

August 28, 2024

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



FALL KICK-OFF 2024





Word from Pastor Greg

In worship on Sunday, August 18, our focus was on “worry and wonder.” In response to Jesus’ encouragement (Matthew 6:25-34), we acknowledged our worries and turned our eyes to the birds of the air, the lilies of the field, and other experiences from our own lives to encourage our celebration of God’s loving care. A globe at the front of our worship space reminded us that God’s got the whole world in God’s hands.

It was moving to watch members young and seasoned walk to the globe, opened on a hinge, and place slips of paper, one with words related to your worries and the other with words related to your wonder - your reflections on the ways God has shown care and blessed you. It was equally moving to sit down with those slips of paper after worship and read what you wrote. I was moved to prayer, translating my empathy for you into appeals for God’s favor and my celebration with you into thanks for God’s faithful love.

While respecting the private concerns that I will hold in trust, I can say something about the worries and wonders that featured most prominently. Here are some of the worries that many of us share:

- Family: Our children; our parenting; our parents; our marriages
- Money and finances - making ends meet; planning for the future
- Health - our own and that of people we love
- Relationships - good ones, challenging ones, ones we want to have
- Work or School
- Politics - the upcoming election; the divisiveness of our current political environment
- World events - Ukraine; Gaza; international tensions
- The environment

As you might imagine, when it comes to wonder, many of us experience God’s blessing through:

- Family and friends who mean the world to us
- Nature in its manifold expressions
- Our pets
- The gifts of rest and sleep and nourishment and good health
- Healing
- Restoration and belonging
- Feeling loved
- Answered prayers in times of financial, physical, and relational need
- The simple, profound experience of God’s presence and love

Aren’t you glad that we are a community of faith where love reigns, where we can share our worries and our wonders knowing that we’re not alone, that we’re in this together, surrounded by the love and care of God?

-Pastor Greg



New to the Pew Blessing

On Sunday, our church prayed over our 1st graders as they received their Bibles, and we affirmed their presence in worship. We know that children learn how to worship God by watching the adults they know and love worship, by participating, and by asking questions. It is also my hope, that by worshipping with our children, we adults will learn just as much from them. Our kids are full of wisdom and wonder, and as I say every year, we are so lucky to get to worship God with them. As we prayed over them on Sunday, "We commit to worship with you, learn from you, and pray for you, as you grow in wisdom and grace. May you feel God's love here." I look forward to all the ways we will grow alongside each other this year!

-Pastor Brittany



First Baptist Pride Shirts

First Baptist is re-ordering shirts in time for MidMo PrideFest on September 28, 2024. Whether you plan to represent First Baptist at Pride or want an awesome shirt proclaiming God's inclusive love, this shirt is for you! The cost is \$15/shirt and we will only be purchasing what is ordered. The deadline to purchase a shirt is September 16th so order soon!



Save the Date! Parenting and Faith Workshop October 12

Save the date for a Parenting and Faith Workshop led by Meredith Miller, author of *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kids Don't Have to Heal From*. She will lead us in conversations centered around faith formation for our children and how to help our kids have a strong and adaptable faith. More details coming soon!

OCTOBER 12

Parenting and Faith Workshop
WITH AUTHOR MEREDITH MILLER

Join us for a workshop centered around faith formation for our kids and ways to raise them with a secure and adaptable faith.

SAVE THE DATE

First Baptist Church
columbia



RECEPTION FOR

Caleb & Rianna Cooke



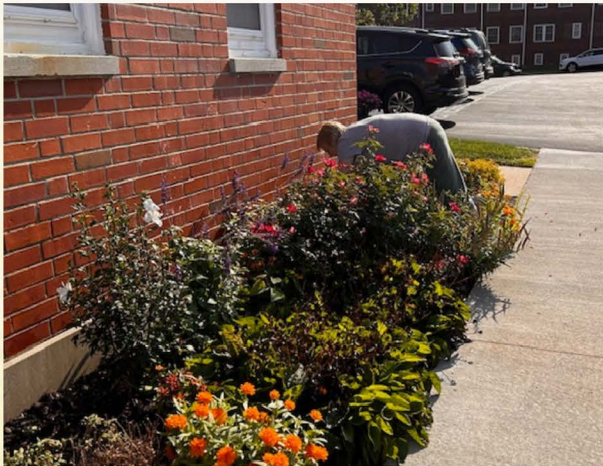
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:15 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please join us to say goodbye to FBC Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke and his wife Rianna as they leave First Baptist to pursue Caleb's call to be Senior Pastor at Village Baptist Church in Bowie, Maryland. We will gather between services (10:15-11:10 am) in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 15 to say goodbye. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. In their year at FBC they have touched our hearts with their love and friendship and brightened our congregation and community through their sincere desire to learn, serve, preach, and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please join us to show your gratitude and support as they go forward to build God's Kingdom in Maryland!



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED ON OUR WORKDAY!





Health Station Update

In association with the Lions Club, we are collecting eyeglasses (no cases) for those in need. You can donate used eyeglasses in our new eye glass collection box that is on the bookcase just outside the Health Station.



Baptizing America: **Fall Book Study** **Thursdays in October**

As we approach a major, upcoming election, increased attention has been given to the rise of Christian nationalism, an unholy marriage of religion and political power. To learn more about this and consider how best to respond, we will be doing an October book study.

Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism, provides a compelling narrative about how mainline Protestantism promoted Christian nationalism's growing influence in American life. It also offers insights into what might be done about it.

We will meet on Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24 (6 pm) for discussions facilitated by interim pastor Greg Hunt.

If you are interested, please email Greg at ghunt@fbc-columbia.org. Participants are asked to purchase the book independently.

BAPTIZING AMERICA

How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism



Brian Kaylor & Beau Underwood

*Foreword by Adriene Thorne
Senior Minister of The Riverside Church*

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 19

Ministerial Staff:

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

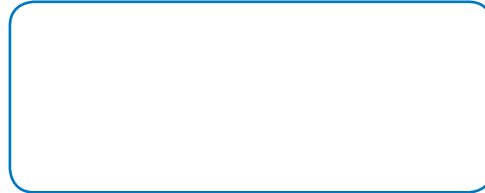
Music Staff:

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"



RECEPTION FOR
Caleb & Rianna Cooke



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
10:15 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
(more info on Page 5)

August 28, 2024

the **SPIRE**

In This Issue:

- Fall Kick-Off Photos
- Word from the Pastor
- First Baptist Pride Shirts
- Parenting and Faith Workshop
- Caleb Cooke Reception
- First Baptist Workday Photos
- Fall Book Study
- and more!