist's Book Club has selected *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Austin is an activist, a writer, a speaker, and a media producer providing inspired leadership on racial justice in America. In *I'm Still Here*, Brown offers an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals. In order to give time for people to purchase and read the book, the next Book Club meeting will take place in August!



The Color of Compromise Study Expands and Resumes

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, a small group was meeting to talk about *The Color of Compromise* a book and video study by Jemar Tisby, which takes readers on a historical journey: from America's early colonial days through slavery and the Civil War, covering the tragedy of Jim Crow laws and the victories of the Civil Rights era, to today's Black Lives Matter movement. Author Jemar Tisby reveals the obvious—and the far more subtle—ways the American church has compromised what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality.

Tisby uncovers the roots of sustained injustice in the American church, highlighting the cultural and institutional tables that need to be turned in order to bring about real and lasting progress between black and white people. Through a story-driven survey of American Christianity's racial past, he exposes the concrete and chilling ways people of faith have actively worked against racial justice, as well as the deafening silence of the white evangelical majority. Tisby shows that while there has been progress in fighting racism, historically the majority of the American church has failed to speak out against this evil. This ongoing complicity is a stain upon the church, and sadly, it continues today. Tisby does more than diagnose the problem, however. He charts a path forward with intriguing ideas that further the conversation as he challenges us to reverse these patterns and systems of complicity with bold, courageous, and immediate action. *The Color of Compromise* provides an accurate diagnosis for a racially divided American church and suggests creative ways to foster a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people.

The group lead by Lynne Lampe and Julie Walker are planning to restart their discussion of *The Color of Compromise* in August via Zoom. They are also planning to do some research on racism in Columbia and First Baptist's response throughout the years. If you would like to join the discussion, purchase the book on your own, begin reading, then email Lynne at llampe.editor@gmail.com. To allow for maximum participation, the group is not planning to meet during Sunday Morning Small Group hour and will pick another day and time for the four sessions, to be determined by those who choose to participate.

- Session 1: Chapters 1-2 (Group introductions, book intro, Colonial Era)
- Session 2: Chapters 3-5 (Age of Revolution and Revival, Antebellum Era, Civil War)
- Session 3: Chapters 6-8 (Jim Crow, Northern Complicity, Civil Rights Movement)
- Session 4: Chapters 9-11 ("Religious right" , Racial Reconciliation, Black Lives Matter, Courage in the "Age of Now")

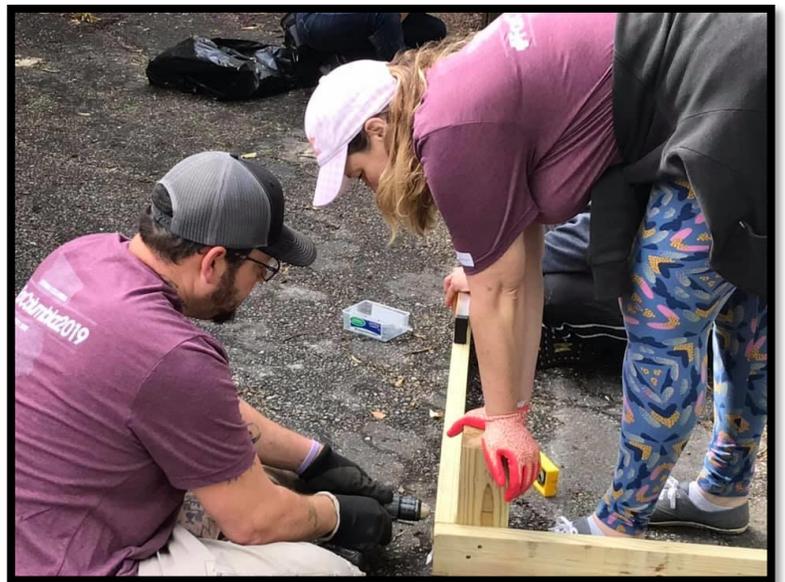


ForColumbia Service Opportunity - August 1

During ForColumbia 2019, one of the projects First Baptist participated in completing was at Benton Elementary School. We mulched our hearts out, painted, removed overgrown greenery, and relocated two rather large greenhouses. Simply put, you were amazing.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 put a halt to our plans to return to Benton Elementary this past April to help create a new outdoor learning classroom for the students. However, under the current guidelines for the city, we are planning to be able to move forward with this project on August 1 with a smaller team of folks following the appropriate precautions.

Shelby Myers and Michael McEntyre will be leading the work at the site. If you are in a lower risk category for COVID-19 and feel comfortable participating in this project, please contact Michael at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org to pre-register. Here's some more information about the project:





When?

Saturday, August 1, beginning at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided.

What can I expect?

A group of less than 50 volunteers divided up into smaller teams and distanced around the property will be working outside to help the school install an outside classroom! This work will include:

- moving some fencing and installing new sections;
- spreading mulch in a large area that will include several new “play elements” for this outdoor classroom;
- painting some of the play elements of the outdoor classroom;
- general yard clean-up of the property.

What should I bring?

ForColumbia will provide all painting supplies, tools and plants necessary for this project.

- Volunteers are asked to bring masks to be worn at the work site.
- Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own leaf rakes to assist with yard clean-up and pitch forks and garden rakes for spreading mulch, as well as work gloves.
- We encourage all volunteers to wear closed-toe shoes, as well as clothing you are comfortable painting in.
- Be prepared for a sunny day by bringing sunscreen and/or a hat.



**JOIN OUR
WEEKLY
[virtual]
GROUPS**

**BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM**

**COFFEE HOUR
TUESDAYS FROM 8:30-9:30 AM**

**ZOOM AT NOON WITH
PASTOR CAROL
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

Stay Connected

During this period of physical distancing, we believe it is important to stay connected as a church family. First Baptist is offering several opportunities to connect throughout the week. More information can be found at <http://fbc-columbia.org/get-involved/online-gatherings/> and an email with all of the links will be sent out this week. Below is a list of the online gatherings being offered this week. If you have any questions about any of the gatherings, contact Brittany, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation.

- Sunday
 - 10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study
 - 10:15 am Connections Small Group
 - 10:15 am Discussions Class
 - 10:15 am Youth Small Group
 - 2:30 pm Awakening Praise Band Gathering
- Tuesday
 - 1:00 pm Crafty Critters
 - 4:00 pm Compassion Camp Bible Study
- Wednesday
 - 12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol
 - 6:00 pm The Calling Online
 - 6:30 pm Chancel Bells Weekly Gathering

Prayers & Concerns

- ❖ Ray and Jane Smith, who were in a serious car accident on May 27 and both sustained injuries. Ray and Jane are now at home recovering.
- ❖ Caryn McClanahan's mother, Jennifer McClanahan, who has been diagnosed with cancer and will be moving to Columbia to receive treatment.
- ❖ Kim Purcell, who had a third knee surgery yesterday, June 17. If you would like help her recovery, you can sign up to take her a meal: <https://takethemameal.com/ZLVU2570>
- ❖ Prayer for continued safety concerning Covid-19 and re-opening, as well as better treatments and vaccine.
- ❖ Prayers for the movement towards racial equality and justice to continue.

