

January 23, 2020

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



**Christianity & Transgender
Inclusion Event with**

Austen Hartke
transgender theologian

For more information visit
fbc-columbia.org



Christianity & Transgender Inclusion Event with Austen Hartke

February 21 & 22 at First Baptist

A graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament and Hebrew Bible Studies, Hartke works to help other trans and gender non-conforming people see themselves in scripture. A recent winner of the John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing, author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, and creator of the YouTube series "Transgender and Christian," Hartke shares experiences as a bisexual and transgender Christian.

An LGBTQ+ Affirming Worship Service will be held at 6:30 pm on Friday, February 21, after which Hartke will share his coming out story and talk about the biblical stories that give him strength as an adult in a session called *Transgender and Christian: A Coming Out and Coming Home Story*.

On Saturday, February 22, at 10:00 am, Hartke will lead *The Bible and Transgender Christian's Seminar* in a session that explores the biblical texts historically used to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community. Then he will dig into stories of biblical characters who didn't fit the mold when it came to gender expression. The weekend events are sponsored by First Baptist Church, The Center Project, Rock Bridge Christian Church, Broadway Christian Church, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Columbia United Church of Christ, Unity, Unitarian Universalist Church and Heart Space Clinic.

The events are free to the public and will take place at First Baptist. No tickets are necessary, and childcare is provided with reservation. To sign up for childcare, email churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org with the number of children and their ages.

Upcoming Events

January 26

11:15 am Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

12:15 pm Annual Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

February 21-22

Christianity & Transgender Inclusion: an Ecumenical event with Austen Hartke

February 26

6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

March 1

9:15 am Combined Worship



Word from the Pastor

First Baptist,

I am writing to ask for your help and input. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) has entered a season of discernment, a time of dreaming, thinking and planning for the future and we want to hear from you.

As the moderator elect for CBF, I have been serving on a leadership team within CBF known as the *Discovery Team*. This 13 person task force is comprised of various leaders from across the Fellowship and is tasked with leading this season of discernment for our future. One critical tool for this season of discernment is a survey designed to gather the insights of individuals from across CBF. All churches are asked to participate, so we have the most reliable cross-section of data for discerning our future together.

I know some of you didn't grow up Baptist and may not feel like you know that much about CBF but we still want to hear from you. First Baptist is an important congregation in the Fellowship and your input is invaluable to the future planning.

Plus as bonus, for every survey that is completed, \$5 will be donated to the Offering for Global Missions. You can find a link to the survey on our Facebook page and on our website.

Carol McEntyre

Baptist Women in Ministry Celebrate February as Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching

Each year the Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) advocate for the greater role and support of Baptist women in the full life of the church. By asking churches to participate in the month of preaching, BWIM is working to create more opportunities for women's voices to be heard. First Baptist whole-heartedly supports the voice of women in the pulpit and plans to celebrate the month by hearing from three different women as they express their gifts for ministry.

February 2, Debi Hake will preach in both services. Debi attends the Awakening Service with her husband, Conrad and her kids, Joey, MacKenzie, and Ollie. Be sure to check out Debi's full bio in the Order of Worship on February 2.

February 9- Rev. Brittany McDonald Null will be our proclaimer.

February 16 & 23- Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre will return to the pulpit to close out our celebration.

We hope you will join us as we stand with our churches across the country to affirm the calling of women everywhere to the Gospel ministry.



Lenten Series

Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter, begins on February 26 with the 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme for the season is Journey Through Lent with Art. The series includes a different work of art, a famous painting or sculpture, for every Sunday of Lent through

Easter. Our worship series are often left-brain focused, taking on heavy theological topics, and trying to understand them in a new way. However, this series is about right-brained spirituality: connecting with God on a heart level. If you have ever been moved by a piece of music, a movie, or a theatrical performance, then you know art has a way of communicating beyond where words can take us. This series seeks to provide space to experience our God who is beyond all words.



Volunteers now for Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn is in need of volunteers to help keep the shelter open this season. They are currently most in need of volunteers for the morning host positions (5:15 to 8:00 am) and the evening shift (6:15-11:30 pm). Due to facility repairs, First Baptist will be unable to host Room at the Inn in 2020. We are asking our members to step up and sign up for a serving time at one of our partner sites to help share the load. If you are able to help be an answer to this prayer, you can sign-up at <https://roomattheinncomo.org/volunteer>.



ForColumbia Day of Service

First Baptist's annual day of service with ForColumbia will be Saturday, April 25. Sign-ups will take place in March. Watch for more details.



CHANCEL BELLS



Chancel Bells Seeking New Members

Are you interested in joining an amazing group of church folk in making music for the praise and glory of God? The Chancel Bells are looking for new members! You don't need experience with bells to try them out, just a desire to lift a song to God. Handbells are a very approachable medium in church music and can be great for both beginning and experienced musicians and ringers alike. The ensemble rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary and will enhance worship 5 to 6 times in the coming semester. If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Interim Handbell Director Noah Hartsfield at nhartsfield2010@gmail.com.

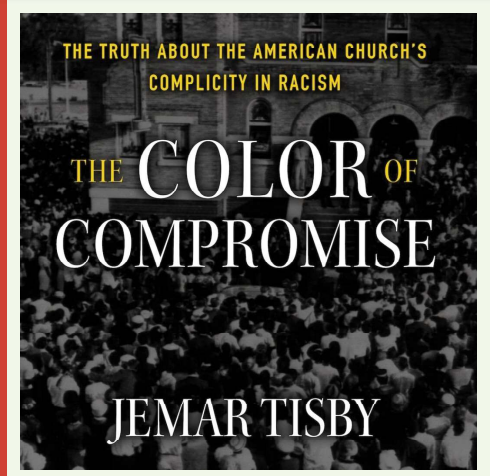
New Small Group Opportunity

Begins February 2
The Color of Compromise

Beginning February 2 during the 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour, there will be a new small group focused on various forms of privilege and how we move forward. The group, led by Misty Phillips, Dave Walker, Julie Walker, and Lynne Lampe, will meet in the conference room and use the book *The Color of Compromise* by Jamar Tisby as the basis for the discussions. It is about the history of racial oppression in our country and the church's complicity.

Each week, the group will focus on one chapter from the book. Books are \$15 each. To register, email the church office at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.

NEW
SUNDAY
MORNING
STUDY
GROUP



BOOKS
\$15

SUNDAYS @ 10:15 AM
in the Conference Room





Welcome New CDC Director, Misty Phillips!



The Child Development Center at First Baptist Church is thrilled to announce that we have new leadership. After an extensive search during with the CDC Board's Director Search Task Force interviewed several candidates, the full CDC Board voted 100% in favor of offering the position of Director to one of FBC's own members: Misty Phillips. Misty is an educator and social worker who is very involved in the community and has worked in education and service-oriented agencies for over 18 years, including working on assessments and research for pre-schools in Columbia, MO. She also oversaw the implementation of the first online developmental assessment tool, *Ages and Stages* for the state of Missouri. Her son has attended CDC since he was 2 years old and will graduate this spring. Misty is passionate about the integration of social-emotional development in early childhood and breaking down barriers to provide access to resources that will support higher education attainment. Misty loves being a mom and spending time with family and friends. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, writing, photography, swimming, hiking, bicycling, and yoga.

Misty began working behind the scenes at the CDC during the winter break. She and Dr. Sheila Brookes kicked off the new year at the CDC on January 3 with a full day training for the teachers and teaching assistants.

We are excited to report that in the very first 10 days of the semester, enrollment is up 42% from the fall. Way to go Misty! We still have a few openings, so if you are interested in enrolling or referring a preschool child to the CDC, please call Misty at 573-443-7677. We are beginning pre-registration for Summer and Fall 2020. Sign up now if you are interested.



Thank You, Jan!

After almost 35 years Jan Thompson is retiring as the accountant for First Baptist Church. Her services have been an essential part of keeping our ministries on track and moving forward. We are grateful for Jan's years of dedication, her patience and knowledge, her sense of humor, and her willingness to always go above and beyond when it came to the needs of First Baptist. Blessings on the road ahead.

Staff Time Away

From January 29-31, Pastor Carol McEntyre will be in Atlanta for a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting. February 3-7, Carol and Michael McEntyre will be away on vacation. The church office will be open as usual. If you have pastoral care needs, Interim Assistant Pastor Brittany McDonald Null will be available. You can reach her at 281-703-4572.



Mark Your Calendars!

UNIDIVERSITY *Youth Camp*



July 18-25- Maryville College, TN- \$275 (\$50 deposit due Feb 23)

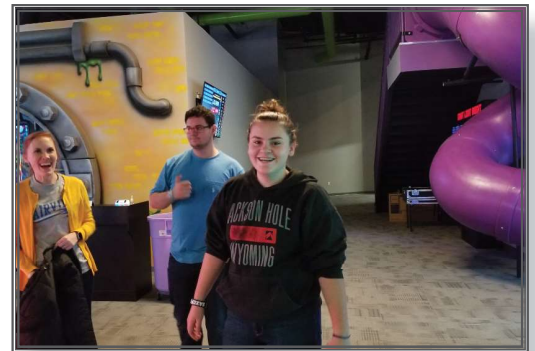
2020 Student Ministry is Off to a Great Start

Our students (and leaders) had a great start to a new semester at Level Up, Columbia's new bowling, laser tag, arcade, and more place for fun. Unfortunately no one got a picture of the final score of our bowling game (technical difficulties, I'm sure), so Michael's official record remains in tact. On an unrelated note, our next bowling outing will be on a day that Jack Stubbs is unavailable to play, sorry in advance. The Calling returns to its regular schedule Wednesday, January 29 in the Youth Suite from 6:00-7:15 pm. We will be starting the semester with a tangent series along side the pastor's sermon series. We are looking forward to a fantastic semester.

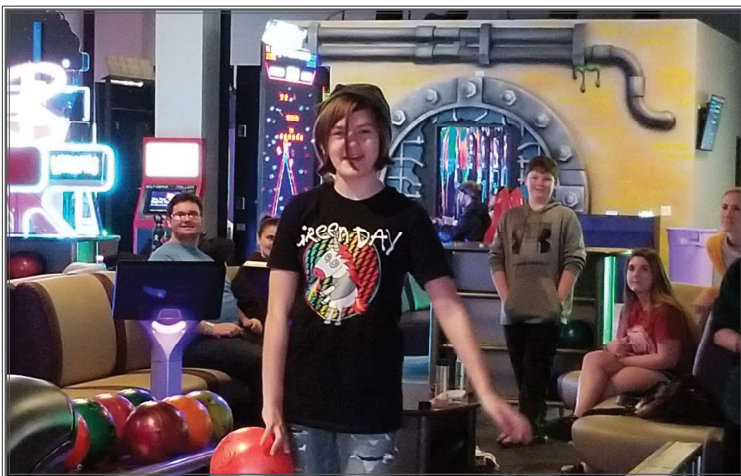
Wednesdays 6-7:15pm

the calling

Students 6th- 12th Grade



Thumbs up for Laser Tag VICTORY!



Bri's hair may have had something to do with her bowling splits all night



Brooklyn rocking the lanes



First Baptist Becomes an Encourager Church

Join us Sunday, January 26 as First Baptist officially becomes an Encourager Church for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Field Personnel Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen

Just what is an Encourager Church? Recently the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has asked local churches to officially partner in the critical work of CBF Field Personnel around the world by serving as an Encourager Church. An Encourager Church is one that covenants with field personnel to promote and share about their ongoing mission efforts, provide prayer support for the ministry, help with administrative needs when stateside, engage with the work being done, and offer faithful financial support. In the case of Keith and Mary, these are all items that First Baptist is already engaged in, so the decision to partner in their ministry in this role is fitting. You are invited to join us on January 26 (in person or online) as we celebrate this ongoing partnership and the work of Keith and Mary in our combined worship service.



Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel, from First Baptist, serving as resource coordinators for Romany and those working with Romany throughout Europe. This husband-wife team focuses on Christian media resources in major Romany languages and educational resources.

-Prayer Requests-

-The staff and families of Walnut Street Day School as they mourn the loss of one of their teachers, Becky Asher.

-Pray for the work of Room at the Inn and for volunteers to sign up to help keep the shelter open this season. They are currently most in need of volunteers for the morning host positions (5:15 to 8:00 am) and the evening shift (6:15 to 11:30 pm).

-As a new semester begins, be in prayer for all of our students as they face the challenges that await. Pray for good study habits to be formed, good choices to be made, for positive friendships and connection to faith communities, and for growth in their relationship with Christ.



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Ministerial Staff:

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Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor
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mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org
Brittany McDonald Null, Interim Assistant Pastor
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Music Staff:

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Marques J. Ruff, Interim Music Director-Traditional
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Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
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Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Mike Ide, Custodian

Child Development Center:

Misty Phillips, Director

"Return Service Requested"



January 23, 2020



Join us on Sunday, January 26 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary for Combined Worship and recognition of Keith Holmes and Mary VanRheenen as our Encouraging Church Partners, followed by our Annual Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We will pause to look back at the highlights of the last year and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. We will talk about ministry plans for 2020. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and the 2020 budget. Soup and sandwiches will be provided for a suggested donation of \$6.00. Small groups will still meet at 10:15 am.

the **SPIRE**

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