

January 27, 2021

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Lenten Series

Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten Theme this year is *Again & Again*. In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again.

Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.



This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.



Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist,

At the end of the business meeting, on Sunday, January 24 the Missions Team surprised me with these lovely gifts. They gave me a fabulous reversible stole with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and First Baptist logo on one side and a fabricscape on the other side and a beautiful fabricscape entitled "Autumn Oasis" both crafted by our very own Dave Walker. These gifts were in honor of my year as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Moderator, which is currently underway. They wanted to celebrate this accomplishment in a year when we have not been able to celebrate in a normal way. I was so grateful for this thoughtful expression of celebration.

Because we are not meeting in person, I have not had the opportunity to share my work as Moderator with you in the way that I wanted, but this is a great reminder for me to take a moment to catch you up. Since last July, I have been serving as Moderator. I meet weekly, most of the time, by phone or Zoom with Paul Baxley, the Executive Coordinator of CBF to serve as a sounding board and partner in the work of the Fellowship.

In 2020, I was also heavily involved in a strategic planning process for the Fellowship called *Toward Bold Faithfulness*, where we sought to listen deeply to the Spirit and the Fellowship regarding the needs in our communities and churches. We are now in the Response phase of that work and are making changes in the life of the Fellowship to respond to what we heard. In addition, I am currently serving on a think tank that is strategizing about what the new normal will be for churches once the pandemic finally lifts. We are hoping to make some recommendations to Fellowship churches about plans they should be putting in place now to get ready for the new normal.

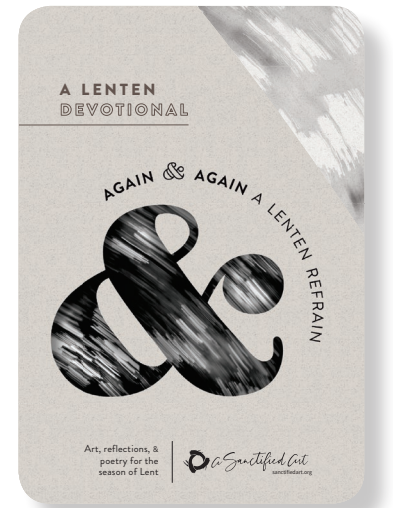
These are just a few highlights. While this has not been the year of service that I dreamed about, I have had a chance to do some good work on the behalf of the Fellowship. Thank you for allowing me to serve the broader Church in this way.

Carla McEntyre



Drive-Thru Lent Devotional Pick-up February 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm

This year, we are offering a Lenten Devotional put together by *Sanctified Art*. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary through Easter Sunday. Each week offers: scripture readings, biblical commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, and coloring pages. We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you. First Kids Families can also collect their Lent-at-Home bags at this time.



Ash Wednesday - February 17

Lent begins on February 17 with Ash Wednesday. This year, you will have two opportunities to mark the beginning of Lent. From Noon-1:00 pm Pastor Carol McEntyre will be in the church parking lot offering drive-by imposition of ashes. You will get a chance to see Pastor Carol and to receive the imposition of ashes. The marking of ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of believers as a reminder of mortality and belonging and is how Christians begin the forty-day journey of Lent. At 6:30 pm, we will come together for a virtual Zoom worship experience. We will sing, hear scripture readings, and set our intentions for Lent.

Tuesday Evening Visio Divina Bible Study

Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. During Lent, Pastor Brittany will be leading a Visio Divina Bible Study via Zoom at 7 pm. The meeting will be a blend of visual meditation with group discussion and bible study. Lent begins on February 17 with Ash Wednesday. This year, you will have two opportunities to mark the beginning of Lent.

Stations of the Cross Experience

March 1-17

In addition to the virtual Lenten opportunities, we are also creating an in-person Stations of the Cross Experience, which will be set up in the Sanctuary open March 1-17. The Station of the Cross Experience honors the ancient story of Jesus' death while recognizing the ways this narrative repeats itself again and again throughout the past and present. It provides multi-sensory ways to engage, confess, and lament, creating a profound and prophetic worship experience. Designed by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, the service features her original artwork and artist statement, *Pietà: “Woman, Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother—a sermon project exploring the story of Mamie Till-Mobley (the mother of Emmett Till) and the grief of Mary, mother of Jesus, beholding her son on the cross.* You can sign up for a time by going to our website.



WELCOME NEW FIRST BAPTIST MEMBERS

Jon + Sydney Ludwig



Welcome to the Ludwig Family

Jon and Sydney first started attending First Baptist in 2016. They left the church when Jon took a job at First Presbyterian in 2017, but they have been back for about a year and a half.

They have two sons, Westley (6) and Wyatt (3). Sydney is the kidney transplant and dialysis Social Worker at University Hospital. Jon is the Pastoral Care Intern at First Baptist and is pursuing a career in hospital chaplaincy. The Ludwigs love their FBC family and are so happy to finally be members!

Zoom Game Night Friday, February 12 @ 7pm

During these cold winter months, we need to have some fun and spend some time together. Join us for Zoom Game Night! We will have two games going at the same time in Break-Out Rooms. You can choose to play Farkel, hosted by Paula Thomas or Scattergories, hosted by Brittany McDonald Null. Farkel is a dice game, and you will need to bring 6 dice to Zoom. Scattergories is a creative-thinking game; you will need a pen and paper.

We will be emailing the links for the game night soon!

ZOOM GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEB 12 @ 7PM





It is no exaggeration to say that we find ourselves in uncertain times. In fact, uncertainty has been a key theme to the pastoral care calls I have made this week. Not knowing when we will see each other again, or if things will get worse before they get better. There is even uncertainty surrounding vaccines and economic relief. In times like these, I want to offer hope. I want to be a voice of certainty and tell you that everything will be better soon. Unfortunately, I can't tell you that because none of us know what comes next and the last thing I would want to do is to offer you false hope.

But there are things that we can be certain of. One of the recurring themes that comes up in my conversations with church members is how much the church has been there for them during times of uncertainty. Calls and visits. Meals and financial support. This church is giving this community hope. You can be certain that this church will be there for you no matter what comes next. You can also be sure that you are a part of that. You are giving others hope. I know that this church will be there for me no matter what, and you are a part of that.

Finally, we can be certain of God's great love for us. Just before his arrest, Jesus got the disciples together and told them some of the things that were about to happen to him and to them. When he was finished, he said this: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will face tribulation. But take courage! I have overcome the world." -John 16:33

He didn't sugarcoat it. He told them straight up how tough it was going to be. But he promised them that no matter what, he was tougher. No matter what happens, God is with us. The God who spoke the world into existence and healed the sick is holding us in comfort and care and that is something we can all be certain of.

Jon Ludwig

Pastoral Care Intern



Lent-at-Home Bags

Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter is a season of preparation. Traditionally, the three pillars of lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This year, First Kids is emphasizing prayer. Similar to the Faith at Home Advent Boxes, families can collect a Lent-at-home bag during the drive-thru Lent Devotional pick-up on Sunday, February 14 from 1-3 pm. Boxes will include a family devotional centered on prayer, a daily prayer calendar to countdown the days of Lent, pancake mix, a piece of an easter mural, and a few other surprises. If you are unable to attend the drive-thru event and would like to schedule a different time to collect your box, email Pastor Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org



Zoom Pancake Party Tuesday, February 16 at 6 pm

First Kids Families are invited to a Zoom Pancake Party for Shrove Tuesday! Each family will receive pancake mix in their Lent-at-Home bags along with some syrup. Why pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Traditionally, the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter was a time of fasting. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. This tradition is so popular that Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day! Our

digital gathering will be a time for families to check in, eat pancakes (or whatever dinner works best for your family), hear briefly about our Lenten plans, play a simple Lenten-themed scavenger hunt, and most importantly see one another.



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.

Serving Team Honors Pastor Carol

Our Serving Team was proud to honor Pastor Carol at the church business meeting on behalf of the congregation for her work with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as the national Moderator. We hope you all will take the opportunity to send our pastor a word of encouragement either by card, email, or text, to let her know you appreciate the good work she is doing on behalf of our congregation on a national stage.



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

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

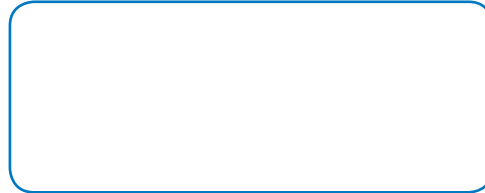
Support Staff:

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"



Zoom Game Night - February 12 at 7:00 pm

On Friday, February 12, at 7:00 pm First Baptist will be holding an online game night via Zoom. See Page 4 for more details.

January 27, 2021

the **SPIRE**

In This Issue:

- Lenten Series
- Word from the Pastor
- Lenten Season Events
- Welcome Ludwig family
- Zoom Game Night
- Notes from Jon Ludwig
- First Kids family events
- Missions
- First Baptist Book Club