



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

Co-Pastors
Rev. Dezo Schreiner
& Rev. Dr. Stephen D Jones

Around & About - DECEMBER 2024

Season of Giving

Our family recently watched a 1998 Disney program called “Mickey’s Once Upon a Christmas.” It features Mickey and Minnie, who were down on their luck. It showed them having bills to pay and working in jobs where they were taken advantage of and not appreciated. Mickey and Minnie both worked hard to buy something special for each other, but it seemed they would not have enough to buy the gift they wanted to give. For Mickey, he wished to give Minnie a gold chain to compliment her family locket, and Minnie wanted to give Mickey a beautiful case for his prized harmonica. Christmas came, and they exchanged gifts only to discover that they had both traded in their prized possession to afford a gift for the other. They laughed and embraced as they now had a case with no harmonica and a necklace with no locket to hang on it. This brief program was surprising in how gritty the story could be and how strong of a sacrifice these characters made, exchanging their most prized possessions to give to each other. The story is credited to being adapted from O. Henry’s 1905 “The Gift of the Magi,” which similarly ends with another cosmic irony between a husband who sells his watch for special combs for his wife who sold her hair to a wig maker to buy him a chain for his watch. In each story, it is clear how far they are willing to go for each other. The original story got its name from its conclusion, which states that those who are able and willing to sacrifice their material possessions for the people they love are as wise as the magic.

As the year winds down and the air fills with a festive chill, both secular and spiritual symbols point us to one of the most cherished aspects of this holiday season: giving. For Christians, this season serves as a poignant reminder that giving reflects the very character of God. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. Whether through grand gestures like selling your prized harmonica or locket or simple acts of care to those around you, giving brings light into the lives of others—and our own.

Last month, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday. We appreciate your continued support of the ministries of this church. Next April, we celebrate our church's 170th anniversary (1855-2025). This enduring presence and outreach in the community for so many years is one of the greatest testaments to how God’s sustaining power. As we celebrate this season, let us embrace the spirit of generosity and carry it into the new year. Most importantly, let us remember the main reason for this season: Jesus— the greatest gift we have ever received.

Pastor Dezo Schreiner



We want to thank Jessie Carpenter and Lynette Atkins for their leadership to the Black History Month Committee. They have done a marvelous job organizing Black History Month for the past few years. We are now looking for others to chair the Black History Month committee. If you would like to help, contact Pastor Dezo

Announcements

A CHURCH FAMILY ADVENT LUNCHEON AND CELEBRATION! Dec. 8, Noon

Plan to remain after worship TODAY for an Advent Party for the entire congregation. THIS IS FOR ALL AGES!!!!

It will include:

- LUNCH: with lasagna, bread, salad (some lasagna will be gluten-free and vegetarian)
- Dessert: we'll be decorating Home-made Christmas Cookies
- Singing beautiful Christmas carols, led by David Page
- A Christmas craft for everyone
- Pastor Steve will tell the "Story of St. Nicholas"
- We will send Christmas messages on Christmas cards to our confined and out of town members
- It will be held in Fellowship Hall.
- We will stuff men's socks with toiletry items for City Union Mission (small travel size toiletry items are being collected)



Sunday, Dec. 15:

After worship at Noon, setting up the Living Nativity Scenes and lighting

6:00 – 7:00 pm Annual

LIVING NATIVITY DRIVE-THROUGH

We need lots of characters in each of the six scenes
We need volunteers to help with traffic flow, and greeting cars as they arrive.

Live animals! Living Characters!

To tell the world's most incredible story!



OUR CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA WILL BE PRESENTED ON SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 22!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 6 PM Tuesday night, Dec. 24, in our sanctuary!

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!!**



Early Journey Bible Study
Sundays Mornings



OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY –

Christine Garner working with our 3, 4, 5 and K children on Sunday mornings, and Daline Desauguste working with our infants and toddlers.



FBC Music



-- Eyvonne Walker



Here we are FBC Family! We have arrived at the last month of another year in Christ. Just off of the heels of our season of gratitude and stewardship promises, we are moving to finish this year of "more in 2024" with being "Seekers of the Light" of Christ to bring us to a place of Hope, Joy, Peace & Love as we celebrate in remembrance, the time of the coming of this Jesus, our Savior as a baby, in humble human form to be our God *with us*

Our FBC Beloved Community Music Ministry and guest musical artists come to present this year's Christmas Cantata:

"**SEEKERS OF THE LIGHT**" by Lloyd Larson & Mark Hayes. We will present the cantata in our Sunday morning 10:50am service on Dec.22.2025. **David Page** will bless us with his vocal versatility as he presents, the "Every Valley" aria from Händel's MESSIAH oratorio. Also from FBC, we'll have **Marcena Chandler & Sandi Leonard** present "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" for Violin, Flute & Piano by Gene Robinson. For our Christmas Eve Candlelight service, we'll have a quintet of instrumentalists who will accompany our Chancel Singers on a beautiful work by Sir John Rutter entitled, "Candlelight Carol" which is guaranteed to melt your hearts!

Come join us and please, remember to invite your friends (or make some new friends too!) to come to the cantata Sunday, Dec.22 and to the Candlelight Christmas Eve services, you will be blessed!

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- Steve McBride continuing chemo treatments for cancer. We pray for his full recovery. Steve's wife, Ginny, has also been diagnosed with cancer with recent surgery.
- 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 on Lahser Road.
- Debbie Ebright experiencing back pain
- Please pray for someone in hospice care.
- Leonard and Lynn Barbee request prayers
- Dixie Kelly is making a strong recovery and increased mobility!
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sally who is coordinating her care.
- John Hopkins passed on to eternal life in late October following a massive stroke. His memorial service at church was held on November 20. We prayer for his wife, Donna and their son, Carlos and his wife, Michelle, in Raytown and his other son, Christopher. John was a devoted member and leader of our church!
- Becky Boden has returned to her home at PrincetonPlace.
- Lynette Adkins' great grandson, born premature, but gaining weight and strength at St. Luke's Plaza hospital.
- Pat Betteridge is home but struggling with vision and back pain
- Patty Vann is building a new home in Holden, KS and plans to relocate this Fall to live in the same community as her daughter, Joy.
- Eyvonne Walker is living with her mother to provide her with care while she is convalescing.



WE REJOICE WITH...

- A HUGE THANK YOU to our Nicaraguan Team: Margo Humenczuk, Kerry Triplett, Diana Parker, Joyce Parker, Kathie Manda, Laurie Tourtellot, Stephen Jones, and two young adults who joined us, Sarah Doyle, and Lia Norman.
- Pastor Steve, who serves on the National Gamaliel Religious Leaders Table, will be in Detroit, Dec. 4-7, to offer leadership to the National Gamaliel Race and Power Summit.

WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

- Geraldine Raines — Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Leonard Barbee — Cosette Kelly (Vision Issues) — Dixie Kelly — Susan Smith — Patty Vann — Donna Hopkins — Becky Boden — Pat Betteridge — Valerie Carroll (Daughter of Bill & Chris Rinck) — Justin Prigel (Military in Italy)

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign "WHEN WE GIVE, WE FLOURISH!"

Psalm 92:12-13

If you have not yet returned your 2025 Pledge / Estimate Card, please do so as soon as possible. The faithfulness of each one of us is the foundation of our church's mission and ministry in the coming year!

Mission Team



The Mission Team would like to thank each member of the congregation who donated money, items for layettes and wash kits, and other items such as insect repellent wipes. We also appreciated those who prayed for us while we were in Nicaragua. It was a very rewarding experience, but also strenuous and challenging mainly due to hiking steep, muddy trails and living in a house with dirt floors and a leaky roof.

We assembled and installed water filters in 38 homes with children, pregnant women, or family members with disabilities so they could have safe drinking water. We reached 71 children through the Vacation Bible School and hand hygiene program. Eighteen women attended the nutrition workshops and cooking demonstrations: many more attended just the educational sessions. Each community member greeted us warmly and welcomed us into their homes.

Many thanks to the team members who gave their own resources for plane tickets, supplies, and program materials. The team took ten days from their usual schedule to serve with AMOS Hope and Health in Nicaragua. The work they did will help the community members for years to come and local water promoters will follow up with the families to be sure the water filters are being used and cleaned properly and provide new parts as they wear out. Each filter should last about 5 years before replacement parts are needed.

Thanks to Pastor Steve, Kerry Triplett, Kathie Manda, Laurie Tourtellot, Diana Parker, Joyce Parker, Lia Norman, Sarah Doyle and Margo Humenczuk for serving our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua with a joyful heart.



FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, December 2nd — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, December 18th, 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., December 18th. 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, December 20th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — Fill Food Pantry Orders

Saturday, December 21st — 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

Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — December 2024:

- ⇒ Canned Chicken (small and large cans) [Out!]
- ⇒ Laundry Detergent (small bottles)
- ⇒ Facial Tissues
- ⇒ Jelly
- ⇒ 1# Bags White Rice
- ⇒ Hamburger Helper type
- ⇒ Chilis/Stews/Sloppy Joe (Manwich)
- ⇒ Canned Pasta (Spaghetti Os, etc.)
- ⇒ Pasta Sauce
- ⇒ Canned and Dry Beans
- ⇒ Canned: Peas, Mixed Vegetables, Carrots, Mushrooms, Sweet Potatoes, Spinach, etc.
- ⇒ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ⇒ Canned: Pineapple, Pears, Cocktail, Peaches

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

For November, due to your generosity, the Pantry helped 19 families, with 65 individuals, *who are our neighbors!!*

*Harvesters (4) and St. Peter's/All Saints (2) provided turkeys for the larger families, and the others received whole chickens.

Financials

DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

NOVEMBER OFFERING

In November, we will receive the Deacon Fellowship Fund Communion Offering which allows our church to help members and friends of our church going through a crisis or transition. **We gave: \$100.00**

December Communion

Our December Communion Offering will be taken for the Bethel Neighborhood Center for their programming with children, youth, and senior adults.

Please give generously!



Our Church giving dropped in October to \$9,443, while our budget called for \$13,168. But for the year to date, we have given \$132,803 while the budget called for \$131,664. We have had to make withdrawals recently from our Unrestricted Endowment (\$16,221) to maintain cash flow, but we anticipate this will be reduced in the new year as Punkin Patch finances improve. For October, expenses exceeded income by \$5,470.



PUNKIN PATCH REDUCED THEIR monthly debt by adding a significant number of new students in October and November, and even more in January. In January, we will have 115 children enrolled in Punkin Patch!

Spotlight on David Page

My wife and I have been members of the beloved community at First Baptist Church of KCMO since the Summer of 2021. The pandemic was raging, but God opened doors for my wife, Toni, to attend Central Seminary via online classes. She came to know Pastor Dezo and others in the ABC Denomination, so we decided in August that year to give FBC a try and we have been here since.

My career is in commercial flight operations, and a job offer brought us here from Phoenix summer 2013. I work for private jet operator Airshare as a Mission Planner. We live in Grandview and have one adult daughter, Rebecca.

You may not be surprised to learn I have been in music my whole life, the youngest of five from gifted and well-loved teachers and ministers of music. My late sister, Sue Ellen, continued this in her work for children and youth, and my brother, Richard, was leader of the mid-80's band *Mr. Mister*.

I sang in the *Phoenix Boys Choir*, even went on their first tour of Europe! I have produced two CD's of music for worship, and have been in more rock bands than I can count, including my local cover band *Way Too Famous*.

I've worked with some well known names, and have a few singing credits.



Music aside, I'm fascinated by the history surrounding the construction of Hoover Dam, near Las Vegas NV, and learned of Depression era families flocking to the desert southwest for work, finding only more hardship, exploitation, racism, hunger, heat and death in the midst of one of America's defining moments in engineering. A few years ago, I tried my hand at screenwriting and produced several drafts that I feel could make an amazing motion picture - a true story that most Americans don't know.

Back to music! My hobby is my YouTube channel *Scoring Star Trek* where we explore the music from the original *Star Trek* TV show. A benefit of studying this sophisticated music has been growing as a musician and composer. This was the impetus for composing Pastor Steve's *Mary Magdalene* story, as if these men whose work I've loved for decades were saying, "Okay, now it's your turn."

We love our Beloved Community, and I'm pleased to be part of the music ministry.

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 THEMES: THEME OF NATIVITY

Rev. Dezo Schreiner & Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Jones, preaching

Advent/Christmas Series, 2024

The Nativity Story as found in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew offer “themes” which illumine the meaning of the stories and of the event of Jesus’ birth

+ First Sunday, December 1st — 10:50am:

“Disruption”

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

Mary’s shock when she learns that she is pregnant without a husband or partner

Communion Sunday

+ Second Sunday, December 8th — 10:50am:

“Acceptance”

Pastor Steve, preaching.

Mary’s ability to accept that God’s messenger has told her

+ Third Sunday, December 15th — 10:50am:

“Betrayal”

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

Joseph’s feeling of betrayal that his betrothed is expecting a baby without his involvement

+ Fourth Sunday, December 22nd — 10:50am:

“Forgiveness”

Pastor Steve, preaching.

Joseph’s ability to forgive, and accept, Mary and her baby; Christmas Cantata presentation

+ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24th — 6:00pm:

“Prophecy”

Pastor Dezo, reflection. Pastor Steve, Christmas Story.

Mary’s Magnificat, significant theological insight from a teenaged girl

+ Christmas Sunday, December 29th — 10:50am:

“Journey”

Pastor Steve, preaching.

Mary and Joseph, united, making their journey first to Bethlehem together

+ Epiphany Sunday, January 5th, 2025 — 10:50am:

“Escape”

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

Mary and Joseph and Jesus as refugees in Egypt; Communion Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 1, after worship, please plan to stay for 45 minutes to help us decorate our beautiful sanctuary and building for the advent and Christmas season!!



The DEACONS met in November and fully organized their significant ministries for future months under the leadership of Lynette Adkins and Toni Page, co-chairs. Every family in the church is being re-assigned to Deacon/Shepherds who will keep in touch and provide care as needed.

KANSAS CITY JAZZ VESPERS finished up the Fall Series of Vespers with Charles Williams Trio, which drew one of the largest crowds and largest offerings of the year, ending with a standing ovation! We are now planning for the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF KC JAZZ VESPERS, which began on Jan. 11, 2015. For our March, April and May Vespers, we are planning to inviting SIGNIFICANT JAZZ TALENT to help us celebrate this occasion. Kerry Triplett is the leader of KC Jazz Vespers, recruits all our great performers, and serves as MC.



Church Calendar

- **December 1st** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **December 1st** — **“Disruption”; Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- December 2nd — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- December 3rd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 4th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- December 4th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- December 4th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **December 8th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **December 8th** — **“Acceptance”; Pastor Steve, preaching**
- **December 8th** — Sunday, at Noon - A Church Family Advent Luncheon and Celebration
- December 10th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 11th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- December 11th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- December 11th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **December 15th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **December 15th** — **“Betrayal”; Pastor Dezo, preaching**
- **December 15th** — Sunday, at 6:00-7:00 p.m. - LIVING NATIVITY
- December 17th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 18th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- December 18th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- December 18th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- December 18th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- December 20th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- December 21st — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **December 22nd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **December 22nd** — **“Forgiveness”; Pastor Steve, preaching - Christmas Cantata!**
- December 24th — FBC Offices Closed in observance of Christmas Eve!
- December 24th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 24th — Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25th — FBC Offices Closed in observance of Christmas!
- **December 29th** — **Christmas Sunday**, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **December 29th** — **“Journey”; Pastor Steve, preaching**
- December 31st — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- January 1st — FBC Offices Closed in observance of New Years Day!
- **January 5th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **January 5th** — **Epiphany Sunday, “Escape”; Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**

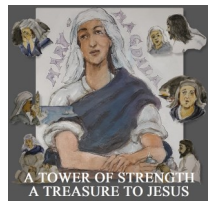


The Thanksgiving Annual Dinner and Stewardship Dinner was held on Nov. 24 with a delicious and full meal provided by many of our members, filling the Fireside Room.

David Page presented the Video of the story of “MARY MAGDALENE, TOWER OF STRENGTH.” David has been working for the past 8 months on a soundtrack and video

for this story, originally written by Pastor Steve. Bob Holloway provided art throughout the production, and Pastor Steve provided the narration. You can see the video on our website, situated in a prominent place. You can also see it on David’s

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/DB93yUbeqDfG7NXS/>, and you can feel free to share the video on your social media. The Nicaraguan Team all provided interesting stories about their recent AMOS Mission Trip to everyone’s delight!





First Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp
Here

Co-Pastors: Rev. Dezo Schreiner & Rev. Dr. Stephen D Jones

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



**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 PASTORS DEZO AND STEVE)

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

1. Go to [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTOtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09)
[pwd=SFNmQUlVTOtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTOtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09)
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

**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)

December Birthdays

Geraldine Raines	01
Jayne Humenczuk	04
Stephen Jones	09
Paul Sienkiewicz	13
Janelle Jones	18
Dezo Schreiner	26
Jack Agard	27
Joy Goble	28