

February 19, 2020

# the SPIRE



First Baptist Church  
columbia



## WORSHIP

March 1st @ 9:15am  
in the Fellowship Hall

### Austen Hartke transgender theologian

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Transgender theologian Austen Hartke shares his experience of coming out as a bisexual and transgender Christian.

**FEB. 21**  
6:30 PM & 7:15 PM

**FEB. 22**  
10:00 AM

ECUMENICAL EVENT @  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



### Upcoming Events

February 21

6:30 pm LGBTQ+ Affirming Worship Service

7:15 pm Transgender & Christian w/ Austen Hartke

February 22

10:00 am The Bible and Transgender Christian w/ Austen Hartke

February 26

6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

March 1

9:15 am Combined Worship



## CBF Offering for Global Missions

Sunday, February 23 will conclude our offering for CBF Global Missions. Your support of the Offering for Global Missions will share the Gospel message and provide tangible gifts of God's grace and mercy. 100% of your gifts to the offering goes to funding the ministries of field personnel. So far we have received \$1,103. Please consider what your family might give. Your offering can be placed in one of the Global Missions envelopes in worship or indicated on the memo line of the check. Checks should be made out to First Baptist Church. The church will send one check to CBF following the offering. Thank you for supporting the work of Cooperative Baptist Field personnel around the world.



OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS



## Volunteers Still Needed 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>



## Faces of Beloved Exhibit

The photographs located in the elevator lobby illustrate the work and reach of CBF Global Missions over a period of time. Together, they paint a portrait of the ways CBF seeks to build beloved community over time and around the world.





## Update from Keith & Mary

When you come in the door of your home, what's the first thing you see? We recently visited Sinti Romany friends. They live in a double-wide trailer in a woonwagenkamp (trailer park just for Romany and/or Travelers). The first things we saw were: a wall decorated with violins; two long dining room tables, both made by their sons; and four of their grown daughters. Music, food, and family, all visible right inside the door. The wall right inside our door, on the other hand, is covered with bookshelves, three of them. There are books in every single room of our house (aside from the bathroom). The only book I've ever seen in a Sinti home, other than ones we brought to them, would be a Bible. Our elderly Sinti friend, a woman of deep faith, does not—cannot—read that Bible. She has learned to speak at least four languages. She does pray and fast. When her health permitted it, she also went to worship and teaching services three or four times a week. I have learned a lot from her. As you can see, even from our houses, she belongs to a community-based oral culture. Information is shared and passed on in community, in the course of life experiences. I'm a print person, through and through. I've tried to learn languages like she does, by hearing, but I can't do it. I have to write it down. Most formal educational systems were created and are run by print-oriented people like myself. Many Sinti and Roma have as much difficulty learning that way as I have trying to learn languages their way. The last two months I've been helping to lead an on-line discussion group with other field personnel who work with Romany and education. It's been enriching to practice new ways of thinking, to share experiences, and gain insight into people like our Sinti friends who would love to have you come in through the door of their home . . . but would never read this prayer letter.



Praying and typing,  
*Mary VanRheenen & Keith Holmes*

Thankful for:

- \*Successful completion of recording project; safe return of the “voice” and the translator who came here to record the New Testament in the language which people also prefer to listen to, rather than read;
- \*Opportunity for Keith to visit CBF colleague Shane McNary in Slovakia this coming week;

Request prayer for:

- \*Safe travel for Keith, going to and coming from Slovakia, Feb. 16-21.
- \*Development of culturally-appropriate educational programs for Sinti, Roma, and other oral learners like them;
- \*Music group from Bethlehem Baptist, Vulcanesti, Moldova; these young people feel led to evangelize other Rroma through music and are praying for suitable sound equipment.

*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.*



## 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.

## Lenten Daily Reflection Email Option

During the season of Lent, you have the opportunity to receive daily Gospel reflections produced by the University of Notre Dame on a different work of art for every day of Lent through Easter, with a brief meditation on each image. We begin each week's art meditations with an image from Notre Dame's campus and then move into classical works, all illustrating the scene from the upcoming Sunday Gospel and message. To opt-in to this Lenten experience, email the church office at [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org)

## First Baptist Book Club

Introducing the First Baptist Book Club - a gathering for readers every other month to discuss books centered around faith formation and spirituality. To kick things off, in connection with our Lenten theme, *Journey through Lent with Art*, the first book will

be *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen. By connecting with Rembrandt's painting with the same name, Nouwen shares his story in a captivating way and captures the themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation. To register to be a part of this book club, email Brittany, Pastor of Spiritual Formation, at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org). A new book will be selected at the end of each meeting.







## the calling

### Youth Planning Meeting Sunday, March 1 - 11:15 am

On Sunday March 1, following the Combined service and Small Group hour, there will be an important planning meeting for all youth, youth leaders, and parents of youth in the Student Suite. During our Rethinking Youth Ministry Workshop this past summer, the suggestion was made to invite parents to be a more integral part of the planning process for the semester. I thought this was a fantastic idea. I am asking youth, parents, and leaders to come on Sunday March 1 with ideas of activities, topics of studies, mission opportunities, outreach events, etc. as well as important family/personal calendar dates for us to consider. I will provide as many relevant dates and possible plans so we can create something shared and exciting for the life of our ministry. I hope you will plan to join us. Light lunch will be provided. We should be done by 1:00 pm.

JOIN US FOR A  
ST. PATRICK'S THEMED

# Youngish Adult Party

FRIDAY, MARCH 6  
5:30 TO 8:30 PM

AT THE HOME OF  
RANDY AND SHERRY WYATT

## Prayers & Concerns

### - Prayer Requests -

-The family and friends of Betty Blaise, who passed away Tuesday, January 28. Services will be at 11:00 am on February 26 at Bach-Yager Funeral Chapel.

### - Celebrations -

- Abby Hartsfield, whose baby shower will be held on February 22.
- Caitlin Bucy, whose baby shower will be held on March 1.

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Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 19

**Ministerial Staff:**

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**Mike Ide**, Custodian

**Child Development Center:**

**Misty Phillips**, Director  
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"Return Service Requested"



February 19, 2020

# Ash Wednesday

February 26, 6pm  
in the Fellowship Hall



## Ash Wednesday

February 26, 6:00 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall

Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Join us at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as set our intentions for Lent together.

## the SPIRE

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