

January 29, 2025

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church  
columbia



THE NAME THAT  
SHAPES US

**Winter Sermon Series: *The Name That Shapes Us***

Join us for our sermon series, *The Name That Shapes Us*. Together, we will explore the powerful "I Am" statements of Jesus and discover how our identity flows from who God is. Each week, we will dive into one of these profound declarations, uncovering how our relationship with the Divine shapes who we are and the calling we live out in the world. This series is an invitation to reflect, grow, and be transformed by the truth of God's presence in our lives. Invite a friend, and join us, as we, along with Pastor Kristin, journey together into the name that shapes us all.

1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201-4999 573-442-1149 [fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org)



# Word from the Pastor



## Word from Pastor Kristin

First Baptist,

It is so good to finally be with you in Columbia! My welcome here has been so wonderful. The cards you wrote to greet me on my first day have really set the tone. I enjoyed reading them throughout my first week and absorbing all the kind thoughts. You have given me so many good ideas for things to do in Columbia and I look forward to trying them all! Brian and I feel at home, and we are thankful because it is you who have made that happen.

Over the next several weeks, I hope to meet with as many people as possible. We have published in this Spire a list of available days and times. Please don't hesitate to contact the church office and make an appointment during those times. If those times don't work, please suggest some good alternatives. As your pastor, my first priority is to know you. We are here to be community and family for each other. I have already experienced the warmth and welcome of FBC and I anticipate the joy of deeper relationships in the days to come.

For the next several weeks, we will be considering how God's name shapes us in our sermon series. It's odd to me how powerful a name can be. I was born Kristin Jones and became Kristin Rogers when my stepfather adopted me. We didn't have a good relationship, and the name Rogers was one that I didn't enjoy carrying. I didn't want it. But I also had no connection with any of the Jones family. It was an odd feeling of disconnection and uncertainty of where I fit in the world. When I married Brian, I happily gave up my maiden name in order to have the name McAtee which carried love and joy. A few years ago, I discovered that my birth father was not Mr. Jones, but Mr. Noble. As I met that family and encountered their love and acceptance, it gave me such powerful feelings of belonging and confidence and love. I would not have been able to put into words what having a name that represented family and love did for me until it happened. It truly changed my self-worth. For the first time, I fully appreciated genealogy in the book of Matthew and in the Old Testament. Names matter.

I hope the message you receive from this series is that you, a follower of Christ, carry the name of God. It is a name that lets you know you are loved and cared for. You exist because God exists and brought you into being. You are provided for, shepherded, and given illumination for this life. You have the right to accept or reject those names, but the welcome and offer is there for you to come and embrace the fullness of your being in God. These names don't just tell us about God's identity, but also our own. Let this be a moment of joy and self-worth.

Your Pastor,  
*Kristin*



## Note from the Senior Pastor Search Committee

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

As we mentioned on Sunday, Pastor Kristin continues to settle in and get up to speed on things here at First Baptist. We committed to sharing with you all opportunities for you to spend time with Pastor Kristin, to get to know her, and to let her get to know you. Pastor Kristin has identified some blocks of time each week that she is open for visits, invitations to tea or coffee, or to share a meal. Please reach out to the church office at either [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org) or 573-442-1149 to get on Pastor Kristin's calendar. Additionally, if you would like to visit with Pastor Kristin, but are unavailable during these times, please reach out to the church office; Susan can assist in finding an opportunity for you to connect with Pastor Kristin.

- Mondays: 11 am - 1 pm
- Tuesdays: 4 - 6 pm
- Wednesdays: 2 - 4 pm
- Thursdays: 3 - 5 pm

Pastor Kristin and Brian are also open to invitations for lunch after services on Sundays or Sunday dinner as well as invitations for dinner during the week. Please reach out to the church office to extend these invitations as well.

First Baptist is famed for its hospitality, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to making Pastor Kristin and Brian feel welcome!

All the Best,  
Noah Hartsfield & Kimberly Moeller  
Co-Chairs, Pastor Search Committee





## everything [in] between

Meeting God **in** the midst of extremes

### **Lenten Worship Series: *Everything In Between***

This year, we're letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), this worship series designed by A Sanctified Art, flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination and hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

The theme, "Everything In Between," invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works" or "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

Our Lenten Journey will begin on March 5 with Ash Wednesday at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



## Pancake Party

March 4 at 6:00 pm

The Pancake Party is back for another year of celebrating Shrove Tuesday! Kids and their families are invited to the Fellowship Hall on March 4th for a Pancake Party at 6 pm. During our Pancake Party, kids will hear a little bit about what Lent is and prepare and learn some faith activities your family can use all season long.

The Youth will be making the pancakes and serving all the goods. RSVP is requested by February 26 to ensure we have all the necessary supplies. For more information or to register, email Pastor Brittany at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)

A large illustration of a stack of pancakes on a pink plate, topped with blueberries, a pat of butter, and a drizzle of syrup. The word "PANCAKE" is written in large yellow letters above the stack, and "PARTY" is written in large yellow letters below it. The date "MARCH 4 - 6 PM" is written in pink letters at the bottom. The entire graphic is set against a teal background with a white circle behind the pancakes.

**PANCAKE**

**PARTY**

**MARCH 4 - 6 PM**



*worship*

**FEBRUARY 23 • 11:15 AM IN THE SANCTUARY**



## We Need Your Beautiful Voice!

Hey, friends. Jonathan here. I've often said, "I have the best seat in the house" when I get to lead our amazing congregation in hymns every Sunday morning. To say it's a highlight of my week would be a major understatement. I hear that beautiful voice of yours in the pews and I also want to hear it in the Chancel Choir! You don't have to be a music reader, you don't need any experience in choral singing, and there are ZERO restrictions for age or anything. The only requirement is that you love to sing! (And even if you only sort of "like" to sing, still give it a try and I bet we'll make a lover out of you yet!)



We meet at 9:10 am each Sunday and rehearse until spiritual formation hour. Perfect attendance is not mandatory. Even if you can only sing every once in a while, that's okay! And hey, if you're concerned about being tied to the choir loft for the whole service, you are even welcome to dismiss yourself quietly after the anthem. Whatever it takes to get that wonderful voice of yours singing with us! If you have any questions at all, never hesitate to reach out to me at [jray@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:jray@fbc-columbia.org).

We'll see you in the loft!

-Jonathan Ray, Music Director of Traditional Worship

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## A Note From Greg Hunt

First Baptist,

Priscilla and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your gracious sendoff on January 12. Your words - both spoken and written - touched us deeply, and we will treasure the gifts you presented. I will wear the stole Dave Walker created with almost sinful pride. Priscilla and I will enjoy the Crafty Critters/Norma Baker quilt for its warmth, beauty, and wisdom.

It was my privilege to serve as interim pastor during 2024. Together in the grace of God, I think we made good use of the months, sustaining ministries while taking fresh steps forward. First Baptist is well-positioned to welcome the McAtees and embrace a new era of the congregation's life. You know who you are, and your aspirations will serve you well: to co-create a restorative community of fully inclusive followers of Jesus.

I'll close this brief message with the opening of Paul's letter to the Philippians. The Christians of Philippi were favorites of his, and I share his sentiments, both in my regard and in my prayers for you:

*I [will] thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you...I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-4, 6*

-Greg Hunt

Youth



# UNIDIVERSITY

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*Summer* 2025



# JULY 6-11



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**Ministerial Staff:**

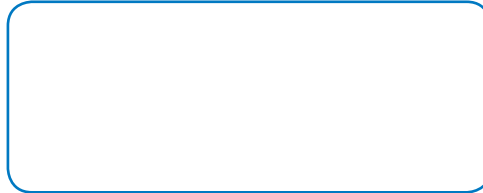
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**Brenda Rice**, Administrative Assistant for Web,  
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**Mike Ide**, Custodian  
**Nellene Martin**, Childcare Director



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**In This Issue:**

- Winter Sermon Series
- Word from the Pastor
- Search Committee Note
- Lenten Worship Series
- Pancake Party
- Join the Chancel Choir!
- Note from Greg Hunt
- Unidiversity Registration
- and more!

**FIRST BAPTIST  
GAME NIGHT**  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 6PM