

July 21, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Two Worship Service Options Beginning August 9

We are excited to announce that beginning Sunday, August 9 at 9:15 am, we are planning to host in-person worship services on the front lawn of the church building.

Since March, the Church Council has met regularly to discuss the possibility of resuming in-person worship. A growing consensus exists among experts, which suggests if Americans are going to leave their homes, it is safer to be outside than indoors, where fresh air and more space between people can help mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19.



Additionally, since the HVAC systems in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall only recirculate air, simply sucking the air in from the room, cooling it and then, pushing it back out into the room, we feel even with social distancing measures it is not our best option at this time. Based on these factors and the uptick of COVID-19 cases in Columbia, the Church Council believes gathering outdoors on the front lawn is the safest option for now.

We are excited about the opportunity to gather in-person and plan to host outdoor services each Sunday (weather permitting) at 9:15 am beginning August 9. We will rotate the music leadership of the service every few weeks to allow for a variety of musical styles to be experienced in-person. Our 11:15 am service will continue to be tailored to an online experience and will also rotate the music leadership of that service to complement and allow for our in-person service. The guidelines for in-person gatherings on the front lawn will apply to the 9:15 am worship services as well. We understand that despite all our precautions, in-person gathering still elevate risks of exposure and encourage our church members to make choices based on what is best for you and your family.



BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2020
AT 1:00 PM

Business Meeting via Zoom - August 2

On August 2 at 1:00 pm, join us for a Church Business Meeting via Zoom. We will hear an update for our Missions Team, from the Church Treasurer about how the church is doing financially during the pandemic, and from our Trustees about the church parking lot and other projects around the building.

Time: Aug 2, 2020 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82926141105?pwd=QlowcVFyZENiRnFmaTZzTUFjK2c4UT09>

Meeting ID: 829 2614 1105

Password: FBC

One tap mobile:

+13126266799 US (Chicago)



Guest Preacher for July 26 Online Service

Several months ago, I invited Dr. Terrell Carter to be our guest preacher in July because I was planning to be out of town attending a conference. Of course, my conference is cancelled, but I couldn't pass up the chance to hear from Dr. Carter and am thrilled he has agreed to join us for online worship as our guest preacher on July 26 at 11:15 am.



Carol McEntyre

*Terrell Carter, DMin, is pastor of Webster Groves Baptist Church in Webster Groves, MO and Chief Diversity Officer and Special Advisor to the President at Greenville University in Greenville, IL. Dr. Carter has an extensive writing ministry. His latest book *The Only Thing that Matters is Heaven: Rethinking Sin, Death, Hell, Redemption, and Salvation for All Creation* is currently available through traditional booksellers.*

Conversation on Christian Nationalism

August 9 & 16

On August 9 and 16 at 10:15 am via Zoom, Brian Kaylor will be our guest speaker for a conversation on Christian Nationalism. Christian Nationalism is an ideology, which seeks to merge Christian and American identities and in doing so, distorts both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian Nationalism equates being a Christian with being an American and asserts that Christianity should be privileged by the State over other religions. Christian Nationalism implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian.

In the last few years, we have seen a rise in legislation around the country, and in Missouri, which attempts to advance the cause of Christian Nationalism. Some Christians have launched an effort known as "Project Blitz" in hopes of fusing Christianity and American Civic Life. Lawmakers in more than a dozen states used model bills from *Project Blitz*, on topics like encouraging classes on "Bible literacy" in public schools and mandating public schools post "In God We Trust." In April of 2019, our Pastor Carol McEntyre testified in Jefferson City against one of these bills, a



biblical literacy bill, which encourages public schools to teach the Bible. Baptists have historically stood for religious liberty for all, and believed that everyone should be free to practice their faith or to have no faith if they so choose. Faith should never be coerced. We hope you will join us for this important conversation about religious liberty for all!

Brian Kaylor is editor & president of Word&Way, associate director of Churchnet, and author of four books on religion, politics, and communication. He graduated with an M.A. and Ph.D. in political communication from the University of Missouri.



Compassion Camp Update

"We have had a great start at Compassion Camp! Campers have learned that compassion helps us see and welcome and compassion helps us be brave! We have created fun centerpieces for our tables, talked about about how we can be brave for ourselves and other people, colored lots of fun pictures, and shared stories together! We are excited to continue to grow in compassion together!"

-Pastor Brittany

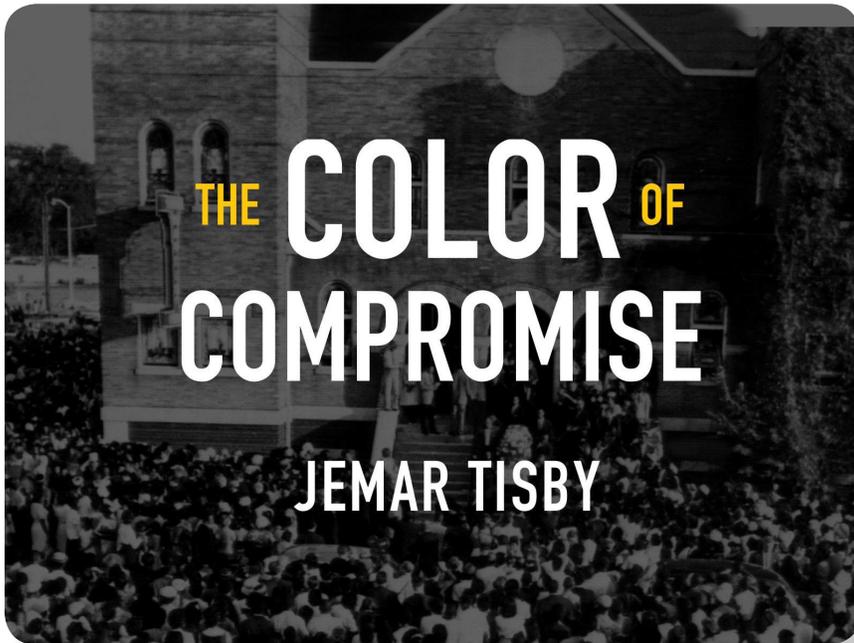
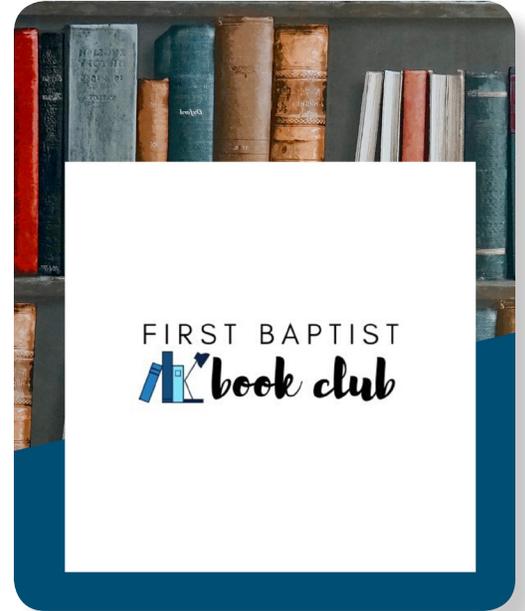




First Baptist Book Club - August 11

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.

The book club will meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm on August 11 to discuss the first 6 chapters. Email Pastor Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org for the Zoom link.



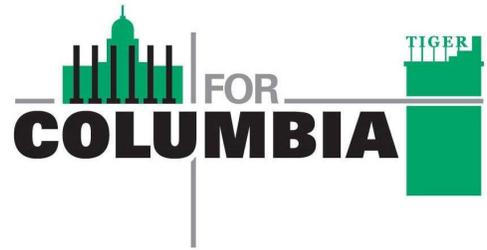
The Color of Compromise Book Study

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.

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.



ForColumbiaService Opportunity - August 1



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. The 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.

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.





Attention Students: Virtual Unidiversity Camp Next Week! July 20-25

Our Student Ministry will definitely miss being in the Smoky Mountains next week for youth camp, but that doesn't mean they have to miss out on our 2020 UNIDIVERSITY CAMP fun.

This year's camp theme is Do Good Now and all content will be available online through Unidiversity's YouTube channel, social media and their brand new Unidiversity website! We hope all of our youth and families will join us for a special year of virtual Unidiversity Youth Camp and engage with camp friends from around the country on social media! No camp registration or payment is required to get involved in virtual Unidiversity.

Here are some things students can look forward to:

- Daily Meditative Thoughts (social posts each day).
- Fun & Silly Videos of youth and youth ministers with a Morning Celebration feel throughout the day on social media.
- Interactive challenges for youth throughout the day on social media.
- Seminar offerings over Zoom ([Click Here to Sign Up](#)).
- Worship each evening Monday - Friday broadcasted on their YouTube channel.

Be sure to follow: @unidiversity on FB and Instagram to join in on the fun of a great camp week!





New COVID-19 Guidelines from Front Lawn Gatherings



In order to have in-person gatherings on the front lawn, we have committed to following some new guidelines for everyone's safety. It is vitally important that we maintain those commitments as good neighbors and put public health and safety at the forefront. We understand that these in-person gatherings will not be an attempt to "get back to normal". Rather, they are an attempt to find a safe way to be present with one another, understanding that our experience will be limited and accepting that we must follow these guidelines for the good of all involved.

We will continue to prioritize the health and well-being of our congregation and those around us. We have taken many measures to ensure that we are gathering in a thoughtful and responsible way. However, it is simply impossible for us to gather in

person right now without some risk involved. By choosing to gather in-person on the front lawn, participants are agreeing to assume those risks while actively working to help reduce them by following these guidelines.

There are many good reasons to remain at home for the time being. Particularly, if you happen to fall into the "high risk" category for COVID-19, we encourage you to continue to stay home for now. Or, if you are uncomfortable for any reason gathering in person right now, that is certainly understandable, and we want to bless you in your decision to stay home.

At this time in-person gatherings are only taking place on the front lawn. We are asking everyone to avoid entering the church building, so if you park in the church parking lot, you will need to walk around the building on the Waugh street sidewalk to get to the front lawn. Those with limited mobility, will be able to take a short-cut through the building to the front lawn.

Social Distancing:

Please maintain appropriate distance (~ 6 ft.) between you/your household and others at all times, including while entering and exiting. Unfortunately, handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps or any form of physical touch are still on hold for a while. We know that this is difficult- especially when we are excited to see one another- but it is important that each and every person that chooses to attend, follows the distancing guidelines. It really is the best way that we can love each other and our wider community right now!



Children & Families

In-person gatherings are open to families with little ones, but we ask that families be responsible for helping their children follow these guidelines as well. We are encouraging children who can to wear a mask, but all children 10 and older are asked to keep their masks on while at the church. Parents may choose to participate with their children in the back area or in the side yard to allow children space to move around during the gathering, but we ask that if families choose to sit in the designated areas that have been appropriately spaced apart, then all members of the family stay in their designated space during the gathering time.

What Should I Bring?

Other than the usual (i.e. an open heart and mind for worship), there are a few extra things to consider bringing for this service:

Lawn chairs- Please bring your own lawn chairs with you. Placement for chairs will be marked, but seating will not be provided.

Masks- We are asking that all in attendance wear a mask even though our gathering is outdoors. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided for you.

Sun & Heat Protection- Please consider bringing sunscreen, water, an umbrella, etc. Shared food or beverage will not be available.

Restrooms- Please use the restroom before you come. (We will have an indoor bathroom available for emergencies, but we are asking you to avoid entering the building if possible.)

Illness Guidelines-

-If you are showing any signs of sickness, please stay home.

-If you have had exposure/contact with anyone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19, please stay home for a period of 14 days.

-It appears that the spread of COVID-19 often comes from those who are asymptomatic (showing no signs of sickness), so please behave as though you might be an unknown carrier of the virus.

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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation
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Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director
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Marques J. Ruff, Interim Music Director-Traditional
ruff@fbc-columbia.org

Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
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Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
brice@fbc-columbia.org

Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



July 21, 2020



Find out more on page 1!

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