

July 21, 2021

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Open House at our Extra Mile Transition House - August 1

We are excited to have the opportunity to invite our congregation to stop by our Extra Mile Transition house on August 1 following both services and our Small Group hour. For those who would like to walk over, we will gather in the front yard (weather permitting) at 10:15 am, 11:10 am, and again at 12:20 pm to walk to the house, approximately 3 blocks away. If you would like to drive, directions will be given out at the church on August 1. At the house, we will take the opportunity to hear how the Extra Mile program is transforming lives, pray for the house and the ministry it represents, as well as offer our congregation ways to volunteer support in the weeks and months ahead.



Extra Mile Transition House Workdays - August 15, 27, and 29

Specifically, you will have the opportunity to sign up to help prep and paint inside the house between August 15 and 27 and take part in our day of cleaning after church on August 29. We will also be working to establish our cleaning, maintenance, and hospitality teams to assist with future transition times between residents. We hope you will make plans to join us after worship on August 1 to see this ministry partnership in action.

First Baptist Church Workday - July 25 from 1-3pm

We are looking for a few people who might be able to assist with some construction and painting projects around the church. We need some simple 2x4 shelving built in a storage area to hold ceiling tiles and air filters, a few areas that need paint scraped, primed, and painted (some on the ceiling), a pegboard installed to organize sound cables in a sanctuary closet, hanging a whiteboard and desk, and help moving some furniture to classrooms. If you are willing to lend a hand with one or more of these projects on Sunday, July 25 from 1:00-3:00 pm please contact Michael McEntyre by email at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org to sign up.





Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

Join us Sunday, August 15 as we seek to Thrive for Racial Justice

First Baptist,

I believe the Spirit of God is on the move in American Christianity. White Christians are finally awakening to the racial injustice in our country and for the first time, we are beginning to see how Christianity has been complicit in upholding racist systems. To use a metaphor from scripture, it is like the scales are falling from our eyes. Years from now, I believe we will look back on this time as a defining moment in the life of our church and in American Christianity.

As you know, First Baptist is part of the *Thriving for Racial Justice* project, which is a cohort of 27 churches from across the United States and Canada who have made a 5-year commitment to take an honest look at how Christianity has perpetuated racism in our country. *Thriving for Racial Justice* is a project of the Alliance of Baptists, in partnership with the Lilly Endowment and sociologists of Race and Religion. This project will work to shed light on the challenges of racism among white dominant congregations in our country and help churches, like First Baptist, to expand our commitment to racial equity and increase our capacity for confronting racial justice.

On Sunday, August 15 during both worship services, I will be preaching about why I think this is so important and during the 10:15 Small Group we will gather in the parlor to learn more about what it means to be a part of the Thrive for Racial Justice cohort. Dr. Kevin Dougherty, one of the sociologists working on the Thrive project will be our guest during the small group hour. Dr. Dougherty is Associate Professor of Sociology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. His research explores religious affiliation, religious participation, racial diversity in congregations, congregational growth and decline, and the impact of religion on other realms of social life such as community involvement, politics, and work. Specifically, he will be giving us an overview of the Thrive project and explaining the survey, which will be administered to our congregation in September.



Dr. Kevin Dougherty

You don't want to miss this important Sunday in the life of our church. I hope you will join us for worship and for the small group hour.



First Baptist,

I had the privilege earlier this week of participating in a conversation with Robert P. Jones the Author of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, which I wanted to share with you.

Drawing on church history, a public opinion survey about racism and his personal experience of growing up Christian, his book delivers a heartbreaking examination of the ways American Christianity and white supremacy have been intertwined. Robby makes an urgent call for white Christians to contend with this legacy for the sake of themselves and the cause of Christ.

Our conversation was an opportunity to discuss the ways local church pastors can contend with this legacy in their churches. I invite you to watch and then, perhaps read or listen to Robby's book. Go to the blog on our website for the link. Or just use this QR code:



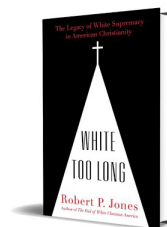
Carl McEntyre



ENGAGING WHITENESS IN YOUR CONGREGATION:

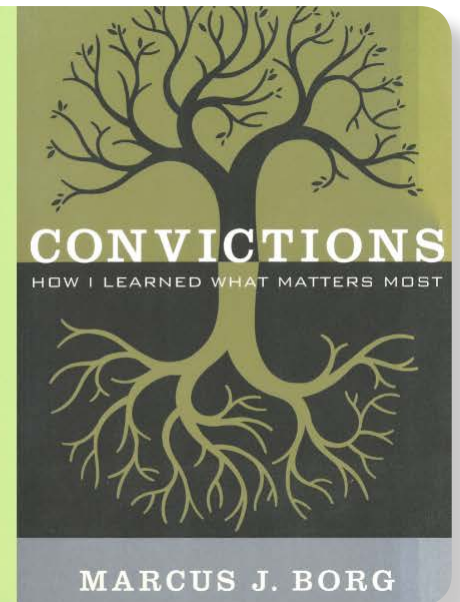
A Conversation with Robert P. Jones,
author of *White Too Long*

Monday, July 19, 2021 at 12:00 Noon EDT





What does it mean to be a **Progressive Christian?** Reflections on Marcus Borg's book *Convictions*



August Sermon Series

What does it mean to be a Progressive Christian? Reflections on Marcus Borg's book *Convictions*

Marcus Borg's book, *Convictions: How I learned What Matters Most*, was one of our First Baptist summer One Reads. On his seventieth birthday, the renowned Christian scholar Marcus Borg wrote *Convictions* as the culmination of his theological reflection and faith in Christ Jesus. Borg answers the question "What's the Christian life all about?" He gets at the heart of what it means to be a progressive Christian in our age. Join us as Pastor Carol preaches on some of the themes from the book. She will be talking about how salvation is about more than the afterlife, how the Bible is political and how Christians are called to peacemaking and nonviolence. If you read the book and are interested in joining Pastor Carol for a discussion session about the book, please email her at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org.



A note from Amy Johns

The Chancel Choir will be taking off the month of August. We are planning to pick up again September 1 and restart the Psalm Players as well. I will send out more information closer to that time.

If you are interested in serving in the Chancel Choir or Psalm Players or just have questions, please reach out to me at ajohns@fbc-columbia.org.



First Baptist Fall Kick-off Has Returned for 2021!

Back by popular demand is our Fall Kick-Off. As we look toward the end of summer, we are gearing up for our almost annual Fall Kick-off after Traditional worship on Sunday, August 22. Our theme this year is an old-fashioned Carnival.

The church will provide the meat, beverages and tableware. We ask you to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We ask that everyone wear their mask when not eating; we will be eating outside to help with the risk of COVID-19. We will also set up some extra tables to allow folks to spread out while eating.

You can look forward to a selection of carnival games with prizes such as ring toss, knock-em-down, and ping-pong game, as well as a photo booth. Or, if you'd like, simply sit and talk with old friends and make some new ones too.



First Kids Pool Party August 1

First Kids and their families are invited to a pool party on August 1 from 4-6 pm at the Thornbrook Pool. Let's beat the heat and have some fun while doing it! Floaties and pool noodles are allowed and there is also a small kiddie pool.

While the pool will continue to be open to Thornbrook residents, First Kids has reserved the clubhouse. Please note, this pool does not have a lifeguard on duty and a caregiver is required to attend with their children.



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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"



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-See Page 5 for more informaton-

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