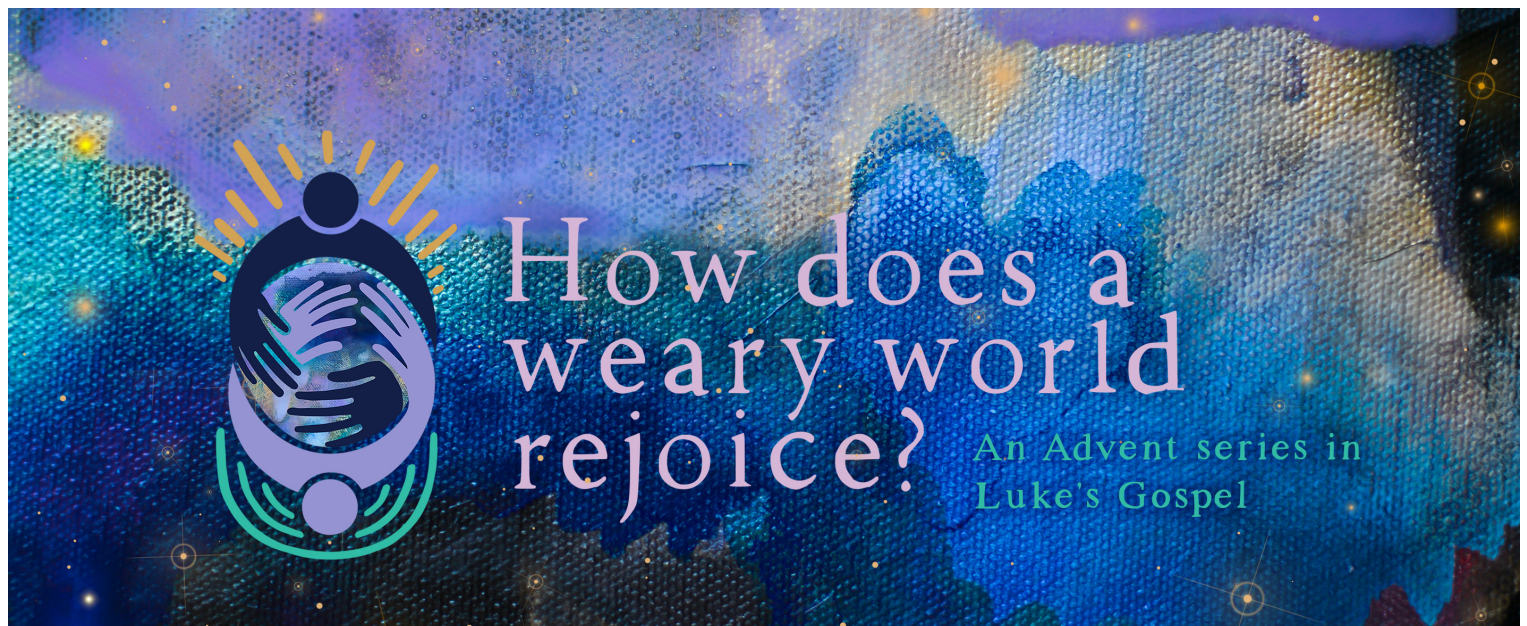


November 15, 2023

the SPIRE

 First Baptist Church
columbia



2023 Advent Theme: *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “How does a weary world rejoice?” From the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

Advent begins December 3. You can find this year’s Advent Devotionals beginning November 26 in both worship spaces.



200
celebrating
200
years of First Baptist



Celebrate First Baptist's 200th Anniversary with a commemorative Christmas ornament!

Crafted from locally sourced, natural Missouri red oak or cherry, each ornament is laser-engraved by a talented local artisan. Add a reminder of our church family and anniversary celebration to your Christmas decor for \$7.00.

You can purchase an ornament by using this QR code:





Welcome New Member

**Marcy
Bunch**

We welcome
Marcy Bunch
to First Baptist!



“

I RECENTLY RETIRED AND MOVED TO COLUMBIA TO BE NEAR MY FAMILY. MY SON PATRICK WORKS FOR THE HIGHWAY PATROL. SARA IS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST. I HAVE MOVED TO THE SOLSTICE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. I AM SO HAPPY TO FIND FIRST BAPTIST.

-MARCY BUNCH

Forward in Faith

Each November, as we begin our budget planning process for our next year of ministry, we ask our faith community to consider partnering with us by pledging their financial support. Our theme for this year's annual pledge drive is Forward in Faith. As we move into our 200th year of ministry, we wanted a theme that reflected the church's commitment to the future. Your pledge ensures that our unique progressive Christian voice will continue. On Sunday, November 19, there will be a time set aside for people to offer their pledges during the worship services.



<https://fbc-columbia.org/giving/>





ADVENTure - November 29 at 6 pm

Hey First Kids Families, when was the last time you kicked back, relaxed, and enjoyed a beautiful day by the pool? No matter your answer, we think it's long past time for another pool party. This Super Cool Pool Party is the perfect way to bring the fun of a summertime party to any season – even the middle of winter! While we can't provide sunshine or warm weather, this year's ADVENTure will give families the chance to have fun with a no-water-needed version of a classic pool party! With plenty of games, activities, delicious summer-inspired treats, and a fun winter-themed spin, this event is a great way to prepare for the Advent Season before the busyness of Christmas arrives!

Help Support the VAC Family Holiday Program

It is that time of year again! With the holiday season right around the corner we hope you will help us support the good work of Voluntary Action Center's (VAC) holiday program this season. VAC is one of our longstanding local ministry partners. This non-profit 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. This year, First Baptist is sponsoring 14 individuals across 3 families to help support this work.



On Sunday, November 19, Christmas "wishes" for individuals will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall between the worship spaces. You can get involved by choosing an item that you would like to purchase and donate, take the card, then return the purchased item to the church by December 3. Items must be brought in by the 3rd as they will be delivered to VAC on Monday, December 4 to be distributed to families. Please do not wrap items but do secure the card from the bulletin board to your gift.

If you do not have time to shop but still want to participate, you can make a monetary donation by December 3. Simply indicate "VAC Family Christmas" on your check or offering envelope. A few of our "shopping elves" will be making a trip to pick up last minute items. If you have any questions, please contact Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Administration, Youth, and Missions, at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org.



Interim Updates

Self-Study Committee Update

The Self-Study Committee is comprised of Charles Hunter, Julie Scroggs, Kim Moeller, Ronda Wahl, and Lynne Jensen Lampe. Among us, we have years of personnel experience, data collection and analysis, facilitation communication skills, and a great love for Christ and First Baptist. The committee meets every Monday to determine self-study process, including whether to use a facilitator/consultant, what to ask on the survey, how many "town hall" meetings to hold, best way to gather/analyze data, etc. At this time, we will be conducting the process through the committee and we will contact CBF and ABC advisors as needed.

The first step of the self-study for the congregation is our survey. On December 10, at the end of each worship service, we will provide a hard-copy survey and a digital link of the survey to the congregation. We will also allocate a few minutes during the worship service for people to begin and then give 2 weeks for people to complete them. Our hope is that most people will use the online version, and our team will enter the data of those who turn in the hard copies.

Following the survey, the self-study team will host two conversations. Both will be preceded by combined worship at 10:15 am. On January 7 we will have a 10:15 am combined worship followed by a town hall to discuss our Vision and Values, and on February 4, we will have a 10:15 am combined worship followed by a town hall to discuss our church's hopes for our next Senior Pastor's skills, characteristics, and tasks.

All the insights we gather will be used to help the Senior Pastor Search Committee understand the current thinking and needs of the congregation when searching for our next Senior Pastor.

The Church Council approved the following schedule:

- Dec 10: Administer the Self-Study Survey at the end of each service
- Jan 7: 10:15 am combined worship followed by a Town Hall meeting
- Feb 4: 10:15 am combined worship followed by a Town Hall meeting
- March 3: 10:15 am combined worship followed by a Called Business Meeting to elect the Senior Pastor Search Committee

Interim Senior Pastor Search Committee Update

The committee which includes Stephen Hoell, Sherry Wyatt, Ross Kasman, Mary Beth Ming and Charles Hunter is meeting weekly. We continue to collect resumes for the position from our CBF and ABC denominational partners. We are conducting zoom interviews, viewing online sermons, in-person interviews, reference checks and background checks. We have been pleased by the quality and the theological fit of the candidates. Candidates have significant prior Senior Pastor experience and all have recently completed successful Interim Pastor assignments. Our goal will be to identify the best candidate to work with us in ministry and mission until our next Senior Pastor is called to our church. Usually, Interim Pastors are available on-site 3 to 4 days per week. We hope the Interim Pastor will be able to begin by February 1 or March 1.



FIRST BAPTIST HISTORY

with Ken Hammann



Child Development Center
at First Baptist Church Est. 1969



Original Mission

The Child Development Center (CDC) was an important part of a ministry of First Baptist Church (FBC) to the people of Columbia from September 1969 until its closure in March of 2020. Original founders hoped the children who attended CDC would experience something of what it means to be a child of God and would graduate feeling good about themselves and fortified with spiritual resources for their family life.

Philosophy and Description

In 1968, a committee of FBC members, under the direction of Barbara Fischer, was formed to study the “situation in the Church and the needs of the community” as they related to child day care. The decision was made to create a day care center and in 1969 the CDC was licensed by the State of Missouri to provide a planned program for preschoolers from 3-5 years of age that included lunch.



It was led for many years by Moray Loring Kiehl, the associate pastor of FBC. Trained CDC staff encouraged students to have a healthy self-concept, independence and introduced skills to the children that would make them capable of completing routine tasks. Other areas of emphasis were: comprehension and expression of ideas, creativeness and responsiveness to others as well as an emerging awareness of God’s presence and activity. Uninterrupted periods of play as well as a variety of materials and tools were deemed essential for the child to work out individual ideas. To prepare children for Kindergarten, a variety of fine and gross motor activities were provided. Visiting international families who needed six-month or one-year placements were a target population as well as families who would benefit from a subsidized sliding scale payment system or a scholarship.

First Baptist History



CDC was the first church-sponsored early childhood program in Columbia to be licensed by the Missouri Department of Welfare. Ongoing cooperation with the University of Missouri, Stephens College, Columbia College and Columbia High Schools offered excellent observation experiences and field training for students training in Early Childhood Education.

In addition, so many families/parents would comment on the fact that CDC was a preschool in a church, without one specific religion being taught. Because of this, people of all faith backgrounds felt welcomed and comfortable. CDC students celebrated many international holidays and learned about other religion's holy days. Families were welcome to come in and share their cultures and family traditions with the classes. This was an excellent way for children to learn and accept differences in each other's cultures and beliefs.

In 2010, at the suggestion of CDC teacher, Eleanor Mitter, an inter-generational program, known as "Grand Friends," was begun. Headed by Georgia Hunter, the program was established with seven members of First Baptist Church acting as adoptive grandparents for the children in Eleanor's class. The "grandparents," Georgia and Keith Hunter, Marguerite and R.D. Johnson, Esther Rollins, Dottie Galbraith and Dell Keepers would meet with the children once each month for lunch and would provide a series of diverse activities. They would read together, sing, dance, and do crafts. It was a wonderful multigenerational experience for the adults and children. In addition to "Grand Friends," members of FBC were invited to participate by reading stories, sharing lunch and helping with crafts and other activities. Enrollment reached a high of 60 children and classes were expanded to include pre-kindergarten and children up to the age of six. For several years, an after-school program was offered.

The mission of the CDC is expressed in this statement from 2010:

"The mission of the Child Development Center (CDC) of First Baptist Church is to provide a high quality preschool education for children. We strive to reach out to children regardless of race, religion, color or national origin, including those of economically disadvantaged families. "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)"

Many wonderful teachers and volunteers contributed to the success of the CDC. The following list is of the Honorary Life Board Members:

Barbara Fisher
Clara Hudson
Moray Loring-Kiehl
Verna Rhodes

Diana Groshong
Lisa Lang
Mary Beth Ming
Joanie Sorrels

An expanded article including a chronology and additional pictures is included in the 200th Anniversary History Book to be published.



Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor
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Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions
& Administration
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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation
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Caleb Cooke, Pastoral Resident
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Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director
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Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional
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Support Staff:

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Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web,
Facilities and Arts,
brice@fbc-columbia.org

Mike Ide, Custodian

Marcy Douglas, Childcare Coordinator

"Return Service Requested"



Reception for Pastors Carol & Michael McEntyre

On Sunday, November 26 during the 10:15 am Spiritual formation hour, the Church Council will be hosting a reception in honor of the McEntyre family to thank them for their many years of service and give space for our congregation to express gratitude for their ministry alongside us. The reception will take place in the Fellowship Hall with light refreshments.

During the reception, the Crafty Critters will be presenting a friendship quilt to the McEntyre family. If you have not had a chance to sign it, the quilt will be available this Sunday outside the worship areas.

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