

July 30, 2025

 **the SPIRE**  
First Baptist Church  
columbia



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*August*

**3**  
Sun

Churchwide Pool Party @ Oakland Pool  
5:30 pm

**17**  
Sun

Blessing of the Backpacks &  
Promotion Sunday

**20**  
Wed

Youth & Parent Fall Meeting  
5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

**24**  
Sun

New to the Pew Blessing  
9:15 & 11:15

**24**  
Sun

Fall Kick Off on the Front Lawn  
12:15 pm



## Word from the Pastor



### Word from Pastor Kristin

First Baptist,

Fall is on the way! At least that's what I tell myself on these hot, muggy days. But our fall schedule at church is right around the corner. Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 17th and Fall Kickoff will be held August 24th. Children and students will start school and promote to new classes. It's an exciting time!

This fall, we have a wonderful opportunity. Our nursery and our student ministry need additional classroom space. It may surprise you to learn that finding classroom space can be a challenge in our building. There are currently no available spaces on the ground floor, or on the third floor. Our staff has had several discussions, along with classroom leaders and trustees. You will see some movement in several areas of the building.

On the ground floor, we have cleared out the storage room that was across from the Health and Safety Room. That work has been going on for several weeks and is nearly complete. This will become classroom space for our infants and crawlers. We disposed of a lot of storage, and moved what was kept to other areas of the building.

On the third floor, we have begun to clear out the storage rooms on the gym floor. Brenda Rice has graciously agreed to move much of her storage to the upper floor of the gym. We will reorganize the storage rooms on the end, making room for some of the items that have been moved from other locations. This will leave us a classroom on the gym floor that is in good shape and has heat and air. Later in the fall, we will do further work in the Fellowship Hall to add storage for our folding chairs.

Another update is the return of the Pray-ground! We will have a team of volunteers that will bring back this important worship space before Fall Kickoff. This is an important part of our desire to be fully inclusive, as we provide a space for people who need to move and fidget during worship. It's tough to sit quietly for an hour!

It's good to see our building being used. This space is sacred when we make use of it in ways that include as many people as possible, as often as possible, in experiencing the love of God. This fall is going to be exciting as we experience that happening in new ways.

Gratefully,

*Pastor Kristin*



## **Pastor for Youth & Community Ministries Update**

Our team has received a number of good resumes. We have made initial contact with several, and had progressed quite far with two good candidates. Those candidates withdrew for personal reasons. We are engaging with other candidates and continue in the work. It is encouraging that many candidates are interested in our church because our mission and vision are appealing. There are people from CBF and other partner organizations who are actively recruiting for us. They believe FBC Columbia is a special place and a wonderful church. We remain thankful to all of our youth leaders. They are giving extra time and energy to our youth, and providing a good ministry. Thank you to Michelle & Ross Kasmann, Lexie Kieffer, Lillian & Stephen Hoell, Sydney & Jon Ludwig (stepping down this year), Jon Myers, and Brittany McDonald Null.

## **Mission Survey Update**

Thank you to all who took the survey about our mission partners. It was so encouraging to learn that our Serving Team has been engaging with partners that line up with our values. The Team continues to study the results, to look at how we budget our funds, and to consider future partnerships. Our goal is to create partnerships that excite and motivate our church in this ministry. The church will hear more about this in the coming weeks. Our church puts priority on Poverty Intervention, Promoting Justice and Advocacy, Education and Training, and Healthcare. Our concern is most highly for the Unhoused, Children and Youth, Refugees and Immigrants, and Marginalized People. The designation of financial support was very clearly split at 50% in Columbia, and 25% each Nationally and Globally. Your responses are so important as we narrow down the many requests we receive from good projects to those that are most important to FBC. We look forward to sharing more soon!

## **Sabbatical Coming Soon**

Pastor Brittany is planning now for her first sabbatical! She graciously postponed her sabbatical time until FBC had a Senior Pastor. I am thankful that she will be able to take this time for rest, retreat, and renewal. FBC, you are a generous and thoughtful church to provide this to your pastors.

Per her covenant, she has received one month of leave and has elected to add some vacation days. Her time away starts on September 8. She will return on October 26. Brittany is helping us prepare for her absence during these weeks, as well as for Bryce's absence. They are both so important to FBC, and there are many tasks she is helping us to understand. Brittany has hired an intern, Danielle McAtee, who will help with daily tasks and maintenance. Our outstanding preschool and children's teams will be prepped and ready to carry out the good ministry happening there. Brittany has been helping out with the youth, and that role will be filled by our current youth volunteers. The ministers and staff will cover the rest. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me!

*-Pastor Kristin*





## Relaunching of First Baptist's Pray-grounds

I'm excited to share that beginning this fall, we will reintroduce a pray-ground space in both of our worship areas. Pray-grounds are specially designed to welcome our younger worshipers into the heart of our worshipping community.

Each pray-ground is a thoughtfully arranged space with soft seating, floor space, quiet toys, books, and age-appropriate activities that help children engage in worship. These areas offer kids a front-row experience where they can see, hear, and participate, while also having tools that help them focus, move, and feel at home in the space.

For about three years before the pandemic, our pray-grounds reminded us each week that children are not just the future of the church - they are the church right now. And of course, our children never left when the pray-ground did. But we're grateful for that earlier season and equally excited to return to this practice in a way that fits our current worship life and rhythms.

We know this means some changes in space and routine, and that change can take some getting used to. But we believe this is a meaningful step toward a more intergenerational worship experience, one that reflects our values of inclusion, welcome, and spiritual formation for all ages. We're glad to relaunch this practice with even more intentionality and wisdom than before.

Here are a few updates you'll notice:

- Open space for children to move, dance, color, and respond to God through their bodies.
- Seating for adults around the pray-ground, including a glider and chairs, to make it easy to worship alongside children.
- A new sensory library in both spaces, stocked with soft toys, coloring pages, hearing protection, fidgets, and worship ribbons—available to everyone, not just children.
- Transition away from the named carts that served us during the pandemic. While a few will remain for families with specific needs, we're excited to return to a shared worship space that fosters community and flexibility.



If you have any questions or want to learn more about how the pray-ground will work, we'd love to talk with you. And if your family includes children, we can't wait to see them in the center of worship with us!

-Pastor Brittany





# Youth & Parent Fall Meeting

August 20

Wednesday, August 20

5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

It's time to gather and talk about youth ministry! Youth parents and their kids are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, August 20 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss upcoming plans, classes and curriculum, and safety. Pizza will be provided.



University Camp 2025







## **Promotion Sunday - August 17**

On August 17, First Kids and Youth will be celebrating Promotion Sunday! This Sunday marks the transition to new classes. Children turning 4 by December 31 and are potty-trained are invited to move upstairs to First Kids, and our new 6th graders will join the youth group for the first time. Adults of First Kids are encouraged to join for donuts, meet the teachers, and complete the 2025-2026 registration. A separate parent and guardian meeting for youth will take place on Wednesday, August 20.

## **Blessing of the Backpacks - August 17**

As we gear up for a new school year, we want to send our students, teachers, and school staff back with more than just sharpened pencils and packed lunches; we want to send them with kindness and courage. On August 17, during worship, we'll offer a special Blessing of the Backpacks, reminding our students and educators that they go into the school year surrounded by a community that is cheering for them and praying with them. So bring your backpack, your lunchbox, your briefcase (or just bring yourself) and let's start the school year covered in blessing and rooted in kindness.

## **New to the Pew Blessing - August 24**

With the beginning of the new school year, we are excited to welcome our newest worshippers to the pews. On Sunday, August 24, during both worship services, we will be presenting a Bible to our first graders and offering a blessing to them and their families. As a church community, we want to celebrate this milestone and commit to accompanying our kids in their faith.

## **Fall Kick Off – August 24 – Front Lawn at 12:15 pm**

As summer winds down, we're getting ready for our annual Fall Kick Off! This fun event is a great opportunity to connect with others, enjoy good food, and play lawn games together.

The church will provide the main dish, beverages, and tableware. You're invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In addition to favorites like 9-square and other lawn games, we'll enjoy music on the front lawn from both our Chancel Choir and the Awakening Worship Band. We can't wait to welcome a new season with you!



August 22, 1925

August 22, 2025

## The Birthday Times

### Joseph Forsee Turns 100!



Open House • 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday, August 16, 2025

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and have a piece of cake to share in this momentous occasion. Your presence is the only gift needed. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



### Fellowship Table Resumes August 17

The Sunday morning Fellowship Table will resume on August 17. If you would like to sign up to host the Fellowship Table on an upcoming Sunday, please do so on the bulletin board, or contact Sherry Wyatt for more information.

**Ministerial Staff:**

**Kristin McAtee**, Senior Pastor  
[kmcatee@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:kmcatee@fbc-columbia.org)

**Brittany McDonald Null**, Pastor of Families &  
Spiritual Formation  
[bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)

**Music Staff:**

**Colleen Ostercamp**, Organist  
[gostercamp@gmail.com](mailto:gostercamp@gmail.com)

**Shelby Pride**, Awakening Praise Band Director  
[smyers@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:smyers@fbc-columbia.org)

**Jonathan Ray**, Music Director-Traditional  
[jray@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:jray@fbc-columbia.org)

**Support Staff:**

**Susan Goudie**, Office Coordinator  
[churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org)

**Brenda Rice**, Administrative Assistant for Web,  
Facilities and Arts,  
[brice@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:brice@fbc-columbia.org)

**Mike Ide**, Custodian

**Nellene Martin**, Childcare Director

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



## Kids Ministry Work Day

Saturday, August 2

We're getting ready to launch a few new classes this fall and refresh the kids' areas in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. To help make this happen, we're hosting a work and prep day on Saturday, August 2, starting at 9:00 am.

We're looking for volunteers to help with moving items, assembling furniture, and prepping the spaces - and yes, there will be donuts. If you can join us, please let Brittany know at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org) so we can plan accordingly.

July 30, 2025

the **SPIRE**

### In This Issue:

- August Events
- Word from the Pastor
- Youth & Community Pastor Update
- Pray-grounds!
- Youth & Parent Fall Meeting
- Fall Kick Off
- Joe Forsee -100!
- and more!