



Flamy Grant in Concert at First Baptist – January 31 at 6:00 pm

Concert Updates

We are anticipating with great joy our upcoming concert with Flamy Grant on Saturday, January 31 in the Sanctuary. Flamy's music has become meaningful in our worship life, and their story is already familiar to many of us. Raised within evangelical Christianity, they were taught that they needed to change in order to be worthy of God's love. Through prayer, reflection, and spiritual rebuilding, Flamy discovered a deeper truth: God's love meets us exactly as we are.

Their songs resonate because they speak to a journey many of us know well: questioning, healing, and finding our way back to the God who never lets us go. This concert is an opportunity for First Baptist to open our doors wide to a community longing to hear good news: that they are beloved, welcomed, and not alone.

Because we anticipate a large crowd, we will have security on-site. Off-duty police officers will be present as is standard for community events of this size. Our Health and Safety Action Group will also be present to offer guidance and assistance.

Day-of Details

Please plan to park in nearby garages, which are free on weekends. Tenant parking will remain reserved, and guest spaces will be used for accessible parking.

We are inviting friends and supporters to gather on the front lawn at 5:15 pm for a joyful welcome. We will have games, hot cocoa, and space to be visibly present together as we extend hospitality to our guests. Being together in this way helps create a warm, supportive environment, including if additional presence is needed.

Our leadership team has also made thoughtful plans to ensure a safe and welcoming space for everyone. Should any protest activity occur, we are prepared and will maintain clear boundaries, including that our property remains reserved for church-hosted activities.

Wear your FBC shirts, bring your warmest smiles, and help us welcome the people of Columbia into our church. We believe this will be an evening marked by joy, love, and God's expansive welcome.



What Did You Drag Me Into?

As we prepare for the Flamy Grant concert, it's important to understand exactly what drag is and means to the LGBTQ+ community. This long-standing artistic practice has been unfairly maligned in public spaces in recent years. As a community that embraces holy curiosity, we invite you to read more and imagine its impact as a vehicle for songs of faith.

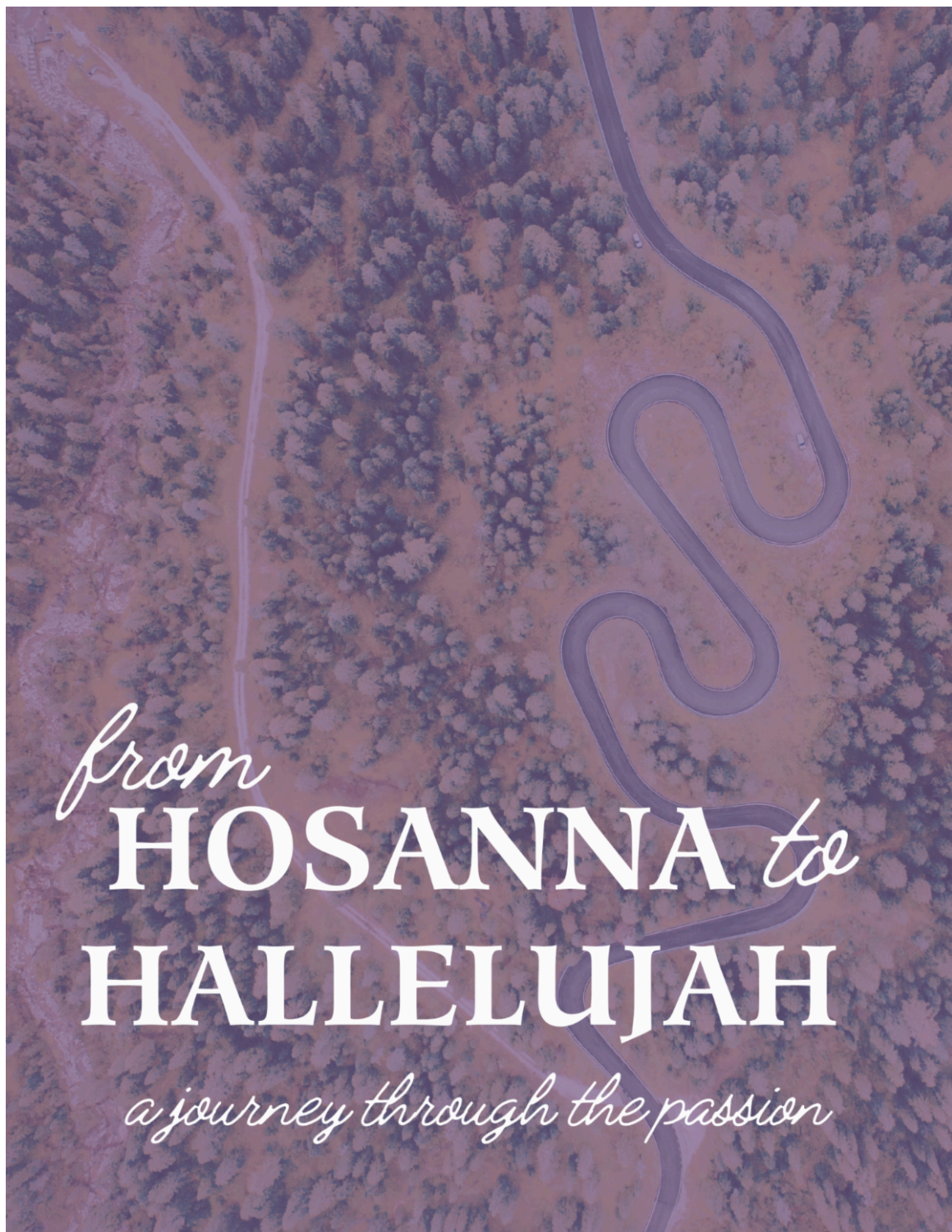
Drag is a performance tradition with deep historical roots that uses exaggerated gender expression to entertain, critique society, and build community, originating in

ancient Greek and Roman theatre and later early modern European stages where men performed women's roles due to social restrictions.

By the nineteenth century, drag expanded beyond theatre into underground social spaces, particularly in the United States, where drag balls, such as those organized by William Dorsey Swann in the 1880s, fostered early queer communities centered on self-expression and resistance. Drag gained broader visibility during the early twentieth century through vaudeville and the "pansy craze," but recurring legal repression pushed it back into marginalized nightlife spaces, where it remained vital to LGBTQ+ culture and activism, including during the period surrounding the Stonewall uprising. In the later twentieth century, drag flourished within Black and Latino ballroom culture and eventually entered mainstream media, while continuing to function as both an art form and a political practice that challenges rigid gender norms.

Today, renewed political backlash against drag, often fueled by moral panic and misinformation portraying performers as dangerous, reflects long-standing anxieties about gender nonconformity rather than evidence-based concerns. Supporting drag art is therefore essential not only to uphold artistic freedom and freedom of expression, but also to resist historical patterns of stigmatization, affirm LGBTQ+ communities, and recognize drag as a culturally significant practice that promotes visibility, resilience, and social inclusion.

Life of the Church



Lenten Worship Series: *From Hosanna to Hallelujah*

Lent invites us to slow down, to pay attention, and to walk honestly with Jesus through the final days of his life.

This year, our Lenten worship series is titled ***From Hosanna to Hallelujah***. Following the path of Passion Week, we will trace the road Jesus walks from the shouts of welcome on Palm Sunday through disruption, intimacy, service, grief, and witness, all the way to Easter morning. This is not a journey that rushes to resurrection. It is an invitation to stay, to notice, and to walk together through love that costs something and love that endures.

We will begin the season on **February 18** with **Ash Wednesday**, a service of stillness, prayer, and embodied honesty. We will gather to remember that we are dust, held by grace, and to begin this road with intention.

On **March 1**, we will gather for **Brunch Worship**, a more relaxed and intergenerational service centered on table fellowship, storytelling, and shared worship as we continue the journey together.

On **April 3, Good Friday** is a service that invites us to linger with the suffering of Jesus and the suffering of the world, resisting the urge to look away and trusting that God is present even in the hardest places.

Throughout Lent, we invite people of all ages to walk this road together. Resources for families and children will echo the same themes in simple, embodied ways, so that our whole community can share a common journey.

Wherever you find yourself on the road, you are welcome to walk with us.

From Hosanna to Hallelujah, we journey together.

Congregational Meeting

March 1 after Brunch Worship

We will hold a brief meeting after the Brunch Worship on March 1st. During this meeting, we will accept the year-end financial reports and any other necessary business.



Exploring Jordan: *Images of History*

March 15 - 4:00 pm in the Parlor

On March 15, at 4:00 pm in the parlor, Mark Thomas will present a pictorial narrative of his recent trip to the country of Jordan. Jordan is a treasure-trove of ancient Biblical and archaeological sites that are often overlooked by modern scholars and travelers.

Janie Rees-Miller will join Mark to add her perspectives gleaned from 30 years of archaeological and linguistic work in the region.

The presentation will highlight visits to Bethany across the Jordan, the World Heritage Site of Jesus' Baptism, Mount Nebo, where Moses and the Israelites first viewed the Promised Land, Petra, the ancient Nabatean capital and site of hundreds of spectacular rock carvings, the well-preserved Greco-Roman Decapolis City of Gerash, the region bordering Lake Tiberias, the Golan Heights and Syria, and more as time permits.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Please join us for this fun and educational presentation!

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir!

You and your voice are loved and there is a place for you in the loft with us!

"But what if I can't come very often?"

That's okay! Our policy is "come when you can." Even if that's only once a month, or just a few times a year. Even if it means you can't make a rehearsal but still would like to sing during service. We will make it work. No guilt. No shame. Just fellowship and music.



"I'd like to sing, but I'd rather not have to sit in the loft for the entire service."

No sweat! You are allowed to sing the anthem and quietly dismiss yourself right after. We won't let a little thing like that stop you from joining us.

"But I have practically no experience singing!"

That's okay with us! Do you love music? That's enough. We have so many strong readers in our choir. They are all friendly and they will help you.

"But am I too old/too young?"

Not at all! All ages are welcome. That means students, too. College, high school, junior high...even elementary! You are welcome here.

"But I don't think I'm very good."

Okay now you're just being silly. You're amazing! God made you with a heart that loves to sing and that is literally the only requirement. If you have any questions at all, just reach out to Jonathan.

See you in the choir loft!

-Jonathan Ray

Love Forward Home Update

First Baptist,

We are ready to welcome our next family to the Love Forward Home (formerly Extra Mile House) or as we lovingly refer to it, Yellow House.

The previous family who lived in Yellow House has moved out and into their new apartment. Their time in the Love Forward Homes Program and in the house was a time of growth, healing and taking steps forward to a stable future. We pray that their path forward will continue to unfold in beautiful ways.

We are beginning preparations now to welcome our next family of six to Yellow House, with a move in date of next Wednesday 2/4. We are in need of some items to prepare the house for the family and have listed them below. We appreciate your help if you have items that you are willing to donate. We do have limited storage at the house, so we kindly ask that any donations be limited to what we have listed below.

Please bring items to the church by Sunday 2/1. Gift cards to Walmart or Target are also welcome and will be used to purchase items.

Thank you for your help making Yellow House a welcoming space for our next family.

With grateful hearts,

Christine Chang cchang5363@gmail.com

Donna Ostercamp ostercampdj@yahoo.com

Requesting gently used or new:

Sofa

Love seat or living room chair

Floor lamp

Table lamp

4 pillows (for bedding)

5 twin mattress pads

5 twin comforters

5 twin size blankets

1 Double/full size blanket

Bath towels, hand towels and washcloths for family of 6

Shower curtain liner

Tall kitchen trash can and garbage bags

Laundry detergent

Dish soap

Dish drying rack

Dish scrubber

Plastic tumblers/cups for children

All purpose cleaning spray

Broom and dust pan

Prayers & Concerns



We Want to Pray for You

At First Baptist, we believe community is stronger when we support one another in prayer. If there's something on your mind, a concern, a hope, or a celebration, our pastors would be honored to hold it in prayer with you.

Your prayer requests are kept private with our pastoral team. Share your request anytime through our [Prayer Request page](#), and know that you are held in prayer. Because we are better together, your joys and burdens matter to us.

Connect with us



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