



Beloved Community of First Baptist Kansas City, MO

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

Around & About - AUGUST 2026

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

God is a God of the Present

August has a very specific feeling, especially here in Kansas City. The heat and humidity settle in, the cicadas sing loudly, and we are truly in the dog days of summer. And yet, for many of us, our thoughts have already begun to shift toward the changing season ahead.

For some, August might bring a touch of nostalgia for long summer days – whether that means sitting poolside, grilling with friends, slipping outside in the evening to watch lightning bugs, or beating the heat with fans humming and a cool glass of lemonade. For others, especially those connected to the rhythms of the school year through children or work, August means school supply lists, orientation schedules, back-to-school nights, and calendars quickly filling with Fall activities.

I know that for me—as someone who is especially sensitive to both nostalgia and the anticipation that can so easily become anxiety—this time of year often comes with a tightness in my stomach. I wonder whether I spent the summer well with my children. I worry as I recognize that everything is about to change again. I question whether we've made the right decisions about schools, extracurricular activities, and work-life balance. I hope my children will love their new teachers and find good friends in their classroom. I need to take a deep breath just after writing that.

Other people in our congregation and community are facing bigger transitions and worries than the changing of seasons. Some are waiting for test results from doctors. Some are missing loved ones and remembering summers spent together. Some are beginning new jobs or searching for work, hoping they will find the right place. The list could go on.

The other evening, I read a line that stopped me in my tracks: “God is a God of the present.” It comes from Henri Nouwen’s lovely little book, *In the Name of Jesus*. I’ve been turning that sentence over in my mind, wondering what it means and how it resonates with Scripture.

Of course, God is also the God of our past and our future. God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all the saints who have gone before us. God knit together the earth and knit together each of us in our mothers’ wombs. And we trust that God also holds our future, knowing the number of our days before we do.

And yet, this simple sentence remains profoundly true: **God is a God of the present**. There is something deeply freeing about that. It gently calls us back to the only place where we can actively experience God’s presence: here and now.

We can remember what God has done in the past or hope and pray for how God will show up in the future. But the present moment is where we encounter God. The present moment is where we can reach to touch Christ’s robe like the bleeding woman in the Gospels.

Does that sound a bit mystical? Let me say it another way. Jesus tells us, “Consider the birds of the air;” “Consider the lilies of the fields;” and “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?” (Luke 12). The Psalmist prays, “teach me to number my days, O God, that I may gain a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90). Who knows what tomorrow holds? Repeatedly, Scripture invites us into this moment. So my question for you is: What does it look like for you, today, to practice the presence of God?

In so many ways, our attention is constantly being pulled elsewhere. When we are swept away by the algorithm, we are often carried away from the place where our bodies actually are. It is certainly not wrong to plan for the future, to remember the past, or to carry other places and times in our frames of awareness and concern. This can be wise. But are we living there?

Jesus invites us to live as the birds, as the lilies – to be before God, just as we are today. For they know no other way.

So what might that look like for you? Perhaps it is lighting a candle and taking a moment for contemplative prayer. Perhaps it is standing barefoot in the grass; reading a poem; making a small piece of art; playing music; or really noticing, for just a moment, the way the afternoon light falls across the face of someone you love before rushing to the next task.

In the words of Mary Oliver, “attention is the beginning of devotion.” What helps you attend to the present moment, as if it were a sacrament?

My prayer is that, wherever this August finds you—in gratitude or grief, in anticipation or uncertainty—you might discover God’s presence here, in this very moment. May we remember, together, that God is a God of the present.

Pastor Megan Bedford-Strohm

Announcements

SADLY,
Sue Hansen
PASSED AWAY
Saturday, July 11th

SUE HANSEN'S
Memorial
WILL BE HELD
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
AT 2:00 PM

"Well done, good and faithful servant."
MATTHEW 25:23



Are you interested in
volunteering for our
wedding committee?

Let our church office know!

Do you have
sensitive documents
laying around?

WE HAVE
FREE SHREDDING
FOR ALL OF
OUR MEMBERS!

The shredding bin is
available to shred all of
your important documents
in the FBC office.

It is a locked
container for safety.



Help protect your information.
Take advantage of this free service
provided by our church!



Announcement: Discernment Process Beginning

Be in prayer for the church
and the Transforming
Congregation Team as
together we are preparing to
resume the discernment
process.



OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY –
Thank you to Christine Garner
for working with our children on
Sunday mornings.



PLEASE JOIN FOR THE ORDINATION SERVICE

OF MEGAN BEDFORD-STROHM

AUGUST
16

Beloved Community
100 Red Bridge Road
Kansas City, MO 64114

10:50
AM



Do you like to garden?

We are looking for
volunteers to help with
the Rose Garden.



There's still time to
order a black baseball
cap featuring our
church logo!

Hats are **\$8 each**, and
payment may be made by **cash,**
check, or **online through our**
website.

If you'd like to order one, please
let us know!

You're Invited! JOURNEYS CLASS

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

Faith. Community. Growth.



9:30 AM
ON SUNDAYS



USING THE
JOURNEYS
CURRICULUM



IN THE
CROSS
GENERATIONS
CLASSROOM



EVERYONE
IS WELCOME!



Lively and engaging conversations each week!

Join us!

Let's grow together
in faith and friendship.

Announcements

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

TWO PROJECTS. BIG IMPACT.



BIGGER SINK *for the Fireside Room*

A larger sink will help us serve our many meals, gatherings and events with ease.



LANDSCAPING *Improvements*

We're looking for someone to sponsor landscaping by paying and/or hiring a company.

The work needed is too extensive for an individual.



INTERESTED?

Please reach out to the church office.

Thank you ♥

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT!



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE/BUSINESS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO *Sponsor* US TO GET A NEW PLAYGROUND?

Our playground brings joy, learning, and play to so many children in our care. We're looking for a generous sponsor to help make a brand new playground a reality for our kids!

YOUR SUPPORT
CAN MAKE A
BIG IMPACT!



TOGETHER, WE CAN
**BUILD A BETTER
PLACE TO PLAY!**



BELOVED COMMUNITY

of First Baptist Church
of Kansas City, MO

invites you to:

ART NIGHT

for Children & Families



THURSDAY,
AUGUST 6

6:00-8:00 PM



Relaxed time for
families to create
and play together.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Open-ended process
art activities
for children ages 3+



Bubbles &
sidewalk chalk

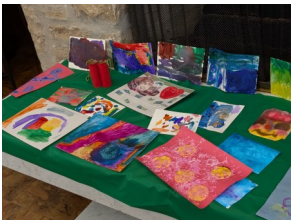
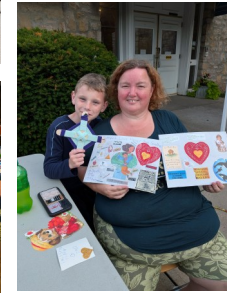


Light
refreshments



Beloved Community -
Fireside Room and Patio
100 Red Bridge Rd
Kansas City, MO 64114

Photos from Art Night



ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- All the students, teachers, para, school counselor, and school workers as they begin a new school year.
- Sue Hansen's family. Sue passed on to eternal life in her sleep on July 11th at Brookdale Care Center. She was 87.
- The Bedford-Strohm's family. Jonas' grandpa, Crayton Bedford, passed on to eternal life on June 27th. The memorial service will be on August 9th in Ashville, NC.
- Bob Holloway gaining strength at home.
- Melba McIntosh for strength. We give thanks for the healing that is taking place in her son's life.
- Vonda Breedlove is struggling with pain and ability to walk. Please pray for her.
- Sue and Dennis Fugitt. Their daughter Megan who is only 42, is going through chemo for pancreatic cancer.
- Geneva Abel dealing with health issues.
- Kerry Triplett's health and his family.
- Lynette Adkins and her family. For her niece Shianne.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Dixie and Jim Kelly.
- 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.
- Breeze's Dad – dealing with blood clots in his lung.
- We pray for Margo, Bill, Claire, Emily, and Pastor Dezo and family attending the World Mission Conference in Orlando Florida.



WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

- All the leaders of the Beloved Community for all the work they do behind the scene to keep God's ministry going.
- Dave Page and Eyvonne Walker for playing music as we continue our search for a permanent organist.

WE REJOICE WITH ...

- Pastor Megan preparing for her ordination service on August 16th.
- Rev. Toni Page who has been endorsed as a Healthcare Chaplain with the American Baptist Churches USA.

WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

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)

Spotlight on Dixie Kelly

Dixie Kelly Dixie has been part of the Beloved Community of First Baptist Church since 1985. For more than forty years, she has treasured the warmth and friendliness of the congregation. "The people are so friendly," Dixie said. "Even if they do not recognize you, they introduce themselves, and before long, you feel like you have a new family."



Dixie grew up on a farm in Illinois as one of seven children--four brothers, two sisters, and Dixie. Farm life included milking cows, feeding hogs, fishing, and wading in the creek. With such a large extended family, gatherings could easily include more than one hundred relatives.

One of Dixie's favorite childhood memories reveals her playful side. One day, her brothers and cousin went swimming in the farm pond. Dixie moved their clothes, leaving them to believe they would have to walk home without them. Thankfully, she placed the clothes along the path before anyone got into too much trouble. "My brother Larry always said I got him into more trouble than anybody else," she said.

Dixie and Jim were married in 1969 and raised two sons, Jamie and Andy. Their family now includes two granddaughters, Emily and Sarah. Some of Dixie's happiest years were spent as a busy soccer mom, traveling across the country for games and supporting her sons in the activities they loved.

While raising her children, Dixie operated her own accounting business, providing bookkeeping and accounting services to several companies. She later worked for many years as an inventory control manager at TransAm Trucking in Olathe.

Today, Dixie enjoys assembling jigsaw puzzles with Jim. After completing them, she glues and frames them, and some have been donated for others to enjoy. She currently has a completed puzzle that she hopes can be framed and displayed at the church.

Dixie also loves country music. One of her most treasured memories is traveling to Nashville with Jim, their sons, and her parents to attend the Grand Ole Opry. "It was one of the happiest times we had together as a family," she recalled.

Given an entire day to spend however she wished, Dixie would travel to Illinois or California to visit family. She also hopes to walk again without the assistance of a walker.

Dixie's hopes for our church is to continue to grow, welcome new members, and become financially self-sustaining.

Through every season, she continues to place her faith in God. "I always pray, 'Thy will be done,'" she says. "I do not control it. The Lord controls it, and God's will is what is going to happen. Do not worry about everything. Turn it over to God. God will handle it in God's time."

Dixie, whose birthday is August 23, is also grateful to be featured in the *Spotlight during her birthday month*.

We are grateful for Dixie, for the joy and wisdom she brings to our church family, and for her many years of faithful participation in the Beloved Community of First Baptist Church.

Missions



Answering a question about the trip:

What will we eat on the mission trip?

The wonderful cooks from AMOS prepare all our meals during the mission trip. Rice, beans and flour tortillas are plentiful but there's lots of other delicious food, too! Eggs are often served for breakfast,

various chicken and pork dishes for lunch and dinner. We enjoy lots of fresh fruit and vegetables washed in filtered water so everything is safe to eat. So far

everyone has stayed healthy on each of our trips.

On our last day we eat a lunch out in a local restaurant.

We will have a mission team meeting in early August after World Mission Conference. Our AMOS global servant Christy Lafferty is at the meeting and we'll have a few updates on our trip when Margo returns.



Our Church was represented at the World Mission Conference in Orlando, FL by Pastor Dezo, Andy, Benjamin, Charlotte and Enzo Schreiner and Bill, Margo, Claire and Emily Humenczuk. We learned about our global servants (missionaries) from all over the world and their work.

Pastor Dezo is currently president of International Ministries.

world
mission
conference

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, August 3rd — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, August 12th 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., August 12th.** 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, August 14th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — **Fill Food Pantry Orders**

Saturday, August 15th — 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 — AUGUST 2026:

- ⇒ Jelly
- ⇒ 1# Bags of White & Pinto Beans
- ⇒ Canned Chilis/Stews
- ⇒ Canned Pastas
- ⇒ Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Pasta Sauce
- ⇒ Canned Peas, Potatoes, Mushrooms, Carrots, Mixed Vegetables
- ⇒ Facial Tissues
- ⇒ Mac & Cheese

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

In July, we helped 14 families with 39 individuals, thanks to your generosity.

Thank you so much! We couldn't help our neighbors without you! Farm Fresh and parishioners provided some of the produce, so a big thank you to all of them!

Financials

JULY Offering

We gave to **STEP Africa** —
Children of Peace Student Tuition Program

\$4,585

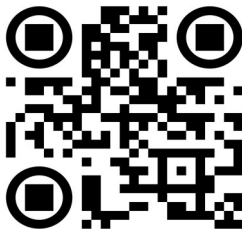
Education for children in Zimbabwe
Tuition, books, uniforms, and classroom supplies

Building brighter futures
Through local partnerships and caring support

**Led by global servants
Lance & Chrissy Muteyo**

Thank you!
Your generosity helps change lives!

FINANCE OFFERINGS



Scan to

AUGUST Offering

for
UNITED MISSION
of the American Baptist Churches

Your gift supports all facets of our denominational mission—locally and globally.

Sharing the Gospel

Strengthening Congregations

Serving Communities

Reaching the World

Scan to give!

Please give generously!

UNITED MISSION
The Mission Agency of the American Baptist Churches

FBC Music

WE ARE STILL
actively
LOOKING
FOR AN
**ORGANIST/
MUSIC DIRECTOR**
for our church. ♥



PLEASE SEND ANYONE
YOU KNOW OUR WAY



OR CONTACT
THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Thank you! ♥

2026 FALL JAZZ VESPERS PERFORMANCES

CHARLES WILLIAMS
Sunday, August 16th
6-8 PM

EBONI FONDREN
Sunday, September 20th
6-8 PM

PABLO SANHUEZA
Sunday, October 18th
6-8 PM



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

UPCOMING WORSHIP THEMES: 2026 PREACHING SCHEDULE

ISAIAH: HOPE FOR A BROKEN WORLD - A SUMMER SERIES

+ **Sunday, August 2nd — 10:50am**

“Called By Name,” based on Isaiah 43:1-7.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.

+ **Sunday, August 9th — 10:50am**

“God’s Word Will Not Return Empty,” based on Isaiah 55:1-13.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

NEW SERMON SERIES JEREMIAH: FAITHFUL IN A FRACTURED WORLD

+ **Sunday, August 16th — 10:50am**

“Called, Appointed, and Sent” based on Jeremiah 1:4-19.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Pastor Megan’s Ordination Service!

+ **Sunday, August 23rd — 10:50am**

“Seek the Welfare of the City,” based on Jeremiah 29:1-14.

Pastor Megan, preaching.

+ **Sunday, August 30th — 10:50am**

“Promise of a New Covenant,” based on Jeremiah 31:27-34.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

Church Calendar

- **August 2nd** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **August 2nd** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **August 2nd** — **“Called by Name,” based on Isaiah 43:1-7.**

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.

- August 3rd — Monday, 1:15-3:00 p.m. Food Pantry Restocking Day
- August 4th — Tuesday, Missouri Primary Election Day!
- August 4th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- August 6th — Thursday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Art Night
- **August 9th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **August 9th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **August 9th** — **“God’s Word Will Not Return Empty,” based on Isaiah 55:1-13.**

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

- August 11th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- August 12th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- August 14th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- August 15th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **August 16th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **August 16th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **August 16th** — **“Called, Appointed, and Sent,” based on Jeremiah 1:4-19.**

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Pastor Megan’s Ordination Service!

- **August 16th** — Sunday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers - Charles Williams
- August 18th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- August 22nd — Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Sue Hansen’s Memorial Service
- **August 23rd** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **August 23rd** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **August 23rd** — **“Seek the Welfare of the City,” based on Jeremiah 29:1-14.**

Pastor Megan, preaching.

- August 25th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- **August 30th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **August 30th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **August 30th** — **“Promise of a New Covenant,” based on Jeremiah 31:27-34.**

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

- September 1st — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



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

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp



August Birthdays

Enzo Schreiner	01
Nicole Fugitt	03
Sophia Crosby	03
Cameron Leonard	05
Benjamin Schreiner	07
Charlotte Schreiner	07
Robin King	09
Cherish Sharp	11
Mark Riles	14
Diana Parker	15
Justin Fugitt	18
Gerri Brown– Roane	20
Daylin Rodriguez Ortet	20
Dixie Kelly	23
Andy Schreiner	24
Dalie R. Ortet	29

BIBLE STUDY

JOIN US!

TUESDAY MORNING, 10AM
CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN AND BIBLE STUDY

*Studying
the Holy Spirit*

(TAUGHT BY PASTOR DEZO)



METHOD 1 –
VIDEO AND AUDIO
BY SMARTPHONE/TABLET/PC

1. Go to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUJvT0tRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJVQT09>
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)