



Beloved Community of First Baptist Kansas City, MO

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Kansas City, MO 64114
(816) 942-1866
Visit us on our website
www.belovedkc.org
or on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fbckc

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner
Dr. Megan Bedford-Strohm

Around & About - APRIL 2026

Who Does Not Like Celebration?

I hear that phrase over and over in my life: *Who does not like celebration?* The truth is, I usually laugh when I hear it, because whenever someone wants to celebrate me, my first response is often, "No." I have a habit of running away from attention. I am much more comfortable celebrating others than being celebrated myself.

And yet, I truly do love celebrating people. I love remembering birthdays. I may not always be the best at sending cards, but I do enjoy sending a text, making a phone call, or writing an email. Now that I have children, they join in by singing "Happy Birthday" to those who are celebrating. I love taking a moment to remind people how wonderful they are and how much they matter. I never want to wait until someone has passed away to say the kind things that should have been spoken while they were still here to hear them.

That is one reason celebration matters so much. Celebration is more than a party or a date on the calendar. Celebration is one of the ways we show gratitude to God and love to one another. It is a way of saying, "I see you. I thank God for you. Your life matters. Your presence is a gift."

I want all of you to know that you are amazing. The many ways you serve, give, pray, encourage, and show up for one another help make our congregation vibrant and full of life. Every act of kindness, every word of support, every hour volunteered, and every prayer offered helps strengthen this church. We are who we are because of God's grace working through each of you.

It is important to me that we celebrate with one another. In a world that can feel heavy with bad news, worry, and weariness, the church should also be a place where joy is shared, milestones are honored, and thanksgiving is lifted up together for what God is doing in our midst.

Romans 12:15 reminds us, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Celebration is part of our calling as the people of God. When one person is blessed, we all have reason to give thanks. When one person reaches a milestone, we all can share in the joy. When one person offers their gifts in service, the whole body of Christ is strengthened.

This month, our church turns 171 years old. What a blessing. We give thanks to God for this community of faith that has been a light on the hill in the Kansas City area for generations. For 171 years, God has sustained this congregation, guided this church, and used it as a witness of hope, love, and service.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let us not only give thanks for the past, but also rejoice in the present and look forward with faith to the future. God is still at work among us. God is still calling us, shaping us, and using us for ministry.

So yes, celebration matters. Let us give thanks to God for the people who came before us, for the ministry we share today, and for the future God is still unfolding among us. Let us not be shy about celebrating the goodness of God and the goodness we see in one another.

May we be a congregation that gives thanks often, celebrates freely, and honors one another with joyful hearts.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Happy 171st birthday to our Beloved Community of First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri. To God be the glory. Let us keep celebrating God's faithfulness and let us keep celebrating one another.

Pastor Dezo Schriener

Announcements

Discernment Process Beginning

You're invited!

We are thrilled to invite the entire congregation to join us on Sunday, April 26, immediately following our worship service.

We will be kicking off our

important discernment process together over a community lunch. The Transforming Congregation Team is fully prepared and eager to begin this journey with you. Don't miss this opportunity to help shape our future!



JOIN US!



**SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH 6PM
BRETT JACKSON**

Early Journey Bible Study Sundays Mornings

We have an adult Sunday Morning class, the Journeys Class, meeting weekly at 9:30 am using the Journeys curriculum. Meets in the Cross-Generations Classroom, 9:30 am Sundays. Everyone is welcome!! Lively and engaging conversations each week!

Everyone is welcome!!

FREE SHREDDING!!!

Have sensitive documents lying around?
We have a shredding bin available for members to shred their documents in the FBC Office.



NEED VIDEO/SOUND/STREAMING VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for volunteers to help in the sound booth. It would be good to give Matt and Bill a break every once in a while. Let us know if you would like to help. Thank you!



Spotlight on Gil Manda

My name is Forrest Gillam Manda, but my friends call me "Gil"; I hope you will! I was born in Phillipsburg, New Jersey on January 16, 1952, to a 4th generation horticulturist and a Mom from Maryville, MO. My father's grandfather immigrated from Jince, Bohemia (now Czechia) in 1890, where he was an estate manager for the castle at Horovice, CZ. My father was in the orchid growing business with his father; however, Mother was an only child of two only children, and they would have loved to have her closer to home. So, in 1953 the family moved to Pleasant Hill MO, where Dad bought an old run-down greenhouse. I graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Horticulture in 1974. After my father's death in 1976 at age 54, I assumed control of the family business and operated the greenhouse until it was sold in 2000.



I was a Presbyterian by Baptism, and attended the Pleasant Hill First Presbyterian Church, as well as Sunday School. Like my siblings, I earned all the perfect attendance medallions as well as Biblical study and memorization medals. It was a wonderful childhood, and I was blessed but didn't fully understand what that meant at the time!

I came to know Kansas City First Baptist after meeting my future wife Kathie Young, when both of us served a function of the American Royal here in KC. Rev. Dr. Malcom Haughey officiated our wedding February 19, 1977 at the Linwood building. That certainly further forged my Christian conviction, but I was serving as a Deacon in the Presbyterian Church, soon thereafter to become an Elder. I served as an Elder until the dissolution of the church in 2018.

Kathie and I have always been involved in the Scouting organizations. She was a Gold Award awardee as a youth, and went on to serve as a board member of Girl Scouts of the USA and the US representative of GSUSA to the World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. I received my Eagle Scout as a youth, then went on as a Youth Ministries Representative to the Heartland Presbytery for three years, then as a counselor for the Heartland Presbytery to the Heart of America Council of the BSA. All three of our sons have achieved Eagle Scout rank, and our daughter received her Gold Award, the highest rank in Girl Scouting.

In my spare time I enjoy tending our 200-tree orchard of apples, peaches, and pears, and working on antique cars and tractors. Also, Kathie and I enjoy doing artwork together, and nurturing interest in all the arts with our 13 grandchildren and other youth. Kathie and I have four children: Will (wife Susan and five boys); Jay (wife Whitney and four girls); Sarah (husband John Halcomb with a son and a daughter); and Frank (wife Kirsten and two girls). Now, I'd like to know more about each of you!

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- Megan Severson, the wife of the interim Pastor of Eagle River (Alaska) Presbyterian Church, transplanted liver is working well. Minor setback, but improving. Her family visited her in Houston and they are now back at home. No timeline yet on Megan's return home.
- Sue Fugitt who recently fell at home. Dennis who struggles with eyesight. Their daughter Megan who is only 42, but has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for Megan as she goes through chemo.
- Vonda Breedlove struggling with pain and mobility issues.
- Melba McIntosh for strength as she cares for her son.
- Karen Foster
- LaMoine Tatum and her family
- Geneva Abel dealing with health issues
- Kerry Triplett and his family
- Lynette McLeod (Diana Parker's sister - Recovering from surgery)
- Beverly Ryan who is struggling with pain and other health issues.
- Lynette Adkins and her family. For her niece, Shianne Parris and cousin Tracy.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Dixie and Jim Kelly, Jill Kelly, and Dixie's sister, Judy.
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sallie's health.
- Toni Page' mother dealing with health issues
- Tom Ott, Jay Manda's father in law
- Daylin and Dalie Rodriguez Ortet and Noah.
- Our church family as we all face difficult time in our life. May we never feel alone. We have each other and God is with us always



WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

- Our wonderful chancel singers and Eyvonne Walker, our director of music, for such a beautiful and moving cantata. A special thanks to all the speakers who shared reflections during the cantata.
- Everyone who donated eggs for the Eggstravaganza.
- All the volunteers who helped with Eggstravaganza.
- To the family who sponsored the food, including: hot dogs, hot dog buns, and cupcakes. We truly appreciate your generosity! Eggstravaganza was a success because of all of you.

WE REJOICE WITH ...

- LaMoine Tatum who joined our church on March 22, 2026.

WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

Sue Hansen at Brookdale (in memory Care)—Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Leonard Barbee — The Dawdys, Avery & Gregory Family — Rodie (Pat Hester's Friends) — Mia Gunter (Care-Giver for Evelyn Brooks) — Evelyn Brooks (Suffering from severe memory issues) — Tim Link — Vonda Breedlove — The Chandler Family — Justin Prigel (In the Military) — Samuel Okwo (US National Guard)

Pictures from Eggstravaganza 2026



Missions



We are planning a mission trip to Nicaragua in 2027!



Please let Margo Humenczuk know if you'd like to be included in the information sessions on the trip that will be held after the first of the year.



Whether or not you're able to engage in mission with the team, your support of the Savers' clothing and household items drive would be greatly appreciated. Your cast off goods can provide funds for the team training and delivery of water filters to families with no access to clean water. Bring items to church anytime.



Spring Cleaning with Purpose: Donate Today!

Donate unwanted items to our Savers Drive!

Whether or not you're able to engage in mission with the team, your support of the Savers' clothing and household items drive would be greatly appreciated. Your cast-off goods can provide funds for the team training and delivery of water filters to families with no access to clean water.

Savers is a thrift store that will pay the church for items donated to our drive by our members, friends and community. We are paid by the pound for your unwanted household items, kitchenware, nick knacks, clothing, toys, shoes, camping gear, etc.

Please pack clean clothing, towels, linens and other soft goods in clean trash bags.

Please bring household items (hard goods) in boxes. There are boxes for clothing, hard goods, books and shoes by the outside door into the commons. We will be collecting for several months, so you have plenty of time to go through closets, drawers, etc.

Remember, all the money earned from the goods taken to Savers will be used for the mission trip costs for water filters, training for volunteers, supplies for VBS done in Nicaragua, etc.



Clean out your closets for the Beloved Community of First Baptist Church Kansas City, MO!



We Are Collecting

CLOTHES

Men's, Women's and Children's Clothes, Coats, Shoes, Scarves, Handbags, Wallets, Fashion Accessories, Ties, Belts, Backpacks, Etc.

HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES

Bedding, Comforters, Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Linen, Tablecloths, Curtains, Pillows, Etc.

Please gather clothes and household textiles in bags. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.



We are currently focusing on toys, games and books for all ages!

We can earn an extra \$50 if we collect over 700lbs of books, and another \$50 for a strong amount of household goods (pots, pans, tools, knick-knacks, etc.).

Thanks for helping us reach our goal!

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, April 6th — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, April 15th 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 15th.** 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 17th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — Fill Food Pantry Orders

Saturday, April 17th — 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



Scan to Donate online!

Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — APRIL 2026:

- ⇒ Facial Tissue
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Shampoo
- ⇒ Strawberry Jelly (& other)
- ⇒ Low Sugar Jams
- ⇒ Deodorant (mainly Men's)
- ⇒ Tuna Helper Type Boxed Meals
- ⇒ Canned Pears/Pineapple/Mandarin Oranges
- ⇒ Canned Mixed Vegetables/Potatoes/Carrots, others
- ⇒ Gluten Free Items (including Cereal)

Contact Tarah Kruger with any questions at
tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net

In March, we helped 16 families with 45 individuals, including folks who need low sugar or gluten-free foods. We couldn't do it without your support---thank you so much!!

FBC Music -- Eyvonne Walker

Ah... THE RESURRECTION OF OUR SAVIOR! The days of Holy Week that we share in re-enacting each year gives us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with Emanuel, God WITH (and "of") us, the Son of God and our Savior of all humanity. This past Palm "Son"-day (yes, some children play with their food, but occasionally, I like to play with my homonyms), I have to say, with GREAT THANKS and humbled appreciation that this year's cantata (yes, though I tried to keep a reign on the time, it turned out to be a full cantata length) was made so much deeper in meaning to me, personally, than any of the other Palm Sunday cantatas I have participated in since I first came to First Baptist Church of KCMO back in 2011!

This message that God put on my heart to present to our Beloved Community just had to be told! The thought of the significance of what each of the people who had the chance to share a final meal with our Savior-to-be in His last week of life "in the flesh" -- it was this, which galvanized my desire to tell this aspect of the Passion week of our Yeshua.

Beyond the urgency of this message to be told, is my gratitude to EVERYONE who participated in bringing these accounts to life, in word and song! I could not have presented this without the cooperation, God-given talent and willingness of our **Chancel Singers** (in order of standing position last Sunday):

Marcena Chandler, Sandi Leonard, Adesjola Tucker, David Page, *Desiree Byas, Brad Dawdy

and of course our **Reflections Readers** (in order of presentation):

Rev., Dr. Dezo Schreiner - Zacheus

Kathie Manda - Jesus' Triumphal Entry

LaMoine Tatum - Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Laura Martinez/Jill Clingan - Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus

Lynette Adkins - The Passover Meal

Rev., Dr. Meghan Bedford-Strom - Jesus in the Garden with God and the Holy Spirit

Pat Hester - The Disciples at Emmaus with Jesus as Our Risen Savior

Abundant thanks and blessings not only for this special Palm Sunday event, but for EVERY WEEK of service from our **AV Team**: *Bill Humenczuk, Andrew Schreiner, David Page, LaMoine Tatum and Matt Clingan* - we couldn't have done this successfully without you!

Though this cantata and article are presented at the beginning of April, it is my hope that all who had "ears to hear" will be blessed, not only through this month, but may this message continue to burn in your hearts throughout this entire year. Be blessed Beloved!!!

**Desiree Byas was our Guest Vocal Soloist, called by God to sing with us for just such a time as this, we thank you for you beautiful, heart-felt witness and testimony in song.*

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—

The Beloved Community of FBC KCMO

2026 PREACHING SCHEDULE

+ **Sunday, April 5th - Easter Sunday— 10:50am**

“A Call to New Life,” based on Matthew 28:1-10.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

+ **Sunday, April 12th - The First Sunday after Easter — 10:50am**

“On The Road to Emmaus,” based on Luke 24:13-16; 28-35.

Pastor Megan, preaching.

**SERMON SERIES: LIVING AS THE BLELOVED TOGETHER
AN EASTERTIDE SERIES**

+ **Sunday, April 19th - The Second Sunday after Easter — 10:50am**

“Are we Beloved?,” based on 1 John 3:1-3; John 20:19-22.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

+ **Sunday, April 26th - The Third Sunday after Easter — 10:50am**

“Chosen for Such a Time as This,” based on John 15:9-17.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

+ **Sunday, May 3rd - The Fourth Sunday after Easter — 10:50am**

“Walking in the Blessing,” based on Luke 24:50-53.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.

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: \$2,055.00

OFFERINGS



April Communion

In **April**, we receive the Deacon Communion Offering, to assist those within and near to our church in crisis or transition. Finally, we receive the Youth Penny Fund for upcoming church mission trips.

Please give generously!



Church Calendar

- April 1st — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 1st — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- April 2nd — Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service (Fireside Room)
- April 3rd — Friday, 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Zoom Service
- April 4th — Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Eggstravaganza Event!
- **April 5th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **April 5th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 5th** — **Easter Sunday - "A Call to New Life," based on Matthew 28:1-10.**
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- April 7th — Tuesday, Missouri Special Elections Day!
- April 7th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 8th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 8th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **April 12th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **April 12th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 12th** — **"On The Road to Emmaus," based on Luke 24:13-16; 28-35.**
Pastor Megan, preaching.
- **April 12th** — Sunday, 12:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting (Fireside Room)
- April 14th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 15th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- April 15th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 15th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- April 17th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- April 18th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **April 19th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **April 19th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 19th** — **"Are we Beloved?," based on 1 John 3:1-3; John 20:19-22.**
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- **April 19th** — Sunday, 6:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers - Brett Jackson
- April 21st — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 22nd — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 22nd — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **April 26th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **April 26th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 26th** — **"Chosen for Such a Time as This," based on John 15:9-17.**
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- **April 12th** — Sunday, 12:00 p.m. Discernment Process Luncheon
- April 28th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 29th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 29th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- May 2nd — Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. South Kansas City Alliance Bulk Clean Up Event!
- **May 3rd** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **May 3rd** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **May 3rd** — **"Walking in the Blessing," based on Luke 24:50-53.**
Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



**Beloved Community
of First Baptist
Kansas City, MO**

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp
Here



April Birthdays

Stevie Clark	07
Lyn Barbee	07
Carlos Hopkins	14
Cole Alexander	14
Daichi Tadokoro	14
Megan Bedford-Strohm	16
Sallie Smith	19
Linda Bolden	19
Georgia Buchanan	20
William Rinck	21
Roberta Stevenson	24
Laurie Tourtellot	28
John Fisher	29



**TUESDAY MORNING, 10AM CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN
AND BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

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=SFNmQUlvT0tRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQTO9>
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.belovedkc.org/

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

www.facebook.com/fbckc/

TO WATCH IT ON YOUTUBE GO TO:

www.youtube.com/@BelovedCommunityKC

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

www.belovedkc.org/watch

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