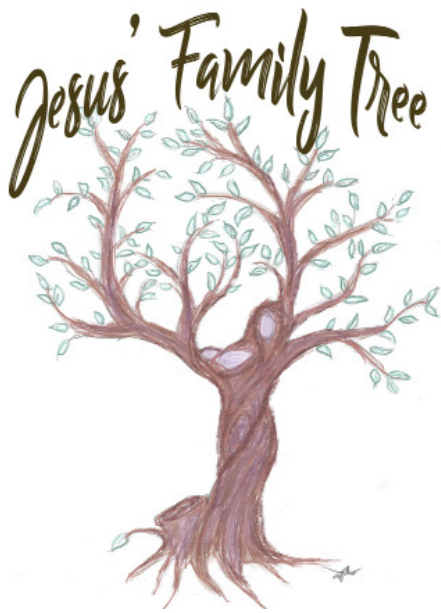


December 4, 2019

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Upcoming Events

December 6

6:45 pm Odyssey Concert Series:
Tchaikovsky Holiday

December 8

9:15 am Baptism of Brooklyn Roberts
5:30 pm College Christmas Party at the McEntyre's

December 15

5:00 pm Christmas Dinner

December 18

6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party at the McEntyre's

Advent Theme

Jesus' Family Tree: A Vulnerable Genealogy

Our Advent theme for worship this year is Jesus' Family Tree: A Vulnerable Genealogy. We are exploring Jesus genealogy in Matthew Chapter 1. In the ancient near east, genealogies were important. They were used to show your preeminence and highlight your connections to power. On the one hand, Matthew's genealogy of Jesus does this, because it connects Jesus to the great patriarch Abraham and to King David. But on the other hand, Matthew does something strange. Typically, genealogies in the ancient near east only listed men, but Matthew includes 5 women and their families. The women he chooses to highlight are strange choices. They are not the upstanding patriarchal wives, like Sarah or Rebecca, but women who would have been thought of as misfits. These particular women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary are all vulnerable- either young, poor, widowed or outsiders. We invite you to read their stories for yourself, and learn about Jesus' vulnerable genealogy, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ once again.

Dec 8

Rahab & Salmon

Joshua 2

Dec 15

Ruth & Boaz

The Book of Ruth

Dec 22

Bathsheba & David

2 Samuel 11 & 12:1-25

Dec 24 (Christmas Eve)

Mary & Joseph

Luke 1:26-56



Word from the Pastor



First Baptist Church Community,

Several months ago, we shared with you that I had been selected to serve as the next Moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Moderator is the highest elected officer of the Fellowship. My term will begin at the Fellowship's annual meeting (known as General Assembly), which will take place June 24-26 in Atlanta, GA. (I would love to have some representatives from First Baptist join me at the meeting. If you are interested, let me know!)

This year, I have been serving as Moderator-Elect and have had the opportunity to use my leadership skills in a unique way. On the initiative of Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF, The Fellowship decided this fall to enter an intentional season of prayerful discovery. The initiative, called *Toward Bold Faithfulness: Discovering and Responding to God's Call Together* is an effort to hear from CBF constituents and determine how CBF will focus and prioritize going forward. As Paul Baxley has said, "Generously defined, CBF is a community of congregations, field personnel, theological schools, chaplains, individuals, church starters and other partners distinctly equipped by the Holy Spirit to uniquely participate in Jesus' mission of love." How do you prioritize and vision for the future when you have such a large and diverse group of constituents?

This fall, as Moderator-Elect, I have served as co-chair of the Discovery Team leading the *Toward Bold Faithfulness Initiative*. We have been talking, dreaming and planning how to get input from all of CBF's constituents. Mostly this work has been done over zoom and by phone, but a few weeks ago, I was in Atlanta for a planning retreat. We spent hours working on a survey instrument and a face-to-face meeting format that will be used to gather input from The Fellowship. I am telling you all of this to say, I am grateful to you, First Baptist, for giving me the opportunity to use my gifts and skills to help lead CBF into the future. I believe the cooperative work of Christians in the world is important. We can do more together than in our siloed congregations. Plus, it has been fun to stretch my leadership capacity and think on a national scale. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Also, when the *Toward Bold Faithfulness* survey comes out in January, I hope you will take it. Your input is needed regarding the future of CBF.

Thank you,

Carol McEntyre

Financial Updates



2020 Pledge Update

Last year we received 82 pledges totaling \$330,763 to support the life and ministry of First Baptist Church. We are hopeful to match these numbers for 2020, but we need your help. As of Tuesday, December 3, 2019, we have received pledge commitments from 58 individuals/households totaling \$251,834 for next year. The pledges for the year are used to establish the church budget, which is voted on in January.

Your commitment is essential to the life of our church. We are grateful to all who have committed to help sustain our ministry next year and are asking those who have not yet pledged to please consider how you can support our church family. Pledge cards are available at the entry areas of our worship spaces, or you can call the office and we would be happy to provide one.



2019 Financial Report

Through the end of November, we have received about \$314,000 in pledged and unpledged gifts (slightly behind our budgeted goal of approximately \$349,000). Thank you for giving!

Your gifts help fund our mission's efforts, church ministries, staff salaries, and our beautiful facilities. We are still hopeful to reach our goals between now and the end of the year, so please consider catching up or even surpassing your pledged amount if possible. Thank you.

-Nick Kieffer, Church Treasurer



My/Our Good Faith Estimate
of giving for 2020 is:

\$ _____ per week, or
\$ _____ per month, or
\$ _____ per year

You can set up
recurring payments
on our website:
fbc-columbia.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

Thank you!
*This commitment may be revised
or canceled at any time.*



VAC Family Christmas 2019

First Baptist is sponsoring 3 families this year through VAC's Holiday Program. Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is a non-profit that exists to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gap between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County. Each year VAC coordinates the collection and distribution of food and gifts for approximately 4,000 people during the holiday season.

First Baptist is participating again in this needed ministry. In addition to toys, books, and games, families often receive needed clothing and household supplies through this program. Cards with individual gift requests are available on the bulletin board, in the hallway, outside the Sanctuary. Get involved by choosing an item that you would like to donate, take the card, then return the purchased item to the church by this Sunday, December 8. Items do not need to be wrapped but we do ask that you include the card from the bulletin board with your gift. If you have any questions, please contact Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, Interim Administration, and Missions, with questions at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org.



\$2,000 for Hurricane Relief from First Baptist

Thank you to everyone who gave to help those who have suffered greatly in light of the damage done by recent hurricanes. We raised over \$2,000 to give to the American Baptist "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA and includes all ABC disaster relief work.

One hundred percent of donations to One Great Hour of Sharing go towards relief efforts, no dollars are retained for administrative costs. Your generosity will be a tangible and needed example of Christ's love to those who are trying to rebuild their lives in the wake of these storms.



Local Giving Opportunity

The Wardrobe, Columbia, MO

First Baptist supports several local ministries and agencies in Columbia. One such partner is The Wardrobe, a non-profit thrift store at 715 Park Ave. The Wardrobe's all-volunteer organization assists low income families with used clothing and new shoes for school children. They are taking part in CoMoGives campaign this December and need our support.



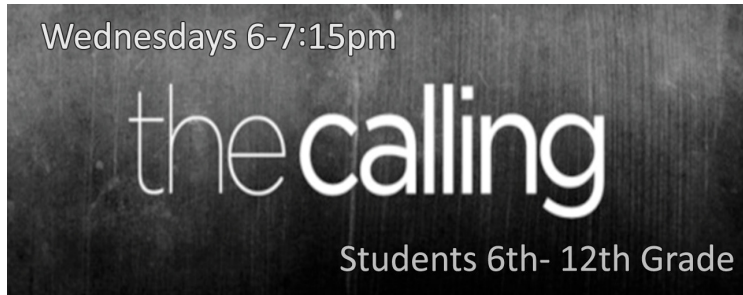
To donate, go to CoMOGives.com and share with others via social media or word of mouth.



Youth & College



Child Development Center
at First Baptist Church Est. 1969



The Calling will meet on our regular schedule Wednesday 11th in the Youth Suite (6:00pm-7:15pm).



CDC Children and their families enjoyed delicious food and had fun spending time together for their Annual Thanksgiving feast!



Youth Christmas Party

The Youth Christmas Party will be Wednesday, Dec 18th at the McEntyre's house from 6:00-8:00pm. We will eat and celebrate a great year with our legendary gift exchange. All participants are asked to bring a gift (\$5-\$10 range) to share. It will be shocking how much fun we have! Friends are encouraged to join us. The Calling will start back on Jan 15. Have a wonderful Advent season and a Merry Christmas.

CDC Christmas Program

December 20, 5:30 pm

Please join the children in the Fellowship Hall on December 20 from 5:30-6:30 pm for rousing renditions of some of our most beloved Christmas carols! Hot chocolate, cider and a snack will be served.

Prayers for our College Students

Please be in prayer for our college students as many of them are finishing up finals and making plans to travel home for the holidays. Pray that their studies will be rewarded, that their projects will be complete, and when all else fails, that they will guess well!

P.S.- Be sure to look for our students returning home for break and let them know how much they have been missed.





Hanging of the Green



Andrew Marchbanks climbing to new heights for the perfect spot, assisted by dad, Eli



Coming together to prepare the tree in the Awakening Service



*pictured left:
Emerson Scott ready to decorate*



*pictured below:
Bryce Null reading the Genealogy of Jesus*

Joshua Engle, one of our scholarship singers, hanging an ornament





-Prayer Requests-

- Yvette Chambers, who has been diagnosed with shingles and cellulitis.
- Noah Hartsfield, as he works to find answers and treatment for systemic nerve pain.
- Eric Alexander, who is recovering from surgery.
- Barry Kausler, who continues to receive treatment for cancer.
- Jason Tratchel's uncle Danny Jones, who is still struggling with complications from bone marrow transplant.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE

Baptism
of
Brooklyn Roberts

DURING THE 9:15 AM AWAKENING SERVICE
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Non-Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Columbia, MO
 Permit No. 19

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

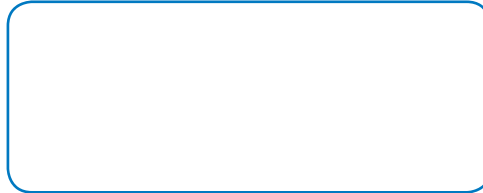
Music Staff:

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

"Return Service Requested"



December 4, 2019



Christmas Dinner

December 15, 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday evening, December 15 beginning at 5:00 pm is the First Baptist Annual Christmas Dinner. Come prepared for a lovely meal with turkey, ham, and beverages provided by the church and wonderful side dishes and desserts made by you and your First Baptist friends. We will sing carols and hear musical offerings from our First Kid's Choir. Hope you will join us.

the **SPIRE**

In This Issue:

- Advent
- Word From the Pastor
- Financial Updates
- Pledge Card
- VAC Family Christmas
- Missions Update
- Youth and College Christmas Updates
- CDC Update & Pictures
- Hanging of the Green Pictures
- Invitation to the Baptism of Brooklyn Roberts