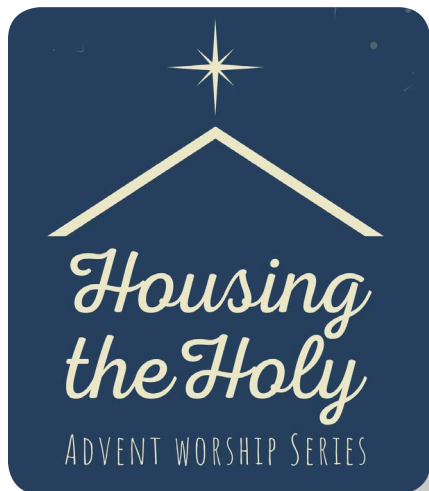


November 10, 2021

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Advent Worship Series - *Housing the Holy*

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas begins on Sunday, November 28. This year our theme is *Housing the Holy*. Advent invites us to remember that just as the star of Bethlehem shown over the stable, the Light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. Throughout the series, we will study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn," the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



Christmas Eve Service

December 24 11:00 pm

With joy, we resume the ultimate celebration, our beautiful Christmas Eve worship service. We celebrate the coming of Christ with carols, the telling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles as we sing "Silent Night." Bring family and friends and join us as we worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 pm.



First Baptist Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 19, 5 pm

We are thrilled to announce the return of our annual Christmas Dinner! Since children can be vaccinated, the Church Council has decided we can feast and celebrate together again. To allow more time for children to be vaccinated, we are moving the dinner to Sunday, December 19 at 5:00. Come prepared for a lovely meal of turkey, ham, and beverages provided by the church, and wonderful side dishes and desserts prepared by you and your First Baptist friends. Come feast and celebrate with us!



Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist,

November is our annual pledge drive at First Baptist, the time of year, when we ask you to consider pledging your support to the church for the coming year. Our theme this year is *Giving in God's Economy*.

God's Economy operates on generosity, the equitable distribution of resources, and sharing what we have. It is a communal economy, which First Baptist already lives into as we work together to sustain the mission and ministry of the church. Every financial gift helps First Baptist fulfill our calling to be a community of faith expressing itself in love. We thank you for your support, year in and out, toward the work of God in this place.

First Baptist is a unique voice for progressive Christianity in Columbia, seeking to form disciples in authentic community working for the liberation and healing of the world, based on the good news of Jesus. I am grateful to be part of this community of faith and to support the church financially.

I invite you to consider pledging toward our 2022 budget. Your pledge ensures our unique Christian voice will continue. You can fill out a pledge card, and return it during worship on Sunday, November 14 or 21, or return it to the church office. Pledge cards will be available at the entrances to the worship spaces, near the bulletins. A digital card is available on our website. If you have questions, please contact the church office.





Our Money Stories

As part of our series *Giving in God's Economy*, in worship on Sunday, I talked about my earliest memory about money; we all have money stories, messages, and values regarding money instilled in us from an early age. I challenged us to think about how those messages might complement or conflict with God's Economy. My money story sparked several of you to share your memories.

Charles Cantrell sent me an email with his heartwarming money story:

My paternal grandfather owned a furniture and appliance store here in Mountain View. When I was young, he had the habit of paying me a nickel when I would go to his store and hug him. My grandmother "suggested" that he should not pay me for hugs. So, he reached in his desk drawer and pulled out a pre-printed blank promissory note. He filled it in and had me sign a promissory note stating, "I promise to pay my grandpa" 50 cents plus interest. I was eight years old and supposed that entitled him to ten hugs. He then explained to my grandmother that he was not giving me nickels but only making a loan. I don't recall ever repaying the note, but he would likely say that it was repaid many times over. I still have the promissory note dated April 7, 1962.

Jen Boeckman also told me her humorous money story:

When I was in Kindergarten, I counted out 100 pennies and then proudly told my mother, "Look, I am a millionaire!" I was disappointed to learn all that money only equaled one dollar.

Joe Forsee shared this sweet memory:

My first memory of money goes back a long way. In the 1930s in Columbia, my mother used to give me a dime and send me to the grocery store at the corner of Hinkson Ave and Paris Road for a loaf of bread. At that time, a loaf of bread was nine cents. And, I got to keep the penny change. A Tootsie Roll was a penny! Guess where my penny went! My first memory of money is pretty sweet.

I wonder, what is your money story? How does it connect with God's money story of generosity, liberation, and love?

Carl McIntyre



Family Fun Fest



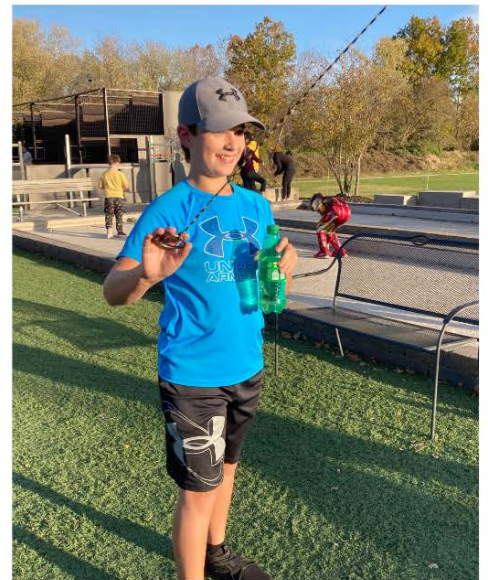
FALL FUN FEST

Midway Golf and Games

Photo Album



Family Fun Fest





First Kids ADVENTure

November 28 at 4 pm

Can you believe it? It's almost here—Advent is right around the corner! There is so much joy surrounding this season, but there can also be a lot of chaos! There are decorations to put up, parties to throw, and presents to purchase. It's so easy to let the entire month of December pass by and we haven't settled in to hear the story of Christmas.

We don't want that to happen this year, so we're hosting an event called "ADVENTure!" This is a fun and interactive experience designed for the whole family! We'll build gingerbread nativities, play games, sing songs, hear the Christmas story, and leave with a few gifts to use throughout Advent. It's a truly sweet way for your family to begin Advent!

We'll be hosting this event on Sunday, November 28 at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. To ensure we have enough kits for every family please register by November 22. Email Pastor Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org. We can't wait to see you there! Merry Advent!



Hanging of the Green

Monday, November 22

Sign up to help with Advent Decorating on Monday, November 22 by signing up at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084fa5ad2aa0f85-advent>

For questions, contact Brenda Rice at brice@fbc-columbia.org



VAC Holiday Giving 2021

First Baptist is sponsoring two families this year through VAC's Holiday Program. Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is a non-profit that exists to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gap between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County. Each year VAC coordinates the collection and distribution of food and gifts for approximately 4,000 people during the holiday season.

First Baptist is participating again in this needed ministry. In addition to toys, books, and games, families often receive needed clothing and household supplies through this program. Cards with individual gift requests will be available Sunday, November 14 on the bulletin board, in the hallway, outside the Sanctuary. Get involved by choosing an item that you would like to donate, take the card, then return the purchased item to the church by December 5.

Please don't gift wrap items, but we do ask that you include the card from the bulletin board with your gift. If you worship with us online but would still like to shop for a gift, you can contact the church office Monday-Friday for our most update list of gifts. If you do not have time to shop but still want to participate, you can make a monetary donation by November 28. Simply indicate "VAC Family Christmas" on your check or offering envelope. A few of our "shopping elves" will be making a trip to pick up last minute items.

If you have any questions, please contact Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation, with questions at bnull@fbc-columbia.org.

American Baptist Churches USA Global Missions Offering

During the month of November, we invite you to give to American Baptist Church's Global Missions offering. Join the transformational work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. Gifts to the General Fund covers expenses for the work of mobilizing the next generation of global servants, building relationships between global servants, international partners, and mission supporters. Through your support of ABCUSA's Global Missions, church leaders receive contextualized theological education, children attend school, survivors of exploitation experience restoration, community leaders become advocates of peace and justice, and indigenous people access clean drinking water.

To ensure your donations are correctly recorded, checks should be made out to First Baptist Church with ABC Offering in the memo line and ABCUSA envelopes are located by the offering boxes. If you wish to give electronically, you may do so here: <https://my.e360giving.com/App/Form/799733f2-f313-42d0-93e4-223f43b9aa16>

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our mission partners.

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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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the **SPIRE**

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Celebrating
25
YEARS

of Ministry with CBF

**KEITH HOLMES &
MARY VAN RHEENEN**



Combined Worship This Sunday, NOV 14
11:15 am in the Sanctuary & online

Join us for Combined Worship this Sunday, where we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of CBF Field Personnel Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen. We will hear an interview with them during worship. Keith and Mary were members of First Baptist before they became field personnel ministering among the Roma people in the Netherlands 25 years ago.