

December 15, 2021

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Welcome New Member Kris Dallman

Kris Dallman was brought up in the United Methodist church by her parents, Mark and Carol Dallman. Her paternal great grandfather was a minister who delivered his sermons in German. Her dad was a veterinarian and her mom was a reference librarian.

She attended high school at Hickman High in Columbia and studied Fashion Illustration at Stephens College. She has a 30 year old son, Blaine Chandler and a Sheltie fur baby named Jack.

Kris worked at the Boone County Sheriff's Dept for 26 years, until she eventually went back to the University of Missouri in the Department of Physical Therapy. There she has been in charge of running several clinics, working with the graduate students, professors, and patients.

Kris enjoys art of many kinds. She draws, paints, loves animals, plays the handbells, and sings in the church choir. She loves to help people whenever she can and tries to spread kindness because she feels a simple smile can change someone's perspective.

The first time she came to First Baptist, she knew almost immediately that these were her people.



With joy, we celebrated Kris Dallman's baptism on Sunday, December 12.



Word from the Pastor

Announcing Brunch Worship

We are excited to announce Brunch Worship, a holy experiment with healing and connection at its center. On the first Sunday of every month, beginning February 6 and continuing through May 1, First Baptist will gather for worship around a meal and communion at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. This worship service will take the place of our small groups and other worship services for that day.

Why Brunch Worship? Every year Google releases a report called the “Year in Search,” which provides insight into the general ideas, feelings, and spirit of the year. The report gives a unique glimpse into the cultural climate of the year by observing the words that appeared most often in search bars across the globe. Google has recently released its report for 2021. The most frequent search in the world was “How to heal.” Other top searches were related to mental health and well-being such as: “How to take care of your mental health,” and “How to have hope.” People are longing to recover and emerge from Covid-19 and all the turmoil of the last few years. Yet, even before the pandemic, the Surgeon General of the United States named loneliness as an epidemic in our country. We live in an age when people are in theory more connected than ever and yet more lonely and isolated. As a church, we want to be part of the healing and restoration of the world. We believe God created us to thrive in community and we are not meant to go through life alone. Brunch Worship is a chance to build community and draw people closer to God.

Our idea to do Brunch Worship emerged from our desire to build a strong and healthy community of support and mutual care at First Baptist. Brunch Worship is based on a thriving model of ministry called Dinner Church, a movement that sees gathering for a meal as worship. This is based on the model Jesus’ disciples set in Acts 2, which tells us, “The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.” In the second and third centuries, when Christians gathered for worship, they celebrated what they called “love feasts,” sacred shared meals with communion at the center. The early Christians came together regularly for common meals and worship around the table.



What will happen at Brunch Worship? When you arrive, you will be given a name tag and you will take a seat at a table of your choosing. We will begin with a call to worship and an opening song. Then, we will pass the peace of Christ as we fill up our plates with food. The meal will be a potluck. You are invited to contribute to worship by bringing whatever entrée, dessert, fruit, salad, muffin, or store-bought contribution you want to make! After our plates are full, we will take some time to eat and converse. After we will hear a scripture reading, listen to a short reflection or a discussion question, and explore scripture together through discussion. Finally, we will sing, pray, and clean up together.

All children and youth are invited to be full participants in Brunch Worship. Childcare will continue to be available for children from birth through kindergarten. A Virtual Brunch Worship option will be available via Zoom for our church family who cannot join us in person.

We look forward to the ways that we will grow as a community of faith as we worship God through a shared meal, song, conversation, and communion. While this may look and feel different, from other worship services and fellowship opportunities, we hope it will foster a meaningful connection with God and with one another. During this holy experiment, we trust that God will meet us in sacred conversation and broken bread as we gather around the brunch table.

Carl McEntyre





Note from Pastor Michael



Note from Pastor Michael

Thank you to First Baptist for a wonderful sabbatical experience. It is amazing how fast a month can go. I am grateful to my First Baptist family for the chance to rest, regroup, reconnect, and recharge during my sabbatical. My time was filled relearning how to wind down, remembering to breathe, focusing on better health, being present with family, worshipping with other friends and faith communities within Columbia and beyond, and catching up with old friends and mentors who invested in my faith journey over the years. It was time well spent. A few highlights included:

- Space for unrushed devotional time and new practices of recognizing God's presence in my life
- Visiting a former student and his new fiancée in Nashville who had become engaged the Saturday before, and being asked to take part in their wedding next year
- Sharing a meal with several folks who served as adult volunteers in previous student ministries with me and remembering the joy that is forever etched in one's life when they invest in young people
- Sitting in Neyland Stadium (home of the Volunteers) with my mom and dad as we watched Tennessee take the field through the Power T, a sight I saw countless times growing up
- Having the chance to have dinner with my college roommates for the first time in... a long time
- Having the time to help my dad clear the leaves off his yard and remembering the massive leaf piles he used to make us when we were kids
- Returning home to do the same at our house for Nate and Marin and watching them jump into a mountain of leaves so high that the only thing that remained after they took the plunge was the laughter heard from beneath the pile
- Making space for what matters and being grateful for how much this congregation matters to me

These were just some of the experiences that stood out to me during my time away. Thank you to my church, our staff, and my family for making this time possible. Thank you to the many church members who stepped up cover additional responsibilities throughout my sabbatical. Thank you to our youth leaders and youth parents who continued to show our students the breadth of love and grace here at First Baptist. I look forward to this renewed time of ministry and life together.



2021 Pledge Updates and Year-to-Date Financial Report

So far this year, we have received 56 pledges from people/families in our congregation. We had 66 pledges for last year's budget. We are hoping to see this year's number grow a bit by year's end. Pledging is about much more than a financial contribution. A pledge is a way of showing your support for the life and work of First Baptist. If you have not filled out a pledge card and sent it in, you can go to the church website, www.fbc-columbia.org, and click on the Online Giving Options tab at the top and find the button for our 2022 Pledge cards. From here you will be able to fill in the information and click submit. As you make your pledge to First Baptist, know that we pledge to continue to be a place of hope, help, and healing through the grace of Christ as we see our gifts grow in the light of God's economy.



Below is a summary of 2021 budget with our current giving and expenditures. Your generosity and support for the work and ministry of First Baptist continues to ensure the life, love, and vibrancy of our faith family.

2021 Approved Budget Expenditures- \$827,002

2021 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditures- \$611,710 as of Dec 1

2021 Pledged Contributions- \$270,538

2021 Year-to-Date Pledges received- \$240,201

2021 Unpledged Contributions Budgeted- \$30,000

Year-to-Date Giving Statements

The church will be sending out year-to-date giving statements through November this week in an effort to ensure that our contribution records match the personal records of those who have contributed this year. We started this practice last year because of several changes in our system of checks and balances and it was helpful. Our desire is to be as accurate as possible with our records before sending out tax documents in 2022. If you find any discrepancies in your statement, please contact Michael McEntyre for assistance. If no changes are required, any December contributions will be added to the statements and official tax documents will be sent out in January. If you give online, you can always check your contributions by logging into your account. Just as a reminder, for financial gifts to be included on your 2021 statement of charitable contributions, donations must be received in the church office by December 30 (as the office is closed on the 31) or dated and postmarked (either by mail or electronically if giving online) by December 31.



Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 23 at 10:15 am

Join us Sunday, January 23 at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Business Meeting. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and elect our leadership for 2022. Then, we will hear a report from the finance committee and vote on the 2022 budget.



Youth Year-End Schedule

Sunday Morning Small Groups

Our Youth Sunday Morning Small Groups will remain on our normal schedule throughout the season, meeting at 10:15 am in the youth suite each week.

The Calling - Youth Mid-Week Gathering

The Calling will break after the Christmas party on December 22 until we kick off the new year on Wednesday, January 12.

Youth Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 22

Our annual chaotic Youth Christmas party will be December 22. This is a big event to end our weekly Wednesday gatherings (The Calling) until the new year (Jan 12). We'll meet at the McEntyre's house from 6 to 8pm. The highlight of the party will be our gift swap. It is a mix of game show, competition, festivity, and fun as youth go through rounds of gift giving and gift thieving to try and come out with the best presents. Alas, the game does not do a good job following the Golden Rule, but it is good fun and always quite memorable. Youth are each asked to bring a gift (between \$5 and \$10 if possible). The goal is to bring something others would really hope to get (fun toy, clever creation, entertaining trinket, or a gift card in a pinch). We'll take it from there. Dinner and snacks will be provided.



Youth Day Trip

Monday, January 17

The youth group is planning on having a day trip on Monday, January 17. We are currently working out details, but plan to leave the church that morning, weather permitting, and be back in the late afternoon. More details to come soon.

Unidiversity Youth Camp

June 25 through July 2

I know this date is a long way off, but I wanted to make sure it gets on everyone's calendars. We've had to miss the last 2 years of camp so I am really looking forward to taking a group this year back to Maryville College in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains for a great week at Unidiversity. More details to come in 2022!

-Pastor Michael McEntyre



Trustees Project Report

As we come together to celebrate this Advent season you may have noticed several updates around the church. The Trustees have been hard at work this Fall to line up several projects for the months to come. Most recently we have repaired/replaced the parking lot sidewalk entrance and created a walkway into the parking lot from the Elevator Lobby sidewalk to allow easier access to our new ADA parking spaces. This is the first of several sidewalk updates scheduled for the months ahead. Next will be a reconstruction of the south Waugh Street sidewalk that leads to the choir area. This area consistently holds water and creates a freezing hazard each winter. Other areas will be addressed through to spring as weather permits.

On top of the concrete work, the Trustees worked to replace the failing double doors to the Children's Building hallway with large new insulated glass doors complete with ADA compliant automation to allow push button assisted opening for those who need it. This was part of our visioning process to assist with accessibility to our building. We are also in the process of adding automation to the Children's Building door to the courtyard and the sanctuary entrance from the courtyard to allow for handicap access to the sanctuary from this part of the church. Push bar exits have also been installed on the south Waugh Street door for security purposes and assisted access.

Yoga Returns to First Baptist

Begins on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 10:00 am

In the new year, Sarah Judd will begin offering Gentle Yoga on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Youth Room. Gentle Yoga focuses on mindfulness of breath and body, and works on flexibility, strength, and balance, and can be done from either a mat or a chair. No previous yoga experience is required to participate. The sessions will be about 50 minutes and cost \$10 per person. For more information contact sarahxjudd@gmail.com

First Baptist Ski Trip

Tentatively Set for 2023

After looking at the responses to our interest meeting and email inquiries, there are too many personal conflicts with a 2022 Spring Break ski trip next year for us to meet the minimum requirements for discounts. As such, we will move our trip planning to 2023 and gauge interest next fall for a possible trip.



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Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



December 15, 2021

COMBINED WORSHIP
DECEMBER 26
11:15 AM
Housing the Holy
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES

Combined Worship
December 26, 11:15 am

On December 26, we will come together for Combined Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary to celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas. Small Groups will meet as usual. There will be no 9:15 am worship service.

the **SPIRE**

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