

September 16, 2020

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



First Baptist Church

WISDOM

FOR PANDEMIC LIVING

Wisdom for Pandemic Living Video Series

Tuesdays on Facebook and YouTube

We are excited to introduce a new video series called *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* which will premiere every Tuesday at noon during our worship series *Things I Wish I Would Have Said about the Pandemic Back in March but I Didn't Know Them Yet*. Living through a pandemic is hard. We haven't done this before, and we don't know how long it's going to go on. At First Baptist, we have a number of helping professionals in our congregation, and each Tuesday we will get the chance to learn a piece of wisdom from them.

Our first video is led by Sydney Ludwig. Sydney is a clinical social worker and a member of our First Baptist community. During her talk, Sydney discusses resilience and offers a practical tool for when we feel overwhelmed. You can watch Sydney's video on our Facebook page or on YouTube here:

https://youtu.be/D_7VicSRxsM

Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel and like us on Facebook so you won't miss out on the *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* series.



Word from the Pastor

Practicing Presence

2020 has been a rough year with the global pandemic, the reality of racism, and climate change, which is leading to massive natural disasters. All of this can feel overwhelming. Plus, as we move closer to the election, the national news may grow more discouraging and frustrating. Certainly, we live in a time of complex and alarming challenges, but we cannot allow ourselves to be held hostage by fear or to be paralyzed into inaction. If we despair, what good does that do anyone?

So, we turn from despair and fear toward Jesus and his message of hope, believing that the world can be different. We continue to work for change planting seeds of goodness, love, peace, and justice everywhere we can. We also recognize that to continue the work of the Kingdom, bringing about God's dream for the world, we have to remember to put our own oxygen masks on first! We must take care of ourselves and center ourselves in the presence of God.

One of the ways we do this is by connecting with God through a regular practice of prayer. Prayer takes many forms, but at its core, prayer is being in the presence of God. Beginning October 11, we will be talking about and practicing different forms of prayer during online and outdoor worship; the worship series is entitled *Practicing Presence*. It is a reminder to center ourselves in God's love and care. Prayer isn't withdrawing from the problems of the world; instead, prayer equips us to face the challenges with power from on high.

Prayer Guides and Boxes

As part of the *Practicing Presence* series, we are putting together a prayer box for each First Baptist family. The prayer box includes a booklet of prayers for personal use, a simple kit for making your own prayer beads, a finger labyrinth, and a candle. You may pick up your prayer box October 11 following in person worship or from 4:00-4:30 pm on October 11 by driving through the church parking lot.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Beginning October 12, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer and personal reflection on Mondays from 9 am-5 pm. One person or family at a time may sign up for a 30-minute time slot by contacting the church office at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

Carl McEntyre



**AN INVITATION
TO PRAYER**

OCTOBER 11, 2020

New Worship Series - *Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer*

October 11 we are beginning a worship series entitled *Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer*. At its core, prayer is being in the presence of God. Through this series, we will be talking about and practicing different forms of prayer during online and outdoor worship. Prayer is a reminder to center ourselves in God's love and care. Prayer isn't withdrawing from the problems of the world. Instead, prayer equips us to face the challenges with power from on high.



Autumn Changes to Worship Times

Outdoor worship has been a gift giving us a safe way to meet in-person. We want to continue gathering on the front lawn as long as possible but recognize that the weather is already beginning to cool off. To account for this, the Church Council has made the decision to move the Outdoor Worship Service to 11:15 am beginning Sunday, October 11. Hopefully, this will allow us to continue meeting for several more weeks.

The Online Worship Service will be recorded and broadcasted at 9:15 am, but you can still watch at 11:15 am as usual.



Guest Preacher - October 4

On October 4, we look forward to welcoming Dr. Pam Durso as our guest preacher for online and outdoor worship. On February 4, 2020, Dr. Durso was named by The Board of Trustees of Central Baptist Theological Seminary as the seminary's 11th president. Prior to serving as the president of Central Seminary, Durso served as executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, located in Atlanta, where she was an advocate and a resource for women serving in all areas of Christian ministry. Our Pastor Carol McEntyre, served on the board of Baptist Women in Ministry during Pam's tenure as executive director.



Durso received her Ph.D. in church history from Baylor University in 1992, she has been a strong supporter of clergywomen and has written and edited numerous articles and books on women. She co-edited with LeAnn Gunter Johns, *The World is Waiting for You: Celebrating the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Addie Davis* (2014). She also edited and contributed to *This Is What A Preacher Looks Like: Sermons by Baptist Women in Ministry* (2010), as well as wrote five *State of Women in Baptist Life* reports (2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2015). Durso and her husband, Dr. Keith Durso, who earned his Ph.D. in ethics from Baylor University, have two adult children, Michael and Alex.



Fall Book Study

Everything Must Change by Brian D. McLaren

Sunday Evenings at 5:00 pm on the front lawn
or online Thursdays at noon.

The *Everything Must Change* book study has begun! The in-person group will meet on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm on the front lawn of the church. Please bring a mask and a lawn chair and join us for the discussion.

The online group will meet on Thursdays at noon. For the online link, please email Pastor Carol at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org



TO AN OLD FRIEND
SAYING GOODBYE

We are sad to report that the large oak tree closest to our parking lot on Waugh Street must be removed.

We have been battling a fungal disease in the tree caused by *Hypoxylon atopunctatum* for several years and can no longer maintain the health or safety of the tree. The disease has escalated causing the rapid loss of limbs and is creating a hazard to those entering the building from Waugh Street, as well as to pedestrians and those parking along the street. We are expecting removal of the tree this fall and hope to plant a new tree in the coming spring. Many thanks to the Trustees for their constant work to maintain and care for our buildings and grounds.

Student Ministry on Sunday Mornings

Our Student Ministry has also resumed our virtual Sunday morning small group meetings each Sunday at 10:30 am. Zoom links have been sent out to youth and parents. Please contact Michael McEntyre if you need this information (mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org). Youth small group is a great time to check in, share about your week, and be encouraged. Stay tuned for more information about possible group activities for the fall that can combine some fun outdoor activities (a bonfire, visiting some state parks, and a possible game of laser tag in the woods) to help alleviate the confines of the pandemic. As always, we appreciate your prayers for our students and leaders this semester.





C.A.R.D. GAMES

Youth Wednesday Nights on the Front Lawn

All of our Middle and High School Students are invited to join us on Wednesday nights in September from 6:00-7:17pm for CARD Games on the front lawn (Carefully crafted, Appropriately precautioned, Reasonably distanced, Distinctly fun games). While we will be outside (unless weather demands an adjustment), we are asking each student to please bring and wear a mask. We had a blast welcoming our new 6th graders this past week and are excited to have the chance to laugh, learn, and see one another again. We hope to see all our students soon.



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Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



September 16, 2020



**First Baptist Bingo Night
RESCHEDULED**

Saturday, September 20 at 5:00 pm

Join us for a Bingo Night on the front lawn from 5:00 pm until sundown. Please bring a chair, your own dinner, and wear your mask. If you are unable to carry chairs, we do have a few picnic tables. All ages welcome!

Office email: churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org
Phone: 573-442-1149

the **SPIRE**

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