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www.belovedcommunitykc.org
or on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fbckc

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

Around & About - FEBRUARY 2025

I am not Ashamed of the Gospel!

It might seem strange to say this, but often, after one of my sermons, I gain further revelation or insight. I'm preaching, but I'm also listening and no sermon comes fully together until delivered. Even for the preacher. Until I hear a sermon, mine or some other preacher, I have little idea of its impact.

Several weeks ago, I preached about the problem with "Othering." It seems that almost every major religion creates a dichotomy between "us" and "them." And I've been wondering: is that essential? Is it necessary? In Jesus' day, Judaism was severely separated between the Righteous and Sinners. My childhood church was divided between the Saved and the Lost. Islam is separated by the Faithful and the Infidels.

Must it be that way? In that sermon, I pointed that I am not drawn by the forced choice between the **Reached** or the **Unreached**. Neither of those categories speak to my reality. Being a part of the reached doesn't speak to me because I haven't arrived at what God calls me to be. Not by a long shot. Yet, I'm not the Unreached either. I am better described by the **REACHING**, reaching for God to fully re-shape me from what I am to what God is calling me to be. I am Reaching for God, even as God is Reaching for me.

I do not like "othering" because it isn't my place to judge others or condemn others for their own faith choices. That is uniquely God's choice, not mine.

With all my heart, I believe that God as revealed in Jesus Christ offers eternal life. And I am as certain as I can be that God will see me through all the days of my life and I will receive God's eternal embrace. That is as far as I need to go. And as far as you need to go.

Yet, as Paul proclaims, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel." (Romans 1:16). I have no problem offering my faith to others. I enjoy offering my faith, my insight, and my journey to others. I believe that Jesus' path of salvation and redemption could be a blessing for every person in this world and I have devoted my life to lifting up his path for others. I am not ashamed of the Gospel! I have never been more engaged by Jesus' way, Jesus' path, Jesus' liberating invitation. *"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know, fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go."*

But that does not mean that I have to turn others into an "other." That is not for me to judge. I am enveloped by God's love through Jesus Christ. I have found answers in Jesus that fill my days.

That does not mean, though, that I have to judge others who choose other paths. Will Jews receive God's eternal love? Will Muslims? Will folks with honest faith questions? Those questions are way over my pay grade and an arrogant waste of my time to try to take over what is God's business and God's role alone.

Pastor Stephen Jones

Announcements

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING

Our church has been relying on significant withdrawals from our Unrestricted Endowment Fund to balance our annual budgets since the early 1990's. This fund will be depleted of funds in 2025, and we adopted a budget that is around \$29,000 out of balance. We experienced an increase in our building insurance from \$23,000 to \$40,000, even after shopping around and choosing a new carrier. We do have several options that could respond to our financial situation. Our pastors and church leaders are hopeful and encouraged. God will see us through!!

We had annual reports from every Board and Committee. Moderator Kerry Triplett led the meeting. We elected our church leaders for 2025.

2025 is our church's 170th anniversary since our founding in April of 1855. We are the oldest continuing Protestant church founded in Kansas City. Ours is a glorious history. We will celebrate this Spring in ways that will soon be announced. We will do a major update of the church's Heritage Room, bringing it more up to date with recent history. Anyone who wants to help with this, contact Pastor Steve.

CHURCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT



Our church library has been reduced in the size of its collection by about 50%. The good news is that the books that continue are much more relevant to our current era. The books are organized by easily recognizable topics. The library is an open system. Visit the library, find a book you want to read, take it home, and when you are finished, return it! Easy!

KANSAS CITY JAZZ VESPERS is 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 invite 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.



2025 SPRING JAZZ VESPERS
PERFORMANCES TBD

Our Church Joining Transforming Conversations Cohort



A group of 7 MORE2 congregations in Greater KC have been invited to become a cohort of churches to become involved in Transforming Conversations, in which we, as a congregation, have directed one-on-one conversations about our church, our vision for the future, next directions, new outreach thrusts. The Executive Council has asked the Deacons to give leadership to this program. It involves one pastor, (Stephen Jones) and two lay leaders, our deacon co-chairs, Toni Page and Lynetter Adkins. First training for the three will be on February 8, and soon after we will introduce this program to the congregation. Everything about this emphasis is upon deepening the life of each congregation and exploring new directions for each church. Details to come soon!

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- We are sad to share the news that Steve McBride peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 2, 2025. Steve McBride's wife, Ginny, recently had successful surgery on colon cancer at St. Luke's East and is scheduled to return home soon.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 in late January on January 15.
- Pray for Eyvonne Walker providing care for her mother at home.
- Pray for Andre, Geneva Abel's grand nephew, recently released from the hospital. Andre was active in our church a few years ago.
- Bob Holloway was in the hospital and a nursing facility for several weeks but has now regained his strength and is home.
- Sue Fugitt experiencing back pain, at home.



WE SHARE THANKS TO...

- Kerry Triplett, Bill Humenczuk, our continuing moderators, and all the other leaders elected to serve our congregation in 2025.
- Laurie Tourtellot, our hospitality chair, for coordinating our delicious annual meeting dinner on Jan. 26.

WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

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



We rejoice with Andy & Dezo as they dedicate their children, Grace &

You're Invited

Cultural Competency in
Congregational Leadership



video screening and discussion



**Join us on Sunday,
February 23rd at Noon**
for a wonderful event on Cultural
Competency.

As our communities continue to transform into the increasingly diverse places we live and worship, cultural competence is a more important skill for leaders to embrace than ever before. Today's most effective congregational leaders, both lay and

ordained, seek to recognize and respect the differences that their evolving congregants may expect and appreciate.

We will watch three short videos about cultural competence in congregations, then Central Seminary's president, Pam Durso, will lead a short discussion on them. Lunch will be provided.

We will watch three short videos about cultural competence in congregations, then Central
1 minute preview : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ukq6-LRyR0>

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

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

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

**Saturday, February 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

Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — February 2025:

- ⇒ Jelly (grape & strawberry -- Out!)
- ⇒ Dry Beans (white, red, black) -- 1# size bags
- ⇒ Canned Pasta
- ⇒ Canned Chilis, Stews
- ⇒ Spaghetti Sauce
- ⇒ Soup (particularly non chicken noodle)
- ⇒ Chicken and Beef Broths
- ⇒ Canned Tomatoes, Beets, Spinach, Mixed Veggies, Carrots, Sauerkraut
- ⇒ Canned Pears, Peaches, Pineapple, Fruit Cocktail
- ⇒ Instant Mashed Potatoes (boxes & packets)
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Toilet Paper
- ⇒ Paper Towels
- ⇒ Shampoo
- ⇒ Free & Clear type Laundry Detergents (small bottles)

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

**For January, we will be serving 46 individuals in 16
families, thanks to your generosity!!**

Financials

OFFERINGS



February Communion

In February, 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!



🎵 FBC Music 🎵 -- Eyvonne Walker

As we turn the corner from our first month of 2025, we head into ❤️ Black 🖤 History 🌱 Month with continued hope for a brighter future in the days ahead. The Music Ministry of FBC-KCMO will continue to offer worship music that celebrates the rich heritage of African-American worship music. From the "old, traditional" Spirituals all the way to the contemporary Praise and Worship genres of today.



In the final week of February, we will have another year of musical blessing with **Darryl Chamberlain's A-Flat Youth Orchestra** joining us in celebrating Black History Month for the 3rd year in a row! We did have the Youth Orchestra with us in worship, just this last October. This year's afternoon concert is slated for **Sunday, Feb.23.2025** from **3:00-4:30pm**, in the FBC-KCMO Sanctuary, immediately following the "**Cultural Competency**" panel discussion hosted by FBC-KCMO's **Rev. DEZO**!

The Youth Orchestra will present a wide variety of works from the African-American instrumental canon. This year, they will include a special presentation of the 3rd movement of **William Grant Still's "Afro-American Symphony No.1"**

Upcoming Worship Schedule

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP THEME: CHERISH THE HOPE!

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

“Cherish the Hope to which God has Called you!” Ephesians 1:18

+ Sunday, February 2, 2025 — 10:50am:

“Hope Demands Change!”, Pastor Dezo, preaching

If you want everything to stay the same, then you have little hope within you. Hope demands being receptive to change, to God’s New Thing. Hope is not optimism. Optimism arises when “everything is looking up.” Hope offers light even amidst the darkness. Communion Sunday. Romans 8:18-25. The service will include the dedication of Grace and Flora Schreiner.

+ Sunday, February 9th — 10:50am:

“Hope Grounded in Faith”, Pastor Steve, preaching

Anyone can be hopeful, but the nature of hope fundamentally changes when we factor in the role that God can play in our future. Human ingenuity alone cannot be the final answer. Jeremiah 29:11.

+ Sunday, February 16, — 10:50am:

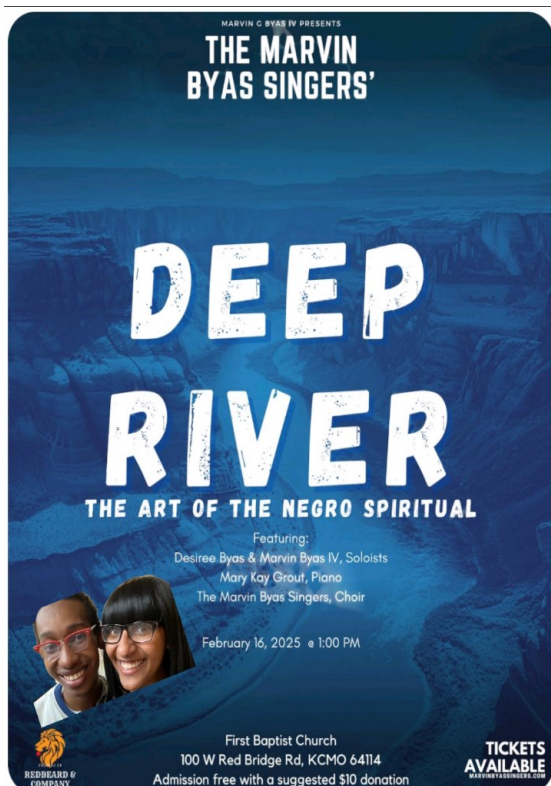
“Hope Overcomes Disillusionment”, Pastor Dezo, preaching

It involves the future, really, re-shaping our future in a desired direction. Hebrews 11:1.

+ Sunday, February 23, — 10:50am:

“We are a Community of Hope!”, Pastor Steve, preaching

That’s our calling, to look beyond any current impediments, obstacles, challenges, and believe that God has an exciting role for us! We are called to turn from fear, turn from the unknown, and embrace what God can do through and for us! Romans 15:13.



🎵 FBC Music Cont. 🎵 -- Eyvonne Walker

On Sunday, Feb.16.2025 we will have 3 events in succession starting with our 10:50 worship service. We will have the return of Bass-

Baritone, 🎵 **Marvin Byas IV!** This time, our congregation will be blessed as Marvin is joined by his sister, Desiree Byas to minister to us in song. This service will be followed immediately after worship with a



Soul/Caribbean/African Food Fair downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, where FBC members and the public are invited to purchase samples of foods of various dishes from the Afrikan diaspora, as well as local Black-Owned restauranteurs. **At 1:00pm**, Marvin Byas returns bringing even more music colleagues with his **choral ensemble: The Marvin Byas**

Singers presenting a program of, "The Art of the Negro Spiritual" 🎵 This choral concert is being promoted and made open to the public. This is a free event, with a suggested admission donation of \$10, but any denomination will be gratefully received by the choral group.

Church Calendar

- **February 2nd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **February 2nd** — “**Hope Demands Change!**”; **Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- February 3rd — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- February 4th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- February 5th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- February 5th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- February 5th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **February 9th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **February 9th** — “**Hope Grounded in Faith**”; **Pastor Steve, preaching.**
- February 10th — Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. Cedar Roe Library Book Discussion: All That She Carried
- February 11th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- February 12th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- February 12th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- February 12th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- February 12th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- February 14th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- February 15th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **February 16th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **February 16th** — “**Hope Overcomes Disillusionment**”, **Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **February 16th** — Sunday, at 1:00 p.m. The Marvin Byas Singer’s Deep River The Art of the Negro Spiritual
- February 17th — Monday, FBC Offices are Closed in observance of President’s Day
- February 18th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- February 18th — Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m. Online-Zoom Book Discussion: All That She Carried
- February 19th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- February 19th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- February 19th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **February 23rd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **February 23rd** — “**We are a Community of Hope!**”; **Pastor Steve, preaching.**
- **February 23rd** — Sunday, at 3:00 p.m. Darryl Chamberlain’s A-Flat Youth Orchestra
- February 25th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- February 26th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- February 26th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- February 26th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers

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!!





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



February Birthdays

Dennis Fugitt	11
Brielle Crosby	12
Shelbi Neel	13
Pat Hester	14
Melba McIntosh	27
Patricia Vann	27
Jill Clingan	28



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?pwd=SFNmQUlVTDtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09>
2. Meeting ID: 555 892 911
3. Password: 1

Method 2 – Audio ONLY

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

Website: www.belovedcommunitykc.org

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)