

December 16, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Winter Bible Study

Reading Mark's Revolutionary Gospel



with Dr. Hulitt Gloer



Winter Bible Study

In January, we invite you to join us for Winter Bible Study via Zoom! This 6-week course is designed for people who want to dig deeper in their Bible study and grow in their understanding of scripture.

Dr. Hulitt Gloer will be leading the course entitled "Reading Mark's Revolutionary Gospel." Knowing what Jesus said and did has never been more important than in the days in which we are now living. The Gospel of Mark tells of Jesus' revolutionary life and message and we will examine it together. The class is perfect for laity who want to study the Bible at a more scholarly level, but you do not have to be a scholar to join. The course is designed for any and all who desire a greater understanding of the Bible. The only prerequisite is a love for the Bible.

Dr. Hulitt Gloer is Emeritus Professor of Preaching and Christian Scriptures at Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University and taught at Truett when Pastors Michael and Carol McEntyre were students there.

The study will be held on Zoom on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Contact the church office to register. Phone: 573-442-1149. Email: churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org



Word from Pastor Michael



Standing Together

In the midst of uncertainty this year, your generosity is inspiring. Our congregation has given above and beyond to support our community, assist those in need because of the pandemic, support local ministries like VAC and LoveINC, give to disaster relief, bless families through the Holiday program, and more. Time and again you have shown up and stood together as a congregation, even when we had to remain physically apart. In this spirit, I would like to ask you to consider one more act of togetherness, if you have not already done so.

So far this year, we have received 52 pledges from people/families in our congregation. I would like to see this number grow because pledging is about much more than a financial contribution. A 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 submit it, you let us know that this community is a valued part of your life. The amount of your pledge isn't as important as your commitment to the community and ministry of our church. We understand that for many, these times of economic uncertainty make it difficult to consider a financial commitment. If that's the case, I would encourage you to choose an amount you know is possible, fill out a pledge card, and stand together with us. We recently had someone send in the last of their 2020 pledge. Their total financial commitment for the year was \$12, yet they faithfully fulfilled this commitment all year long. They stood together with us and we are grateful.

If you have not yet filled out a pledge card and sent it in, I want to encourage you now to take a minute to go to the church website, www.fbc-columbia.org, and click on the Online Pledge Card 2021 option at the top, fill in the information, and click submit. You can also cut out and mail in the printed card from the Spire if you prefer. As you make your pledge to First Baptist, know that we pledge to continue to be a place of hope, help, and healing through the grace of Christ as each piece comes together to create a better picture for the year to come. Send in your pledge to let us know you believe we are stronger Together.

Blessings,

Michael McEntyre



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.

Year-to-Date Giving Statements (through Nov) Being Mailed Out

The church will be sending out year-to-date giving statements through November this week in an effort to ensure that our contribution records match the personal records of those who have contributed this year. With all the changes we have seen in 2020, (a new accountant, the use of a new accounting program, an new Administrator and Treasurer, the necessity of mail-in donations and online giving, etc.) we want to make sure we are as accurate as possible with our records before sending out tax documents in 2021.

If you find any discrepancies in the statement, please contact Michael McEntyre for assistance. If no changes are required, any December contributions will be added to the statements and official tax documents will be sent out in January. If you have contributed to the church but do not receive a statement by Christmas, please contact the church and let us know.

Just as a reminder, for financial gifts to be included on your 2020 statement of charitable contributions, donations must be received in the church office by December 30 (as the office is closed on the 31) or dated and postmarked (either by mail or electronically if giving online) by December 31.



Christmas Eve 2020

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

5:00 pm

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**Two Services:
In-person on the
front lawn
&
online**

The Christmas Eve Worship is one of the most beloved services of our church year. The service includes beautiful music, a reading of the Christmas story from scripture and a candlelight benediction as we sing silent night. This year, we wanted

to continue these beloved traditions and meet in person, in the safest way possible, for this sacred gathering. Therefore, on December 24, bundle up and join us on the front lawn at 5:00 pm for Christmas Eve Worship. The length of the service will vary depending on the weather, but we look forward to continuing our tradition of worshipping together on Christmas Eve. The online service will be pre-recorded and streamed on Vimeo, YouTube, and Facebook at 5:00 pm as well.



**Christmas Eve - Silent Night
Community Video**

Christmas Eve is always a holy time in our community. Energy and anticipation fills the air as we announce the coming of the Christ child, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Perhaps the most sacred moment is when, we a gathered community surround the sanctuary and sing Silent Night.

This year, while many of us will gather on the front lawn, we know it will not quite be the same. So, our worship team, wanted to release a video with your help! Send Pastor Brittany a video of you saying one of the lines from the hymn, by Tuesday, December 22, bonus points if you are holding a candle while you do it! Then on Christmas Eve, watch as our voices come together in a new, but beautiful way!





A note from Amy Johns

Hello! I wanted to take a moment to share a few music updates with you. First, the music ministry here at First Baptist has prepared a Christmas concert for you to enjoy in the comfort of your home this season. It will be available via the FBC streaming services on Wednesday, December 23, at 5:00 pm. We hope it brings you a measure of comfort and joy during this Advent season.

Secondly, the Chancel Choir will be taking a break from Zoom rehearsals through the middle of January. Choir practice will start back via Zoom at 7:45 pm on January 20, 2021. Additionally, I am making plans for the Psalm Players to begin Zoom rehearsals in January. If you are interested, be watching for email communication from me after the first of the year to solidify rehearsal times and music.

If you haven't been involved with the choir or the Psalm Players and would like to be, please reach out - we would love to have you join us. I am looking forward to making music with all of you!

Blessings, Amy

Youth Holiday Wrap

Each week of Advent our adult leaders have delivered various gifts to our students to help celebrate the season. We unwrap these gifts together each Sunday morning on our small group Zoom call as a way to share in the Christmas story. This Sunday will be our final unwrapping before Christmas. I hope all of our students will join us for this special finale.

Youth will not meet by Zoom on December 27 but will return at 10:00 am each week beginning January 3. Have a great Christmas break.



VAC Holiday Program



Your support of the VAC Holiday program this season was amazing. Despite not being able to shop for our traditional family gifts, you responded with overwhelming financial generosity. We well exceeded our goal of \$2000 to support 11 kids and 5 adults through this program. We have notified VAC of your gifts and are sending the additional funds to help support other families selected for this program. Thank you for giving.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to our First Baptist family for supporting our missions partnership with the American Baptist Churches- USA. Through of your generosity, we directly collected over \$1100 to support the much-needed disaster recovery efforts created by the many wildfires this season. These funds will be given as part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering through the American Baptist Churches-USA. Thank you for gifts.



Unwrapping Advent: Counting Down to Christmas Book by Book

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation. Every evening at 6 pm throughout the season of Advent, Pastor Brittany will unwrap a book to read as we await the coming of Christ. The videos will be released on our private Facebook group and remain available until Epiphany. Some of these books will center around the Advent values of hope, peace, joy, and love, while others of these books will just be silly holiday books. We look forward to virtually gathering around the Christmas tree as we unwrap the gifts of Advent.



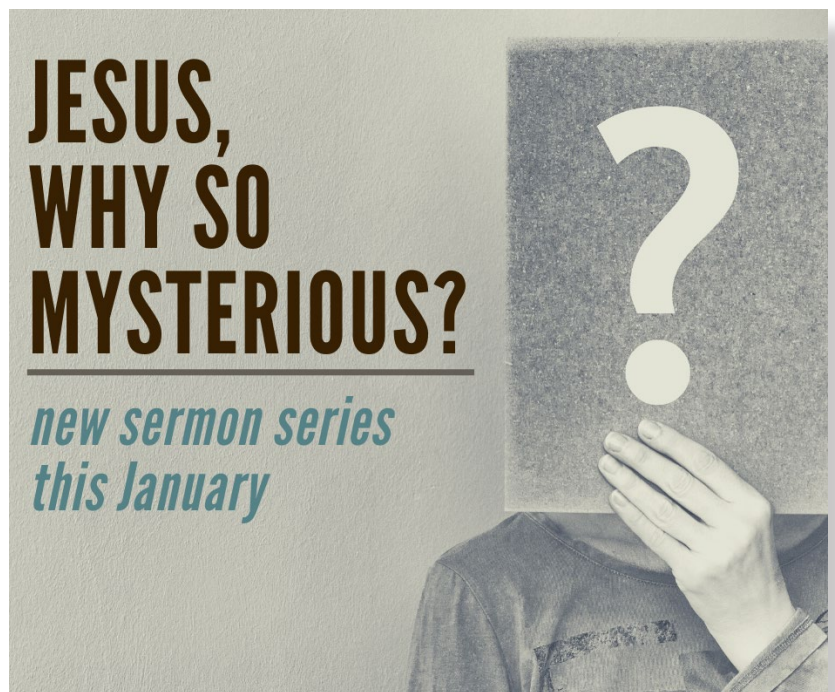
Annual Business Meeting - January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting on January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom following the Sunday Online Service. If you'd like to visit with other members, we will begin the Zoom meeting 15 minutes early!

January Worship Series

Jesus, Why So Mysterious?

Throughout the gospels, Jesus is often secretive about his identity. Like in Mark chapter 8 when Jesus, "sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone about him." What benefit could come from Jesus's hiddenness? He often answers questions with questions and uses metaphors and parables to teach. Why risk being misunderstood? If the message is so important, why give it in a veiled way? In January, we will begin a sermon series called Jesus, Why So Mysterious? Join us for worship, as we explore the launch of Jesus' public ministry and wonder why he was at times so secretive about his identity.



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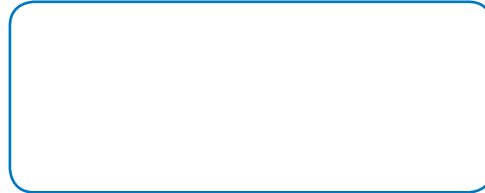
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"Return Service Requested"



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See page 4 for more info!

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