

May 21, 2025

the SPIRE
First Baptist Church
columbia



JUNE EVENTS

1

11:15 am Combined Worship

5:00 pm Church Picnic @ Cosmo Park

8

11:15 am Combined Worship (Pentecost)

6:00 pm Journey Together Ice Cream Social
& Decorating Party

13-15

Journey Together: Waves of Wonder

15

11:15 am Combined Worship

25-27

CBF General Assembly in St. Louis

27

6:00 pm Intergenerational Game Night

29

11:15 am Combined Worship -
Pastor Kristin's Installation



Word from the Pastor



Word from Pastor Kristin

First Baptist,

As my first Easter season with you draws to a close, I recall several wonderful moments. Our Palm Sunday service on the lawn with other downtown churches was glorious. Watching people from various faith traditions find common ground in Christ gives me great hope. It was meaningful for many people worshipping that day. I heard several times from worshippers the impact of that day. It's so important for us to live out our calling to *Unity Without Uniformity*. In a world where one view of Christianity is proclaimed as the only view, we are proclaiming gospel truth with our actions. Affirming all participants regardless of denomination, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, political affiliation, or other dividing lines, is a bold statement. In times where God's name is invoked to claim political power, we must continue to live into these practices that tell a different story.

You will see in this Spire the many good things happening in June at FBC. I'm looking forward to Journey Together. If you have not yet signed up, now is the time. This weekend is such a wonderful opportunity for families to learn and worship together. It's beautiful image of Mother God and her children, journeying together through faith. I hope you will be there!

I want to personally invite you to come to some, or all, of CBF's General Assembly. This year, they are meeting in St. Louis, so it's a unique opportunity for you to attend. You can join for worship, breakout sessions, or a meal. Attendance is free. Shelby Pride and members of the Awakening Worship Team have been invited to lead worship at the Assembly! Wouldn't it be great to have members of FBC in the congregation?

The General Assembly Schedule includes several lunch and dinner meetings. FBC has purchased seats at these events. If you would like to attend, please let the church office know. For more details, go to <https://cbf.swoogo.com/assembly>.

I am thankful to be your pastor,

-Pastor Kristin



CBF General Assembly in St. Louis

CBF's annual gathering, the General Assembly, is being held for the first time in St. Louis. This is a special opportunity for you to come and experience the Fellowship for yourself. Registration is free online at <https://cbf.swoogo.com/assembly> or in person.

Come for worship, breakout sessions, and fellowship. There are several events hosted by partner organizations such as Baptist Women in Ministry and the McAll Racial Justice Initiative that are paid events. First Baptist Church has already purchased tables for these events. If you are interested in signing up for one of them, please contact Pastor Brittany. In exciting news, Shelby Pride and our Awakening Worship Team are providing the music! It would be great for FBC to join the crowd as friends and supporters. Preschool, children's and youth assemblies are also available. For more details, go to <https://cbf.swoogo.com/assembly>



Churchwide GRACE Safeguarding Training May 31 in the Fellowship Hall

As part of our commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all, we are continuing with the GRACE Safeguarding Initiative. The GRACE Safeguarding Initiative seeks to provide churches with comprehensive training and other resources to prevent abusive behavior toward children and vulnerable adults. Our church-wide training is Saturday, May 31 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, volunteer, or someone who cares about our church family, this training will equip you with knowledge and tools to help keep children and vulnerable adults safe—not just at church, but everywhere.

Led by a GRACE-certified facilitator through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, this initiative is part of a broader effort to update our protection policies and strengthen our culture of care.

We would love for our entire congregation to attend. Your presence matters. Let's grow in wisdom and care—together.





Volunteer Opportunity at the Wardrobe

The Wardrobe, a clothing and small item thrift store, has been operated by local churches for more than 50 years. It is located at 715 Park Avenue, one block north of the Court House in downtown Columbia. The store thrives with donations from the public. The store is run by volunteers with all proceeds going to maintaining the store and the Shoe Program that provides shoes to preschool through high school children twice a year. The Wardrobe has an agreement with Shoe Carnival to provide a discount to accompany their coupon for shoe purchases. First Baptist volunteers run the store the third Friday afternoon of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Current volunteers include Pam Humphreys, Jody Pestle, Cheryl Brewer, Norma Fair, Liz Stone, Norma Baker and Jane Hunter. A volunteer doesn't have to be present each month but it is helpful to have a core group of 4 to 5 people. Therefore, having additional volunteers would be very helpful. Putting your name on the substitute list is helpful if a person doesn't feel they could work each month but would like to help when available. Contact any of the volunteers to learn more. It's a passion for us so we're happy to share our enthusiasm with you. See the Wardrobe website for hours of operation and hours for accepting donations.

First Baptist Scholarship Program

The First Baptist Church Columbia Scholarship Program has launched! Find out more about available scholarships and information for submission on our website:

<https://fbc-columbia.org/get-involved/fbc-scholarship-programs-2025/>

Chancel Choir Update

Thank you, Chancel Choir, for a great year of worship!

After a wonderful year of worshipful music, the Chancel Choir will take the month of June to rest. We will reconvene on Sunday, July 6 for some low impact rehearsals at our usual 9:10 meeting time. If you've ever considered joining, this would be a great opportunity to come and see how you like it!

-Jonathan Ray, *Music Director-Traditional Worship*





Creation Care

Our church has a commitment to creation care. We have worked hard to develop best practices, including recycling. Due to the tornado on Easter Sunday, recycling will not be available in Columbia for several years. It is more important than ever that we strengthen our commitment to reducing waste. One way we will reduce waste is by printing less worship guides for the Awakening Service. Worshippers will have access to the worship guide on screen, or on their phones via the emailed worship guide. Another way we are reducing waste is by limiting our use of paper goods. At our Fellowship table and meal events, food and drink will only be served in reusable dishes and cups. Tubs will be conveniently located for dirty dishes. Dishes will be taken by church staff to the dishwasher. Thank you for your care for the good world God has given to us.



Fellowship Table on Break

We will not have a hosted Fellowship Table during June and July. Our volunteers do an amazing job providing for us, and we want to honor them with a break. Thank you to each person who has participated. We are so grateful!

Serving Team Update

The Serving Team welcomes Mary Van Rheenen to worship on July 6th. Our church has partnered with Mary as a CBF Encourager church for several years. Mary is retiring from CBF. We look forward to hearing her plans moving ahead. In the meantime, our team is considering who we might serve as an Encourager Church. We are considering two different teams. We would like your feedback.

An Encourager Church commits to prayer support and relationship, financial support, short-term engagement (mission trips), and support to CBF. Consider whom our church could engage with in relationships and even short-term projects and trips. You can let us know at the church office or by emailing Pastor Kristin at kmcatee@fbc-columbia.org.



- Lita and Rick serve in the San Francisco Bay Area, commissioned in 2002. Lita and Rick have always felt a sense of compassion for internationals and see God's call on their lives to forge a welcoming presence among the immigrants, refugees, and other internationals in their sphere of ministry. Their ministry among internationals strives to cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ and seek transformational development. Read more at <https://www.classy.org/campaign/lita-and-rick-sample-2/c577759>

- Jana serves in Larnaca, Cyprus amongst refugees and asylum seekers. In Larnaca, she partners with All4Aid, a non-profit, faith-based, international organization to work with refugees and asylum seekers coming to and through Cyprus. Their mission is to work with the displaced peoples to enhance their quality of life by facilitating humanitarian assistance, cultivating social inclusion, and fostering educational development.



Journey Together: *Waves of Wonder*

Journey Together is a weekend event for families with kids hosted by First Baptist Kids Ministry. Journey Together is designed to help you and your family connect with God, one another, and other families with kids in our community. This year's theme is *Waves of Wonder*. Adults and children alike will come together to let waves of wonder wash over them as they are inspired by the beauty and majesty of what God has made. We are looking forward to the ways your family and our church family will make memories, grow in faith, and connect with other families during this special event!

PARTICIPANTS: Activities are geared toward kids aged 4 through 5th grade and their families, however, all are welcome! Youth can participate with their families or volunteer to help. Email Pastor Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org to volunteer!

WAYFINDERS: This year there is a new opportunity for 5th and 6th graders (completed) for a deeper dive into spiritual formation with Pastor Kristin. Wayfinders is a special track within Journey Together just for 5th and 6th graders. This group is asking big questions, and Wayfinders will give space for students to listen to God's voice and grow as leaders in their faith. Together we'll explore how God guides us, how we can care for the world around us, and how to follow Jesus every day. Through deeper conversations, hands-on learning, and opportunities to lead, Wayfinders will help students take the next step on their journey with God. We'll wonder, listen, lead, and practice – all while taking a deeper dive into God's love. When you register, simply select the Wayfinders option for your 5th or 6th grader!

Bingo And Bites – May 30

Join us Friday, May 30 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun, food, and friendly competition at our Intergenerational Bingo Night! Bring your whole crew—kids, teens, adults, and everyone in between—for a night of laughter, prizes, and tasty bites. Whether you're a bingo pro or just in it for the snacks, there's a seat for you at the table.



Church Picnic – June 1

5:00 pm at Cosmo Park, Lamb Shelter

On Sunday, June 1, First Baptist will gather for our annual church picnic at Cosmo Park in the Lamb Shelter. All are invited for an afternoon of games, walking, and food. Lee's fried chicken, drinks, and place settings will be provided. We invite you to bring a vegetable, appetizer, or dessert to share!



Nursery Update

The children in the nursery have been busy this spring! We love to spend time outside; running, playing soccer, drawing with chalk, and blowing bubbles! Recently we had a special visitor, Rebecca. She showed us a special story book that she received when she went to a circus as a young child. She also read "Three Little Kittens", which was animated and kept everyone's attention. She then sang a beautiful song for us. For Easter, Nikkie helped all the children dye eggs and sent each child home with a special treat bag. We are so thankful for Nikkie!

-Nellene Martin, *Childcare Director*



Ministerial Staff:

Kristin McAtee, Senior Pastor

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Spiritual Formation

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Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist

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Shelby Pride, Awakening Praise Band Director

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Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional

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Support Staff:

Susan Goudie, Office Coordinator

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Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web,
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Mike Ide, Custodian

Nellene Martin, Childcare Director

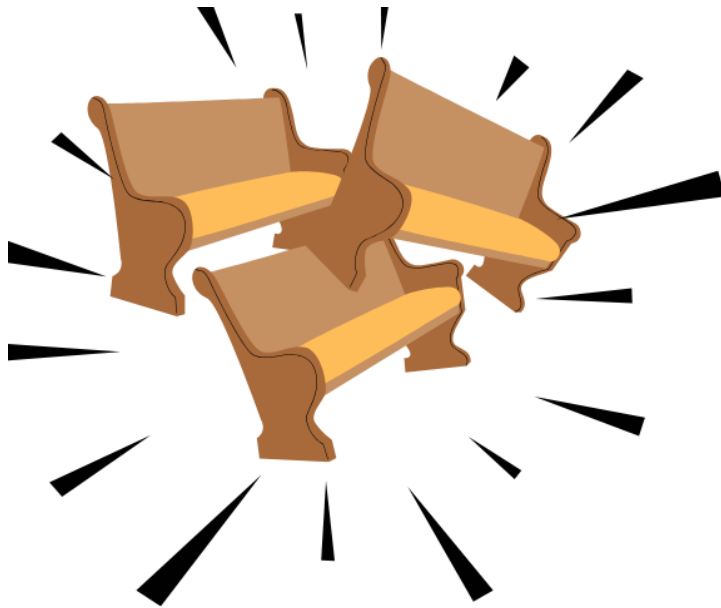
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Clearing the Clutter On Cleanup Day

On May 22 and 23, we will be working to clear up the storage room in the Connector Building. If there are any large items in other areas which need to be disposed of, please notify the church office. We will have a moving team here to help us remove the old pews stored on the 4th floor. This is by order of the Fire Marshal. If you would like to have one of the pews, you can contact the church office to verify your pickup time. Volunteers are welcome to help us! We will start work on clearing Thursday, May 22 at 9am. You will be paid in donuts.

May 21, 2025

the **SPIRE**

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