

March 11, 2021

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Two Worship Service Options

Beginning April 4

Online at 9:15 am &

On-lawn at 11:15 am

We are excited to announce that beginning Easter Sunday, April 4, at 11:15 am, First Baptist will begin hosting in-person worship services on the front lawn of the church building again! We will also continue to offer online worship, which will be webcast at 9:15 am.

For Easter, both online and on-lawn worship services will have musical leadership from the Awakening Praise Band and the Traditional Worship Team. The Sunday following Easter, we will begin rotating the music leadership of the services every few weeks to allow for a variety of musical styles to be experienced in-person on the lawn.

Throughout the pandemic, the Church Council has prioritized the safety and well-being of our congregation, our church staff, and our community. We know you are longing to resume worship inside our building and with the vaccine rolling out and Columbia's case numbers falling, we hope that day is coming soon, but we want to remain vigilant in our efforts to protect people and will continue to take it slow. Returning to on-lawn worship is currently the safest option. To set us up for success, we must all continue to wear our masks, maintain social distancing, and remain home when feeling unwell.

Turn the page for updated On-Lawn COVID guidelines:

AGAIN & AGAIN THE SUN RISES



**Again and again,
The sun will rise.**

**Again and again,
God will draw near.**

**Again and again,
The tomb will be empty.**

**Again and again,
Love will win.**

Words by Rev. Sarah Are



Updated COVID Guidelines for Front Lawn Services

We are looking forward to resuming in-person gatherings on the front lawn. Throughout the Pandemic, the church has prioritized care for our neighbors and a commitment to public safety. While the COVID-19 case numbers in Columbia have improved and vaccination rollouts are going well, we do not want to become lax in our safety efforts when we have been so careful the last year. Therefore, we have committed to the following guidelines for everyone's safety.

Social Distancing

During our front lawn gatherings, please continue to always maintain appropriate distance (6ft) between you/your household and others. Unfortunately, handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps or any form of physical touch are still on hold for awhile. We know this is difficult, especially when we are excited to see one another, but it is important that each and every person who chooses to attend follows the distancing guidelines.

Masks

Masks are still required for front-lawn gatherings even for those who have been fully vaccinated, according to the City Ordinance and CDC guidance.

What Should I Bring?

Please bring an open heart and mind for worship, and also a lawn chair, your mask, and a water bottle. Other important info:

- Restrooms - The church building will be open on Sunday mornings for restroom use. This is a change from the Fall.
- Parking - If you park in the church parking lot, you may walk through the building to the front lawn.
- If you are showing any signs of illness, please stay home.
- If you have had any exposure/contact with anyone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19, please stay home.



Updated COVID Guidelines for Small Groups & Visiting the Church Office

At this time, First Baptist small groups may choose to meet inside the building taking the following precautions:

- We are asking groups to schedule their meeting with the First Baptist office ahead of time. The church staff will help select a room in the building, which is large enough to allow for social distancing.
- Groups are required to wear their masks at all times, which means food cannot be served at gatherings at this time.
- We recommend the group open the window in the room where they are meeting to allow fresh air to circulate, which mitigates the spread of COVID-19.



Word from the Pastor

Downtown Palm Sunday Service -March 28, 9:00 am

Sunday, March 28 is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. We are thrilled to announce the Ecumenical Downtown Palm Sunday Service will take place this year at 9:00 am at the Boone County Courthouse Amphitheater. In years past, we have gathered on Broadway, however the pastors of the participating congregations chose to change the location to allow the crowd to have more room to social distance. We will have palms and worship bulletins available in the First Baptist parking lot.



For the Palm Sunday Gathering, we ask you to wear your mask (even if you are fully vaccinated), maintain physical distance (6'), and avoid physical contact such as handshakes, fist bumps, and elbow taps.

Carl McIntyre



LAWN GAMES



Join Us for an Afternoon of Lawn Games

Sunday, April 25 from 2-4 pm

On Sunday, April 25 from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm we will gather on the front lawn of the church building for an afternoon of fun and games! With the weather warming up, people are longing for safe, enjoyable ways to gather. We will play some lawn games like ladder ball, volleyball, corn hole toss, and other such amusements. Please bring a lawn chair and wear your mask. Remember, no handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, or any form of physical touching, but laughter, conversation, and fun are encouraged.

Wednesdays 6-7:15pm

the calling

Students 6th- 12th Grade

The Calling Starts Back April 7

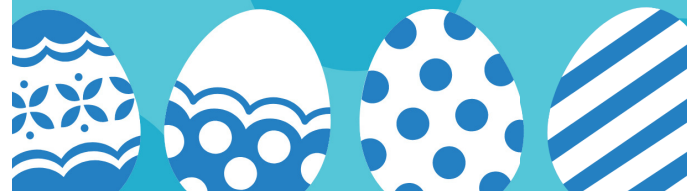
We are excited to announce that our Student Ministry plans to start back with our on-lawn Wednesday night gatherings for the Calling on April 7 from 6:00-7:15pm. There will be food and fun galore as we come together IN-PERSON to share life and faith in the front yard. We hope all our students will mark their calendars and make plans to join us on April 7.

Just like last fall, we are asking that students wear masks to our gatherings, and we will continue to practice social distancing when possible during our time together. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

SAVE THE DATE!

First Kids EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3





Special Zoom at Noon with Brian Kaylor Wednesday, March 24

On Wednesday, March 24, Brian Kaylor will be our special guest for Zoom at Noon. Last August, Brian who is editor & president of Word&Way, associate director of Churchnet, and author of four books on religion, politics, and communication, joined us for a conversation about Christian Nationalism. Christian Nationalism is an ideology, which seeks to merge Christian and American identities and in doing so, distorts both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. On January 6, when the assault on the capitol happened our conversation with Brian felt prophetic. Join us for Zoom at Noon as we discuss the assault on the Capitol and how it intersects with the disturbing movement known as Christian Nationalism.



Brian Kaylor is the editor & president of Word&Way, associate director of Churchnet, and author of four books on religion, politics, and communication. He graduated with an M.A. and Ph.D. in political communication from the University of Missouri. He serves the Baptist World Alliance as Vice-Chair of the Communication Advisory Committee, and as a member Commission on Christian Ethics. Previously, Brian was an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at James Madison University and Brian served as pastor of Union Mound Baptist Church.

CBF Heartland Webinar - Advocating for Rural Community Development Tuesday, March 23 at 3 pm

On March 23 our First Baptist congregation is invited to join leaders from Together for Hope, CBF's rural development coalition, to discuss ways churches can help alleviate poverty in the Heartland.

WEBINAR
Advocating for Rural Development
March 23, 2021 @ 3 p.m.

cbf Heartland

HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN THE HEARTLAND
Register at www.cbfheartland.org/advocacy

TfH

Jason Coker, President of Together for Hope, and L. Nicole Stringfellow, Regional Vice President - Delta, will lead participants through engaging exercises and discussions. For 20 years, Together for Hope has helped to change thinking about poverty. First Baptist folks will know their work from our partnership with the Lakota reservation in Bridger, SD. Bridger was part of Together for Hope's initial focus in changing the lives of those in poverty in our country. As a result of their work, our church was able to join the partnership of CBF churches whose lives have been enriched by our relationship with the people of Bridger. Now, in the wake of the pandemic, Together for Hope's expertise is more vital for our churches than it has ever been.

Our First Baptist family is invited to join in this important discussion. You can register at www.cbfheartland.org/advocacy. Attendees will receive a free copy of *The Mission of Advocacy: A Toolkit for Congregations*



To Senior Pastor Carol McEntyre, the Church Administration and Staff, and the Congregation of the First Baptist Church,

On behalf of the Board of the Odyssey Chamber Music Series, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your support by hosting our music organization for 17 consecutive years.

Without exaggeration, you are the reason Odyssey has been able to survive during the pandemic, whereas too many arts organizations around the world have not been as fortunate. Even during COVID, you have allowed Odyssey musicians to continue making music in your church, carefully and thoughtfully providing a safe haven for local musicians.

Over the years, we have shared happiness and sadness, elation and despair, and so much more – through music, friendship and mutual respect. First Baptist Church and Odyssey have a common interest in passion, one in faith and another in music.

Our first 16 years of collaboration brought together so many people of different ages, colors and cultures. In our 17th year we have been forced to reach out to international audiences on virtual platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. This too would not have been possible without your church – which we also consider our home.

Thank you for regarding Odyssey as a part of your family. We appreciate every opportunity we have to rehearse and perform our concerts at the First Baptist Church. Every concert, we have been humbled by the church's beautiful sanctuary and its acoustics. Perhaps it is because every performance is a celebration of our remarkable collaboration – our community.

Sincerely,

Ayako Tsuruta
Executive and Artistic Director
Odyssey Chamber Music Series

www.OdysseyMissouri.org | info@OdysseyMissouri.org



HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP



- Volunteer to be contacted on short notice to help with cleaning, touchup, light painting, minor repairs, etc. There are usually only a few days between one family moving out of a house, and another moving in so we will have a short window to clean and prep for our next guests.
- Volunteer for the fix-it team to help with longer term improvements and updates on the house to help us utilize this space to its maximum potential for years to come.
- With spring approaching, we do have some immediate needs for yard care and plantings that will bring joy and beauty to our occupants.
- If you are interested in helping with any of these needs, please contact Michael McEntyre, mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org



EXTRA MILE HOUSE

Update from Pastor Michael

Many thanks to those who contacted us or made donations to help with the needs of our Extra Mile family. We have been able to locate all of the initial needs that were recognized for this family. I had the opportunity to meet the family (a mom and 3 little ones) when we dropped off some furniture that had been donated by an FBC family. The mother was so excited about the beds and her toddler helped me assemble them in their room. She (toddler) was excited to have her own bed and loved the quilt and bedding that was donated. They were also beyond grateful to receive two televisions to share but the little girl was most proud of a small white toy chest that had been donated. She pushed it in her room and showed me exactly where it was supposed to go. Thanks to your generosity, we were also able to set up a computer desk for the family's computer, and we used an older desk in the baby's room and made it into a changing table. This week I will deliver the washer and dryer that we were able to purchase with some funds that were given to help out and all should be in place.

As an aside, as we unloaded furniture at the house, I overheard a conversation between the gentleman from the Love Seat (they helped pick up and deliver some of the furniture) and the mom as we were setting up the living room. He asked if she was in the Extra Mile program and went on to talk about what a great program it was and how much he had learned from it. She agreed and they started sharing stories about the life skills they had already learned and how it was transforming what they did. It was a sweet moment that captured the importance and beauty of the work we are supporting.

Thank you again for willingness to say yes to this opportunity to serve. Continue to pray for our Extra Mile family and be in prayer for Love Columbia (formerly LoveINC) as they transition to their new office space this week. We are grateful for the work of this incredible ministry.



Hello, First Baptist Family.

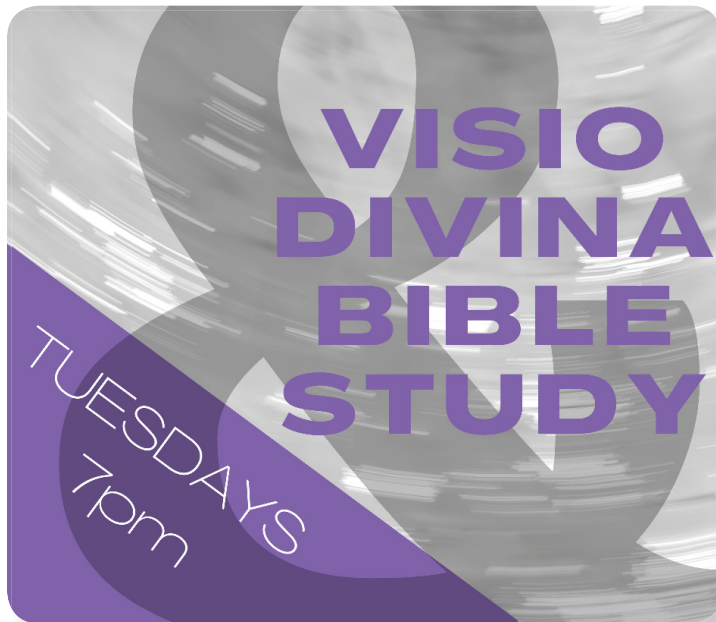
I wanted to give an update on how things are going with my internship at FBC and my progress toward professional chaplaincy.

This experience has been very educational. I have been having great conversations with members of the congregation, and even though I'm supposed to be the one providing care and support, I end each call feeling extremely encouraged. We have such a kind and compassionate congregation that most times I feel like I am the one receiving spiritual care. This has been a wonderful experience and I feel much better prepared for a future in pastoral care, which leads me to my next update.

I recently accepted a residency position at a hospital in Fresno, California. The program starts at the end of August, so we will probably move at the end of July. This will give me plenty of time to continue my internship through the end of April. We were originally hoping to stay local, but the program in Fresno ended up being the best fit.

First Baptist has truly become a home for our family and making the decision to leave was very difficult for us. We are so grateful to the church for all the ways it has been there for us, including offering me the opportunity to serve as your pastoral care intern. Thank you so much for all that you have done for us and all you do for our community. You will always be in our hearts.

Jon Ludwig
Pastoral Care Intern



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 non-secular 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.



First Baptist Book Club - April 13

The First Baptist Book Club is excited to announce their next read: *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Michael Curry. As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry’s life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more importantly, how to go a whole lot further. You can purchase the book on your own to read before our next discussion on April 13.

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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"



March 11, 2021



Good Friday - April 2
6:00 pm On-lawn

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us for a service of remembrance on the front lawn of the church building at 6:00 pm. Please bring your lawn chair and wear your mask.

the **SPIRE**

In This Issue:

- **Easter Service Options**
- **COVID-19 Updates**
- **Lawn Games & Easter Egg Hunt Save-the-Date**
- **The Calling Update**
- **Zoom at Noon with Brian Kaylor**
- **CBF Heartland Webinar**
- **Odyssey Thank-You**
- **Extra Mile House updates**
- **And much more!**