

November 12, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



THOSE WHO DREAM

 *Change Everything*

WORSHIP SERIES  NOV 29 - JAN 3

Advent Worship Series

November 29-January 3

Psalm 126 says, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world.

In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality. *Those Who Dream* is our theme for Advent; for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.



Word from Pastor Michael

Pledge Drive

This week, you should receive your 2021 commitment card in the mail. On Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 pm we invite you to drive through the church parking lot and drop off your card. It is a pledge drive (Get it. Ha ha!) While you are here, you can also pick up your Advent devotional.

2020 has been a challenging year on so many fronts, yet our church has continued to find ways to work, love, and minister throughout the difficulties we have faced. You have found new ways to engage in community, share in our faith, gather for worship, and give abundantly. As we look towards our annual time of pledging, we recognize all the beautiful pieces that make up the incredible picture that is First Baptist. Your pledge is a way of showing your support for the life and work of First Baptist. By taking the time to fill out your pledge card and send it in, you let us know that this community is an important part of your life and you commit to support the ministry of the church in the coming year.

2021 Commitment Card

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

In 2021, my/our plan is to give:

\$ _____ per week

\$ _____ per month

\$ _____ one time gift

\$ _____ other (_____)

Please send me personalized/custom offering envelopes. (Note: if this box is unchecked, no envelopes will be ordered.)

Attention Online Givers:

I currently give online and will adjust my contribution for 2021 (This can be done through your giving portal).

I will set up my 2021 ongoing pledge through the church giving website.

I would like help in setting up my 2021 pledge online, please call me.

Online giving is managed by e360 Giving to ensure security. Your e360 account allows you to begin, monitor, adjust, or stop your online contributions. Giving can be established with your banking or credit card information. If you have questions, please call the church office.



Advent Devotional



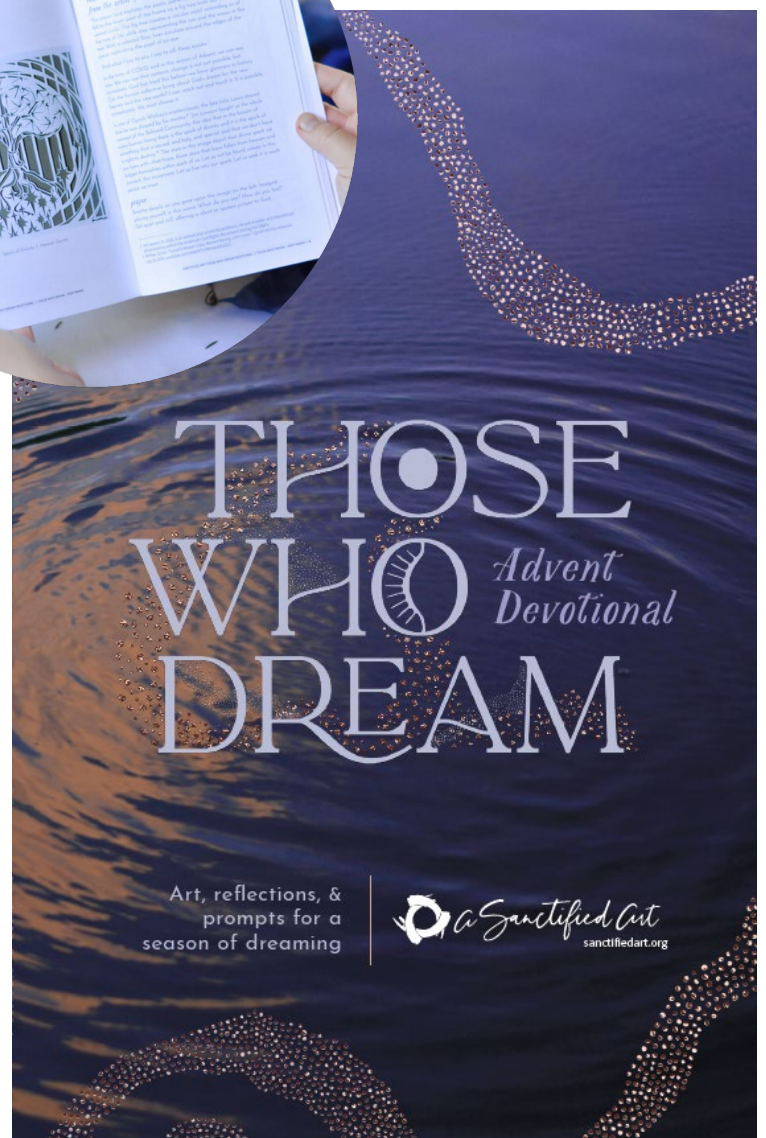
Drive-Through Advent Devotional Pick-up

November 22 from 3-4 pm,
or November 23 from 5-6 pm

This year, we are offering an Advent daily devotional, put together by *Sanctified Art*. The devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary from the beginning of Advent, Sunday, November 29, all the way through Epiphany! Each day offers something new: commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, coloring pages, journaling, and Sabbath prompts. The devotional features biblical commentary by contributors, Dr. Marcia Y. Riggs.

Marcia Y. Riggs is an American author, the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics, and the Director of ThM Program at Columbia Theological Seminary, a womanist theologian, and a recognized authority on the black woman's club movement of the nineteenth century.

You can pick up your personal devotional following the service on Sunday, November 22, in our drive-thru pick-up later that day from 3-4 pm, or in our drive-thru pick-up on Monday, November 23 from 5-6 pm.





Chancel Choir



A note from Amy Johns

As we work towards holding in-person services, Chancel Choir is beginning Zoom rehearsals this week to prepare anthems for the Advent season! The Zoom rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm. For more information, or if you have questions, please reach out to me at ajohns@fbc-columbia.org.

Blessings, Amy



Chancel Choir members singing together on the front lawn.

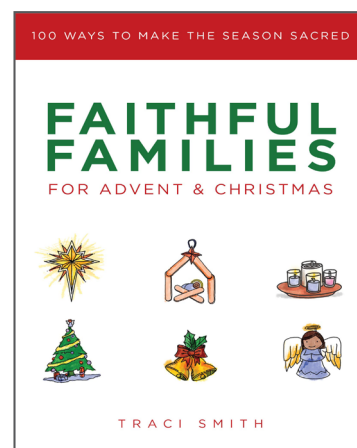


Traveling Gratitude Cafe

In November, First Kids is focusing on gratitude. As a part of this focus, Pastor Brittany is hosting a traveling Gratitude Café [not as catchy as Blizzards with Brittany, but we're rolling with it]. Families can sign-up for a day and Brittany will deliver hot chocolate (or apple cider) when it works with your schedule. As the beverages cool, she will guide you and your family through a gratitude practice. Email Brittany (bnull@fbc-columbia.org) for the link to register.

First Kids Faith @ Home Advent Boxes

Before the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, drive-by for a Family Advent Blessing on Sunday, November 22 from 3-4 pm in the First Baptist parking lot. Your family will be given a Faith @ Home Advent Box, containing electric candles to make your own simple advent wreath, some hot chocolate for your own gratitude party, a sticker nativity, and Traci Smith's book *Faithful Families for Advent & Christmas: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred*. Don't let "100 Ways" scare you! This is not a to-do list to add to your busy lives. It is simply a resource of options for simple, sweet, profound connections and memory-making. You are encouraged to pick a few practices that resonate with your family and repeat them organically as time and space allow. Take some time to set an Advent intention for yourself and your family. How will you focus on hope, peace, love, and joy this Advent? Where will you create holy space in your home and life? What new traditions will 2021 bring?



Worship Bags for Kids

As we look towards a hybrid in-person service in the sanctuary, I know there may be a few (or a lot) of questions that center around children in worship. In order to accommodate both the Awakening Praise Band and the Handbells, we have temporarily removed the playground tables from the sanctuary. Instead, each child will have their own worship bag that can be housed at the church. The bag will belong to each individual worshipper (age 2 - 5th grade). The bag will contain colors, a few pipe cleaners, a worship bulletin, coloring pages, and any materials pertaining to Sunday's message. Each child's bag will be marked and only that child, their family, and a gloved volunteer will have access to their bag.

For some of you, this may be the first time your kids are in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Young worshippers learn by watching, so we are grateful to have our young ones in worship with us. Know that we expect wiggles, giggles, and talking, it is okay! We are not expecting a silent night (or day) around here. I hope these bags can aid in worship for you and your kids. If you have any questions or concerns regarding children in worship, don't hesitate to reach out!

Brittany McDonald-Mull



Serving

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing for Disaster Relief

This November, Give to American Baptist Churches -One Great Hour of Sharing to help with ongoing disaster relief.

The pandemic has changed countless dynamics of our everyday life, but unfortunately for many in our country right now, the damage and displacement caused by wildfires and hurricanes has exponentially compounded this reality. This November, we are proud to support the mission efforts of our American Baptist partners through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering as they work to respond to the needs created by these natural disasters. Through this offering, we are joining with those who are currently working to overcome tragedy and destruction, as well as those who will remain after the relief efforts are finished to continue the good work of the Gospel.

To ensure your donations are correctly recorded, please mail your contributions to the church. Checks should be made out to First Baptist Church with ABC Offering in the memo line. If you wish to give electronically, you may do so by going to the American Baptist Churches USA's website at <http://abc-oghs.org/donate/>. Thank you for your generosity and kindness during these difficult days.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING



VAC Holiday Program

For many years First Baptist has partnered with Voluntary Action Center during the holiday season to help with Christmas presents for those in need. This year we plan to continue that tradition, however, because of the pandemic, VAC's efforts will look a bit different. Beginning November 22, First Baptist will be collecting donations to purchase gift cards for VAC partner families. We will collect funds through December 9 at the church (checks need to be made to First Baptist Church with VAC Holiday Program in the memo line), and then purchase the needed gift cards as instructed by VAC. While we will miss the joy of picking out the perfect toy or gift to be sent in, we are grateful to VAC for continuing this work and look forward to the opportunity to bless those in our community this season.



Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 18, 6:30-7:30 pm

In a normal year, Christmas can be a painful time. The anguish of broken relationships, the first Christmas without a loved one or the weariness of ill health can make us feel alone in the midst of celebration. This year, we have the added grief of 240,000 Americans and 1.7 million people worldwide who have died from COVID-19. Due to the Pandemic, we may not celebrate with extended family in the same way. Though the Christmas season is often marked with expressions of excitement and joy, we want to recognize that for many, this season evokes a lot of pain and grieving, particularly this year. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and grief; we need to know and see that we are not alone and hold space for healing and hope.

For these reasons, we are offering a special Blue Christmas service on Friday, December 18 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us in sharing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledges God's presence is with those who mourn, now and always.



Important Notes About In-Person Worship Sundays Beginning November 22

- The Sanctuary has been roped off in sections, which are 6 feet or more apart and distant from those leading. Seating for in-person worship will be by household.
- Everyone over the age of two must wear a mask that covers nose and mouth.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, please stay home.
- There will be no congregational singing. The congregation is invited to hum along.
- Offering plates will not be passed during service. Offerings may be left in the box at the front of the sanctuary upon arrival, mailed to the church office, or given online.
- Restrooms are for emergencies only.
- The pastor will dismiss row by row following the benediction.

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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



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the **SPIRE**

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Pledge Drive 2021

Together we can fund the missions and ministry that God is calling us to. Together, we give. Watch for your 2021 pledge card in the mail.

- More information on page 2 -