



## *Our Worship of God*

*November 26, 2023*

*9:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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**Welcome**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

**†Call to Worship (responsive)**

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**The One who calls us,**

The One who equips us,

**The One who loves us without end.**

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

**†Opening Songs**

To the One  
Abba

**†Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer for Leaning In**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

We long to find a place of peace and rest, O God,  
**to lean into the welcome and the love of real friends  
who stay true no matter who we are or what we've done.**

We want to be known – not just our names, but ourselves,  
**our dreams and longings, our fears and failings  
and be warmly, unrestrainedly welcomed.**

We yearn to know the joy of opening our hearts and arms to others,  
**witnessing them become tender and receptive  
in the security of our acceptance.**

And you have created a place like this for us  
**a place of people, with failings and disagreements  
who still look out for one another;**

a place of difference and struggle  
where we can all belong;

**a place of faith and deep doubt,**  
a place of awkward stumbling toward Christlikeness;  
**a place of worship, of mystery, and of rest.**

And though we can't always see it,  
although sometimes it doesn't feel like it;

**this is the place – here.**

Not the buildings and the furniture –

**no, these people**

who gather each week in your name

**and try so hard to remember each other's**

And for this place, and your being with us

**We give our heartfelt gratitude and devotion.**

To you and to this place we commit

**To love deeply and to lean in. Amen.**

**†Song of Praise**

Surrounded by Holy

**New Testament Reading**

Pastor Michael McEntyre

**Philippians 1:3-6**

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

**†Song of Faith**

Gratitude

**Message**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

**†Song of Response**

Counting Every Blessing

**Life of the Church**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

## Litany of Farewell and Blessing

Rena Tratchel, *Church Moderator*

Throughout our church's 200 years, our church community has known numerous changes. Countless roses for newborns have decorated the altar and we have seen our children grow up and step out on their own. Couples have begun new lives together and loved ones and friends finished the race set before us. Some have made this place their home for generations while others have passed through on their way to new places, experiences, and opportunities. Recognizing these times of passage, of endings and beginnings is an important part of our journey. In that spirit, today we share a farewell with our Pastors Carol and Michael and their children Nate and Marin.

***Carol:** We give thanks to God for the ways you have welcomed us, supported our family, and accompanied us in the way of Jesus.*

***Michael:** We have laughed together, cried together, worshipped together, and prayed together.*

***Carol:** We have hoped together, dreamed together, worked together, and shared bread around many tables together.*

**We are grateful for our time together.**

***Carol:** Parting is bittersweet.*

***Michael:** Memories flood our hearts and minds.*

**We say goodbye with both gratitude and sadness.**

In saying goodbye to Carol and Michael, we release them from their responsibilities as pastors at First Baptist. Will you join me in this release?

**With God's help, we will.**

***Carol:** First Baptist, I pray that you will keep on living out God's visions, sensitive to where God's Spirit wishes to lead you as a congregation.*

**With God's help, we will keep on living out God's vision for us.**

***Michael:** I pray that you know the beauty of your light, continue to care for one another, invest deeply in this place, and continue to build a bright future.*

**With God's help, we will keep on caring.**

First Baptist, do you release Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre from serving as our Senior Pastor?

**With God's help, we release you, Carol, as our pastor.**

First Baptist, do you release Rev. Dr. Michael McEntyre from serving as our Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Administration?

**With God's help, we release you, Michael, as our pastor.**

As we release Carol and Michael from their ministry at First Baptist, we also want to ask God's blessing on their future.

**We offer our support and encouragement to you, Carol and Michael, as your ministry unfolds in new settings. We pray God's blessings on you and express our gratitude for your ministry among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Carol, do you release this congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastor? Do you release its members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

***Carol:** I do, with the help of God. I pray God's blessing on each person here in their spiritual journey, and I pray God's blessing on First Baptist in its continued ministry. I thank you for the love and support you have shown me while I ministered among you. As I leave here, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

Now I ask you Michael, do you release this congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastor? Do you release its members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

***Michael:** I do, with the help of God. I pray God's blessing on each person here in their spiritual journey, and I pray God's blessing on First Baptist in its continued ministry. I thank you for the love and support you have shown me while I ministered among you. As I leave here, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

Let's pray together:

**Faithful God, you have been our refuge and strength through the years of our life together. Give to us a strong sense of your presence as we now go our separate ways. Enlarge our faith, that we may see your purpose unfolding in the happenings of this time. Be our guide through all that is difficult and doubtful. Grant us peace in doing your will. Comfort us as we hold these cherished memories and guide us on our way forward. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**†Benediction**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

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# Worship Notes

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*Call to Worship*, Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

*Prayer for Leaning In*, Prayer by John van de Laar and posted on his great website, Sacredise.com was adapted for a responsive reading.

*To the One* , CCLI Song # 7084422 Abbie Parker | Adam Palmer | Jeff Pardo

*Abba*, CCLI Song # 6088334 Jonathan David Helser

*Surrounded by Holy*, CCLI Song # 7212199 Dustin Smith | Sean Matta | Zahriya Zachary

*Gratitude*, CCLI Song # 7158417 Benjamin Hastings | Brandon Lake | Dante Bowe

*Counting Every Blessing*, CCLI Song # 7101176 Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson

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## Week at a Glance

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### Sunday, November 26

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour – First Kids Sunday School
- 10:15 am Reception for the McEntyre Family in the Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

### Monday, November 27

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, November 28

- 1:00-5:00 pm Advent Preparations
- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

### Wednesday, November 29

- 6:00 pm ADVENT(ure) in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Bells
- 5:30 *The Calling* Dinner
- 6:00-7:15 *The Calling*

### Thursday, November 30

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

### Sunday, December 3 – Hanging of the Green

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm College Ministry, *The Gathering*

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# Announcements

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## Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, you can fill out a connection card at the welcome table, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at [fbc-columbia.org/connect](http://fbc-columbia.org/connect). Room and a meal will be provided.



## 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. You can pledge at <https://fbc-columbia.org/giving/>



## Advent Preparations – November 28, 1-5:30 pm

Advent preparations will begin Tuesday, November 28, from 1-5:30 pm.

We will meet in the Sanctuary for directions. We will be putting up the trees and testing the lights, fluffing garland (bring gloves), making sure all the ornaments have hangers and much more. Come help and get in the festive spirit early.

## ADVENT(ure) – November 29 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

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!



## Advent and Hanging of the Green - December 3

Advent, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, begins on December 3rd. During both Awakening Contemporary Worship at 9:15 am and Traditional Worship at 11:15 am, we will take some time to Hang the Green. We will spend some time decorating the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Advent during worship. This is always a special time in the life of our church. The Advent devotionals will be available beginning November 26 in both worship services.

## First Baptist 200th Anniversary 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:



## 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](mailto:mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org).

## Christmas Dinner - December 17 at 5pm

We invite you to join us for our Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared for a lovely meal of turkey, ham, and beverages provided by the church, and excellent side dishes and desserts prepared by you and your First Baptist friends. To help ensure we have a variety of food, we encourage you to bring a side dish if your last name begins A-M and a dessert if your last name begins with N-Z. Young musicians will provide special entertainment and our Chaotic Christmas Pageant is back for another year of fun and laughter. Come feast and celebrate with us!

## Notes

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*Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Dr. Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Administration*  
*Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation*  
*Caleb Cooke, Pastoral Resident*  
*Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional Worship,*  
*Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director,*  
*Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist,*  
*Noah Hartsfield, Handbell Director*  
*Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant,*  
*Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web, Facilities and Arts,*  
*Mike Ide, Custodian,*  
*Marcy Douglas, Childcare Coordinator*