



First Baptist Church

Our Worship of God

October 25, 2026

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Gathering Chime

*As the bell is chimed, we invite you to pause, center yourself,
and prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Prelude

How Great Thou Art

arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Bells w/ Carter Thiemann, piano

Noah Hartsfield, conductor

Welcome

Pastor Hayden Dennis

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Come, siblings in Christ, let's worship God with our whole being.

We are here to love God and love others.

Let us open our hearts to God and to the people around us.

We are here to love God and love others.

May our worship draw us closer to God

and deepen our love for our neighbors.

We are here to love God and love others.

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture Reading

Cheryl Brewer

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Litany for the Greatest Commandment

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

God, we are very busy here trying to figure out how to be good,
How to follow the rules,
How to be acceptable and avoid pain,
And how to get ahead in the world.

We had hoped to get credit for all our efforts
And be deemed successful in our struggle against ourselves.
But, like so many to whom the Christ spoke while he was on the earth,
We are very surprised to hear what he holds most dear:
Love God with your whole self;
Love your neighbor and yourself.

To hear him talk, we might think that Love
is the primary force in the universe,
As important as water, as breath, as soil;

Certainly more important than codes of behavior,
More elemental than laws, rules, and beliefs.
What a relief!
And what a challenge.

When we release paradigms of shame, violence, and hierarchy,
Love catches us.
When we let go of societal ideas of success and status,
Love elevates us.
When we give up the concerns of ego,
Love enlightens us.

We know we are near to God's Kin-dom
When we let Love carry us.
When Love is our polestar.
When Love is the ground of our being.

Source of all Love, creativity, and goodness,
Help us to take Christ at his word,
And build our lives on the unshakeable foundation of Love
That will transform all things, if we let it.
Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Hymn 401

We Praise You with Our Minds

Message

Pastor Hayden Dennis

Music for Reflection

Ave verum corpus

by William Byrd

Come, Thou Fount

arr. Eric Nelson

Southwest Baptist University Chorale
Dr. Sarah Howes, *director*

Life of the Church

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Benediction

†Postlude

I Can Tell the World

by Moses Hogan

Southwest Baptist University Chorale
Dr. Sarah Howes, *director*

Worship Notes

Call to Worship by Rev. Brittany McDonald Null

Lord of Creation, by John C. Winslow, 1961.

We Praise You with Our Minds, Words: Hugh T. McElrath, 1964. Music: Traditional Irish melody;
arr. William J. Reynolds, 1952.

Litany by Fran Pratt

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 25

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth, and Children
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm Ecumenical Concert in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat & Chili Cookoff

Monday, October 26

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, October 27

- 12:30 pm Pause for Prayer
- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, October 28

- 6:00 pm Youth in the 3rd Floor Youth Room
- 6:00 pm Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary
- 7:15 pm Chancel Bells in the Sanctuary

Thursday, October 29

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

Friday, October 30

- 6:00 pm First Baptist Game Night in the Parlor

Sunday, November 1

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth, and Children
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm College & Young Adults Open Study Session / 7:00 pm Bible Study

Announcements

Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, you can fill out a connection card from the pew back, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect



Ecumenical Concert: Let Everything That Hath Breath

This Afternoon: Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 in the Sanctuary

Join us Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary for our annual ecumenical concert entitled "Let Everything That Hath Breath!"

In addition to many beautiful and diverse anthems featuring choir, bells, organ, and brass, the centerpiece will be Benjamin Britten's epic cantata "Rejoice in the Lamb," in honor of the 50th anniversary of the composer's passing.

We'll be joined by friends from sister churches and local schools, as well as other special guests. You won't want to miss this concert!

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

A Fall Ecumenical Concert



SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25

2:00 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MO

Trunk-or-Treat & Chili Cook-Off

This Evening: Sunday, October 25 | 5:00 PM | First Baptist



It's hard to believe our **Trunk-or-Treat and Chili Cook-Off is almost here!** All are welcome to join us at First Baptist this Sunday, October 25, for our Fall Festival!

It's a big day at FBC, with an ecumenical concert happening earlier that afternoon, so I hope you're ready for a wonderful day together!

Here's a quick look at the evening's schedule:

- 4:00–4:45 PM: Cars arrive and decorate their trunks. The gated playground will be open for children.
- By 5:15 PM: Chili entries must be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall. Chili participants will then head back outside until the doors open.
- 5:00–5:30 PM: Trunk-or-Treat
- 5:30 PM: Fellowship Hall opens, and the Chili Cook-Off begins!
- Around 5:35 PM: Parade of Costumes
- 6:30 PM: Chili Cook-Off winners and the Golden Pumpkin winner announced!

Don't forget to bring your muffin tins to sample all the chili! It makes sampling fun and easy, and it saves on paper goods!

Faith Formation Sessions

Sundays at 10:15 am

Adults

Faith After Certainty: The Courage to Believe Differently

The Fellowship Hall - October 18-November 22

For many of us, faith once came with clear answers. Somewhere along the way, questions arrived, and the old certainties stopped fitting. This six-week class is a growth space for anyone navigating that shift. Together we'll explore what progressive theology is and what it means to be both Baptist and progressive.

We'll reflect on who God is to us now, name and grieve what we've left behind while honoring what we still carry, and look honestly at fear, including what "fear of the Lord" might really mean, without rushing past hard feelings. We'll also talk about why this work is messy and how to do it in community, and close by practicing spiritual discernment and faith-based visioning for the road ahead. You don't need to have it all figured out. You just need to be willing to wonder together. This faith formation session will be facilitated by Shelby Pride and Pastor Kristin.

The Discussion Class: *The Heart of Christianity*

The Parlor - August 23–November 1

The Discussion Class is currently reading Marcus J. Borg's *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. Together, we're exploring the contrasts between the vision of Christianity many of us grew up with and perspectives that have emerged within mainline and progressive Christianity. Along the way, we're considering questions of faith and deconstruction, the changing landscape of the church, and the influence of Christian Nationalism. Through thoughtful conversation and reflection, we'll have the opportunity to deepen our own faith and understanding.

Following this study, the discussion class will begin *Gratitude* by Diana Butler Bass.

Youth

Our 6th-12th graders are gathering in the 3rd floor Youth Ministry Suite for a 6-week series on “Being the Church.” Join us in answering the question of what it means to be the church. And, how we can join together and serve others.

Children

A new season of learning is beginning at First Kids! During our second six-week session, children will have opportunities to learn, wonder, create, and grow together as they discover more about God and God’s good world.

Wee Wonder | 2s and 3s

In the Nursery | We Thank God

Our youngest friends will explore gratitude through songs, action rhymes, Bible stories, and play. Each week, they’ll discover ways to thank God and celebrate the goodness all around them.

Preschool–Kindergarten

3rd Floor Rainbow Room | God’s Welcome

Our preschool and kindergarten friends will explore what it means to be welcomed by God and to welcome others through the story of the Prodigal Child, play, and hands-on activities. They’ll discover that God’s love makes room for everyone and that they have an important place in our community.

Elementary | 1st–5th Grade

3rd Floor Kids’ Ministry Suite | Family of Abraham and Sarah

Our elementary friends will explore the stories of Abraham and Sarah’s family, including Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Esau. Through stories of conflict, joy, sorrow, and reconciliation, they’ll discover that God is present in our messy family stories and goes with us wherever our journeys may take us.



First Stories Blog

We're excited to share another edition of "First Stories," First Baptist Church's blog. Periodically, we'll share stories about the life and impact of our church community. This blog post highlights the work of the Racial Justice and Inclusion Team. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for updates on new blog posts, or check our website: <https://fbc-columbia.org/first-stories-blog>

New Members Lunch

If you or someone you know wants to learn more about First Baptist Church Columbia — or how you might get involved — we'd love to see you at lunch on November 15 in the second-floor Parlor. We'll share a bit about our ministries, what we're up to, and have a space for you to share a little bit about yourself.



RSVP by contacting Pastor Hayden at hdennis@fbc-columbia.org

Find Joy in Serving!

Serving isn't just about filling positions. It's about helping people discover meaningful ways to live out their gifts, passions, and faith.

The Nominating Committee's work is connecting people with opportunities that make a difference, both for those who serve and for the life of our church. Many of you have already said "yes" to serving, and we are grateful. But there are still opportunities waiting for the right people.

Right now, our greatest needs are in the following ministries:

Hospitality Action Group

Coordinates the Welcome Table and helps provide food and refreshments at church events.

Serving Team

Connects our congregation with local and global partners serving their communities.

Racial Justice and Inclusion Team

Guides our ongoing work in inclusion, racial healing, accessibility, and justice.

There are also opportunities to serve as a Sunday morning greeter, a Welcome Table host, or a Faith Formation leader. Whether you enjoy offering hospitality, building relationships, teaching, or serving behind the scenes, there is a place for you. The strength of our community is built through faith put into action. Your gifts can help create a welcoming, caring, and vibrant church for all.

Interested in learning more? Contact Christine Chang. We'd love to help you find where your passion and our mission meet. **"Service that brings joy" begins when each of us discovers how God is calling us to serve.**

To explore a ministry opportunity, contact Christine Chang at Cchang5363@gmail.com. We hope you'll prayerfully consider where your gifts and passions might meet the needs of our community.



1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201

Rev. Kristin McAtee, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families & Spiritual Formation

Rev. Hayden Dennis, Pastor of Youth & Community

Jonathan Ray, Director of Music

Shelby Pride, Director of Music & Worship Technology

Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist & Organist

Susan Goudie, Office Coordinator

Brenda Rice, Fine Arts & Community Liaison

Mike Ide, Custodian

Nellene Martin, Childcare Director