

April 4, 2024

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Celebrating
Holy Week @
FIRST-BAPTIST





Word from Pastor Greg

Ministry Team Schedules

Here in the early days of my interim ministry seems a good time to update everyone about the typical weekly schedule of church staff:

- The church office is open 8 am-Noon and 1-5 pm, Monday-Friday. Susan Goudie, Brenda Rice, and Mike Ide are generally available during these days and hours.
- Pastors Brittany and Caleb are active professionally from Sunday to Thursday and take their days off on Fridays and Saturdays. As is typical of pastoral ministry, their work isn't confined to the church building or to normal business hours, so it's best to call the church office or check with them personally about their availability. We also want to protect their days off, encouraging them to claim those days for rest, renewal, and a life beyond their ministries. Writing as one who's been in ministry my entire adult life, it's a rare and mature church - like you all! - that actually honors this understanding. I'm committed to doing so; I hope you will be, too.
- My role with you is full-time, even though I'm not in town the entire week. I (and Priscilla most weeks) am in Columbia from Saturday afternoons/evenings to Wednesday afternoons, adjusting this schedule for special events and circumstances. On the days I'm not here, I'm generally back in Olathe, KS (metro Kansas City) doing work in connection with my faculty role at Central Baptist Theological Seminary and handling sermon preparation and administrative matters related to my interim ministry with you. Fridays and Saturdays afford me time for a more relaxed schedule. You can reach me in the following ways:

o Email: ghunt@fbc-columbia.org

o Cell phone: (318) 518-8336

Thank you for the trust you place in us to support the missional life for First Baptist. Thank you, too, for all the ways you support us as your friends and collaborators in the missional purposes of God.

-Pastor Greg Hunt



New Sermon Series: *What God Wants to Know*

Have you or someone you know ever said something like, “When I get to heaven, I’m going to have some questions for God”? It’s only natural for us to be curious about matters of life here on earth and the life beyond. It’s understandable that a lot of attention is given to addressing these questions in sermons, podcasts, and books.

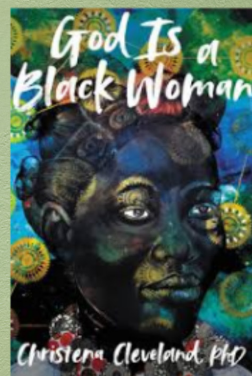
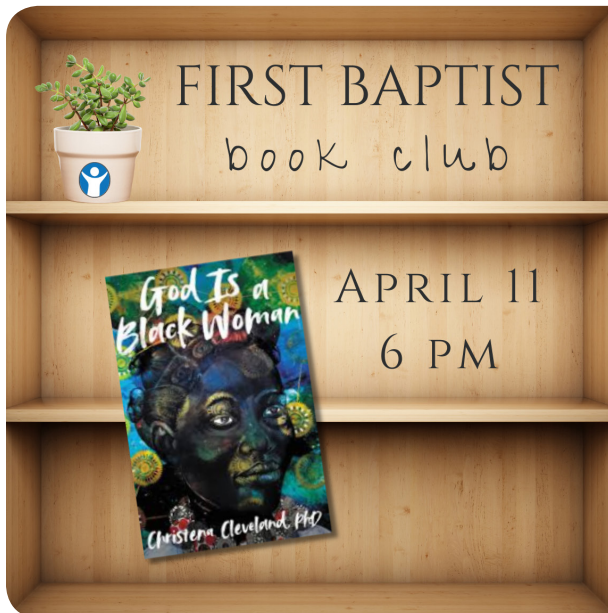
But consider this: The Bible offers us some striking examples of God flipping the script, so that instead of us putting questions to God, God puts questions to us. Beginning Sunday, April 7 and continuing through Sunday, May 19, we’re going to take a closer look at some of those biblical texts and allow God to probe our minds and hearts. Here are the questions from God we’ll consider:

- April 7 - “Do You Love Me?” (John 21:1-19)
- April 14 - “Where Are You?” (Genesis 3:1-21)
- April 21 - “Where Is Your Brother, Your Sister?” (Genesis 4:1-16)
- April 28 - “Who Will Go for Us?” (Isaiah 6:1-13)
- May 5 - “Do You Want to Be Well?” (John 5:1-9)
- May 12 - “What Do You Want Me to Do For You?” (Mark 10:35-45)
- May 19 - “What Is That in Your Hands?” (Exodus 4:1-5)



Reclaiming Paul: Embracing a Progressive Understanding A New Combined Class During the Spiritual Formation Hour Begins April 14

Beginning April 14, there will be a combined class offered in the parlor during the Spiritual Formation hour called "Reclaiming Paul: Embracing a Progressive Understanding." Led by Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke, this class will redefine and reclaim important concepts in Paul's letters such as mission, justice, grace, love, participation in Christ, and more. In this class, we will see that, above all, Paul seeks to transform the body of Christ into a justice-oriented, Spirit-filled people whose unity in Christ transcends earthly divisions through inclusion, not omission; in other words, Paul preaches unity without uniformity. The class will be discussion-based and a great opportunity to connect with folk you may not see very often.



God Is a
Black Woman
by Dr. Christena Cleveland

First Baptist Book Club - April 11

The First Baptist Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, April 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the large conference room upstairs. At this meeting, we will discuss Christena Cleveland's *God Is a Black Woman*. Light refreshments will be served, and the discussion will be lively! Join us to see how we can make our faith more empowering and inclusive—there's still plenty of time to buy and read the book. First Baptist Book Club participants are asked to purchase the book independently.



A FIRST KIDS EVENT

JOURNEY TOGETHER

Discover Jesus

AUG 2-4	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH A family-oriented Spiritual Formation event for children and those who help raise them.
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Registration opens May 28

Learn more at fbc-columbia.org/together



ForColumbia 2024

First Baptist is excited to announce that we will be partnering with ForColumbia again this year! ForColumbia was founded in 2015 to bring Christians together to freely share the love of God by serving our community side-by-side. They do this by organizing volunteers from churches throughout mid-Missouri to serve individuals, non-profit organizations, and other public venues in an annual city-wide day of service. ForColumbia will be April 27 from 9am to 2pm. If this is not your first time serving with us, note there are a couple of changes to this year's ForColumbia. Rather than having two work slots, the day of service will go from 9am to 2pm. Childcare will be provided the entire time. Registration is open!

Volunteer Small Groups:

- For Mount Celestial put "Kasman" in the small group prompt
- For Crafting for a Cause, put "Crafty Critters"
- For the Stone Bridge House, put "Robertson"
- For the project led by Shelby Myers, put "Myers"

Harp & Healing

MARIA DUHOVA
TREVOR, HARPIST

APRIL 9TH AT 6PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



First Baptist Hiking Club Sunday, April 28

The next hike will be on Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 pm at the Grindstone Nature Area. We will plan to hike the loop. This trail is relatively flat and is rated "easy," just under 2 miles. Plan to spend about an hour.

The parking lot address is 2011 Old 63 S, Columbia, MO 65201. There are restrooms at the lot. Bring your own water.

If you would like to be added to the hiking group Facebook page, please email Andrea Weingartner at FBChikinggroup@yahoo.com.



First Kids Tie Dye Party



First Kids Tie Dye Party May 4, 6:00 pm

The First Kids Tie Dye Party is back for another year of fun and color! Kids (and their adults!) are invited to join Pastor Brittany for an evening of tie-dying and games on the First Baptist Front Lawn, Saturday May 4th at 6pm. Registration is \$5.00 and includes a First Kids T-Shirt.

For more information, or to register, visit <https://fbc-columbia.org/ministries/kids/>





First Baptist Plant Exchange - April 20

The church will be having a plant exchange on April 20 from 9:30-11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All First Baptist family and friends are welcome! We will have donuts and coffee and plenty of plants and plant conversations. You do not have to consider yourself a "plant person" to attend. If you have a plant cutting or two to share that is great, if not come anyway! For more information about the plant exchange, contact Brenda Rice at brice@fbc-columbia.org

FIRST BAPTIST GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 @ 6PM



First Baptist Game Night - Friday, April 26 at 6:00 pm

Calling all board game enthusiasts! Join us each month at 6:00 pm in the parlor for our Board Games Night. Whether you're a strategic mastermind or a casual player, this event is for you! Come and indulge in an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. Grab your favorite board game and challenge your friends to a thrilling match. From classic favorites to modern gems, there will be a wide variety of games available for all tastes and skill levels.

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Ministerial Staff:

Dr. Greg Hunt, Interim Senior Pastor
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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation
bnull@fbc-columbia.org
Caleb Cooke, Pastoral Resident
ccooke@fbc-columbia.org

Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist
gostercamp@gmail.com
Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director
smyers@fbc-columbia.org
Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional
jray@fbc-columbia.org

Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org
Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web,
Facilities and Arts,
brice@fbc-columbia.org
Mike Ide, Custodian
Nellene Martin, Childcare Director

"Return Service Requested"

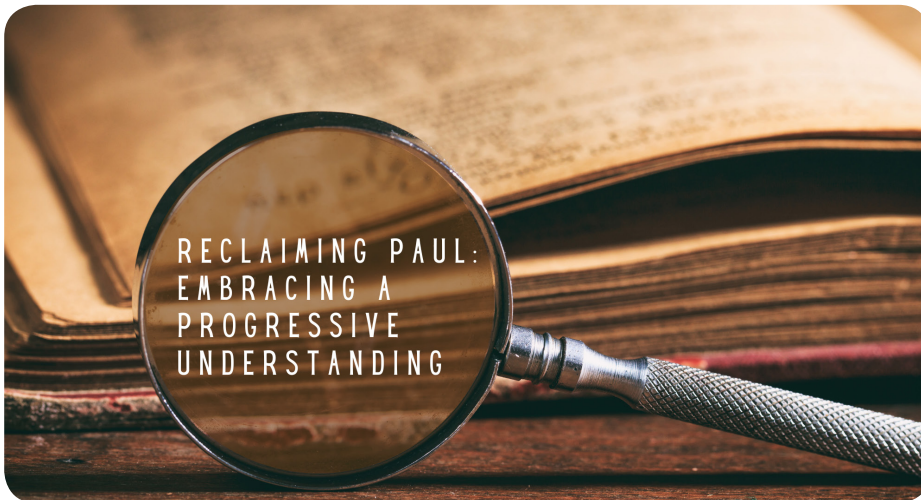


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**Reclaiming Paul: Embracing a
Progressive Understanding**
A New Combined Class during
Spiritual Formation Hour
Begins April 14

More information on page 4!