



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 - DECEMBER 2025

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner

An Advent Invitation

Last week I noticed how my children could not wait for us to put our Christmas decorations up. They talked about it every single day. While we adults were focused on Thanksgiving, the children were already leaning forward into Christmas with sparkles in their eyes. And it struck me how many people put their decorations up early this year, some even in early November. It made me wonder. Are people just bored? Are they excited? Or are they simply longing for something to lift their spirits? Maybe they are searching for the hope, peace, joy, and love that the Christmas season promises.

There is so much happening in our world right now that leaves people feeling heavy, uncertain, and even hopeless. Families are struggling to afford groceries. Rent keeps rising. Immigrants are afraid to leave their homes. So many are quietly carrying burdens they do not know how to name. Yet this season, more than any other, offers a reminder that hope is still possible. But it is a hope we must be willing to bear and to share. If our neighbors are struggling, how can we become a presence of welcome, kindness, and support in their lives?

This year our Advent sermon series, "Divine Hospitality," draws us deeper into that invitation. At the heart of the Christmas story is God's gracious welcome. God enters our world not with power or prestige, but with tenderness, vulnerability, and open arms. In Jesus, God chooses to dwell among us, to embrace us, and to make room for us. Divine hospitality is God's holy "welcome home," spoken into a weary world.

And what a weary world it is. Every headline bears news of conflict, heartbreak, or division. Many in our community feel overlooked or forgotten. Families struggle. Nations tremble. Hearts are heavy. If there were ever a moment when humanity needed Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, it is surely now.

This is why Advent is so precious this year. Advent reminds us that God's light shines brightest when the world feels its darkest. Hope enters the world as a child. Peace is born in a stable. Joy bursts forth in the songs of angels. Love takes on flesh and dwells among us.

But Advent also invites us to reflect that same divine welcome. As God has made room for us, we are called to make room for others:

To open our hearts.

To soften our words.

To practice compassion.

To extend kindness, especially to those who feel rejected or alone.

To be a place of welcome in a season where many feel unwelcome.

This is the spirit of Divine Hospitality. It is not only God's gift to us, but also our offering back to the world.

So as we journey through Advent and approach Christmas, I invite you to pause often and ask these questions:

Who needs space in my heart today? How can I embody God's welcome?

Where might Christ be seeking to be born in me, through compassion, generosity, or courage?

May our church be a community where God's hospitality is seen, felt, and shared.

May our homes be places where peace is nurtured.

May our lives shine with the hope and joy that Christ brings.

And may we remember, with gratitude and humility, the true reason for this holy season:

God's love made visible. God's welcome made flesh. God's presence dwelling among us.

Blessings to you, my friends, this Advent and Christmas

Pastor Dezo Schriener

Announcements



Living Nativity on
Sunday, December 7th, 6-7PM

Don't forget we need many **volunteers** to assist with our producing the Living Nativity. Please plan to participate. It is a good way to tell the story of the birth of our Savior to the wider community.

Annual Family Advent Lunch December 14, at Noon

Join us in the Fireside Room for lunch and joyful fellowship.

Activities will include:

- Signing Christmas cards for our homebound and out-of-town members
- Filling athletic socks with toiletry items for residents of the City Mission
- Singing Christmas carols
- Crafts



CHRISTMAS Cantata

On Sunday, Dec. 21, our Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to join us on this special Sunday.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Wednesday, December 24th at 4:30PM



Please email the office at:
theoffice@fbckcmo.net if you are interested in Weekly or Monthly Offering envelopes.



American Baptist Churches of the
Great Rivers Region Presents...

UNDERSTANDING CLERGY COMPENSATION

EQUIPPING CHURCH LEADERS FOR FINANCIAL CLARITY AND STEWARDSHIP

A workshop for pastors,
church treasurers, finance
committees, and lay
leaders involved in church
administration



PRESENTED BY: REV. DR. ROB KIRBACH
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER, ABC-GRR



Thursday, December 18, 6:30 PM
First Baptist Church of Kansas City
100 Red Bridge Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64114

This workshop is offered by Area V of the ABC-GRR
For more information, contact:
Rev. Dr. Delano Benson
(217) 726-7366 x17

- How to build a fair clergy compensation package
- Housing allowance and tax considerations
- Best practices for churches and leadership teams
- Tools and resources



FBC Music -- Eyvonne Walker

"Prepare Ye, the Way of the Lord"

The Advent season is upon us! We move to the closing of another year, but that "shutdown" comes with a hustle and a bustle of many activities and preparations which builds up to the celebration of our Savior's birth and the dawn of a new year.

As we move through this season of flipping over the "Open" for business sign or wrapping up our flower beds in blankets of mulch or pulling closed the shutters against the coming cold, It is my hope that for EACH WEEK of Advent, we also leave room to prepare our hearts to be OPEN to kindling a fire of Spiritual anticipation. I hope that we OPEN our hearts to BE IN PRAYER FOR & ABOUT one another and that we all can focus our personal views upon our God, in gratitude for His Christmas gift of Emmanuel, through the Holy Spirit.

Our Advent-Christmas cantatina, "**Carols We Love to Hear**" will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 21st, 2025 as part of our 10:50 morning worship service. Be ready to pull out your pew hymnals to join in singing with our Chancel Singers, Guest Singers and Instrumentalists. Be sure to invite and bring friends and family with you that Sunday morning, to share in the joy of these cherished songs of the season! The Chancel Singers and Celestial Ringers with Marcena Chandler on Violin will be sharing additional Christmas Carol favorites for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24th!

Adesjola Tucker and Eyvonne Walker (and Steve McBride, R.I.P., We remember you!) will be singing with **Musica Sacra of Kansas City** (Director, Dr. Timothy McDonald) again on **Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm** for the annual Rockhurst University "**Lessons & Carols**" Service, a FREE concert gift to the KC Community. The Service is held in Arrupe Hall 5351 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110. Come to enjoy the Christmas story with carols all around!

Adesjola Tucker is also busy singing around town with the **American Caroling Company**. This organization provides Christmas Carollers who sing for public venues and private parties/gatherings in cities throughout the Midwest US.



Adesjola with "Team J" of
American Caroling Co. 2025

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- Leonard and Lyn Barbee. Lyn is in her last semester of school. Pray for her as she takes her finals this month.
- Diana Parker who had eye surgery. She is healing okay and has more appointments coming up.
- Ron Thomas who fell and broke his ribs. He also continues to grieve the passing of Lynne Mertel. Lynne's Memorial service was on November 15. Ron, thanks our church family for all the prayers and support.
- Dixie Kelly fell on the week of Thanksgiving. She is healing. Pray for Jim Kelly's health and strength as he cares for Dixie.
- Alyssa, Kerry Triplett's sister-in-law, who had breast cancer surgery two weeks ago. She is recovering well.
- Bill and Chris Rinck. Chris has been struggling with a reaction to medication. Bill is doing his best to care for Chris. May God strengthen them both.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter.
- Rob Page, tolerated the treatment better than expected. Thank you for praying for Rob.
- Blake and Meghan Severson, friends of the Humenczuk. Meghan has been battling liver cancer. She is now on the list for liver transplant. Pray for the right donors.
- Susan Smith, who is bedridden at home. Please also pray for Sallie's health as she cares for Susie. They sent holiday greetings to all of our church family.
- Vonda Breedlove is healing. It was so wonderful to see her back at church on Sunday, November 30th.
- Lynette Adkins's brother who was in a bad car accident on December 1st.
- Sue Hansen at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit.
- Pat Betteridge is home but struggling with vision and back pain.



WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

- Matt Clingan and Bill Humenczuk for their faithful service in handling the technology and livestreaming our worship service.
- Our Hospitality Chair Laurie Tourtellot and the rest of the team for hosting such a yummy and beautiful Commitment Sunday dinner. Thank you to all who cooked.
- All the members who have pledged to support the ministry of our Beloved Community in 2026.
- The Transforming Congregation Team. The first phase of the initiative went very well. Job well done, everyone!

WE REJOICE WITH ...

- Congratulations to Gil and Kathie Manda on their newest grandbaby Elizabeth Amelia Manda born November 3rd at 9:14pm PT! 9lbs 15.3oz and 21" They are excited for Lizzy's arrival! Lizzy is still in the NICU. Please, keep the parents and Lizzy in prayer.



WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Leonard Barbee — The Dawdys, Avery & Gregory. Tim Link— Family — Rodie, (Pat Hester's Friends) — Rion Russell (Diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma [Kathie Manda's Friend]) — Mia Gunter (Care-Giver for Evelyn Brooks) — Evelyn Brooks (Suffering from severe memory issues) — Eyvonne's Mom — Tyler Parris (Lynette's Nephew) — Donna Durham (Lost her daughter in a shooting [Lynette's Friend]) — Rob Page (David Page's Brother) — Vonda Breedlove (Healing from a broken humerus)

TRANSFORMED

Transforming Congregation Initiative

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first phase of The Transforming Congregation Initiative. The team has now completed the Listening phase.

At our Stewardship dinner on November 16th, the team presented their findings to the congregation. As we now enter the season of discernment, we invite you to be prayerful, attentive, and open. Together, let us listen for what God might be saying to us as we continue this journey of faith and transformation.

May the Spirit guide us with wisdom and hope.

The team members are: Carol Colston, David Page, Diana Parker, Jonas Bedford-Strohm, Lynette Adkins, and Toni Page.

Keep praying for them as they lead this initiative.





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.



Open House...

a time of fellowship, stories and gratitude

David & Jayme Humenczuk Residence
19600 W 98th St, Lenexa KS 66220

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Please RSVP by December 12, 2025
Contact **Jayme Humenczuk** at **+913-709-3523**

Paul, Queenie & Kai

On Friday, December 19th, our global servants Paul and Queenie Rollet and their son Kai will be in town for a meet and greet with church members at the home of David, Jayme, Claire and Emily Humenczuk. Please join us to meet Paul, Queenie and Kai and hear about their work in the Philippines.



We Adopted a Family!

With the Christmas season upon us, we are blessed to be able to continue our tradition of partnering with the Bethel Community and adopting a family. We have a family of six, which includes mom and dad. There are four children, Ahmadullah who is a 20-year-old male; Zahra, 17-year-old and female; Madina, 15-year-old female and Alisina, 11-year-old male.

The basic needs of the family are small appliances such as coffee pot, rice cooker and an air fryer. There is also a need for cook ware such as pots, pans and baking ware. There is also a need for food, winter coats and clothing for the family. We have additional information on everyone's clothing sizes on our bulletin board and flyers in the lobby.

We can also provide gift cards to the stores they frequently use. You can purchase Walmart, Amazon, World Fresh Market and Costco gift cards online through the store's website, without a fee and free shipping. Aldi gift cards can be purchased at their stores. Bank gift cards such as Visa Debit work well and are accepted everywhere.

Grocery Stores	World Fresh Market	Halal Market	Aldi
Gas Stations	Costco	Qt	
Other Stores	Walmart	Amazon	Ross

The children's preferences for toys include Labubu for the girls and a kids drone for Alisina. They also like the Chiefs, Twix, Snickers and Reese's candy. The parents would really love a TV stand.

Just a note about the girl's preference for Labubu toys, an Amazon gift card may work best for these. They are the latest craze for kiddos these days. I don't know about you but I'm not a Labubu expert. With the gift card, they can select their own since they know what they want. But if you see one, please grab it.

Please bring your items to church by Sunday, December 14th.

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, December 8th — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, December 17th 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 17th.** 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 19th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — Fill Food Pantry Orders
Saturday, December 20th — 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 2025:

- ⇒ Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Canned Pasta
- ⇒ Paper Products
- ⇒ Deodorants
- ⇒ Personal Hygiene (ex: Depends, Feminine Products)
- ⇒ Cleaning Products
- ⇒ Trash Bags
- ⇒ Paper Plates
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Laundry Detergent

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

Interestingly, with all of the concerns this past month, we had only 12 families (43 individuals) in November!

We are no longer listed with Harvesters and that may be part of the problem. So many people donated items above and beyond normal because of Thanksgiving---thank you so much!!

Our neighbors still need us though!



For those who would prefer to provide financial support as we need to take up the slack left by Harvesters (to provide produce and frozen meats), **please send checks to First Baptist Church, 100 W. Red Bridge Road, KC, MO. 64114, with "food pantry" on the memo line.** Or you can scan the QR code.

We are also now working with Farm Fresh to help with produce which is so exciting!
Let them know you appreciate their local support!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Dec. 1.	Peanut butter	Dec 13	canned mixed fruit
Dec. 2.	Bag of rice	Dec 14.	mashed potatoes
Dec. 3.	canned soup	Dec 15.	canned tuna
Dec 4.	jelly	Dec 16.	canned beans
Dec 5.	organic food item	Dec 17.	canned chicken
Dec 6.	low sodium food item	Dec 18.	canned pasta
Dec 7.	canned mixed vegetables	Dec 19.	toothbrushes
Dec 8.	laundry detergent	Dec 20.	oatmeal
Dec 9.	canned sweet potatoes	Dec 21.	Hamburger Helper
Dec 10.	canned pears	Dec 22	spaghetti sauce
Dec 11.	canned green beans	Dec 23	canned mandarin oranges
Dec 12.	deodorant	Dec 24.	dried beans

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Many of us enjoy using an Advent calendar as a festive and creative way to count down the days from December 1st until Christmas. Traditional Advent calendars include a small treat or gift to open each day.

A *Reverse Advent Calendar* flips that idea around! Instead of receiving something each day, you set aside one small item daily to donate. By Christmas, you'll have a box (or several!) filled with meaningful necessities to share with someone in need.

Above is our wish list, and all collected items will go toward our **January Food Drive.**

Give it a try this season - let's spread kindness and generosity together!

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 SERMON SERIES: ADVENT SERMON SERIES: DIVINE HOSPITALITY 2025 DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

The Beloved Community of FBC KCMO

Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner, preaching

- † **Sunday, December 7th — 10:50am, Second Sunday of Advent**
"Intentional Preparation," based on Mark 12:1-8. Communion Sunday.
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- † **Sunday, December 14th — 10:50am, Third Sunday of Advent**
"Joy is in the House," based on Luke 1:39-56.
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- † **Sunday, December 21st — 10:50am, Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Cantata**
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- † **Wednesday, December 24th — 4:30pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
"When God Moves Into the Neighborhood," based on John 1:1-14.
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- † **Sunday, December 28th — 10:50am, First Sunday After Christmas**
"The Household of God Expands," based on Luke 2:1-20.
Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- † **Sunday, January 4th — 10:50am, Epiphany Sunday**
"The Hospitality of Revelation," based on Matthew 2:1-12.
Megan Bedford-Strohm, preaching.

Financials

In November, our special monthly offering went to our Deacon Fellowship Fund which assists persons and families within our congregation to nearby in transition or crisis.

We gave: \$425.00



OFFERINGS



December Offering

In December, we are receiving a special offering in support of IM Global Servants Paul and Queenie Rollet serving in the Philippines.

Please give generously!



Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign "Live as Stewards-Living a Legacy"



Thank you to all who have already returned your pledge cards and commitment leaves. If you have not yet returned them, please do so as soon as possible either by mailing them to the church office or bringing them this Sunday. We would love to add your leaf to the Commitment Tree located in the sanctuary. The tree will remain up, so feel free to bring your leaf anytime to be included. Extra pledge cards and leaves are available on the table in the commons. If you would prefer to have one mailed to you, please let Robin know.



Your commitment and faithfulness to the ministry of our beloved community is a gift, and we pray God's abundant blessing on you.

Church Calendar

- December 2nd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 3rd — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- December 3rd — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **December 7th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **December 7th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sing & Shout (Children's Choir Time)
- **December 7th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **December 7th, Second Sunday of Advent — "Intentional Preparation," based on Mark 1:1-8. Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- **December 7th** — Sunday, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Living Nativity
- December 8th — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- December 8th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 8th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- December 8th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **December 14th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **December 14th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sing & Shout (Children's Choir Time)
- **December 14th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **December 14th, Third Sunday of Advent — "Joy is in the House," based on Luke 1:39-56. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- December 16th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 17th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- December 17th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- December 17th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- December 19th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- December 19th — Friday, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Open House at David & Jayme Humenczuk Residence
- December 20th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- December 20th — Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Lynne Mertel's Memorial Service
- **December 21st** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **December 21st** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sing & Shout (Children's Choir Time)
- **December 21st** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **December 21st, Fourth Sunday of Advent — Pastor Dezo, preaching. Christmas Cantata.**
- December 23rd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 24th — Wednesday, FBC Offices Closed in observance of Christmas Eve
- **December 24th, Christmas Eve Service — Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. "When God Moves Into the Neighborhood," based on John 1:1-14. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **December 25th** — Thursday, FBC Offices Closed in observance of Christmas
- **December 28th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **December 28th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sing & Shout (Children's Choir Time)
- **December 28th, First Sunday After Christmas — "The Household of God Expands," based on Luke 2:1-20. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- December 30th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- December 31st — New Years Eve - Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)?
- December 31st — New Years Eve - Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)?
- January 1st — Thursday, FBC Office Closed for New Years Day
- **January 4th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **January 4th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sing & Shout (Children's Choir Time)
- **January 4th, Epiphany Sunday — "The Hospitality of Revelation," based on Matthew 2:1-12. Megan Bedford-Strohm, preaching.**



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!

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



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

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp
Here



December Birthdays

Jayne Humenczuk	04
Stephen Jones	09
Paul Sienkiewicz	13
Janelle Jones	18
Vickie Dawdy	18
Dezo Schreiner	26
Jack Agard	27



**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=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.belovedkc.org/

TO WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE AT 10:50AM ON FACEBOOK GO TO:
www.facebook.com/fbckc/

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)