

April 21, 2021

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



First Baptist Hiking Club

Who is ready to explore the great outdoors with actual human connection? Well, we have an opportunity for you! Join Kimberly Moeller and Misty Phillips as they lead you through some beautiful hiking trails both around Columbia and, at times, through other adventures in Missouri. We will spend time in the great outdoors together as we build a hiking community, get exercise, and provide healing from COVID. Nature is a great way to find peace and often a spiritual connection with others and God. We respectfully ask that masks be worn regardless of vaccination status.

Join us the 4th weekend of each month (rotating between Saturday and Sunday), beginning Sunday April 25 at 1:00 pm at MKT Trail Forum Blvd. There is a parking lot at the Forum entrance. A calendar with hiking opportunities for the year will be forthcoming soon.

If you would like to join us or be on the email list for future hikes, please RSVP by email to Kimberly Moeller at knmoelle@gmail.com or Misty Phillips at mistya2014@gmail.com.



Join Us for 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.



Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist,

The pandemic has impacted our church and congregation in countless ways. One of the more difficult consequences of the needed shutdowns was the necessity to close the Child Development Center (CDC) due to city regulations and concerns for the health of our students and staff. The CDC has been closed since the pandemic began in March of 2020, which means CDC currently has no staff and no students. In recent weeks, many have been asking questions about the future of CDC, wondering about its status and if it will be able to reopen. The time has come to address these difficult questions.

On April 6, Dave Walker, our Church Moderator, and I brought a recommendation to the Church Council to form a Discernment Committee dedicated to evaluating and understanding the life and goals of the Child Development Center at First Baptist and making recommendations on its future in our church. The Church Council approved this decision and will move forward with creating this team. For over 50 years, the Child Development Center has been a ministry supported by and housed within First Baptist Church. As such, First Baptist has integral role in deciding what is next. If CDC is going to permanently close, then First Baptist (the church as a whole) needs to give input and have some ownership in that decision. Conversely, if CDC is going to reopen, we know it would take a substantial investment of time and financial resources from the church, so First Baptist (the church as a whole) would need to take ownership in that decision too. Considering these factors, the Discernment Committee will include broad representation from the church body.

The Discernment Committee will be tasked with determining:

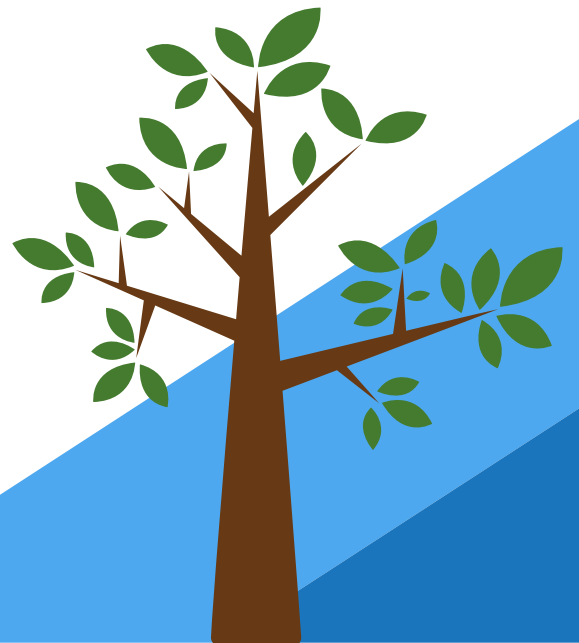
- If the life and goals of a Child Development Center like ours is still a pressing need on our community?
- If that need is still present, is it feasible for our congregation to work towards reopening CDC?
- Finally, if it is feasible, does the church have the passions and commitment to invest in reopening and maintaining the CDC?

The Discernment Committee will be seeking input from former and current CDC board members, leaders, teachers, and others in our congregation as they work through this process. Members of the Discernment Committee are currently being recruited and more information will be forthcoming when they begin their work. This committee will report back to the Church Council, which will bring further recommendations to the church at large.

Carle McIntyre



Financial Update



1st Quarter Financial Update

The first quarter of our 2021 financial year continues to prove the generosity and steadfastness of our congregation. Both pledged and unpledged contributions are ahead of budget with nearly 30% of the total having been collected in the first three months. When you combine this with the nearly 100% of budgeted contributions collected last year, the strong commitment of our membership and others is obvious. Our expenses are also well within the proposed budget.

Based on this good news, and some recent donations, the financial outlook for our Church is very good. In the past few months, we have received significant donations from the Hughes and Crabb Families. Keep in mind that although we have a significant endowment, it is the generosity of our congregation that enables First Baptist to serve our community in a variety of ways. The most recent of these activities is a partnership with Love Columbia to support the Extra Mile House. So, a big thank you to all of you for your continued generosity and to our church staff for their excellent stewardship of our resources and our facilities.

-Ken Hammann, *Treasurer*

We are Debt Free!

On Sunday, in the called church business meeting, our congregation voted unanimously to pay off the remaining Building Tomorrow Today debt. This week, Stephen Hoell, Finance Committee Chair, Ken Hamman, Church Treasurer and Pastor Michael McEntyre worked quickly with our bank to retire the debt. As a reminder, the debt was incurred in 2012 when we renovated our fellowship hall and made other repairs to our building. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and recent gifts to our Legacy Giving Fund given by the Bill Crabb family, we were able to retire our approximate remaining debt of \$375,000. We give thanks for the financial gifts to our congregation, which made this possible. We celebrate the retiring of the debt!

-Carol McEntyre, *Senior Pastor*



First Baptist Racial Justice Team

The First Baptist Church Racial Justice Team provides opportunities to enrich First Baptist's understanding of racial injustice, systemic racism, and white privilege with book and film studies, attendance at lectures, participation in pilgrimages, exploration of the arts, review of related history, and by building interracial relationships. The Racial Justice Team also explores local actions promoting racial justice in our church and our community.

Me and White Supremacy

by Layla F. Saad

Reviewed by First Baptist Racial Justice Team member, Stephen Hoell:

"For several years FBC has hosted a variety of small group studies that have offered language for and increased my awareness of white privilege and systemic racism. A book I happened upon titled, "Me and White Supremacy", by teacher, author and host of the Good Ancestor Podcast, Layla F. Saad, I found quite valuable. I anticipated finishing the audiobook in under 3 hours and moving on to another book on my list. Two minutes in, however, I realized this book was intended as a 28-day journal with daily questions for deep self-reflection and written responses. Like other books, my plan was to listen and take a few notes so I kept going at 2x playback speed until 45 minutes later when I HEARD: "White exceptionalism is the little voice that convinces you that you can listen to this book but you do not have to do the work. That because you have an intellectual understanding of the concepts being presented here, you do not have to diligently write out your responses to questions. That you can just think about it in your mind, and that is enough." Whoa! I was practicing white exceptionalism. I was embarrassed and uncomfortable. Instead of barreling forward, I stopped, went back to the beginning and slowed down to engage the tough, personal, and meaningful work of deep self-reflection to write down my responses. In a society that is deeply conditioned to elevate whiteness, I'd encourage you to engage with this book or one like it when you are ready. Reach out to me or other members of the Racial Justice Team to discuss and/or explore material like this as, together, we enrich our understanding of racial injustice, systemic racism and white privilege."



Have you read a book or seen a movie that led you to reflect on race? Or heard a speaker, podcast, or musician that challenged you to change? We're looking at this broadly—it could be a novel, an art exhibit, a TED talk, a CD of songs for children. Please consider writing a short review (up to 250 words) for the Spire. We invite all of FBC to participate and want to include materials for all ages—children, teens, and adults. Because this will be a regular feature, if you want to write a review, please email Lynne Lampe at llampe.editor@gmail.com to let her know and to choose a deadline date.



Soil Collection & Rededication Ceremony at the Site of James Scott Lynching

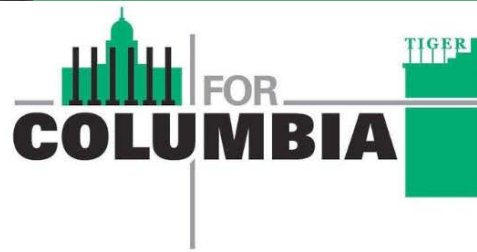
April 29 at 4:00 pm

In support of our community, on April 29th at 4 pm, our First Baptist family is invited to a soil collection ceremony and a rededication of the memorial plaque at the site of Mr. James Scott's murder, on the MKT trail at the intersection of Stewart Road and Providence Road. April 29th is the 98th anniversary of Mr. Scott's murder by lynching. More than 4,400 African Americans were lynched across 20 states between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and 1950. Racial terror lynchings were more than just hangings. They involved groups of white people committing acts of fatal violence against African Americans to instill fear in the entire Black community. These lynchings were frequently carried out in broad daylight and perpetrators could expect impunity.

James Scott, a black man who worked as a janitor at the University of Missouri, was lynched just two blocks from the school in 1923. Scott had been accused of attacking the white daughter of a university professor. Although his guilt was never established, a mob forcibly removed Scott from his jail cell. Newspaper stories estimated that two thousand men, women, and even children watched as men—despite protests by the victim's father—hung Scott by pushing him over the side of the bridge. Though George Barkwell, the white man accused of putting the rope around Scott's neck, stood trial for the lynching, a white jury acquitted him of all charges after just eleven minutes of deliberation. (<https://www.como200.com/history/the-lynching-of-george-bush-and-james-t-scott/>)

Three jars of soil will be collected on April 29. The intent is to display these locally, at the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City and at Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. The Equal Justice Initiative began the soil collection project to help communities confront their histories of racism. The EJI believes it is critical for communities across the country to do the difficult work of unearthing and confronting their own histories of racial injustice, while exploring how that history continues to shape the present. Because the soil remembers the barbarity of lynching even though America tried to bury it.

In 2018, when people from First Baptist went on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage one of our stops was at the Equal Justice Initiative Museum in Montgomery Alabama. We saw the museum's haunting exhibit of jars of soil bearing victims' names from lynching sites all over the country.



2021
Workday
June 5

Sign up now to serve with ForColumbia 2021 on June 5

ForColumbia is back and gearing up to serve our city on June 5, 2021. The leadership of ForColumbia knows that the pandemic is not over and that not everyone will have the chance or ability to be vaccinated by June 5. As such, ForColumbia will be designating sites by different colors designed to allow our volunteers to know the anticipated risks and expected COVID-19 awareness and sensitivity requirements before they sign up. Details for these zones are explained on the registration page found on the ForColumbia website, www.forcolumbia.com.

Choosing a Volunteer Site

Volunteers will have many different projects to choose from to meet personal preferences and physical abilities. There will even be Zoom prayer group options for those who can't attend in person. We know that not all our members will be able to assist with the projects First Baptist will be leading on June 5. Our hope is that everyone who wished to serve can find a project that's right for them. To see the sites planned for our day of service, check out the sites page at www.forcolumbia.com/serving-sites/ (First Baptist will be leading projects at our Extra Mile house and at Benton Elementary School).

Signing Up

To sign up to serve, go to www.forcolumbia.com and click the SIGN UP: ForColumbia 2021 button. You will start by giving your name and email and choosing the COVID-19 sensitivity and awareness level you are most comfortable serving under and agreeing to abide by the safety instructions and precautions for the day. Once you agree, you will be taken to the registration page. Be sure to choose First Baptist from the drop down list under "Your Church." If you wish to serve at one of the specific First Baptist led sites, type in either Benton or Extra Mile in the "name of group" option under the Availability/Skills section. If you have another specific site you are interested in, you can reference it here as well. Complete the rest of the form, including your t-shirt size, and click Submit Application. You will be contacted by your site leader with more project details once registration closes.

I appreciate the work ForColumbia has done to continue to be mindful of the dangers of Covid and working to limit its spread while also proving ways for us to serve our community together. I hope everyone in our First Baptist family who wishes to serve on June 5 can find a project that will fit their particular needs. If you have any questions about a ForColumbia project, don't hesitate to ask me, mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. Please continue to pray for the organization, leadership, and very importantly, the weather, for this city-wide day of service.

Michael McIntyre



Hello Church,

As you may know, my internship ends on April 30, which means that this will be my final Spire article. As such, I wanted to let you all know how much this experience has meant to me. I have learned so much about this church and our congregation. I have met new people and grown closer to those I already knew. I shared in the joys and trials of those I spoke with and witnessed firsthand how much this congregation cares for its people and for the surrounding community. It has truly been a blessing to serve as your Pastoral Care Intern.

As my family and I prepare to move across the country and begin a new chapter in our lives, you might imagine we're a little nervous. The truth is we are very nervous, but the love and support that you all have shown us reminds us of God's loving presence and provision in our lives. Thank you for being there to support and encourage us through this season and for providing me the opportunity to learn and grow alongside such a kind and caring group of people.

With love and gratitude,
Jon Ludwig
Pastoral Care Intern



A note from Amy Johns

The choir will be meeting Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary to rehearse in person. We ask that everyone wear masks, regardless of your vaccination status, and we will be distanced as well. A few things to know: Being able to read music is NOT required nor is any previous singing experience. Anyone who feels comfortable doing so is welcome to join us in song!



Opportunities to Give

With the recent round of stimulus checks that have gone out, several of our church members have asked how they might use part of these funds to help others. If this is something you are considering, there are several ways our church (along with many of our partner ministries in town) can help.

Many of you know about the work of our Samaritan Fund at the church that is used to help with immediate needs (such as rent and utilities) within our community. You may remember that because of your generosity to this fund, our church was able to partner with St. Vincent de Paul this past fall to contribute \$5000 to assist with utility needs in Columbia.

But there are other giving opportunities beyond our Samaritan Fund. For instance, did you know First Baptist has a College Scholarship Fund that awards students money for tuition and other educational needs? You could use part of your stimulus check to invest in the future of students in our congregation by giving to this fund.



-Extra Mile House- sponsored by First Baptist

Our church has also just entered a partnership with Love Columbia to sponsor a transitional housing home through the Extra Mile program. Your funds could be used to help with future updates for this house to provide a beautiful space for those seeking a brighter future and a path out of homelessness.

First Baptist is also working towards an endowment to help fund the return of an ongoing Pastoral Residency ministry in our congregation. Our initial experience with this idea was a wonderful addition to the life and ministry of our congregation and one we are hoping to repeat in the years ahead. Your contributions could help make this a reality.

These are just some of the options available where you can make an ongoing difference in the lives of others. If you would like more information about any of these ministry opportunities, please contact Michael McEntyre, our Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Administration, at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. If you would like to give to one of these areas, you can make your check out to First Baptist and write a description in the memo line to let us know which area you would like to support. If you give electronically, you can do so through our website, and then email or call Michael to make sure your gifts go to the area you choose. We hope these options might be helpful if you are looking for areas to give.



Compassion Camp: Changing the World Through Lovingkindness

I am excited to announce that planning for Compassion Camp is underway!

This year, there are two separate opportunities for Compassion Campers. First Kids Camp will take place in the evenings of July 11-15 and is open for children entering Kindergarten through those who have completed 5th grade. Preschool Camp (an abbreviated 2 day and age appropriate version of Compassion Camp) will take children 3-years-old through 5-years-old shortly after (dates to be announced soon). By offering two camps, we are able to increase capacity for both groups!

We are very excited about both opportunities to learn and grow together!

Brittany McDonald-Null



Attention all Graduates, High School, College, and Beyond!

This has been an incredibly challenging year for all our students, but even more so for those seeking to graduate in 2021. First Baptist wants to recognize all our high school and college graduates that have faced this pandemic with resilience and tenacity. In an effort to honor your accomplishments, we are asking that all graduates (or parents of graduates) send your graduation information to the church no later than Sunday, May 1, so it may be featured in the Spire (for high school students this includes your name, senior photo, school graduating from, and future plans. For our college and post college grads, please include your name, recent photo, parent's names, school you are graduating from, degree you are graduating with, and future plans). Information may be brought

to the church office or emailed electronically to mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org.

We do not want to miss celebrating with any of our graduates, so please help us honor all those within our congregation by sending in this important information soon. More information on plans for our Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 16 will be mailed out soon to seniors and graduates.

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Amy Johns, Music Director-Traditional
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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



April 21, 2021



Graduate Recognition Sunday
See page 9 for more info!

the **SPIRE**

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