



100 West Red Bridge Rd,  
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[www.belovedcommunitykc.org](http://www.belovedcommunitykc.org)  
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[www.facebook.com/fbckc](https://www.facebook.com/fbckc)

## **Around & About - APRIL 2025**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner

### **The Next 170**

I write to you this month with a profound sense of gratitude. I am grateful for this moment in our church history as April marks 170 years together as FBC KCMO. I cannot wait to celebrate with you all this momentous occasion, more details to come soon. I am grateful to Pastor Steve for his many years of service preceding his retirement at the end of March. I am grateful for the successful defense of my Doctor of Ministry Thesis and my graduation with my DMin from Chicago Theological Seminary at the end of this month.

In considering all of these events, and the changes we are seeing across our nation, the word liminal comes to mind. I preached on this in the Spring of 2023.

Liminal comes from the Latin word 'limen' which means limit or doorway or threshold. Liminal moments are in-between moments or in-between places which can happen for any of us. A society, a country, city, or individual can face liminal moments. It is a time and space where we leave a familiar place behind and prepare to enter another place not yet known. Liminal moments are often uncomfortable and uncertain. Richard Rohr describes liminal as "when you are between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer."

FBC, this time and place feels like a liminal moment for us. We are in this threshold of the amazing 170 year legacy that came before us, and it is with expectant hope that we look out from this time and place to see what God has in store for us in the next 170 years. In the coming months we will be talking about the "Next 170" campaign as we consider collectively how we will flourish and thrive with an eye towards sustainability.

I find myself excited for the many opportunities that we have to serve our community. Some of them are part of this historic legacy, and some of them have yet to be written. We have many essential ministries such as the Red Bridge Food Pantry that many in our community count on each month. What new ministries should we consider in 2025? The needs of immigrant communities are dramatically shifting, how might we respond? Family and friends continue to struggle to communicate if they have differing political views, how might we leverage our intercultural nature (supporting mutuality and equality) to help to be an outlet and refuge to facilitate dialogue across groups? These are just a few ideas to get the conversation going. We all have a place here, and all of us have something to contribute to this exciting work God has put before us.

**Continued...**

## Continued...

This is also a liminal moment for me, as I close one chapter on my Doctor of Ministry journey. What I gained in this process was a deep respect for our church, and the rich diversity that we have built over the years. I plan to share a brief presentation of my findings later this year. While there are many churches with growing levels of representational diversity or surface level diversity (multicultural congregations), our church takes this a step further with deep and meaningful relationships across cultural groups and seeks to challenge the structures and norms to support a mutual experience for all (intercultural congregations). I believe that understanding who we are, and who we are becoming together, will play a big role in crafting our "Next 170" years.

In these uncertain times, I urge you to remain engaged and hopeful, not in what you can see but in what could be. We are standing in God's Liminal Moment, together. May we trust that God is with us always and live with expectant hope of what is yet to come!

**Pastor Dezo Schreiner**

Dear members and friends,

Our final "send-off" Sunday before retirement could not have been more exceptional! We were just thrilled by the responses of you, our dear beloved community, and the wonderful way you organized the day and made it so special. This congregation knows how to "pot-luck", and Laurie and all the other volunteers who did so much to make the meal special.

We had many friends and family come to be with us yesterday and it was great to have them see the church where we have been serving for almost 12 years!

We will take you with us in our hearts -- we are so appreciative for all you have meant to us. And that final worship experience -- wow -- what a day to glorify God and give thanks for all we have meant to each other. I'm appreciative of Pastor Dezo because I know she brought much of this together -- you are in good hands.

God's richest blessing be with all of you and this Beloved Community!

**- Steve and Jan Jones**



# ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

## WE PRAY FOR...

- Bill Rinck is waiting treatment for ongoing and severe back pain. We keep Bill and Christine in our heart-felt prayers. Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Sue Hansen at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit
- Debbie Ebright experiencing back pain
- Please pray for someone in hospice care.
- Dixie Kelly has blockage in arteries in her neck. Still waiting to have surgery. She does not have a date yet. We pray for Dixie and Jim.
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sally who is coordinating her care.
- Pat Betteridge is home but struggling with vision and back pain Patty Vann is now living in her new home in Holton, KS. Her address is: 321 Bonner Road, Holton KS 66436. Phone number: 785-362-2218
- Pray for Eyvonne Walker providing care for her mother at home.
- Pray for Andre, Geneva Abel's grandnephew.
- Sue Fugitt experiencing back pain, at home.
- Janelle Jones, trying to stop her parked car with her two oldest daughters inside, was hurt and broke a bone in her foot trying to bring the car to a stop on a steep incline outside their home. Dwight Crosby had surgery on March 18 for prostate cancer, early detected. All went well.
- Pastor Stephanie and James Parham who were in a car accident on their way to the retirement celebration. They are home with only soreness, no broken bones and no scratches.
- Kerry Triplett, who starts radiation on April 8th for prostate cancer.



## WE SHARE THANKS TO...

- Bill and Margo Humenczuck and Kathie Manda who worked so hard to fill 10 food boxes on Thursday, March 20th to help 10 family of the Red Bridge Elementary during spring break.
- Jan Jones for her years of serving on Mission and scholarship boards
- Pastor Steve for almost 12 years of service at our beloved community
- Diana Parker, Lynette Adkins, Toni Page, Carol Colston, Jill Clingan, and pastor Dezo for attending the Transforming Congregation Training on March 29th, 9 am to 3pm.
- Our Hospitality Chair Laurie Tourtellot, Lynn Barbee, Toni Paige, Sandi Leonard, and all the dedicated members who contributed to the potluck retirement dinner. Also, a special thank you to Andy Schreiner for grilling the meat—it was a delicious dinner!

## WE REJOICE WITH ...

- Steve and Jan celebrating 55 years of marriage on March 28th . Steve and Jan were married in our current sanctuary 55 years ago.
- Pastor Dezo who successfully defended her dissertation on March 18th . Her ceremony graduation will be on April 25th in Chicago.
- Amelie Clingan who is now working at whole Whole Foods as an Associate Team Lead. Congratulations, Amelie! We are so Proud of you.
- Congratulations, Jack Clingan who spearheaded a grant for his Digital Media program at Summit Technology Academy!

## WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Dixie Kelly — Susan Smith — Patty Vann — Donna Hopkins — Becky Boden — Pat Betteridge — Valerie Carroll (Daughter of Bill & Chris Rinck) — Justin Prigel (In the Military) — Dale Rider (Former FBC Organist/DoM )



### EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA –

This annual tradition occurs on Easter Weekend Saturday, April 19, 10am to Noon. We need lots of volunteers and lots of people bringing plastic eggs filled with candy!

\*Sign up on the **Green Sheet** today!

There are hundreds of plastic eggs in the box in the Commons. Take as many home as you like to fill with chocolates and return.

**Saturday, April 19th  
10am to Noon**

**Easter Egg Hunts on our lawn, bouncy house, easter egg decorating, music with a DJ –  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**





# Financials

## March Offering



In March, we receive the American Baptist America for Christ Offering which supports the work of our own Great Rivers Region and across America! The need is great – please give generously! Note your check for the AFC offering, made out to First Baptist Church, or you can use special AFC envelopes in the pews.

**We gave: \$1,430.00**

**In April**, our special monthly offering is to the Deacon Communion Fund which supports persons and families who are within and near to our congregation as they go through crisis or transition. The fund is used by our pastors to help people every month and generally, the balance in the fund is low!

DEACONS' FUND



Please consider giving!

## OFFERINGS



## FBC Music -- Eyvonne

"Spring Has Sprung" among us, Beloved Community! April is a month chocked full of significant remembrances and holidays. The FBC Music Ministries will be presenting our annual Palm Sunday Cantata on Sunday, April 13th - "The Passion of The Savior" this compilation work features songs: "The Day He Wore My Crown", Otis Williams' "Safety" with Soloist "Kansas City Songbird", Zenobia Smith and our very own David Page's "Sing Hosanna". We will also have Praise Dancer Carol Collins coming to bless us with dance.

Another event of note is the celebration of the 40th year of the dedication of our wonderful Temple Organ built by Frederick Cool. We will be blessed by the presence of Mr. Cool's son, David Cool who will give a talk about the history of our FBC Organ and the impact of his Father's work in building our organ, as well as building many other organs throughout the region and the U.S. at-large!

I am "branding" this event as the **"FBC Beloved Community Organ Open House"**. This will be an EVENT open to the surrounding community of the footprint of our church. Over the course of "4 hours for 40 years", we will be presenting

- ✦ Organ "mini recitals" throughout the event
- ✦ Giving interviews/talks about the history of OUR FBC Organ as well as the significance of the instrument the Organists who play them and the Organ Societies that keeps this music alive.
- ✦ We will have a time of "Hymn-Sings" where the audience/congregation gets to participate in raising their voice in song as well!
- ✦ Featured Organists who are confirmed or will be asked to participate include:

Dr. Ann Marie Rigler (and her husband, Violinist, Eric T. Williams)

Helen Hofmeister - Former FBC Organist

Dale Rider - Frmr. FBC Orgnst/Dir.of Mus.

Melody Lee Stroth - Organist - Prairie Baptist Church

John Murray - Supply Organist - Various Churches in the KC vicinity

Lyndell Leatherman - Composer, Music Editor, Former FBC Music Ministry Member

Rev., Dr. Roseann Kaufman - Prof. Bethel College, Organist - Rainbow Mennonite Church

This event is NOT a "come and sit for 4 hours" kind of event! This is intended to be an "OPEN HOUSE" activity where the community is being invited to come-and-go, to celebrate and EXPERIENCE hearing a beautiful instrument that, along with "In-Person Worship", is in a bit of a "shift" in drawing people *together* "to the church house" to share the Holy Spirit that is within them with those around them. So, though I would love to see our WHOLE Beloved Community Members participate throughout the duration of the Open House to •-welcome visitors into the church house, •-share information brochures about our church ministries •-lend your voices to the time of the Hymn Sing-a-long sessions •-SHARE the event on your social media platforms • serve as Ushers to help visitors find seating, •-run the Sound/AV Booth for the screens and to stream (?) or •-manage the "Celebration Donations" table.

Please keep your eyes open to check out the Green Sheet, to sign up for these service opportunities. We could "talk among ourselves and partner up with an FBC Member to help with you in shifts over the 4 hours - - Come on! It'll be FUN! Thank you in advance for your support as always!

# FOOD PANTRY

## RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, April 7th — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day  
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, April 16th 6PM — Deadline for clients call Food Pantry Phone Line. If you know of a family in need of food assistance, have them call the Food Pantry Line (816-908-7800) anytime BEFORE 6 p.m. on Wed., April 16th. They will need to provide the requested information and a phone number. They will then receive a return call which must be answered before their request for food can be processed.

Friday, April 18th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — Fill Food Pantry Orders

Saturday, April 19th — 9:00-11:00 a.m. — Clients Pick Up Orders

⇒ Potential clients who live in our south Kansas City area can be referred to call:

**816-908-7800**

For March, we served 20 families with 63 folks this month, and we couldn't have done it without YOU! Thank you so very much for your generosity!

### Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — APRIL 2025:

- ⇒ Boxed Meals (Hamburger Helper type)
- ⇒ Canned Peas
- ⇒ Cereal
- ⇒ Deodorant (Male & Female)
- ⇒ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ⇒ Fruit Cocktail
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Flour (5# Bag)
- ⇒ Dry Beans (1# Bags)
- ⇒ Small Laundry Detergent Bottles

(The dollar stores are a good resource for the deodorant, dishwashing soap and laundry detergent)

Contact Tarah Kruger with any questions at  
[tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net)

## Spotlight on Laura Martinez

I was born and raised in South Kansas City, graduated from Hickman Mills High School, and headed off to college at Colorado State University to play basketball and study Wildlife Biology. Life had a change of plans for me, and after one year in Colorado I moved to New York City to attend St. John's University, once again to play basketball and this time studying Athletic Administration/Business. This drastic change was due to meeting a fellow, Joe Martinez, who was a native New Yorker. Joe and I were eventually married, I graduated from St. John's, and we decided to move out of the city to raise a family. Joe worked for Citibank, and he was able to get job transfers a couple of times (Minnesota, back to NYC) before we settled in Delaware. We ended up living there for 15 years, and our children Christine and Travis were born there. Joe eventually got relocated to Buffalo, NY, and we moved there in 2001. This began a difficult time of life for all of us, as Joe was diagnosed with cancer shortly after we moved to Buffalo and passed away 3 years later. Christine and Travis finished high school in Buffalo and then went off to college. I ended up staying in Buffalo a few more years, and remarried Paul Sienkiewicz.



We moved to KC in 2011, and I was thrilled to be back home. I had always worked part-time while the kids were growing up and then worked at garden centers/nurseries when they left for college. Needing a more lucrative career, I started working as a mail carrier at the USPS in 2014 and have been there since. I am now single, as Paul and I split up in 2020. My kids both live on the East Coast - Christine is a college professor at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and Travis is the Environmental Site Coordinator at a Proctor and Gamble plant in Greensboro, NC. He is married to Rachel, and they have 2 young daughters, Tully and Finley.

In my free time, (which is rare due to the demands of my job), I enjoy being outside, gardening, walking, viewing nature (where I feel closest to God), reading, sports, and music. I love animals and my little home family now consists of two dogs and a cat, all of which I picked up off my mail route in the city. Family is very important to me, and I have been blessed to have a supportive family my whole life.

I grew up in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and have mostly stayed close to those roots, attending either Disciples of Christ or American Baptist churches. Being a part of a church community is extremely important to me, and when I lived away from home, my church communities have been like my family.

I have been at First Baptist KCMO since 2013 and have appreciated the community here so much. One of my favorite church activities is small group/Bible Study. I enjoy getting to know people better in this setting, and exchanging our different perspectives and experiences around how God works in our lives.

# Upcoming Worship Schedule

—In-person in the Sanctuary and LIVE on Facebook at 10:50 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. on our website—

## UPCOMING WORSHIP THEME: THIS IS OUR TIME! THIS IS GOD'S TIME!

Rev. Dezo Schreiner, preaching

### 2025 Lenten Preaching Schedule

The Beloved Community of FBC KCMO

#### † Sunday, April 6th — 10:50am: The Fifth Sunday of Lent

##### "A Time of Hold On"

Holding on is a spiritual discipline particularly when we might be tempted to turn aside. Holding on is what Paul called, "Keeping on Keeping On." Communion Sunday. Pastor Dezo, preaching; 2 Timothy 2:8-13

#### † Sunday, April 13th, — 10:50am: PALM SUNDAY

##### "A Time of Letting Go"

We might want to clutch on to the familiar, to the past, but we are invited to let go of the easy, the familiar, the routine, and walk with each other and walk with the Living Savior into the new frontier. Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

Pastor Dezo preaching; Philippians 4:6-7

#### † Thursday, April 17th, — 10:50am: MAUNDAY THURSDAY

##### "A Time to Remember"

- Agape love feast, potluck finger food seated around tables in shape of the cross; 6pm-

We remember the night our Lord gathered his disciples, even with one who was to betray him in their midst, and we are to come together, with all our imperfections, and be enveloped by Christ's rich grace.

Pastor Dezo, preaching; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

#### † Friday, April 18th, — 10:50am: GOOD FRIDAY

##### "A Time to Feel His Pain"

- A virtual Service on Zoom at 6 pm, The 7 last words of Christ -

We must never skip over Good Friday, bypass the cross, because pain, suffering, loss, are an integral part of this journey. Jesus said, "You must take up your own cross."

Pastor Dezo, preaching; Isaiah 5:3-4

#### † Sunday, April 20th, — 10:50am: EASTER RESURRECTION SUNDAY

##### "A Time to Rise Up"

Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and so are we lifted up from discouragement, from being stuck, from spinning our wheels. "Love Lifted Me!"

Pastor Dezo, preaching. John 20:1-18. No Easter Breakfast!

#### † Sunday, April 27th, — 10:50am: THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

##### "What do we do now?"

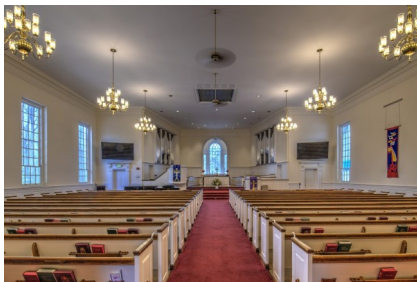
Pastor Dezo, preaching. John 20:19-31

Happy 170th Birthday to the Beloved Community of  
First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri.

April 1855 - April 2025

170 years of ministry in the Kansas City area

Happy  
Birthday



Three beautiful photos of our church taken by Rufus R. Harmon



JOIN US ...  
for 100 minutes of  
popular Jazz!



### ALEX ABRAMOVITZ AND HIS SWINGIN' KC JAZZ BAND

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH  
6-8PM

We are looking for volunteers to join the Jazz Vespers team.  
Please talk to Kerry Triplett or Pastor Dezo.



# Church Calendar

- **April 6th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 6th** — The Fifth Sunday of Lent, “A Time of Hold On”; Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.
- April 7th — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- April 8th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 9th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- April 9th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- April 9th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **April 13th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 13th** — **PALM SUNDAY, “A Time of Letting Go” - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **April 13th** — Sunday, at 6:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers - Alex Abramovitz and His Swingin’ KC Jazz Band
- April 15th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 16th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- April 16th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- April 16th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- April 16th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **April 17th** — **MAUNDY THURSDAY, at 6:00 p.m. “A Time to Remember” - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **April 18th** — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- **April 18th** — **GOOD FRIDAY, at 6:00 p.m. Virtual Service on ZOOM. “A Time to Feel His Pain” - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- April 19th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **April 20th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 20th** — **EASTER RESURRECTION SUNDAY, “A Time to Rise Up” - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- April 22nd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 23rd — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- April 23rd — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- April 23rd — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **April 27th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 27th** — **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, “What do we do now?” - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- April 29th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 30th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- April 30th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- April 30th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers



If you would like an updated digital copy of our First Baptist Church Directory, please let our office/Robin know and we can email one to you!

Office Email: [theoffice@fbckcmo.net](mailto:theoffice@fbckcmo.net)



## First Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO

100 West Red Bridge Rd,  
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



### April Birthdays

Stevie Clark	07
Lyn Barbee	07
Carlos Hopkins	14
Cole Alexander	14
Daichi Tadokoro	14
Sallie Smith	19
Linda Bolden	19
Georgia Buchanan	20
William Rinck	21
Roberta Stevenson	24
Freddie Harper	26
Laurie Tourtellot	28
John Fisher	29



### TUESDAY MORNING, 10AM CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN AND BIBLE STUDY ON MARK'S GOSPEL

WE ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO LISTEN ONLINE TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES TO ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUESDAY ZOOM CALL. IT WOULD ADD A FACE-TO-FACE HOUR OF INTERACTION WITH OUR PASTORS. WE USE THE HOURS FOR PERSONAL CHECK-IN, PRAYER, AND BIBLE STUDY. JOIN US!  
(TAUGHT BY PASTOR DEZO)

**Method 1** – Video and Audio by Smartphone/Tablet/PC

1. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTDtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09>
2. Meeting ID: 555 892 911
3. Password: 1

**Method 2** – Audio ONLY

1. Call 312.626.6799 US (Chicago)
2. Meeting ID: 555 892 911
3. Password: 1

**Website:** [www.belovedcommunitykc.org](http://www.belovedcommunitykc.org)

TO WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICE **LIVE** AT 10:50AM ON  
FACEBOOK GO TO:

<https://www.facebook.com/fbckc/>

TO WATCH IT ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE GO TO:

<http://fbckcmo.net/worship-services>

(The services will be posted on our website at 1:00PM)