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"Return Service Requested"



Afternoon at the Farm Sunday, October 21

Afternoon at the Farm is our church's annual gathering at the Bay family farm. Join us for old-fashioned hayrides, great conversations around the bonfire, incredible food, and, of course, Trunk-or-Treat for the kids! Adults are encouraged to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. Kids are encouraged to wear or bring their Halloween costumes for the festivities. Afterwards we will all enjoy dinner together (please bring a side dish to share).

Schedule:

3:00 p.m. - Hayrides and Conversations

4:30 p.m. - Trunk-or-Treating

5:00 p.m. - Dinner

This event is open to everyone: members, guests, and friends of First Baptist! Please bring a bag or two of candy for trunk-or-treating, and a side dish to share (meat, beverages and table service are provided).

Directions:

- From Columbia take I-70 west to Exit 121 (the Midway exit)
- Turn right and drive approximately 9 miles on Highway 40
- Then turn right on Route J and drive approximately 6.3 miles
- Make a hard right onto Boothe Lane at the water tower
- Continue straight until this road bears left - the gate to the farm will then be on your right - look for the balloons!

the SPIRE

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October 10, 2018

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Don't miss our church family photo



100 years from now when your great-great-great grand kids look at our upcoming church family photo on Oct. 28, make sure they see your smiling face!

I am going to let you in on a little secret. As a mother of two small children, there is nothing that I dread more than family picture day. Scheduling the photographer is a hassle. Finding everyone an outfit that matches, but isn't too matchy-matchy is a painful process. First I have to shop for the clothes- for all 4 of us- then, there is the inevitable fit the kids throw about trying the clothes on (not to mention returning said clothes for the right sizes). When the day of family pictures arrives, it is a fight to get everyone ready on time. Somebody inevitably cries; it could be me or my four year old. We usually bribe the kids with candy to get them to pose. The photographer takes lots of images hoping that a few of them will turn out okay. Then we head home and swear we are not going to do that again for a long time. So, the question emerges: if family photo day is such torture, why do we do it?

Let me ask you this: when a person's house catches fire, what are the things that people risk their lives to save? Aside from the obvious answers of people and pets, the most coveted items are the family photos. They are priceless. They capture a moment in time that can't be relived. We take them at significant intervals in our families' lives, and when we look at them years later, they put a smile on our face.

So church family, as you we approach our 195th anniversary as a church, we thought it would be worthy moment to take another family photo. Don't worry, we don't have to wear matching outfits, but we do need you to join us on Oct 28th. Thanks for being our faith family!

Pastor Carol McEntyre

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A Word of Thanks



First Baptist Family,

Since my mom was diagnosed with ovarian cancer four years ago, you have been a constant source of strength and comfort for our family. You faithfully asked about her ups and downs. You repeatedly lifted her and us up in prayer and gently let us know that you were doing so. When I have felt guilty for taking time away from the church to be with her, you reassured me that it was what I needed to do and made it possible for me to be there for my family. Last week, when you got the news that my Mom had died, you reached out again- through phone calls, texts, cards, flowers, chocolates and Facebook messages. Without your care and comfort this experience would have been unbearable. I am grateful for your love and care.

At the same time, I know that your love and compassion isn't just reserved for the pastor. The way you care for each other and those in our community is one of the attributes I most admire about First Baptist. A couple of weeks ago, I attended the Celebration of Life for CJ Fredrickson, the son of First Baptist members John and Melinda Adams. During the service, John thanked their family and friends for their outpouring of love. Then he gave a shout out to our church. He said, "Yesterday was the first day that we turned on the stove in a month, because First Baptist has brought us so much food." It made me smile to know that the love of our faith family had been felt.

Thank you for caring for me and for each other well.

Carl McIntyre

Fall Sermon Series: Speaking of Jesus

When was the last time you had a spiritual conversation? If recent research is any indication, it has probably been a while. Only seven percent of Americans report talking about spiritual matters weekly. One-fifth of respondents had not had a spiritual conversation all year! We are more likely to talk about a movie we have seen or a book we have read than our spiritual lives. So, I have been wondering: Can progressive Christians learn to speak of Jesus again? Join us for a sermon series that explores this question, September 23rd-October 21st.





Focus on Visioning

ALL IN is the theme for our visioning this fall. To be *ALL IN* is to be totally committed to something. We chose *ALL IN* as our theme because we believe the mission and ministry of First Baptist is worth our commitment. Our goal is to have 100% participation in the church-wide visioning process. We want everyone to be involved. The goal of the visioning is to help us focus our intentions. It is a chance to think about how we, as First Baptist, use our voice, our energy, and our money to share the inclusive, transforming love of God.

Calendar of Events for Visioning

Sunday, October 28- 9:15 am- Combined Worship, Church-Wide Photo, Cracker Barrel Catered Breakfast, and Ministry Review.

We will join together for combined worship in the Sanctuary. After the meeting, everyone will gather on the front steps of the church for a church-wide photo in honor of our 195th anniversary. Cracker Barrel will be catering our breakfast each Sunday morning during this event (we are asking for a \$5 donation to help defray the cost of the food. See menu below). As breakfast winds down, we will begin our ministry review process to discuss all the different ministries of the church and reflect on their potential. We will ask questions like: what in the congregational life is working well? What needs improvement? If we were going to change something, what might it be? These thoughts will be essential as we move forward.

Saturday, November 3- 9:00 am- Visioning Work

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall where Dr. Chris Gambill from the Center for Congregational Health will lead us in a time of reflection about the gifts/strengths of First Baptist. This will be an opportunity for you to share what the church means to you and focus on times when we have been at our best.

Sunday, November 4- 9:15 am- Combined Worship, Breakfast, Visioning

We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for breakfast by Cracker Barrel (\$5) and a visioning session led by Dr. Chris Gambill in which we will reflect on the gifts that God has given us and how we might use them in unique ways for ministry now and in the future.



Sunday Breakfasts catered by Cracker Barrel

As Baptist, we know good conversation takes good food. Sunday breakfasts will include: smoked sausage patties, ham, egg n' cheese casserole, coarse ground grits, hashbrown casserole, sawmill gravy, and signature homemade buttermilk biscuits with real butter n' preserves. (\$5 per person)



Odyssey Concert- Oktoberfest

Friday, October 12th at 7:00 pm, First Baptist Church
with a Pre-concert Performance at 6:45 pm

We experience the spirit of Oktoberfest in this jovial German program. In addition to trumpet-piano duo by Iskander Akhmadullin and Natalia Bolshakova, violist Marka Gustavsson from Bard College, New York is featured prominently in a program of duo and Brahms Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor - which concludes with a real barn burner, "Rondo alla Zingarese."



Youth and College/ Young Adult Trip to SixFlags

Youth and College/ Young Adult Students are invited to join us after Awakening on Sunday Oct 14th for a trip to SixFlags St. Louis for Fright Fest. We will leave after the service to spend the day riding the rides and running from ghosts and ghouls. It will be a fun time for those who are brave enough to join us. Tickets are only \$25. We will return to the church around 11:00 pm that night.



CDC Halloween Party- RSVP NOW

The Child Development Center at First Baptist Church would like to invite all First Baptist and CDC families with children to a Halloween celebration on October 26th from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The children will participate in a costume parade, pumpkin decorating, games, and more! Snacks and refreshments will be served. Please send your child in a toddler-friendly costume free of weapons, blood, and/or scary masks. Please RSVP to Jess Wolfe at cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org with how many children will be in your party.



Youth and College Students are invited to the Pastors' house on Halloween for some Festive Fun!

As Halloween falls on a Wednesday night this year, students are invited to the McEntyre's house to help "greet" kids and hand out candy. For all those who wish to come, we will eat dinner at 5:00 pm and wrap up around 9:00 pm. We will decorate the house and yard with some festive fun (think T-Rex costumes and talking pumpkins). It will be a scream.





First Baptist Student Ministry is turning up the heat in the Kitchen

As a part of our Youth Sunday Morning Small Group for the fall, our students are putting faith into action on the first Sunday of each month as they gather together to prepare and cook meals for those in our congregation who have experienced recent loss and difficulties. It is a simple way our youth can share the love of our Creator (and our faith community) with those who need it.



As we prepare ingredients around the table, we also have the opportunity for our students to learn a little about cooking, and about the adults who are helping with the meal. In the months to come, we hope to add some guest chefs to the mix to “spice up” our time together and give students the opportunity to get to know a few more adults in our congregation. If this sound like your cup of tea, send an email to Michael McEntyre at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org to let him know you're interested.



First Kids Music- Sundays at 4:00 pm

Our First Kids Music program (for kids 3 years old through 5th grade) will meet at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary on Sundays. We plan to split into older and younger groups each week. The easiest access door is on Waugh St., the south door closest to the parking lot. We are grateful to welcome Samantha Walker back to assist, along with Colleen and Ed. We look forward to making joyful noises together beginning this Sunday.

Custodial Update

Charles Hunter and the Personnel Committee have been reviewing applications for the custodial position here at First Baptist but we are in the early stages of the search. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to keep the facilities in good condition during the interim. As of last Monday, Atkins Cleaning is sending people each day to clean facilities for the church and CDC. We have also been assisted by most all staff members, but special thanks to Brenda Rice, Jess Wolfe and Liam Johnson, for their extra efforts.