

January 13, 2021

# the SPIRE



**First Baptist Church**  
columbia



## Winter Bible Study

Reading Mark's Revolutionary Gospel



with Dr. Hulitt Gloer

### Winter Bible Study

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. No need to register, but if you have questions contact the church office: Phone: 573-442-1149 Email: churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

### This Week's Events

Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Winter Bible Study Begins  
11:15 am Worship Online

Monday, January 18

Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Tuesday, January 19

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom

Wednesday, January 20

12:00 pm Zoom at Noon  
5:15 pm Psalm Players Zoom  
7:45 pm Chancel Choir Zoom

### Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 24

1:00 pm Annual Business Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, January 27

6:30 pm Chancel Bells Resume

Tuesday, February 9

7:00 pm First Baptist Book Club Resumes

Friday, February 12

First Baptist Game Night via Zoom

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Service Online



# Word from the Pastor



## Word from the Pastor

First Baptist Family,

As I have tried to find my way these last few weeks, after the death of my father from COVID-19, the cards, texts, meals and Facebook messages you have sent have been a source of comfort and strength. I am grateful for your love and care. In addition, I was deeply moved by how many of you watched my father's memorial service. You are an incredibly compassionate church family, and I am grateful to be part of the fold. I would remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Pastor Brittany McDonald Null for leading the congregation so ably in my absence. Along with Brittany, Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director and Amy Johns, Director of Traditional Worship and Colleen Ostercamp, Church Organist and all our incredible volunteers did an amazing job of putting together all the Christmas season worship services too. I am grateful to have such a gifted team to work with.

*Carol McEntyre*

*Last Sunday in worship, Pastor Carol began the service with some reflection on the week's events and an opening prayer. Reprinted for you here:*

I want to begin with a prayer for our country because I know the insurrection at our nation's capital is on all our hearts and minds. I am still rattled by what took place on Wednesday. This has been a traumatic week filled with fear, sorrow, and anger. As I watched in horror on Wednesday, I was shocked, but honestly, I was not surprised. Because words matter and the truth matters. What happened on Wednesday was the product of years of hateful and divisive rhetoric in our country's political life and in the leadership of our former president.

In addition, the truth matters. Some things are true, meaning they are based in reality; they are factual. An inability to discern what is true has eroded our common life as a country. The rise of conspiracy theories, like QAnon, which have NO connection to reality, are a dangerous result of this inability to discern truth. This week, we have seen how these online movements can lead to violence. For the last few years, I have thought that to speak of QAnon and other conspiracy theories was to empower them. But I now realize that Christians who are called to be truth-tellers, must speak of these things. After all we follow Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).



*So, we have much work to do as citizens of this country and as people of faith, who stand on the side of truth, love, justice, civility, hope and peace. In the coming months, we will continue to talk about all these issues and how we live in the way of Jesus.*

*Will you pray with me?*

*○ God, we come to you in this moment of prayer, bringing to you the pain and horror of this week. The images we saw in our nation's capital were terrifying and many of us lost sleep this week as we worried about the fate of our country. We know this violence was the antithesis of your dream of peace for the world and we lament how far we have to go before liberty and justice for all is a reality.*

*○ God, you have borne witness to all of human history and have seen empires rise and fall, forgive us for refusing to see that our democracy is fragile. Lord open our eyes to see our country as a gift and deliver us from our pride. As a country, we have flirted with disaster by continuing to elect and empower politicians whose words and actions have led us to a moment of crisis. May we finally learn that words matter as does character. This week, we have witnessed the logical consequences of our former leader's rhetoric and watched in horror as angry white men and women stormed our Capitol.*

*As we watched, we confess that anger rose in our own hearts and minds; rage grew in our bellies over these acts of insurgence. ○ God, when will we learn that violence and anger only lead us further down the path of destruction?*

*We pray for changed hearts and minds.*

*May we learn to follow the Prince of Peace down the path of non-violence, in word and deed. A path that leads not to judgement and destruction, but to hope, to love, to kindness, to peace and equity for all.*

*This week, we witnessed a shameful display of confederate flags and signs with racist slogans paraded around in our nation's capital. We witnessed an obvious difference between how law enforcement treated the rioters on Wednesday versus how Black Lives Matter protesters were treated over the summer. We pray that you will deliver us from the racism that has plagued our country and was on full display at the Capitol this week. Oh, God deliver us from the forces of evil and white supremacy. And may we root out the laws and practices in our country, which foster injustice. God of Mercy, hear our prayer.*

*As we watched on Wednesday, we also witnessed a hijacked version of Christianity as rioters carried crosses and signs bearing the name of Jesus along with their confederate flags. Lord, deliver us from this dangerous mix of racism and Christian nationalism.*

*Oh, God of Mercy, hear our prayer.*



Life of the Church

FIRST BAPTIST  
 **book club**  
online

# Holy Envy

BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

**2nd Tuesdays**  
**7 pm via Zoom**

## First Baptist Book Club

2nd Tuesdays every other month

7 pm via Zoom

With the new year starting, the First Baptist Book Club is ready to relaunch and get our noses in books! The book club will meet the second Tuesday of every other month throughout the year. For now, meetings will be held via Zoom at 7 pm.

The first virtual gathering will take place on Tuesday, February 9. The group will read *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this book, Taylor recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. You can purchase the book on your own, and then be ready to discuss beginning February 9! If you would like to sign-up for the book club's email list, contact Pastor Brittany at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)



OFFICES CLOSED

Monday, January 18

IN HONOR OF

Martin Luther King Jr.



## A note from Amy Johns

Hello! I wanted to take a moment to let you know that the Chancel Choir and the Psalm Players will begin rehearsing January 20 via Zoom. The Psalm Players will rehearse via Zoom 5:15 -6:00 pm and the Chancel Choir will rehearse 7:45 - 8:15 pm, also via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us in music ministry, please email me at [ajohns@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:ajohns@fbc-columbia.org).

*Blessings, Amy*



## CBF Offering for Global Missions

During the month of February, First Baptist members will have the opportunity to support the work of Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel around the world, like our very own Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen, by giving to the CBF Offering for Global Missions. Your support of the Offering for Global Missions will share the Gospel message and provide tangible gifts of God's grace and mercy. 100% of your gifts to the Offering goes to funding the ministry of field personnel. You can send in your offering by check (made out to First Baptist Church with CBF missions in the memo line) or beginning February 1, you can choose the missions

offering link on our website to give electronically. At the end of February, the church will combine all gifts and send one check to CBF. Thank you for your generosity.

---

## Youth News

The New Year will see some new ways our Student Ministry will work to continue to build community with our students each week. We will maintain our Small Group meeting time on Sunday mornings at 10:00am via Zoom, but we will also be adding several other opportunities for students to share some time together in the months to come. We will be hosting online games for students to join, taking a virtual trip to an Escape Room, share online music playlists, have a unique Valentine's day challenge, and more. All this leading us to another interactive lesson experience for our Lenten journey towards Easter. Please be in prayer for our students as they juggle online and in-person learning this semester.

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 19

**Ministerial Staff:**

**Carol McEntyre**, Senior Pastor  
*mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Michael McEntyre**, Pastor of Youth, Missions  
& Administration  
*mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Brittany McDonald Null**, Pastor of Families &  
Spiritual Formation  
*bnull@fbc-columbia.org*

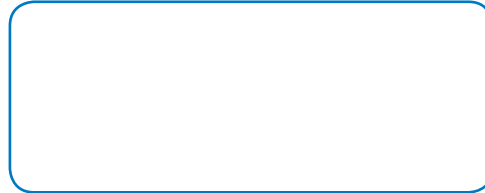
**Music Staff:**

**Colleen Ostercamp**, Organist  
*gostercamp@gmail.com*  
**Shelby Myers**, Awakening Praise Band Director  
*smyers@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Amy Johns**, Music Director-Traditional  
*ajohns@fbc-columbia.org*

**Support Staff:**

**Susan Goudie**, Administrative Assistant  
*churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Brenda Rice**, Project Coordinator  
*brice@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Bethany James**, Nursery Director  
**Mike Ide**, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



## 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 13, 2021

# the SPIRE

## In This Issue:

- Winter Bible Study
- Word from the Pastor
- First Baptist Book Club
- Offices Closed MLK Day
- A Note from Amy Johns
- CBF Offering for Global Missions
- Youth News
- Annual Business Meeting