

December 1, 2021

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



ADVENT

@first baptist

Housing the Holy
ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Advent Theme: *Housing the Holy*

Our Advent theme this year is *Housing the Holy*, which recalls the humble stable where Jesus was born and anticipates the ways in which the presence of Christ dwells within us and our church today.

Pastor Brittany has put together an Advent Devotional with scripture readings, questions for reflections, poetry, and breath prayers to help us make room for Christ during this busy season of the year. If you did not have the opportunity to pick up your Advent Devotional, you should be receiving one in the mail.



Word from the Pastor



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist family and friends,

As you know, the Child Development Center (CDC) at First Baptist has been closed since the pandemic began in March of 2020. The regulations placed on childcare facilities and the desire to keep our students and staff safe led to the closure. In the spring of 2021, the Church Council put together a Discernment Team, including Noah Hartsfield, Ken Hammann, Russ Scott, Myra Gallaway and Patty Cornell, dedicated to evaluating and making recommendations regarding the future of the Center. This fall, the Discernment Team came to the unanimous decision that it was not feasible to reopen. While there may still be a need for quality childcare in Columbia, they recognized that with no staff and no students it would take a tremendous amount of energy and funding to relaunch the CDC. After coming to this conclusion, the Discernment Team met with the remaining members of the CDC board, including Patty Cornell, Cheryl Brewer, Rebekah Robertson, Stephen Hoell, Julie Walker and Ross Kasman. The CDC board agreed with the Discernment Team's decision and unanimously and respectfully approved the recommendation that the center be dissolved.

While we are saddened by the closure, this does not negate the incredible ministry CDC has provided to children and their families for more than 50 years! On a personal note, we moved to Columbia when Nate was two years old and shortly thereafter, he enrolled at CDC. It was an incredible gift to our family to have Nate in preschool here at the church. Both my children, Nate and Marin, received a great preschool education at First Baptist. Like mine, so many other families have been blessed by this ministry through the years.

The CDC Board has asked for a commemorative plaque to be placed in the church honoring all those who worked, volunteered, and attended CDC. When feasible, they would also like to hold a celebration commemorating the CDC. You may be wondering, what will happen to the CDC space? For the time being, the space will remain as is. We want to take some time to evaluate the future use of the space and see what new opportunities might emerge. We continue to give thanks for all the incredible board members, directors, teachers, grand-friends, music teachers, staff, volunteers, and children and their families that sustained this ministry.

Carl McIntyre



2022 Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has returned their pledge cards. If you have not, but plan to do so, there is still time! Extra cards can be found in both worship spaces.



Critical Race Theory Discussion

December 4, 10 am - Noon

The First Baptist Racial Justice and Inclusion Team wanted to make you aware that on Saturday, December 4 from 10 am to noon there will be a panel discussion about Critical Race Theory at Rock Bridge Christian Church. The term "Critical Race Theory" is a hot-button term for many these days. But what does it really mean? What is the 1619 Project? How does CRT impact class curriculum? How does the media impact discussion? We will be discussing these topics and hearing from all positions as we work toward understanding and productive action. We ask that masks be worn at the event. You can register to receive a link for at-home participation at

<https://bit.ly/3DqYjTH>



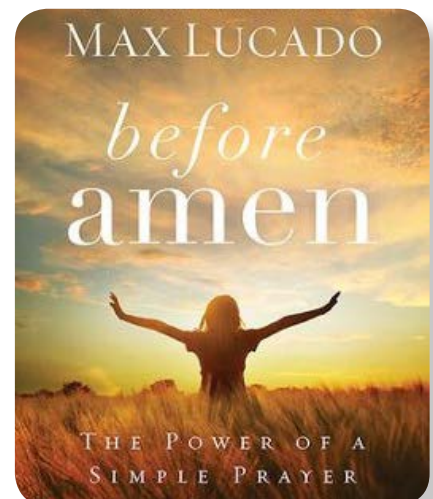
Christmas Eve Service

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.

Women's Bible Study Begins January 13

Our Women's Bible Study group will begin a new study of the book *Before Amen* by Max Lucado on January 13 at 10:30 am on Zoom. We would love to have you join us. If you have questions, please contact Betty Felts or Marilyn Zumwalt. Betty will send you the Zoom link and the books are available at the church.



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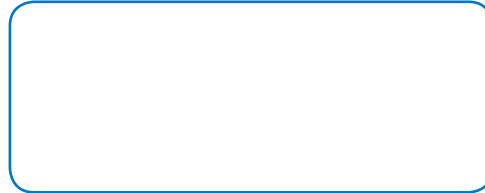
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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



December 1, 2021



First Baptist Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 19, 5 pm

We are thrilled to announce the return of our annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 19 at 5:00 pm. 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!

the SPIRE

In This Issue:

- Advent at First Baptist
- Advent Devotionals
- Word from the Pastor
- Pledge Card Reminder
- Christmas Eve Service
- Critical Race Theory Discussion
- Women's Bible Study
- Christmas Dinner 2021