

April 1, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



First Baptist Contact Info

The church building is closed but we have always known that the church is more than a building. Throughout this time of physical distancing, the church is still at work being a community of faith and care. If you are in need of help or support we encourage you to reach out. Here are some of the ways we are caring for one another and contact information you might need:



Pastoral Care

If you find yourself struggling with anxiety or fear and need pastoral care, you can contact Pastor Carol McEntyre at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org or 573-303-4987.



Congregational Care Team

We have formed a Care Team to call and check on senior adults every couple of days. We recognize there may be people in our congregation who are not senior adults who might need care. If you or someone you know in our congregation is in need of help or support, you can email Diaconate Chair, Rena Tratchel, rjtratchel@gmail.com



Technology Help

We know technology can be intimidating. If you need help accessing our online Zoom gatherings or viewing our Sunday morning worship service, you can contact:

Bryce Null
bryce.dm.null@gmail.com
Jason Tratchel
jwtratchel@gmail.com
Michael McEntyre
mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org
Brittany McDonald Null
bnull@fbc-columbia.org



Prayer Requests

Prayer is about helping to align the world with God's goodness and mercy. Therefore, we have set up a dedicated phone number and email for prayer requests. If you would like to add something to the prayer list or are in need of prayer, you can utilize **573-326-9490** or firstbaptistcomoprayer@gmail.com



First Baptist COVID-19 Information

First Baptist Family,

As you know, a few weeks ago the First Baptist Church council and church staff made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all in-person gatherings in order to love our neighbors well by helping to flatten the curve of COVID-19. At that time, we were not sure how long gatherings would be suspended, and we had hoped to return by Easter, however, we now know this will not be the case. Last Tuesday, our city made the brave decision to issue a stay at home order through April 23. We have received word from the Public Health department that we can continue with our livestreamed worship service and will broadcast on Easter Sunday at 11:15 am. We have reduced the staff at each service and have separate areas for each person to reduce contact and maintain social distancing.

We know this is heartbreaking. We lament that we will not be physically together to sing our Easter Alleluias on April 12. However, whether we are sitting in pews or on our sofas, Christ is risen. Our voices will echo throughout the community as we proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection Life, even when hope is hard to find. This will be our mini-Easter.

Then, when this season passes, and we can come together at last, we will celebrate Easter together. We believe that every day is a good day to celebrate the resurrection. We will adorn our space with flowers, and proclaim the newness of life and the mystery of our faith:

*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

We know this is not how you envisioned Easter, but we are continuing to work on creative ways to be the Church together. We encourage you to make an "At Home Hallelujah" banner. You can use side-walk chalk, markers, paints, or whatever you have, write the word "Hallelujah," and place it for others to see. Let this be your creative offering to the community. Further, we hope you will join one of our many Zoom small groups on Easter and throughout the week to maintain connection with one another. And finally, light a candle and join us for our live stream at 11:15 am on Easter morning. Sing loudly, pray earnestly, and worship with us in Spirit.

Even though our building is closed, the Church is open and God is at work. We look forward to the day we can celebrate the resurrection in both body and spirit, but we are thankful that Christ is risen, indeed.

Grace and Peace,
Pastors Carol, Michael, and Brittany



Weekly Online Gatherings

In my conversations with you this week, I have learned that some of you are feeling overwhelmed by the challenges of working and trying to homeschool your children. Others in our congregation feel isolated and lonely. Some of you are worried about what COVID-19 means for people in poverty in our community and around the world. The range of emotions and the energy it takes to just make it through the day, can be daunting. Spiritual practices that connect us with God and others can help sustain us, but **ONLY** if you take advantage of the opportunities that your church is providing. I encourage you to join the Zoom calls we are offering and

set aside some time for the spiritual practices that can help strengthen you. The calls are not long, but they can be a source of calm in the midst of the storm.

Carol McEntyre

WEEKLY ONLINE GATHERINGS

BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM

**ZOOM AT NOON WITH
PASTOR CAROL**
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

PAUSE FOR PRAYER
TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM AND
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM



The Return of the Prodigal Son

BY HENRI NOUWEN

6:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

APR 14

First Baptist Book Club

The First Baptist Book Club has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April 14 at 6 pm via Zoom. The book club will discuss *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen.

To join, follow the link:
<https://zoom.us/j/914728205>.

Meeting ID: 914 728 205



Passing the (Virtual) Plate: Ways You Can Give to First Baptist

Many thanks to those who are adjusting how they normally give to the ministry of First Baptist. Online Giving is as easy as visiting our website, clicking the Online Giving Options, and choosing "Give" to First Baptist. You will be directed to a secure site where you can fill in your information and, if you wish, choose to set up a recurring gift to automatically draft your desired amount at a time of your choosing.

You can also give by texting 573-284-8060 from your smart phone. Once you enter your initial information, you're all set. When you want to give, you'll just text "Give" and the amount to 573-284-8060 and that's it.

With online giving, you can monitor all of your e-contributions to the church through your secure login to e360, our online ministry partner. You will be able to see exactly what you have given and when, as well as make any adjustments you need to upcoming contributions. This is a great way to keep track of your pledge and yearly contributions.

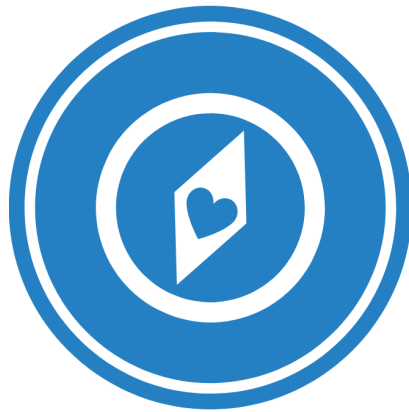
Lastly, you can still give directly to the church by mailing your contribution to 1112 E Broadway, Columbia MO 65201. We are able to directly deposit your gifts to the bank and will keep track of your gifts for year-end statements.

Thank you for your continued support of the work of First Baptist. Your generosity makes a direct difference in our congregation, our community, and our world. Please know that in these difficult times when giving may not be an option you can also reach out to your church family for support and care. Our strength is in our community.

Blessings

Pastor Michael McEntyre

Online
Giving
—
the [virtual]
practice of giving
tithes and offerings



first families JOURNEY TOGETHER

First Families: Journey Together

I know there is a lot in flux right now. It's difficult to think about what this week will look like, much less the summer, but we want to continue to dream about new possibilities to grow in faith and journey together.

On August 2-6 from 5:15-8:00 pm First Baptist will be launching the inaugural *First Families: Journey Together*. This five-day, intergenerational event provides the space for the First Baptist community and beyond to journey together through a rethinking of the traditional Vacation Bible School. For the past three years, First Baptist has hosted First Kids Camp, a 5-day, all-day camp to both provide spiritual nourishment and meet the need for childcare in our community, but more immediately for the Child Development Center at First Baptist. With the unforeseeable changes in scheduling at Columbia Public Schools and the CDC, the tremendous amount of work and volunteer base an all-day camp needs, and the church's vision for more family-oriented opportunities and international events, launching Journey Together feels like the next right step.

Each evening, we will begin together with a simple meal, followed by opening worship. After, kids 3-years-old through 5th grade will have the chance to rotate through Bible study, art and science, active games, and music. Meanwhile, adults will have the option to either volunteer with the children's activities or participate in adult classes. Each night the entire group will conclude together for songs, prayer, and dismissal. Nursery care will be provided for Journey Together volunteers and participants whose children are not yet potty-trained.

This year's theme is Great Big Beautiful World. The week reveals God's deep love for all of creation, including each person. Worshipers are invited to see how God cares for the earth and challenges them to be a part of caring for and preserving the created world. During Journey Together, adults and children alike will come together to remember God's care for all of creation and enjoy the beauty and wonder of God and creation together.

Brittany McDonald-Nuell



Palm Sunday Worship

Next Sunday, April 5, is Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week. We know this year Holy Week and Easter are going to look and feel different. We lament that we will not be together to wave palm branches or to sing our Easter Alleluias this year. However, as we have said from the beginning, even though the pews may be empty, the Church is still here, and Christ is still risen.

When we come back together in the future, that will be our Easter. We will adorn our cross in white, fill the space with plants, and sing loud our Alleluias. After all, every Sunday is a Resurrection Sunday for those who place their hope in God.



Observing Communion

Palm Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, the day we celebrate communion. We will have a time to participate in communion during our Palm Sunday Live Stream Service. We invite you to bring bread, and whatever juice you have to participate with us.

In the meantime, we wanted to offer some creative ways for us to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter. We will continue to broadcast our worship services live via our live stream both on Facebook Live and Ustream at 11:15 am on Sundays. To access Ustream, visit our website and click WATCH US LIVE.



Easy Construction Paper Palm Leaf

Our guess is, you probably don't have a bunch of palm leaves laying around at your house. That's okay, we don't either! Now is the time to get creative and use what you have to make some leaves to wave during the service. Maybe you have some green construction paper, or printer paper and a green pen, even lettuce will do the trick (just be sure to wash it before you eat it later!) Want an idea? Here's a simple pattern!

<https://ministry-to-children.com/palm-sunday-leaf-craft/>

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 10 at 6:00 pm we invite you to join us via Zoom or through our webcast for a brief Good Friday time of worship. Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We invite you to prepare a meal of comfort food and join us, at your kitchen table, for this service of remembrance. We will worship together and then, bless our meals before signing off the call.

<https://zoom.us/j/287147853>

or, join by phone

1-312-626-6799



Community Art Project for Palm Sunday

Beautiful yard, sidewalk, and window art is appearing in neighborhoods everywhere! It is a delight to see people finding ways to bring beauty, hope, and joy into the world while staying at home. With our stay at home order, we wanted to join in with a moment happening all around the city and the country—to bring beauty and encouragement to our community by using what we have.

Hosanna Project:

Use what you have (sidewalk chalk, paper, paint, crayons, string, scraps of wood, etc.) to create a “Hosanna” banner/sign/message for Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Tag our church on Instagram or Facebook and use the hashtag #athomehosanna

We are in this together! And even in the midst of social distancing, we can create beautiful things together as well. This season will look different, but the church is here, and God is with us.

Grace and Peace

Pastors Carol, Michael, and Brittany



ForColumbia Update

A message from Shelly Mayer, Director of ForColumbia,

It will come as no surprise that our city-wide day of serving with ForColumbia scheduled for April 25, a time when more than 2,000 volunteers from over 50 churches usually pour into our community to be the hands and feet of Christ, has had to be reimagined. The Executive Team with ForColumbia has decided to shift from a single-day

event to focusing on possibilities to serve our community through this current crisis. Please be in prayer for our churches and our city.

What will we be doing? At this point, we hope to be able to serve in three distinct ways:

- We are working with Boone County, the city and other non-profit organizations to identify needs we can all partner to meet.
- We are also working to identify gap areas of need - neighborhoods and/or individuals who don't have other local sources of support.
- We still hope to complete the limited number of physical serving projects we had committed to at individual homes, although these projects will look very different and will not be scheduled until later this year, when it is safe for more than few people to gather together.

What can you do? If you are willing to help in any of these capacities, or would like to be made aware of upcoming serving possibilities, we are asking people to please sign up again at <https://www.forcolumbia.com/volunteer/> and let us know what you are willing to do? The current sign-up is far easier to fill out so it should only take a moment of your time to complete.

We are grateful for the sacrificial people of faith who are stepping up now to serve our community. While this is not the task we envisioned, our response is the same- to serve our community with the love of Christ, no strings attached. May this be a powerful moment to live out the gospel in a fundamentally different way.

First Baptist Scholarships

First Baptist Church is fortunate to have endowments specifically to help with post-high school education expenses. If you are currently enrolled in a course of study and would like to be considered for support, application forms are on our website under the "Resources" tab or by calling the church office. The deadline to submit applications is May 1. Specific scholarships are designated for women in ministry, the helping sciences, and science and engineering, in addition to support for areas outside of those designated.