

August 19, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Word from the Pastor

As your pastor, there are some things I wish I had said back in March when the pandemic began, but spiritual insight and perspective often takes time to percolate. With no end in sight, there is still time to talk about a Christian response. Here are some of the questions that I have been reflecting on these last few months:

How does our relationship with Jesus change our response to the pandemic? In what ways can our spirituality carry us through the pandemic? What will life be like on the other side?

I hope you will join us for this sermon series, as we reflect together on what we are learning during the pandemic and how we want to live going forward.

Carl McEntyre

Things I wish I would have said...

about the Pandemic back in March
but I didn't know them yet

Sermon Series ~ Starting September 13



Worship on the Lawn





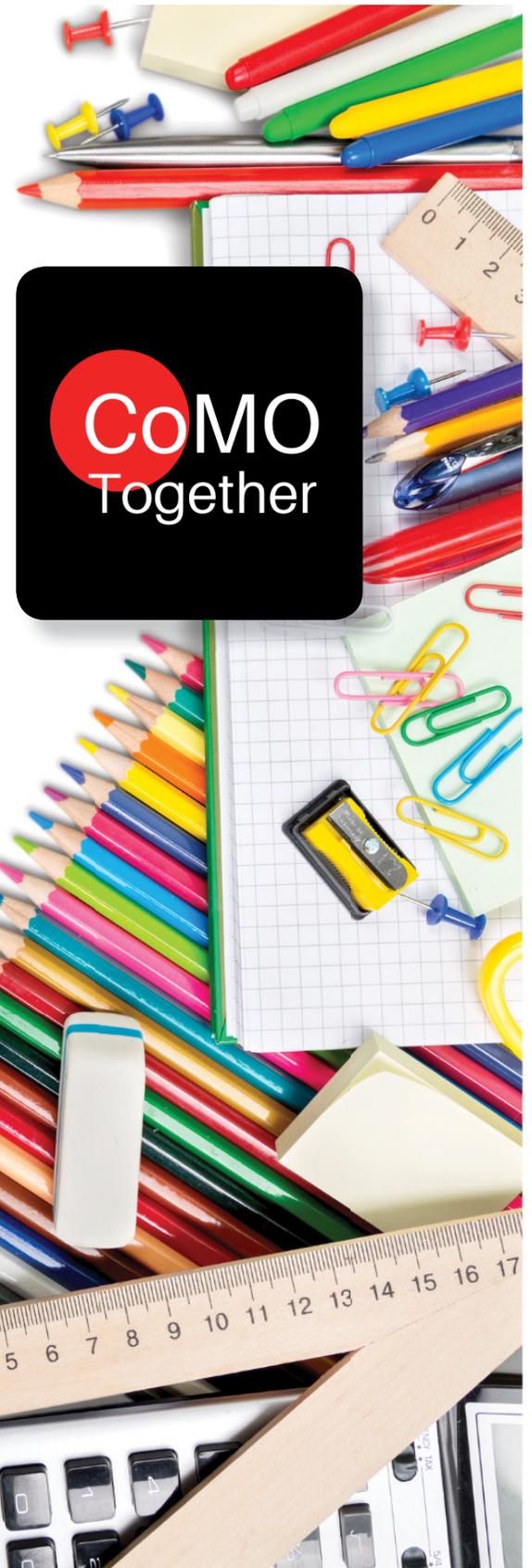
First Baptist Serving Team Releases Covid Funds to Help With Needed School Supplies

This month our Serving Team voted to purchase 50 school supply kits for CPS Title 1 schools through CoMO Together to help promote equitable learning. CoMO Together is raising money to purchase the many additional educational supplies needed for CPS students as they return to school or learn from home during COVID.

Normally these types of supplies are brought in by students at the beginning of the school year, but because supplies, manipulatives, and equipment can't be shared, the schools are having to purchase school supply kits, music kits, extra recess/PE equipment, and more.

Many PTAs have been asked to help pick up the cost, but some PTAs cannot afford to do this. As such, our Serving Team voted to assist. If you would like to donate, you can visit the CoMO Together website at <https://www.comotogether.com/supply-donation> to help out.

Mark Thomas,
Chair of the Serving Team





A note from Amy Johns

The past few weeks at First Baptist have truly been a joy; I believe music is a tremendously important part of worship and I'm honored to be serving as part of a music worship team again, particularly at such a warm and welcoming place as FBC! That said, working toward planning worshipful musical experiences, safely, in the midst of a global pandemic has certainly been an exercise in creativity and thoughtfulness. This summer I have been following studies regarding singing, wind and brass instruments, and COVID-19 closely. Based on the information provided in these studies, our plan is to offer the opportunity to gather in small groups (for those who feel safe doing so), masked and socially distant, to provide opportunities for fellowship, praise, and worship through music. If you are interested in participating in a small group of singers or instrumentalists, or just want to say hello, please reach out to me at ajohns@fbc-columbia.org.

Blessings, Amy

Student Ministry Update

Normally this time of year our Student Ministry is celebrating a packed summer with great memories while we are getting ready to kick off a new semester and welcome our new 6th graders into the fray. Unfortunately, 2020 was having none of that. Our summer plans were shot and we have been working to rethink our fall offerings to meet the new demands in which we live. I will say that one positive of this pandemic has been that our ministry focus of people over programming has allowed us the freedom to reimagine our structure while taking comfort from our relationships. We look to build on this strength this fall as we find new ways to grow together in faith and community. We will be announcing our new plans for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings soon, beginning with our Promotion Sunday on September 6. Please be in prayer for our students as they navigate a new school year unlike any other.

Blessings,
First Baptist Student Ministry





FIRST BAPTIST
 **book club**

I'm Still Here

BY AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN

August 31 @ 7 pm

First Baptist Book Club- August 31

The First Baptist Book Club will conclude their discussion on *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown on August 31 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to join, email Brittany for the Zoom link.

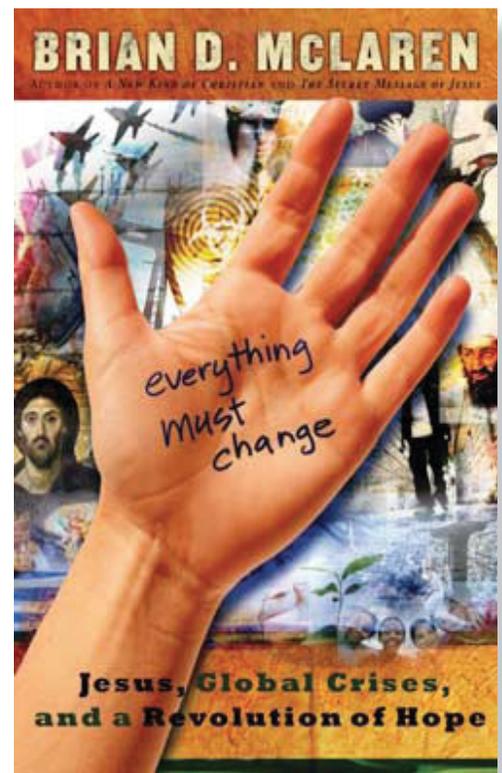
Fall Book Study

Everything Must Change

by Brian D. McLaren

In September, Pastor Carol McEntyre will be facilitating a discussion of the book *Everything Must Change* by Brian McLaren. We invite you to read the book and then, join a Zoom Meeting for a discussion. Depending on how many people want to join us, we might have one or two groups meeting. We might have one group meeting via Zoom and another group meeting in-person on the front lawn, while wearing masks and physically distancing.

If you want to join the discussion, first go ahead and order your own copy of *Everything Must Change*, have it shipped to your house and begin reading. Then, email Pastor Carol at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org and let her know you plan to join the study. When she has a good list of people who are interested, she will send out a poll and determine how many groups we will have for discussion and if we will meet online or in-person.



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ajohns@fbc-columbia.org

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churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org
Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
brice@fbc-columbia.org
Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



Blizzards with Brittany

Blizzards with Brittany is an opportunity for kids 3-years-old through those entering 6th grade to connect, to pray together, and to have some screen-free time. Families can sign up for a spot, and I will bring a small Dairy Queen Blizzard of your kid(s) choice and socially

distance while spending some time together outside. The time slots are an hour to give some time for travel, and ice cream pick-up but expect the hangouts to be about 45 minutes.

Email Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org for available times and to sign up!

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