

June 18, 2020

# the SPIRE

First Baptist Church  
columbia



When you drive by the church this week, you will notice some new "Black Lives Matter" signs on the front lawn. The Church Council decided to put them up as an act of solidarity and love for our black neighbors. As a predominantly white congregation, we wanted to show our support for the current movement against racism and systemic injustice, which was sparked by the death of George Floyd. We are seeking to listen to our siblings of color, understand the impact racism has on their lives, and learn to be better allies in the movement toward equality for all people. As we have discussed the last few Sundays in worship, this is not a social issue or a political issue. Instead, racial justice and equality, creating a society that works for the well being of all people is at the heart of Jesus' mission in the world. God's dream for the world is abundant life for all.

Several First Baptist members and friends have also participated in some of the protests and rallies that have happened in Columbia the last few weeks. I had the privilege of taking part in the Black Lives Matter's March on Sunday, June 7 with Rev. Clyde Ruffin from Second Baptist Church. Putting up signs on the church lawn and participating in the Black Lives Matter March are small acts of solidarity and anti-racism. I hope you will join me in prayerfully considering other ways we can be involved in the work of anti-racism.

-Pastor Carol McEntyre

*Carol McEntyre*





## Guest Preacher this Sunday – Brian Kaylor

On Sunday, June 21 Brian Kaylor will be our guest preacher. Brian Kaylor is the editor & president of Word&Way, associate director of Churchnet, and author of four books on religion, politics, and communication. He graduated with an M.A. and Ph.D. in political communication from the University of Missouri. He serves the [Baptist World Alliance](#) as Vice-Chair of the Communication Advisory Committee, and as a member Commission on Christian Ethics. Previously, Brian was an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at James Madison University and Brian served as pastor of Union Mound Baptist Church.

FIRST BAPTIST  
 book club

*I'm Still Here*  
BY AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN  
**AUGUST 2020**

## First Baptist Book Club – August 2020

First Baptist's Book Club has selected *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Austin is an activist, a writer, a speaker, and a media producer providing inspired leadership on racial justice in America. In *I'm Still Here*, Brown offers an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with "diversity" so often falls short of its ideals. In order to give time for people to purchase and read the book, the next Book Club meeting will take place in August!

# COMPASSION CAMP

Be loved. Be kind. Be you.

First Baptist Family,

You may or may not know that there are few things in life that I love more than Vacation Bible School—I look forward to it all year! However, this year VBS is going to be different because one of those things that I do love more than VBS is YOU and your families and right now it is my priority to keep you all safe. So, without further ado, we present: COMPASSION CAMP!

Compassion Camp 

*Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.*

Theme: Compassion for others, ourselves, and the world

Who: Programming is geared for PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> graders with the families

What: An at-home camp with live and prerecorded options each week. *We'll provide your Camp Kit containing coloring pages, camp materials, and Family Guides*

When: June 29-August 2

- New material will launch each Monday for 5 weeks
- Monday mornings – Ms. Lillian will host an Opening Gathering on Facebook Live\*
- Tuesdays at 4 – First Kids Connect with Pastor Brittany will be the Bible Story\*
- Sunday afternoons – Closing zoom call to share about the week's activities\*
- Post-Camp Celebration – Following Compassion Camp, we will have another opportunity to connect, pick up your t-shirt, and turn in your piece of our community art project! *More details to come!*

*\*live sessions will be recorded, and all videos will be available to view from the time they are posted until the end of camp.*

We are asking families to [register](#) so we know how many Camp Kids to assemble and so we can include you in a closed Facebook group in which we can share the Compassion Camp resources without violating copyright 😊

On Sunday, June 28, we will have a Drive-thru Launch Party and Camp Kit pick-up from 4-5:30pm. (If you register for camp and are unable to pick up your kit during the kit pick up please let Pastor Brittany know: [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)).

Although I wish with all my heart that we could be together for VBS this year, I know that it is more important to do what is needed to keep you and your families safe and to practice compassion for our neighbors by continuing to social distance when we can.

We are excited to grow together in compassion for our world, our neighbors, our families, and ourselves!

You can register online at [fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org)

See you soon!

Lillian Hoell, *Compassion Camp Director*

Brittany McDonald Null, *Pastor of Families*





# COMPASSION CAMP

**Be loved. Be kind. Be you.**

**WHAT:** An at-home 5-week camp with live and prerecorded options that teaches compassion for others, ourselves, and the world.

**WHO:** CC is geared for PreK – 5th grader with the families. Younger participants are welcome but may require more assistance and adaptation by their caregivers.

**WHEN:** June 29 – August 2

**HOW:** New Material will launch each Monday for 5 weeks. Optional live events will be offered and recordings will be available following the virtual gatherings

- Monday Mornings – Ms. Lillian will host the Opening Gathering on Facebook Live
- Tuesdays at 4 pm – Pastor Brittany will utilize First Kids Connect to share the Bible Story.
- Sunday afternoons – Ms. Lillian and Pastor Brittany will host a Closing Zoom call for share about the week's activities.

**COST:** Registration is free and includes a Camp Kit with coloring pages, camp materials, and a Family Guide. To register visit [fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org)





## First Baptist Parking Lot Project Completed

Many thanks to our Trustees and others who have worked long and hard to see the completion of our new parking lot. As you can see, this project was needed! We look forward to the time we can once again fill this lot on a Sunday morning to join together for worship. Until then, if you have a chance to drive by and see the updates, we encourage you to do so.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Michael McEntyre*





## Virtual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly

On June 25 and 26, you are invited to join Cooperative Baptists from across the country and around the world for an engaging on-line two-day interactive learning experience with your CBF Family. This year's General Assembly is all about Forming Bold Faith. Over the course of these two days, you'll worship, participate in timely workshops, see what's happening with our ministry partners and browse a virtual exhibit hall, all from the comfort of your own home or office. Registration is free and is required to participate. You can register online at <https://cbf.net/generalassembly-2020> As you know our

Pastor Carol McEntyre is incoming Moderator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She will be speaking about her bold dreams for the Fellowship during the event.

## Conversation on White Supremacy & American Christianity

Join religious liberty supporters across the country on June 26 for The Baptist Joint Committee's annual luncheon, (virtual lunch this year), which will feature a conversation on white supremacy and American Christianity.

Our program includes a conversation with scholar Robert P. Jones and political journalist Joy Reid. Jones, the CEO and Founder of PRRI is a leading commentator on religion, culture and politics. He is the author of the forthcoming book *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, and *The End of White Christian America*, which won the 2019 Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

Registration is now open for the annual BJC Luncheon--and this year it's free to attend for all! Join us from wherever you are on Friday, June 26: <https://bit.ly/3ctF5zo>



A national conversation on  
white supremacy and  
American Christianity

Register today for the June  
26 conversation

**JOIN OUR  
WEEKLY  
[virtual]  
GROUPS**

**BIBLE STUDY  
SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM**

**COFFEE HOUR  
TUESDAYS FROM 8:30-9:30 AM**

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

## Stay Connected

During this period of physical distancing, we believe it is important to stay connected as a church family. First Baptist is offering several opportunities to connect throughout the week. More information can be found at <http://fbc-columbia.org/get-involved/online-gatherings/> and an email with all of the links will be sent out this week. Below is a list of the online gatherings being offered this week. If you have any questions about any of the gatherings, contact Brittany, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation.

- Sunday
  - 10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study
  - 10:15 am Connections Small Group
  - 10:15 am Discussions Class
  - 10:15 am Youth Small Group
  - 2:30 pm Awakening Praise Band Gathering
- Tuesday
  - 8:30 am Coffee Hour with Pastor Brittany
  - 1:00 pm Crafty Critters
  - 4:00 pm First Kids Connect
- Wednesday
  - 12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol
  - 6:00 pm The Calling Online
  - 6:30 pm Chancel Bells Weekly Gathering





## Celebrations

-Rebekah Robertson's granddaughter, Addison Mae Gillette was born Tuesday, June 9. Rebekah's son, Logan, his wife Makayla, and big sister, Lylli, are proud to welcome Addie to the Gillette family! Addison Mae was named after Logan's dad's mom, Nora Mae.

-Congratulations to Allie Teagarden-Monk & Kale Monk on the birth of their daughter, Anderson "Andie" Lane Monk. She was born on Saturday, June 6 at 8:46 pm and weighed 7 lbs, 15 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Andie is named after Kale's late grandpa, Larry Anderson & Allie's late great grandpa Earl Anderson—they both went by "Andy".

## Prayers & Concerns

- Ray and Jane Smith, who were in a serious car accident on May 27 and both sustained injuries. Ray is now at home recovering, but Jane is still in the hospital.

-Dorothy Clem, who is recovering from a stroke, staying with her son Doug.

-Mike Brewer, whose mother, Betty Payne, passed away in Bolivar, Missouri.

-Andy Emerson, whose father Raymond Kaufman, passed away.

-The Kausler family as they continue to mourn the loss of Barry.

-Amy Johns' husband, Michael, who is undergoing tests for neurological issues.

- Kim Purcell, who had a third knee surgery yesterday, June 17. If you would like help her recovery, you can sign up to take her a meal: <https://takethemameal.com/ZLVU2570>

-Prayer for continued safety concerning Covid-19 and re-opening, as well as better treatments and vaccine.

-Prayers for the movement towards racial equality and justice to continue.



## Encourager Church

*News From Keith Holmes & Mary VanRheenen*

Hello, all,

A lot of people are wisely staying home these days. For instance, CBF usually sends out a lot of summer interns through the Student.Go program. This summer, they are all Student.Stay. For the first time ever we have two students working on projects with us. This is mainly because they *can* stay at home to help on these projects.



Project number one is making instructional videos for Davar Start Games. We started doing this during lockdown here in the Netherlands, realized we needed help, and stopped. (You can see some of our first efforts on the [Davar: Bridging to Literacy](#) website, A1 and B3.) Student #2, Isaac Pittman, signed up to help with this.

Project number two is making ministry videos, mainly 15-20 minute videos where people like you take a walk with people like me through places like a Romany village in Moldova. Student #1, Marshall Ellis, signed up to help with this. In fact, he already finished his first project. This video is a thank you from the entire Europe Team to all of you! Please join us in praying [The Lord's Prayer](#) in the languages we minister in.

Then we came up with the idea of having a puppet “host” the Davar videos. Marshall has always dreamed of making and using puppets. So he started working on project #1. The filming part of those videos has been put on hold, so Isaac has started working on project #2. We are currently sorting through 500+ photos of Moldova and some archival video footage Keith uncovered. We hope to have this first “Take A Walk” video done before the end of June.

In the meantime, project #1 has developed into plans for not just instructional videos but a whole package of Bible story/lesson + Davar game. All of this requires a lot of prayer, a lot of planning, and a lot of online meetings. If you feel led to pray regularly for these media projects and these summer interns, hit “reply” to this email. We will send you more specific information and regular prayer updates. If you prefer to get updates about only the Davar project or the ministry videos, please indicate that in your reply.

If your family, church, Sunday school, or any other group would be willing to test a couple of these Davar videos, also please let us know. We will need feedback as the project develops.

Please stay home, stay safe, and stay connected.

Prayerfully,  
Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes

Thankful for:

- \*Marshall Ellis and Isaac Pittman, Student.Stay interns who are willing to use their time, talents, and energy for God's Kingdom
- \*Good health; easing of Corona crisis in the Netherlands and the slow, safe steps everyone here is taking as things gradually open up
- \*Petru & Olesea Ciochina, our partners in the Republic of Moldova, and how God has worked through them to grow His church among Romany there
- \*Pentecost, and people like yourselves who continue make it possible for the Good News of Jesus's life and love to be heard in more and more languages.

Request prayer for:

- \*these two summer interns, Marshall Ellis & Isaac Pittman and that we will all be able to work well together via the Internet;
- \*creation and use of Davar instructional videos;
- \*rain in Moldova + new ways of gardening in these dry years;
- \*Romany and others who depend on seasonal or day labor and are currently unable to work.

*Photos and additional stories at: [CBF Romany Ministries Blogspot](#) or Facebook page.*

Contributions to the Offering for Global Missions (OGM) provide for the *presence* of all field personnel, including Keith and Mary (online giving: [Offering For Global Missions](#)).

Contributions to Keith and Mary's programming fund their specific ministry (online: [Keith Holmes & Mary VanRheenen programming](#)).

Or mail to: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 102972, Atlanta, GA 30368-2972, checks clearly marked for either OGM or Holmes/VanRheenen Programming. deeply-rooted faith.