

March 24, 2021

the SPIRE

 **First Baptist Church**
columbia



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.

AGAIN & AGAIN THE SUN RISES



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.

Easter Service - April 4 Online at 9:15 am & On-lawn at 11:15 am

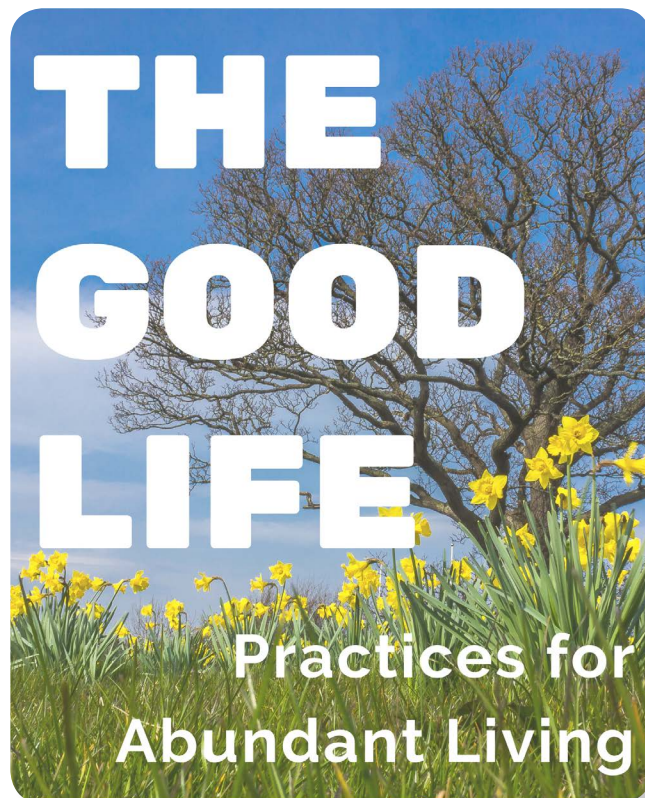
For Easter, both online and on-lawn worship services will have musical leadership from the Awakening Praise Band and the Traditional Worship Team. The Sunday following Easter, we will begin rotating the music leadership of the services every few weeks to allow for a variety of musical styles to be experienced in-person on the lawn. Please continue to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and remain home when feeling unwell.



The Good Life: Practices for Abundant Living

New Sermon Series Beginning April 11

What makes for a good life? Grappling with questions about what makes a good life is part of being human; this past year has led many of us to evaluate this question even further. In the coming months, as more people get vaccinated and we move toward our new normal, this sermon series *The Good Life: Practices for Abundant Living*, invites us to think about and reflect on how we want to live going forward in light of our Christian values. Instead of simply longing for what was, our hope is to discern how God is calling us to live now, and consciously make choices to follow in Christ's footsteps. Without this space for reflection, chances are the inevitable tide of busyness will wash away any opportunity for reflection. This series is built on the wisdom of Christian theology and the ways in which authentic Christian practices bring about true and lasting life satisfaction. We look forward to sharing in this series beginning April 11.



First Kids Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3 -10:00 am-Noon

First Kids is delighted to host our Easter Egg hunt again this year on the First Baptist front lawn from 10am - 12pm. We are working diligently to implement best practices for COVID and ask that all families RSVP to Pastor Brittany as soon as possible by email to bnull@fbccolumbia.org. Egg Hunts will take place in smaller groups and other low-touch activities will be available while families are waiting for their group to hunt eggs. We ask that all participants two years old and up wear a mask to the best of their ability, regardless of vaccination status. We look forward to some safe Easter fun with our families!

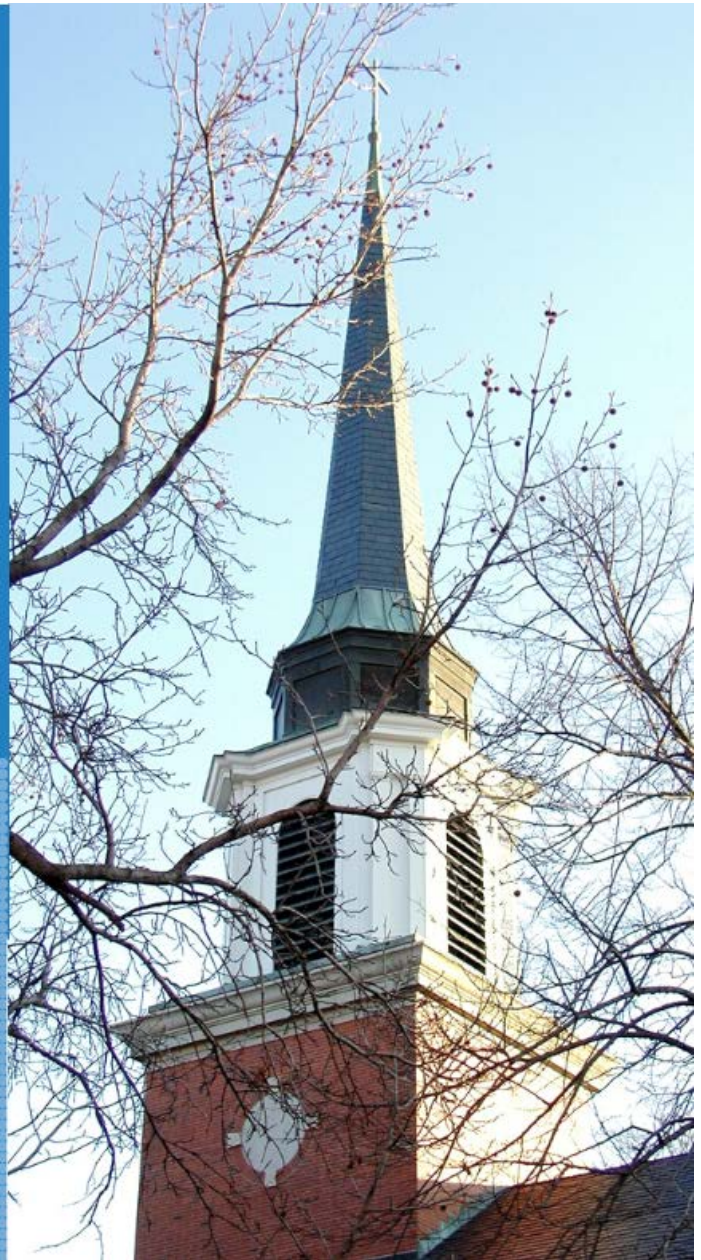
Business Meeting



First Baptist Business Meeting

VIA **zoom**

Sunday, April 18
1:00 pm



Church Business Meeting

Sunday, April 18 at 1:00 pm via Zoom

On Sunday, April 18 at 1:00 pm, First Baptist will gather for a special called Business Meeting via Zoom. Thanks to the hard work of our Finance Committee, the *Stepping Toward 200 Taskforce* (a team created by the Church Council in 2019), and our Church Council, a motion is being presented to the church to pay off the remaining building debt from our *Building Tomorrow Today* campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and recent gifts to our Legacy Giving funds, we have the opportunity to retire our approximate remaining debt of \$375,000. This will save us roughly \$50,000 per year in debt services. The Business Meeting will lay out the path on how this will be accomplished and ask the church to vote to approve the retirement of this loan. We hope all our members will take part in this good work.



Life of the Church

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!

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. 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.



Guidelines for Front Lawn Services

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.

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.



MARY VANRHEENEN & KEITH HOLMES

CBF FIELD PERSONNEL



March 2021



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

Have you ever thought you were really doing a good deed, only to discover that the intended beneficiaries did not appreciate your efforts at all? (I can visualize parents are all shaking their heads “yes”.) Here’s a classic example that happened to us last week:

Vasilita and Catea started a children’s Bible club in the Romany village of Vulcanesti, Moldova. Two Romanian friends of mine offered to help, long-distance, with suggestions. Vasilita and Catea accepted the offer, gratefully. They are going through the Bible and had gotten to Abraham & Sarah.

One of the Romanians had seen a video of Abraham and Isaac which really touched her. It was made in English, but someone had posted it on YouTube with Romanian subtitles. She found someone to read and record the subtitles. Keith put the recording with the video. Last week the Moldovan pastor showed the video to the children’s club. He sent photos. Wonderful! We were rejoicing!

The next day Catea and Vasilita talked with the other Romanian friend on the phone. They were not rejoicing. They were not even grateful. Next time, they said, could we dub videos into Russian rather than Romanian? Most of the kids don’t understand Romanian well because their families so often go to Russia to work. Not the reaction we had anticipated! We thought we’d found something fantastic for this children’s club. But we hadn’t asked the leaders what they thought of the video. We hadn’t asked them whether they would want it dubbed into Romanian or if they wanted the pastor to show it to the children’s club. We thought it was a great idea and just did it.

Contrast this with another video project Keith was involved with. Some Sinti-speaking believers wanted to dub a video of Paul Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. Keith and I looked at the 70’s-era video and, well, it didn’t speak to us. But they persisted, so Keith recorded. More than ten years later Sinti-believers are still asking for this video. It really speaks to them in a way they can use.

Unlike God, we do not know what is best for the people we meet. Like Jesus did with blind Bartimaeus, we can stop and ask and listen.



MARY VANRHEENEN & KEITH HOLMES

CBF FIELD PERSONNEL

Thankful for:

- God at work, even through our mistakes;
- Student.Go program and intern Sofia Hines;
- Leaders of children's Bible club in Romany village of Vulcanesti, Moldova.

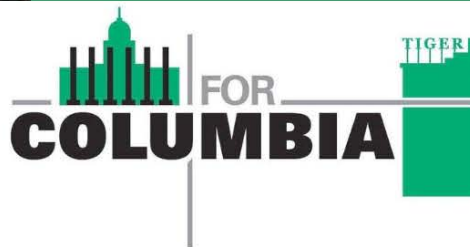
Request prayer for:

- Sofia's work, including posting updates on [Davar: Bridging to Literacy website](#);
- Development and distribution of video materials for oral learners, particularly like those in the children's Bible club;
- Zoltan, a partner who leads a children's club in a Romany village in Romania.

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 CBF offering goes to funding the ministry of field personnel.

www.cbf.net



2021
Workday
June 5

ForColumbia 2021 Workday

ForColumbia is back and gearing up to serve our city on June 5, 2021. Project planning is currently underway as we work with ministry partners in our community to identify needs. Referrals for projects to be considered can also be made at <https://www.forcolumbia.com/referral>. First Baptist is already planning on work at the new Extra Mile house as well as another project at Benton Elementary. More details to come. Signups for ForColumbia begin April 18.

Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor
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Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions
& Administration
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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation
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Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist
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Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director
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Amy Johns, Music Director-Traditional
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Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
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Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
brice@fbc-columbia.org

Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

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"Return Service Requested"



Easter Service- April 4
Online at 9:15 am &
On-lawn at 11:15 am

See front page for more info.

March 24, 2021

the SPIRE

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