

October 13, 2021

# the SPIRE



First Baptist Church  
columbia



## FALL FUN FEST

Sunday, November 7

2-6 pm Midway Golf and Games



## Fall Fun Fest & Trunk-or-Treat - Sunday, November 7

We are excited to gather at Midway Golf and Games for our annual Fall Fun Fest. This year, in addition to our traditional activities like food and trunk-or-treat, we will also have fun activities for our community. First Baptist will be hosting an hour of Laser Tag and Archery Tag and First Kids is sponsoring putt-putt for any family who wishes to play\*. Dinner includes a burger, chips, and a frozen treat. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00. Whether you plan to play games or simply hang out in the picnic area and chat, we hope you will join us for fellowship and fun!

### Tentative Schedule

- 2:00 – Gather at Midway Golf and Games
- 2:30 – Laser Tag (8+)
- 4:30 – Trunk or Treat
- 5:00 – Dinner
- 5:30 – Archery Tag



*\*First Kids Families wishing to play miniature golf can check in with Pastor Brittany to receive a ticket to play. We recommend playing between 3:00-4:15 pm but you can select a time that works best for you.*



## Word from the Pastor

### Business Meeting Update

First Baptist,

On Sunday, November 14, after the combined worship service, there will be a brief meeting to vote on the recommendations from the Stepping Toward 200 proposal brought forth at the last business meeting from the Church Council. One of the best elements of Baptist polity is the shared leadership roles between the staff and congregation. When it works well, it brings the entire church along in the life and ministry of the church. The upcoming business meeting is an example of our system of leadership working well.

At our business meeting on October 2, the church received the report regarding the proposal to release a collection of funds generously given over time by various people to our congregation. This report came from the Stepping Towards 200 team and had a vote of support from the Church Council. In the days leading up to the church business meeting on October 2, I had conversations with several of our leaders about whether we as a whole church body needed to vote on the proposal from the Stepping Toward 200 Team. After all, we are Baptist with a congregational polity and shared decision making who regularly vote on the budget, the election of church leadership and other business items. However, no clear precedent existed for the Stepping Toward 200 Team proposal, as it was the first time such a process had been done since the Finance Committee's guidelines for Undesignated funds had been put in place in 2017.

This policy, which led to the formation of the Stepping Toward 200 Team, did not indicate the necessity of a vote. It simply stated when undesignated funds are given to the church:

*Funds above \$50,000 are considered special circumstances. The Church Council will be asked to put together a task force with representation from a broad spectrum of the church to determine how the funds will be spent.*





The church had already given several rounds of input through the 2019 visioning process and our team structure. Due to all this, we ultimately decided not to call for a vote on the Stepping Toward 200 proposal and at the business meeting the church simply received the report. Yet here is where the beauty of being Baptist shines.

At the Finance Committee meeting the following Tuesday, the team expressed an uncomfortable feeling about the lack of a church-wide vote on the proposal. When the policy that guided our process was created, the committee did not envision such a substantial amount of money would fall under this category and agreed that as Baptist, such a sum should not be released without a church-wide vote. To be clear, the Finance Committee has no qualms with the recommendations suggested for the money. They are supportive of the work presented, but want the church to have the opportunity to affirm the use of the money through a vote. As such, they have amended their policy to say:

*Funds above \$50,000 are considered special circumstances. The Church Council will be asked to put together a task force with representation from a broad spectrum of the church to recommend how the funds are spent. This will be brought back to the Church Council for approval and then brought to the next Church Business Meeting for Church wide vote.*

In light of this discussion, and recognizing the intent of the Finance Committee's policy change, we would like to call the church back together for a brief business meeting after the combined service on November 14 for the congregation to vote. The releasing of these funds for ministry is a cause for celebration and the last thing we would want is to create confusion or questions about the work that has been done to honor these gifts that have been given. Luckily, we are people who believe in grace and second chances and a church that knows when it needs a do over! Therefore, we invite you to join us for a brief business meeting after combined worship on Sunday, November 14, where you will have the chance to vote on the Stepping Toward 200 proposal.

With gratitude for shared leadership,

*Pastor Carol McEntyre*



## Time of Sabbath for Pastor Michael McEntyre



In the fall of 1999, my first year of seminary, I accepted my first paid youth ministry position. Outside of my initial 9 months in Columbia before joining the staff, I have served in a church ministry role ever since. In all of that time, this will be my first sabbatical. For the month of November, I will step away from my roles and responsibilities at First Baptist Church to take some time to breathe, care for several personal projects that have continually fallen to the bottom of my list, make a point to reconnect with old friends, laugh with family, and seek out experiences that renew my body and spirit. I will take the opportunity to join a few other communities of worship on Sundays, allow

myself to be present in a service with no responsibilities other than connecting with my Creator, and enjoy the beauty of God's Kingdom in those around me.

Sabbatical can be a holy and humbling experience. Holy because of the opportunity and space provided by my church family to spend this time engaged in activities to renew my soul. Humbling, because despite the worries expressed by some who will be covering for me in my absence, life and ministry at First Baptist will carry on just fine without me. By that, I am not trying to diminish the work I do towards contributing to the life of this community, but rather, I am acknowledging that I am a finite being serving an infinite God in a gifted congregation. I am grateful that the work I do, I don't do alone. As such, there are many who will be lending a hand while I am away to make sure all is well.

I am thankful for our Youth leaders (Lillian Hoell, Michelle Kasmann, Ross Kasmann, Jason Tratchel, and Rena Tratchel) who will be knocking it out of the park with our youth on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Our Trustees will be overseeing the various projects underway while I'm out and lending a hand should any facility or maintenance emergencies arise. Auben Galloway, our Chair of Trustees, will be our point of contact for this. Our Church Treasurer, Ken Hammann, and Chair of Finance, Stephen Hoell, are available to help with any questions regarding budget, giving, or expenditures. Charles Hunter, our Chair of Personnel, will work with the Pastor to check in with staff throughout the month. Pastor Brittany and Pastor Carol will respond to benevolence requests and cover worship needs while I am away. And the Holy Spirit is going to bless all of our technical equipment, internet connections, webcast elements, office computers, sound equipment, and copy machines while I am gone, so that is a big relief.

Thank you to everyone who is making this time possible and to all of those who are adding to their plate so I can take a break from mine. I will see you all again in December for a wonderful Advent season.

Grace and Peace,

*Michael*

Pastor  
Michael  
will be on  
sabbatical  
for the  
month of  
November!



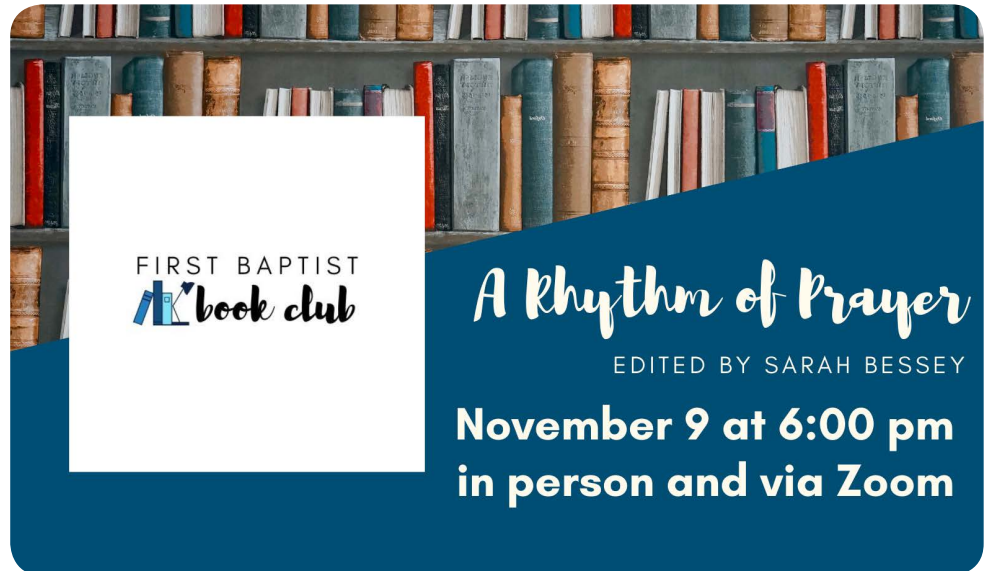
## First Baptist Book Club

November 9 at 6:00 pm

First Baptist Book Club is excited to announce its next read, *A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal* edited by Sarah Bessey. This book is a companion for all who feel the immense joys and challenges of the journey of faith. The collection of prayers says it all aloud, giving readers permission to recognize the weight of all they carry. These writings also offer a broadened imagination of hope—of what can

be restored and made new. Each prayer is an original piece of writing, with new essays by Sarah Bessey throughout. Encompassing the full breadth of the emotional landscape, these deeply tender yet subversive prayers give readers an intimate look at the diverse language and shapes of prayer.

You can buy your own copy from most major retailers and then join the conversation on November 9 at 6 pm. Book Club will meet in the conference room and also via zoom. Email Pastor Brittany to join.



## THRIVE for Racial Justice Survey

Everyone in the First Baptist Family is encouraged to take part in the THRIVE for racial justice online survey. You can find the link on our webpage by clicking the survey rotator on the home page.

Through a grant sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists, First Baptist has made a 5-year commitment to participate in a cohort of 27 churches dedicated to the work of racial justice and equity. As part of this process, the Alliance is conducting this survey to assist in understanding racial realities and dynamics within the Alliance, as well as in our congregation. We believe the work of racial justice is essential gospel work for our time. We are seeking to create a beloved, diverse, and equitable community here on earth, as it is in heaven. We need your help to gather data about where we are now as a congregation to understand what steps we should take moving forward. This understanding will equip us to affirm our strengths, address our weaknesses, and inform the action steps necessary for progress in overcoming barriers to racial justice and unity.



# Alliance of Baptists





## All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 7

All Saints' is a time to remember the lives of saints - any Christian who has 'gone before us.' We will ring a bell in honor of those in our church family who have died in this past year and you will be given a chance to ring a bell in honor of your friends or family members, outside the church, who have died in the past year. Through All Saints', we celebrate Jesus who conquered death and the grave, and so we anticipate heaven as our family reunion with all who have already passed on. Worshippers will be invited to ring a bell in memory of their loved ones. For those worshipping online, a bell can be rung upon request.



## Combined Worship

Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 am

Combined Worship at First Baptist is always a joyous time! The church family gets to come together to praise God and enjoy the musical gifts of both our Awakening and Traditional worship teams. Our next Combined Worship Service will take place on Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary. Pastor Carol will be preaching, but we have a number of special guests. We are honored to have Paul Baxley, the Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, with us in Combined Worship. He is coming to do a site visit with Pastor Brittany McDonald Null who has been taking part in CBF's Fellows Program. A ministry designed to support first call ministers.

In addition, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of CBF Field Personnel Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen. They will join us for worship virtually. Keith and Mary were members of First Baptist before they became field personnel ministering among the Roma people in the Netherlands 25 years ago. We serve as an encourager church for Keith and Mary, providing both financial and emotional support for their ministry.

We hope you will join us for Combined Worship! Small Groups will take place as usual at 10:15. There will be no 9:15 worship.



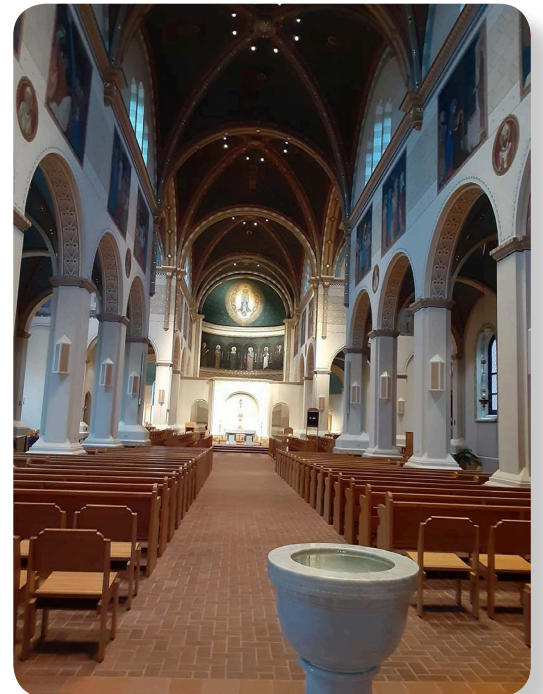


## Contemplative Retreat

This past weekend, 17 First Baptist folks traveled to Conception Abbey, which is a Benedictine Monastery, Retreat Center and Catholic Seminary located in Northwest Missouri. Our group spent 24-hours in silence to connect with God and our own souls. We were invited to take part in the daily cycle of six communal prayer times led by the monks in the Basilica. Below Rebekah Robertson shares her experience of attending the Noon Eucharist service.

Carl McEntyre

*We came to Conception Abbey on family weekend, it so happens. The manager of the Guest House, Maite, warned us in advance that the place was packed with Catholics families on campus to see sons who are attending seminary. She told us that during the Eucharist service, we are welcome to cross our arms and get in line for a blessing from the priest. The family in front of me at Eucharist knew all of the moves and all of the responses. At the appropriate time, they hurried to the front of the line and knelt, tongue out for, I don't know, maybe the actual body of Christ? No one from our group budged. Somehow, I was tucked as far from the line as logistically possible. I would have to excuse myself, excuse myself, excuse myself past all the people in my row to reach the line, (Remember: Silent Retreat). So, I walked quickly yet solemnly all way around and into the line. I crossed my arms over my "Unity without Uniformity" t-shirt.*



*I was nervous. Ok, I was terrified. What if Maite was wrong? What if this priest doesn't do that? What if no one really does? What will he say to me? Should I kneel? I don't know if I can get up with my arms crossed. Will he help me up? Should I genuflect? I am not sure what that means. Would that be disrespectful? Dismissive? Another word I don't even know or couldn't think of? Should I cross myself? Just before my head exploded, I reached the front of the line. My eyes must have been as big as softballs. Awkwardly, SO awkwardly, I stepped forward and looked the priest in the eye, silently pleading for mercy, for acceptance.*

*He looked back at me with mercy and acceptance. I knew, then, that everything would be ok. He put his hand on my head and said, "May God bless you and keep you all the days of your life." I gave a very awkward little bow, almost a curtsy, and walked back to my pew, choking back sobs. He did not judge me or turn me away. He saw that I am different than he is. I am dressed differently. I believe differently. Obviously, he thinks he is right, and I think I am right. And there, in that solemn, terrifying moment, we shared God's love.*

-Rebekah Robertson





## First Families Pumpkin Party

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**October 24  
4 pm on the Lawn**

Our next First Family event is right around the corner. With cooler weather approaching, we are excited to welcome all things fall with a First Families pumpkin party!

Families are invited to the front lawn for some pumpkin-themed games, pumpkin painting contest, treats, and more. Children are invited to wear their costumes!



## First Baptist Ski Trip Interest Meeting Sunday, October 31

Sunday, October 31, following both services, we will have a brief (5-10 minute) meeting at the back of the worship areas to discuss plans for a church-wide ski trip to Winter Park, Colorado over Spring Break (March 27- Apr 1). If you or your family are interested, please make plans to attend. We are trying to determine a general number of people that might be interested in going in order to find appropriate lodging and calculate transportation and pricing. We are hoping to keep cost at or about the same level as in previous years. If you cannot be there but are interested, please email Michael McEntyre ([mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org)).





Crafty Critters exhibit 25 scarves for donation to Operation School Bell, a project supported for the third year by the Crafty Critters, and sponsored by the Assistance League, that provides school clothes for children in low-income areas.

*\*Crafty Critters meet at First Baptist on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm in the 2nd floor Conference Room. All are welcome!*

## STERLING WYATT SCOUT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

**The Wyatt Family** invites First Baptist to the Sterling Wyatt Scout Memorial Scholarship Breakfast on Saturday October 30, 2021.

**Location:** Applebee's, Conley Rd, Columbia

**Time:** 7:30am-10:30 am

Cash or Check \$10 adults/\$5 children.

\*Please Social Distance and wear mask when not seated.

## First Baptist Hiking Club Saturday, October 23 Bonnie View Nature Area

Meet at 1 pm for this beautiful nature area hike - easy option with an additional wooded option to add on for longer hike - additional details provided soon.



For more info contact Kimberly Moeller at [knmoelle@gmail.com](mailto:knmoelle@gmail.com) or Misty Phillips at [mistya2014@gmail.com](mailto:mistya2014@gmail.com).

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**Ministerial Staff:**

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**Michael McEntyre**, Pastor of Youth, Missions  
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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  
*churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Brenda Rice**, Project Coordinator  
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**Bethany James**, Nursery Director  
**Mike Ide**, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



October 13, 2021

**SING  
A NEW  
PSALM**

*All Music Sunday  
October 24*

the **SPIRE**

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**All Music Sunday - October 24**

Join the praise band during the 9:15 am service as we sing some of our favorite contemporary songs and hear some beautiful new ones. Or sing your favorite hymns in the 11:15 am traditional service and hear musical offerings by the choir, band, organ, and handbells.