

January 8, 2020

# the SPIRE



**First Baptist Church**  
columbia



## Combined Worship & Annual Business Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 26 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary for Combined Worship followed by our Annual Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We will pause to look back at the highlights of the last year and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. We will talk about ministry plans for 2020. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and the 2020 budget. Soup and sandwiches will be provided for a suggested donation of \$6.00. Small groups will still meet at 10:15 am.

For Parents:  
The nursery (Birth-Age 3) will open at 10:15 am and remain open until the business meeting ends.

First Kids Sunday School will meet as usual at 10:15 am for potty-trained 3-year-olds through 5th grade.

At 11:15 am, 1st - 5th graders are encouraged to participate in combined worship with their family. Potty-trained 3-year-olds through kindergarten can remain upstairs for extended session.

Following worship, children who participated in combined worship can be brought upstairs to join those in extended session for pizza, games, and activities.

## Combined Worship & Annual Business Meeting January 26



### Upcoming Events

#### January 12

New Sermon Series Begins: *You're Enough*

#### January 26

11:15 am Combined Worship in the Sanctuary  
12:15 pm Annual Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

#### February 21-22

Christianity & Transgender Inclusion:  
an Ecumenical event with Austen Hartke

#### February 26

6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

#### March 1

9:15 am Combined Worship



## **Christianity & Transgender Inclusion**

*with Austen Hartke*

*February 21-22*

Back in October, one of the mega churches in Columbia did two sermons that were against the full inclusion and affirmation of LGBTQ+ Christians. The sermons caused quite a bit of controversy in Columbia and a great deal of trauma in the LGBTQ+ community. When the controversy erupted, I wished that people in Columbia knew that not all Christians share that church's theology. I wanted to support the LGBTQ+ community and counter the harm that Christians have done. I thought it would be a powerful witness if a group of progressive Christian churches could come together to offer a counter theology, a theology that fully affirms LGBTQ+ Christians and has a robust biblical and theological stance to back up that affirmation.

Sometime ago, I had heard transgender theologian, Austen Hartke, speak on a podcast and was very impressed. I looked him up and found out that he is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. He is also the creator of the YouTube series *Transgender and Christian*, which seeks to understand, interpret, and share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. He has spoken at conferences all over the country, including events for The Reformation Project, Gender Spectrum, Evolving Faith, Q Christian Fellowship, the Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference, and the Why Christian Conference.

With all of this in mind, I reached out to Austen and inquired about his availability to come to Columbia and speak. Austen indicated that he would be interested. So, with the Church Council's blessing I wrote an email to all the progressive Christian churches in Columbia inviting them to join us in co-sponsoring a weekend of Christianity and Transgender Inclusion with Austen Hartke. The response was an enthusiastic yes!

Seven churches and two non-profits signed on to co-sponsor the event. As a result, we are excited to announce that Austen Hartke will be coming to Columbia February 21-22. With First Baptist's long history of inclusion and justice efforts in the community, it seems fitting that we should take the lead on an event like this. I am very proud that we will be hosting; I hope you will join me in spreading the word about the event and plan to attend.

*Carl McIntyre*



# Christianity & Transgender Inclusion Event with **Austen Hartke** transgender theologian

**FEB. 21**  
6:30 PM & 7:15 PM

**FEB. 22**  
10:00 AM

ECUMENICAL EVENT @ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Friday, Feb. 21st, come hear Hartke tell his story of coming out as bisexual and transgender, from his childhood in non-affirming churches, to the Bible stories that gave him strength as an adult. Saturday, Feb. 22nd, he will talk about the biblical texts historically used to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community and dig into stories of biblical characters who didn't fit the mold when it comes to gender expression.

**FREE**  
ECUMENICAL EVENT

1112 E. BROADWAY, COLUMBIA, MO  
NO TICKETS ARE NECESSARY AND  
CHILDCARE PROVIDED WITH RESERVATION.

**Sponsored by:**  
First Baptist Church, The Center Project, Rock Bridge  
Christian Church, Broadway Christian Church, St. Andrew's  
Lutheran Church, Columbia United Church of Christ, Unity  
and Unitarian Universalist Church and Heart Space Clinic

For more information visit  
[fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org)





## Advocacy in Action in the Heartland February 8-10

This 3-day CBF Heartland event, hosted by First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri, is in partnership with CBF Global, Word & Way, and Churchnet. Christian ethicist and author, David Gushee, will kick off the conference on Saturday morning with a zoom session focused on his newest book, *Moral Leadership for a Divided Age*. Heartland Advocacy in Action will spend the next 3 days with discussions centered around advocacy. The topics will primarily focus on the issues of payday lending and church/state separation and will conclude with the opportunity to put the newly obtained knowledge into action. Registration is \$50, which includes a copy of David Gushee's book and two meals. Lodging is additional. You can register now at <http://cbfheartland.org/heartland-advocacy-in-action>



Here is the working schedule for the upcoming Heartland Advocacy in Action workshop:

<b>Saturday, Feb. 8</b>	
8:30 am	registration & snacks
9:00 am	welcome, get acquainted
9:30 am	morning devotional
10:00 am	zoom session with David Gushee on moral leadership
12:00 pm	lunch
1:00 pm	afternoon sessions: Johnson Amendment 101, Local Government 101, Insider Perspective on Local Government, When Local Government Won't Listen
5:15 pm	dinner on your own; free evening
<b>Sunday, Feb. 9</b>	
9:30 am	Sunday School session on the Bible & advocacy
10:15 am	worship at First Baptist Church
12:00 pm	lunch
1:00 pm	Afternoon sessions on State Government 101, How to Testify at the Capitol, When State Government Won't Listen, Communicating Your Passion, & more.
5:15 pm	dinner on your own; free evening
<b>Monday, Feb. 10</b>	
8:30 am	morning devotional
8:45 am	Meeting a Legislator 101
9:30 am	head to Capitol for visits with representative & senator
11:15 am	Debrief & reflect together at FBC
12:00 pm	Dismiss



## Encourager Church

*First Baptist to become an Encourager Church for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Field Personnel Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen*



The Serving Team, with the blessing of the Church Council, has moved forward in its plans for First Baptist to serve as an Encourager Church for our long-time missionaries, Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen. Recently the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship asked churches to consider officially partnering with field personnel around the world to serve as Encourager Churches. Keith and Mary reached out to us and asked if we would consider serving in this capacity. This has much in common with the historic sending church model, while maintaining the collaborative work of the larger CBF network.

An Encourager Church is one that covenants with field personnel to promote and share about their ongoing mission efforts, provide prayer support for the ministry, help with administrative needs when stateside, engage with the work being done, and offer faithful financial support. As these are all items that First Baptist already does, the decision to become an Encourager Church is fitting. Please join us on January 26 as we celebrate this ongoing partnership and the work of Keith and Mary in our combined worship service.

*Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel, from First Baptist, serving as resource coordinators for Romany and those working with Romany throughout Europe. This husband-wife team focuses on Christian media resources in major Romany languages and educational resources.*

## The Calling Youth Ministry Kick-Off

*January 15*

The Calling kicks off January 15 with an incredible evening at the all-new Level Up! We will start at 6:00pm with bowling, followed by laser tag on the new course. At 5:20 pm we will meet for dinner in the food court for those who want to join. The cost is \$10 per person. As always, friends are welcome to join. The Calling will return to its regular time (6:00-7:15 pm) in the youth suite on Wednesday January 22.





## Room at the Inn 2020 Update

As many of you know, First Baptist is unable to host Room at the Inn this year because of the necessary upgrades pending to the sanitation system in the Education Building. We hope to have these issues addressed by next season, but regrettably we will be unable to host at this time. Fortunately, that does not mean that we are unable to SERVE with Room at the Inn this season. The shelter still needs volunteers for all its shifts in order to be successful. Volunteers can assist in a number of different ways depending on the times they are available and the amount of work they wish to do. Each night is broken into several shifts, each with its specific duties.

Below is a general schedule of the different volunteer shifts and the link to sign up is at <https://roomattheinncomo.org/>

Volunteers during evening and morning shifts must be 18 or older, and 23 or older for overnight shifts.

Setup: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Evening: 6:15 pm - 9:30 or 11:30 pm

Overnight: 11:15 pm - 5:30 am

Morning: 5:15 am - 8:00 am

### Laundry Transport Volunteers

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY MORNING (except for weeks beginning with a transition which will be Sunday, Wednesday, Friday): arrive at the shelter between 6:00 and 7:00 am.

SUNDAY MORNING: pick up the dirty laundry between 7:30 am and 12:30 pm and transport it to University Hospital.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY EVENING: Pick up clean laundry from University Hospital and deliver to the shelter before 7:00 pm.



Thank you  
for all your  
help!

*Brenda Rice*



## Prayers & Concerns

### *-Prayer Requests-*

-The Cornell family and friends, as they mourn the loss of Dell Keepers.

-Brittany McDonald's Aunt Katrena Heckford, who is having complications with cancer treatment.

-Rebecca Leach, whose husband's niece Tinley, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

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**Ministerial Staff:**

**Carol McEntyre**, Senior Pastor  
*mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Michael McEntyre**, Associate Pastor  
of Youth, Missions, & Interim Administration  
*mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Brittany McDonald Null**, Interim Assistant Pastor  
*bnull@fbc-columbia.org*

**Music Staff:**

**Colleen Ostercamp**, Organist  
*gostercamp@gmail.com*  
**Shelby Myers**, Awakening Praise Band Director  
*smyers@fbc-columbia.org*  
**Marques J. Ruff**, Interim Music Director-Traditional  
*ruff@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

**Child Development Center:**

**Misty Phillips**, Director

"Return Service Requested"



**SERMON SERIES**

**JANUARY 12 -  
FEBRUARY 23**

**New Sermon Series**

January 12-February 23

*You're Enough: Embracing Original Blessing*

Scripture tells us when God spoke the world into existence, all of creation was anointed with goodness. God bestowed this gift before creation had done anything at all. This gift is called original blessing and all human beings are endowed with it! Come learn how original blessing can be an anchor that reminds each of us, "You're Enough."

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