

October 16, 2024

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



COMBINED

worship

Combined Worship

Sunday, October 27
in the Sanctuary

Join us on Sunday, October 27 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary for a Combined Worship service led by our Student Ministry. Throughout this semester, our students are meeting with staff to learn about the different components of worship and together they will plan and lead Sunday worship. Their theme is "Where We Experience God" and they will explore their encounters with God in the world, others, and within. As you prepare for this service, spend some time reflecting on the theme too! We look forward to being led by them, and hearing about all the ways God is moving in their lives.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TRUNK -or- TREAT

AND CHILI COOK-OFF

OCTOBER 27 AT 5 PM



Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, October 27

Join us on Sunday, October 27 at 5 pm at First Baptist for a Chili Cook-Off and Trunk-or-Treat. Get your favorite chili recipe perfected because the competition around here is steep. Enjoy a cozy chili dinner paired with some fun games and trunk-or-treating. Those planning to enter the cook-off are encouraged to email Pastor Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org



Word from Pastor Greg

Forward in Faith 2025

As we look to 2025, we anticipate the arrival of a new senior pastor and the ongoing growth of our missional ministries. This adds fresh fuel to our historic commitments of faith and purpose. It also colors our budget planning process, reinforcing a commitment we made at this time last year to move Forward in Faith.

We invite you who consider FBC your spiritual home to commit to giving and participation in 2025 as partners in God's work through our church. These commitments are tangible ways to translate thanksgiving and hope into generous action. On Sundays, November 17 and 24, we will have two Giving Sundays, inviting you to demonstrate your commitment as we continue in this faith-filled journey together.

In keeping with this grateful, hopeful spirit, we're going to give attention in November to four core values that define our congregation's distinctive way of living out our calling in Christ. As will become evident in the stories we'll tell, we can see these values on display regularly in our life together. Sundays in worship will be our starting point each week for noting that we are:

1. Followers of Jesus (November 3)
2. A Restorative Community (November 10)
3. Fully Inclusive (November 17)
4. Co-Creators with God (November 24)

How do you see these values on display through the ministries of First Baptist? What stories can you share about those who are living these values? How has your life been touched by members expressing these values? Send your comments and stories to Pastor Greg at ghunt@fbc-columbia.org.

Soon, you will receive a Participation Card, like the sample on page 3, on which you can provide an estimate of giving for 2025 and indicate your plans for volunteer service. Give these matters prayerful consideration. Claim your place in our fellowship of Jesus' followers for 2025.

-Pastor Greg



2025 Participation Card

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Address _____

In 2025, my/our estimate of giving is:

\$ _____ per week

\$ _____ per month

\$ _____ one-time gift

\$ _____ other

Attention Online Givers-please select one:

I will continue my online contribution for 2025 and make any necessary adjustments through my giving portal.

I want to start giving online and will set up my 2025 ongoing pledge through the church website giving portal.

2025 Participation: In the year ahead, I plan to participate in the following ministry/ministries:

Participate in the Stairlift Project

In the previous issue of the Spire, we celebrated the news that First Baptist Church trustees, with the enthusiastic support of the Church Council, have discovered a solution for the four-step accessibility



problem at the southwest entry of the sanctuary. For those with mobility issues, those steps might as well be a wide river divide. Our congregation's historic commitment to hospitality and inclusion has kept this trouble spot on the radar even as we've done significant work elsewhere to improve accessibility.

Fabrication is currently under way of a customized, retractable platform stairlift, one that lowers into place when needed and bears up to 550 lbs. The project will also include the installation of automatic door openers for the door into the sanctuary. If plans unfold as anticipated, the stairlift will be operational before the end of the year.

Total cost of the project will be \$40,400. \$24,000 has already been set aside by previous actions of the church. Members with an interest in the project are welcome to contribute toward the \$16,400 of additional funding needed.

If this project interests you, here are the primary ways you can contribute toward the cost:

Contribute online: Simply go to the GIVE link on church's website (fbc-columbia.org/giving) and follow its instructions for making a contribution. Be sure to specify in the MEMO box that your contribution is for the Stairlift Project.

Write a check: Specify on the Memo line that it's for the Stairlift Project. If mailing the check, include a cover note that designates the purpose of the contribution.

Make a cash contribution. To make sure that a designated cash contribution goes to this project, enclose the cash in an envelope and include instructions that the money is for the Stairlift Project. If you want your gift to be tax deductible, be sure to provide your name and contact information, as well.



All-Saints Concert

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

2:00 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MO

Featuring

the First Baptist Chancel Choir,
with guests from

Central Methodist University, University of Missouri

First Christian, Calvary Episcopal,
and Broadway Christian

Jonathan Ray, *director*

&

The First Baptist Chancel Bells

Noah Hartsfield, *director*

All-Saints Concert Sunday, November 3

The First Baptist Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbells will present a FREE ecumenical All-Saints Concert on Sunday, November 3 at 2:00pm in the sanctuary.

In addition to several diverse choral and handbell selections paying tribute to those who have passed, the choir will present the Gabriel Fauré Requiem featuring a chamber orchestra, vocal soloists, and an ecumenical choir comprised of choir members from several Columbia churches, as well as many familiar faces.

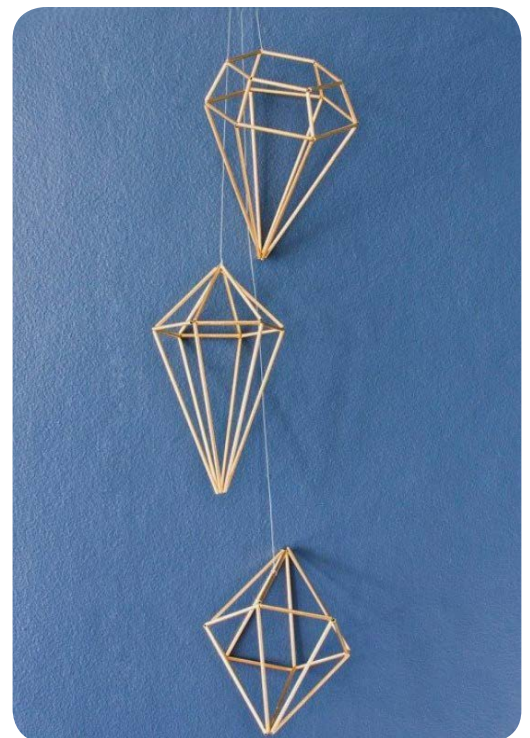
We hope you will join us for what is sure to be an afternoon of beautiful music, fellowship, and remembrance.

Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 24, 10:15 am

The word *Himmeli* has German and Swedish roots—emerging from the word for “sky” or “heaven” in each. Its use in the Finnish language has no translation. It is originating from the Swedish word for sky or heaven. *Himmeli* is a traditional Finnish ornament made from straw or reeds. It is typically suspended above the dinner table during the holiday season to symbolize Order and a Harmonious Universe. They positively influence their surroundings and people around them, and through their shape, a *himmeli* expresses the concept of light being reborn.

On Sunday, November 24, we will gather during the small group hour, 10:15 -11 am, in the Fellowship Hall for a simple workshop to show you how to make these ornaments. All the supplies will be provided, so please join us in the fun. We will use these on our Christmas trees this Advent season in our worship spaces and hopefully in your home. For more information, contact Brenda Rice at brice@fbc-columbia.org.





First Baptist Fellowship Table

Fellowship is at the heart of knowing and caring for ourselves and others. The Sunday morning "Fellowship Table" is a way to fill our tummies and hearts on Sundays and mix and mingle with each other. The table is located in the connector building and all are invited to stop by before making their way to small groups. Here are two things you can do to support this ministry:

SIGN-UP to host a future Fellowship Table. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the table.

DONATE funds to help provide supplies for the Fellowship Table.

Contact Sherry Wyatt for questions: (573) 819-2380 or sherrywyatttrn@gmail.com.



Dispensation of Church Owned Grave Sites

More than 25 years ago, First Baptist was gifted several grave sites at Columbia and Memorial Park Cemeteries. The seven sites at Columbia Cemetery were donated by the Gee Family and were designated for use "by some person or persons of need." The two sites at Memorial Cemetery were donated by the Freeland Family and have no restrictions regarding their use. The Church Council has recently approved the following plan for the use of these sites.

Columbia Cemetery Sites:

First Baptist will enter into a relationship with Parker-Millard Funeral Services to provide these sites at no cost to families that have experienced the loss of an infant or young child. Parker-Millard currently has a program where they pay the full cost of a burial except for the grave site for families that cannot afford a burial and funeral service. Parker-Millard will screen for families that can benefit from this program and communicate the need to the Church. An ad hoc committee of a member of the Clergy, the Church Moderator and the Chair of the Deacons will approve the donation of the grave site. The Treasurer will work with Parker-Millard to transfer ownership.

Memorial Cemetery:

The two grave sites owned by the Church at Memorial Cemetery will be made available for sale to anyone affiliated with First Baptist at the current cost of \$3,500 per site. The proceeds from the sale of these sites will be used to purchase additional sites at Columbia Cemetery to be used for families as described above. This arrangement will end when all grave sites are used.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Hammann, Church Treasurer, at krhammann@gmail.com.

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

Ministerial Staff:

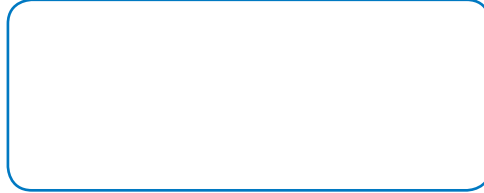
Dr. Greg Hunt, Interim Senior Pastor
ghunt@fbc-columbia.org
Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families &
Spiritual Formation
bnull@fbc-columbia.org

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



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