



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 - JANUARY 2025

OUR KIND OF BAPTIST!

I was going to write about a recent article I had just read that captured my imagination. But then, President Jimmy Carter died. Jimmy Carter was “our kind of Baptist.” And he reminds us never to put Southern Baptists or evangelicals in a box, because they won’t fit. They come in all stripes and colors.

I don’t think anyone can argue that Jimmy Carter absolutely stood alone as the best ex-President our nation has ever produced. His Carter Presidential Center did more good than any other effort by all the other former Presidents combined. Jan loves to tell the story that we were volunteering at a Habitat for Humanity house-building project, and she was helping to install a second floor window, and looked across at the next house, also under Habitat construction, and there was Jimmy Carter also installing a window and flashing that incredible smile at Jan!

His work in eradication of Third World diseases, in monitoring elections to ensure they were fair in countless nations around the world, his teaching the adult Bible study class on Sunday mornings at his church in Plains, his advocacy for peacemaking, these are just some of his accomplishments. His faithfulness to his incredible wife, to his family, to the Plains community, and his incredible personal morality, these are just some of the things for which he will be remembered.

Jimmy Carter was a man of principles. He believed in the separation of church and state. He didn’t want public school children mumbling some government-written prayer. He believed prayer belonged in the heart, of children, of everyone.

I’ve read a number of his books. I’ll probably re-read or re-scan a few this week. Just to cherish Jimmy.

He was “our kind of Baptist,” because he was forward-thinking, always elevating the role of women, and minorities, and immigrants, and anyone who was different in any way. He spoke at several ABC biennials and he worked hard to bring mainstream Baptists together.

I think I admire him most for the man he was. For his style of “manhood.” For the way he modeled a gentler, humbler, but also determined way of being a man in this world.



Jimmy Carter: I loved you. I admired you so much. You were better suited as a former President. And you showed us all by your values that a decent man, an honorable man, a man of high values, a man of vision, a man of strong principles, can make such an incredible difference in your 100 years on this earth. Well, done, Jimmy. You have fought the good fight. You have run the race. You can keep the faith. And there is reserved for you a crown of righteousness.

Pastor Stephen Jones

Announcements

Pastor Stephen Jones was recently interviewed by Daniel Desrochers, a Washington DC reporter for the Kansas City Star, about the Christian Nationalist turn of Mo US Senator Josh Hawley. He was quoted twice in an article published on "Reality Check" on Dec. 27, 2024. A copy of the article is in the Commons.

THE KANSAS CITY
STAR



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Black History Month is upon us!

Let Pastor Dezo know if you would like to help or chair the BHM committee this year. We are looking for volunteers to do the children's conversation; to present Black History Moment, and to be worship leaders.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS HYMNS

Why don't we sing Christmas carols throughout December? There are some of our most beloved songs and through much of Advent, we sing songs more unfamiliar. First, the pastors largely selected the first and last hymns of each service. During the first three Sundays of advent, when we are looking forward to the birth of Jesus, it is a period of expectancy and waiting. Thus, we sing advent songs that speak of looking ahead to the Christ child, hymns of expectancy. By the fourth Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Eve, and Christmas Sunday, and Epiphany Sunday, we sing the more familiar Christmas carols for by this time of the season, the period of waiting is over and now we celebrate what God has done through Christ! So, it's three Sundays of Advent/Expectancy Hymns and four worship times of Christmas carols. If we jump ahead toward the beginning of Advent and already begin to sing of the joy of Jesus' birth, we take away the season of waiting, of preparing, of expectancy.

- Pastors Steve and Dezo

Rev. Joy Yonga Choi is a member of our congregation serving as pastor of The Welcoming Church of Seoul. Her services are shared through YouTube, and if you would like to hear Joy sing and preach, you can visit her at this connection: <https://youtube.com/@thewelcomingchurch3984?si=Y9TF-d-EPV3ihkG1>



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26: THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, after church at Noon.



Church Leaders:
Please turn in your Annual Reports by January 15th.
Thank you!



Living Nativity

This was the 10th Anniversary of the Re-Start of the Living Nativity, which began in December of 2014. The church had offered Living Nativity many years before, but it had stopped for a number of years. This new version offered a new recording of the Christmas story with organ music and now has a loyal following.

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 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 at MC.



Kansas City Jazz Vespers

100 minutes of popular, professional jazz in a concert setting.

Join us in our sanctuary for some of the best jazz that Kansas City has to offer.
It's FREE and all are welcome!

2025 SPRING JAZZ VESPERS
PERFORMANCES TBD

THIS JANUARY MARKS OUR 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF KC JAZZ VESPERS

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- We are sad to share the news that Steve McBride peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 2nd, while a patient at St. Joe's Hospital. Steve's wife, Ginny, of 54 years, has also been diagnosed with cancer with surgery coming up in January. Please keep Ginny McBride and their four children and families in your prayers.
- 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 were recently able to return to worship, pleasing everyone!
- Dixie Kelly is making a strong recovery and increased mobility!
- Cosette Kelly, sister in law of Jim Kelly, passed on to eternal life after a long struggle and decline at Kingswood. She was an incredible school teacher and the Kelly's cared for her in countless ways in recent years.
- Gerri Raines passed on to eternal life, also 100 years old (like Carter!). She had lived in KC for many years and an active member of our church. She relocated back home to Seligman, MO to care for her month some years ago. Pastor Steve and Jan visited her twice in recent years to bring greetings from our congregation and have a prayer with her. She remembered FBC with great joy!
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sally who is coordinating her care.
- 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
- Eyvonne Walker is living with her mother to provide care while convalescing.



WE REJOICE WITH...

- Pastor Steve recently had a zoom conversation with Rev. Joy Yonga Choi who lives in Seoul, South Korea and continues as pastor of the Welcoming Church of Seoul. If you would like to watch her service, here is her YouTube connection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdqTYoxLiqE>
- David Page completed the work on "Mary Magdalene, Tower of Strength," a video presentation based on Pastor Steve's version of her life and Bob Holloway's art and has now placed it on our church's website, www.belovedcommunitykc.org, on the opening page go to the top banner and click on, "What We Offer," and the second item down will be "Mary Magdalene Video." David's musical score is truly a work of art and a monumental undertaking!
- Our Chancel Singers who presented a Christmas Cantata, "Seekers of the Light," by Lloyd Larson and KC's own Mark Hayes. Those singing were: Sandi Leonard, David Page, Marcena Chandler, Adesjola Tucker, Steve McBride and Stephen Jones. Eyvonne Walker was the able conductor and accompanist, giving countless hours to putting it all together for our fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22.

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)

You're Invited

Cultural Competency in
Congregational Leadership



video screening and discussion



**Join us on Thursday,
February 20 at 6 pm**
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.

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

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

Saturday, January 18th — 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 — January 2025:

- ⇒ Low Sodium Items
- ⇒ Boxed Meals (out!)
- ⇒ White Rice (1lb size)
- ⇒ Canned Fruit: Peas, Mixed Veggies, Spinach, Beets, Mushrooms
- ⇒ Small Cans of Chicken
- ⇒ Vegetable and Vegetable Beef Soups
- ⇒ Jelly
- ⇒ Dry Beans
- ⇒ Spaghetti
- ⇒ Pasta Sauce
- ⇒ Canned Tomatoes (sauce, paste, diced)
- ⇒ Chili/Stews/Manwich
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Laundry Detergent (small bottles)
- ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ⇒ Deodorant (men's and women's)
- ⇒ Facial Tissues (larger size)

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

For December, we served 19 families, with 64 individuals today! Everyone was so appreciative--thank you!!!! You have shown the true meaning of the season in caring for others.

Financials

At the end of the year, our regular tithes and offerings came to \$11,726, but extraordinary giving beyond that raised our December giving to \$31,726, which is an outstanding and encouraging development. We still do not have an end of year financial report, but we are encouraged by this end of year giving report.

In November, our giving went down to \$8,851, which was the second lowest giving of the year.

January Communion

THE SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JANUARY IS THE ANNUAL AMERICAN BAPTIST LOVE OFFERING FOR RETIRED PASTORS AND MISSIONARIES. A love offering is sent to all our retired denomination's servants as a result of this offering and a part of the offering is an emergency fund for working pastors who encounter unexpected financial challenges.

Special envelopes are in the pews or send

in your check noted for "MMBB Love

Offering." There is also a special

designation to make a gift on the church's web page.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

December Communion

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

We gave: \$375.00



OFFERINGS



Children's Conversations



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

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

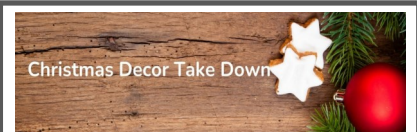
“Escape”, Pastor Dezo, preaching

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

+ Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, January 12 — 10:50am:

Pastor Steve, preaching

“The Problem with ‘Othering’ based on Galatians 3:28. We will remember the life and legacy of King.



Sunday, Jan. 5, please plan to stay for 45 minutes to help us take down the Christmas decorations.

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, January 19, — 10:50am:

“Hope is a Vision!”, Pastor Dezo, preaching

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

+ Sunday, January 26, — 10:50am:

“Hope Takes Time”, Pastor Steve, preaching

Hope involves patient waiting; it is beyond our immediate control. It involves something “bigger” that we cannot force or make it happen. It is not about certainties, or even probabilities. The church takes two significant seasons a year, Advent and Lent, where we practice waiting as a spiritual discipline. Psalm 130:5-6.

+ Sunday, February 2, — 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.

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!!



The 2025 Giving Envelopes are on the table in the foyer. If you want envelopes and haven’t been assigned them, please let the office know via email at: theoffice@fbckcmo.net



The 2025 Flower Calendar is now posted on the bulletin board.



Church Calendar

- January 1st — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- January 1st — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- January 1st — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **January 5th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (David Page)
- **January 5th** — “Escape”; Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.
- January 6th — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- January 7th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- January 8th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- January 8th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- January 8th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **January 12th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (David Page)
- **January 12th** — Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday; Pastor Steve, preaching.
- **January 12th** — Sunday, at Noon - A Church Family Advent Luncheon and Celebration
- January 14th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- January 15th — Wednesday, Annual Reports Due
- January 15th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- January 15th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- January 15th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- January 15th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- January 17th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- January 18th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **January 19th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (David Page)
- **January 19th** — “Hope is a Vision!”; Pastor Dezo, preaching.
- January 20th — Monday, FBC Offices are Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21st — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- January 22nd — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- January 22nd — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- January 22nd — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **January 26th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (David Page)
- **January 26th** — “Hope Takes Time”; Pastor Steve, preaching.
- **January 26th** — Sunday, at 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
- January 29th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- January 29th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- January 29th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- January 29th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **February 2nd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (David Page)
- **February 2nd** — “Hope Demands Change!”; Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN ...

Please fill out the **Green Sheet** with your address, phone number and email so we can verify/update our Church Directory.



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



January Birthdays

Nicholas Ferguson	04
Aria Crosby	13
Debbie Speert	13
Anita Ziegler	16
Christopher (Kit) Leonard	18
Jim Dingwerth	20
Lynette Adkins	22
Joy YongaChoi	27
Leonard Barbee	31



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 INTERACATION WITH OUR PASTORS. WE USE THE HOURS FOR PERSONAL CHECK-IN, PRYAER, 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=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)