



First Baptist Church

Our Worship of God

August 31, 2025

9:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Welcome

Pastor Kristin McAtee

†Call to Worship (responsive)

God has led us through our wildernesses.

God has led us into a plentiful land.

God is the fountain of living water.

So come to the Water! Come and worship God!

God is here in this place.

God is our strength and our helper,

so enter this time ready to worship and listen.

We are here. We are ready.

Let's worship together.

†Opening Songs

To the Water
Living Water

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Listen to the LORD's word,
people of Judah,
all you families of the Israelite household.

This is what the LORD says:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that made them wander so far?
They pursued what was worthless
and became worthless.

They didn't ask,
"Where's the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us through the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and ravines,
in a land of drought and darkness,
in a land of no return,
where no one survives?"

I brought you into a land of plenty,
to enjoy its gifts and goodness,
but you ruined my land;
you disgraced my heritage.

The priests didn't ask,
"Where's the LORD?"

Those responsible for the Instruction didn't know me;
the leaders rebelled against me;
the prophets spoke in the name of Baal,
going after what has no value.

That is why I will take you to court
and charge even your descendants,
declares the LORD.

Look to the west as far as the shores of Cyprus
and to the east as far as the land of Kedar.

Ask anyone there:

Has anything this odd ever taken place?
Has a nation switched gods,
 though they aren't really gods at all?
Yet my people have exchanged their glory
 for what has no value.
Be stunned at such a thing, you heavens;
 shudder and quake,
 declares the LORD.
My people have committed two crimes:
 They have forsaken me, the spring of living water.
 And they have dug wells, broken wells that can't hold water.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Moment of Silence

†Song

Bless God

Litany of Living Water

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

O God, You are the Spirit of living water—

And You call us to come and drink freely!

Though we once turned to dry and broken wells,

Still, You invite us to return and be refreshed.

You have never stopped flowing with mercy,

Your grace is deeper than our wandering.

You led your people through the wilderness with streams from the rock,

And You lead us still, with the waters of life.

Where we built cracked cisterns,

You offer a spring that never runs dry.

When our hearts were parched with longing,

Your Spirit came like rain to renew us.

You satisfy every thirst with the riches of Your love.

You rejoice over us with singing!

We come with joy to the waters,

We drink deeply of Your presence.

We leave behind the dry and empty things,

And we turn to You, the River of Delight!

Let Your Spirit flow in us like a mighty stream,

Cleansing, healing, restoring, and overflowing!

You are the Spirit of living water,

And in You, we live, and move, and have our being! Amen.

†Song

Let Love Win

Message

Pastor Kristin McAtee

†Song of Response

Wild Love

Life of the Church & Sharing Our Gifts

Pastor Kristin McAtee

†Benediction

Worship Notes

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Living Water, Simeon Neese, Zach Neese CCLI Song #7054707 © 2015 Gateway Create Publishing

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 31

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Service in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, September 1

OFFICES CLOSED for Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 2

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, September 3

- 6:00 pm Youth Group
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bells in the Sanctuary

Thursday, September 4

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study
- 6:00 pm Crafter Hours

Sunday, September 7

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Service in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Announcements

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 from the pew back, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect



Thank You for a Wonderful Fall Kickoff!

Our Fall Kickoff was a great success, and we're deeply grateful to everyone who volunteered. It was truly a family event! To each person who brought food—thank you. To all who helped with setup and teardown—we couldn't have done it without you. To our musicians: we know there were technical challenges, but your music was both meaningful and beautiful. It's incredibly moving to see our congregation come together, working through difficulties with joy and unity.

With heartfelt thanks,
FBC Ministers and Staff

The Bible: Mining Many Messy Meanings (Bible, MMMM.)

Join Henry Imler for six weeks of (hopefully) honest wrestling with questions many Baptists wonder about but might not always discuss openly. What makes a text "sacred"? Who decided what went in the Bible and what is the difference between translations anyway? Can it be sacred without being perfect? What all is in there? We'll explore how our shared sacred text pushes back against empire, deals with translation problems, and what it might mean to stay in a tense relationship with a text that sometimes troubles us. The first session will be held Sunday, September 7, in the Conference Room on the second floor.

Brittany on Sabbatical Soon

Pastor Brittany is planning now for her first sabbatical! She graciously postponed her sabbatical time until FBC had a Senior Pastor. I am thankful that she will be able to take this time for rest, retreat, and renewal. FBC, you are a generous and thoughtful church to provide this to your pastors.

Per her covenant, she has received one month of leave and has elected to add some vacation days. Her time away starts on September 8. She will return on October 26. Brittany is helping us prepare for her absence during these weeks, as well as for Bryce's absence. They are both so important to FBC, and there are many tasks she is helping us to understand. Brittany has hired an intern, Danielle McAtee, who will help with daily tasks and maintenance. Our outstanding preschool and children's teams will be prepped and ready to carry out the good ministry happening there. Brittany has been helping out with the youth, and that role will be filled by our current youth volunteers. The ministers and staff will cover the rest. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me!

-Pastor Kristin

Nominating Committee Update

As we look ahead to next year and pursue our vision of co-creating a restorative community of fully inclusive followers of Jesus, we are inviting individuals to serve on our Ministry Teams. The Nominating Committee will soon begin reaching out to current team members to confirm their interest in continuing to serve. We'll also be contacting potential new members to join the teams. If you have someone in mind who would be a great addition to a Ministry Team, please share your recommendation with Pastor Kristin.

"Thank You for Having Such a Giving Spirit"

This note comes from a local Afghan family of 10. Our Serving Team recently shared some of your generous giving to help them attend a green card interview in Kansas City. The entire family was required to attend, and to bring a translator. We partnered with Sacred Heart Church to provide funds for this important meeting. The family sent a card of thanks, saying, "You are truly a blessing." Thank you, church, for your heart of giving.

Trustee Recommendation Approved by Church Council

The Trustees have requested a group be formed to examine the current and future ministry needs of our congregation and how the interior spaces of our church can better serve those needs. It is time again to undertake a thoughtful and prayerful assessment of how our spaces align with our ministry goals. The Trustees recommend assembling a group that brings together a mix of voices — including ministry leaders, facilities experts, and congregational representatives — to evaluate how our interior spaces are currently used, what is needed to support effective ministry, and what options we might consider to address the condition and functionality of our buildings. This is an opportunity not only to address urgent facility concerns but also to imagine how our buildings might better support the ministry of this congregation in the years ahead. This team will take into account the good work done in years past to seek solutions as they consider both ongoing and new building issues. Pastor Kristin will work with the Trustees to assemble a team of people for this process.

Third Pastor Candidate Announced!

The Third Pastor Search Committee is pleased to present Joseph (Joey) Fuson as the Pastor for Youth and Community Ministries Candidate. Joey holds an MDiv from Wake Forest School of Divinity and comes to us with extensive experience in youth ministry. He recently completed a year's training in Clinical Pastoral Education, giving him a wider experience in ministry. Joey visited with staff, youth, parents, youth leaders, and members of the Serving Team last weekend. Our goal was to discern if Joey would fit into our church and for Joey to discern his calling to be here. After this discernment process, we are pleased to say that we have offered the position to Joey, contingent upon the approval of the church.

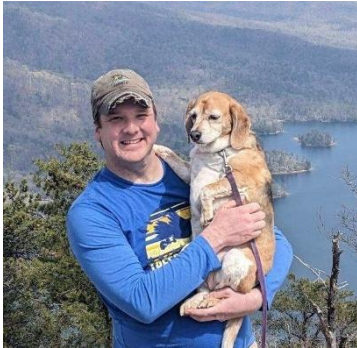
A business meeting will be held on September 14 at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary for the purpose of voting on Joseph Fuson as our new Pastor for Youth and Community Ministries. All children, youth, and teachers are participating in the business meeting. Nursery care will be provided. At the conclusion of the meeting, Bible study classes may resume, time permitting.

Joey comes to us from Greenville, SC. He was born in Jacksonville and brought his fandom of the Jaguars with him to Greenville, where he spent the bulk of his life. He double majored in Religion and Political Science, which along with several

meaningful extracurricular activities led him to a call to ministry. His interests include spending time at his local board game store, hiking, and spending time with his dog, Jenny.

The committee was most interested in Joey's experience with youth. Through multiple internships and full-time youth ministry, he has worked in a variety of settings, from inner-city to rural. His theology is very progressive, and he identifies strongly with the Alliance of Baptists. His references speak highly of his people skills and his outgoing personality. His former pastor told us if he were looking for a youth pastor, Joey would be one of his top candidates. Joey is an experienced preacher, teacher, and minister. We believe that he will grow with us and help us to grow as well.

We asked Joey to send greetings. He says:



Hello First Baptist!

This sports loving nerd is over the moon to bring his senior beagle to help serve the people of Columbia and this church. I have been in a lot of churches and have always had a soft spot for Alliance of Baptist congregations. Whether it's through worship or missions, this particular church has demonstrated a commitment to the marginalized that makes my heart sing. Even more exciting is the chance to be a part of a congregation where my sister and niece would be not only welcomed but affirmed for who they are, and to have the chance to share that acceptance with the members of this community is something that really attracted me to this place. I look forward to getting to know and serve you, watching baseball, and learning to love Mizzou.

You will find copies of Joey's resume in both worship spaces. Please review it and direct any questions to members of our Search Team.

Gratefully,

Cindy Giovanini
Kristin McAtee

Charles Hunter
Jack Stubbs

Lexie Kieffer



1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201

Rev. Kristin McAtee, Senior Pastor
Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation
Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional Worship
Shelby Pride, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director
Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist
Noah Hartsfield, Handbell Director
Susan Goudie, Office Coordinator
Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web, Facilities, and Arts
Mike Ide, Custodian
Nellene Martin, Childcare Director