



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 - JANUARY 2026

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

As I reflect on the life of our church in 2025, gratitude rises naturally and abundantly. This past year has been a true gift, one that continues to give, because it has been shaped by faithfulness, generosity of spirit, and a shared commitment to God's work among us.

I am deeply thankful for each one of you. In ways both seen and unseen, you have allowed God to use your gifts, your time, and your hearts to continue a ministry that now spans 170 years. That is no small thing. Such longevity is sustained by people like you who show up, pray faithfully, serve willingly, and trust God together through changing seasons.

This year, I have been especially grateful for the new perspectives and fresh vision present in our congregation. New ideas, new voices, and new energy are signs of a living church. They remind us that honoring our history does not mean standing still, but faithfully discerning how God is calling us forward in this time and place.

This year, I have been especially grateful for the new perspectives and fresh vision present in our congregation. New ideas, new voices, and new energy are signs of a living church. They remind us that honoring our history does not mean standing still, but faithfully discerning how God is calling us forward in this time and place.

We cannot ignore the suffering of our neighbors and the uncertainty that many experience. The year of 2026 may have its challenges, but I have confidence that God will continue to be with us. And will use us to contribute in making our community safe and welcome for all.

As we look ahead, I do so with hope and confidence. The future before us is bright, not because it will be easy, but because God is faithful, and because we are committed to moving forward together. The same God who has carried this church through generations continues to call, equip, and send us.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey. Thank you for your faith, your trust, your perseverance, and your love. Truly, the gift that keeps on giving is God at work in and through this beloved community, and I am grateful to share this ministry with you.

I wish you all a wonderful new year.

Pastor Dezo Schriener

Announcements

Sunday, January 11th Bring Your Jar to Church Day

The food pantry has received bulk quantities of both olive oil and fabric softener. If you bring an empty jar to church on January 11th, we can fill them with olive oil or fabric softener. We may have some empty jars but it would be best if you brought your own.



Church Leaders:
Please turn in your
Annual Reports by
January 9.
Thank you!

Do you Have a Favorite Casserole?

For our Annual Meeting on January 18, we will be sharing an old-fashioned potluck dinner. We will have hot dish casseroles, salad, and dessert. Please email, call the church office or sign up on the green sheet to indicate what you plan to bring.



Help Wanted! Plan to stay for 45 minutes after church on **Sunday, Jan. 4th**, to take down the Christmas decorations.



Living Nativity was a success. The camel, Noah, that has been coming for several years now, injured himself on the day of the Living Nativity, so we had a Lama this year.

We had about 70 cars.



Welcome Pastor Megan Bedford-Strohm

On September 7, 2025, the Board of Deacons voted to recommend that the Executive Council consider hiring Megan as Pastor of Creativity. On November 8, 2025, the Executive Council voted to bring this recommendation forward for congregational consideration. At a special congregational meeting held on Sunday, December 14, 2025, our congregation voted unanimously to call Megan Bedford-Strohm as our Pastor of Creativity. Megan will begin serving in this part-time role on January 1, 2026.

We are grateful for God's leading in this season and are excited to welcome Megan into this new ministry among us.

About Pastor Megan Bedford-Strohm

Megan grew up here in Kansas City. After spending fifteen years away, she returned in 2022 with her family. During those years, her journey took her through study, ministry, art-making, and research in communities across the globe.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Community Art and Missions from Wheaton College, a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in Theology from Heidelberg University. Megan and her husband, Jonas, were married in 2016 and are now raising their three children in the city she has always called home.

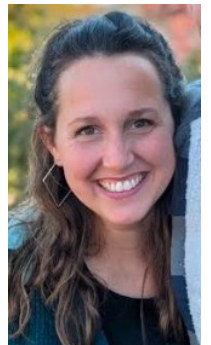
Megan's ministry centers on creativity and community building, both within the congregation and beyond the church's walls. She is dedicated to cultivating spaces that feel like a safe home base—places where people can face the complexities of life together with honesty, faith, and hope.

Her work includes worship planning and artistic initiatives, with a particular focus on nurturing community among children, youth, and young adults, helping them explore faith and follow Christ with imagination and curiosity.

One of Megan's passions is bringing the visual arts into the life of the church through prayer walls, community murals, curated art, and interactive spaces that invite people of all ages to engage their senses and express their faith.

Megan is currently pursuing ordination in the American Baptist Churches USA.

Welcome!



ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- We thank God that Rob Page has been cleared from cancer. **Alleluia!**
- Susan Smith is eating well. Please also pray for Sallie's health as she cares for Susie. They appreciate all the prayers, cards, and friendship.
- Geneval Abel dealing with some health issues. And for her nephew, Andre.
- Lamoine Tatum, grieving the passing of her grandma. Please, keep the whole family in prayer as they face this difficult time.
- Kerry Triplett and his family as they have a lot going on right now. His sister-in-law, Alyssa is going through chemo and will start radiation soon. Pray for strength and healing. His mother in law's health is also declining due to dementia.
- Bill and Chris Rinck have been going through a lot lately. Please, pray for their health and strength.
- Ron Thomas healing from broken ribs. He also continues to grieve the passing of Lynne.
- Dixie Kelly is healing from a fall. She lost some teeth due to the fall. Keep praying for her and for Jim Kelly.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter both dealing with health issues.
- Blake and Meghan Severson, friends of the Humenczuk. Megan has finally found a living donor. Pray that she can stay healthy and strong enough for the surgery.
- Vonda Breedlove is healing and gaining strength. She is slowly coming back to church.
- Lynette Adkins's family, several of them have experienced car accidents this year.
- Sue Hansen at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit.
- Marcena and Luther as their sister-in-law is now in hospice care.



WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

- All who helped make the Living Nativity a success on December 7th.
- All who donated toiletries and other stuff for the City Union Shelter.
- Matt Clingan, Bill Humenczuk, and Lamoine Tatum for their faithful service in handling the technology and livestreaming our worship service.
- Our Hospitality Chair, Laurie Tourtellot, and the rest of the team hosted such a beautiful Family Advent Lunch on December 14, 2025. Dave Page who led our Christmas Carol. Pastor Megan who did a beautiful craft project with the kids.
- Thank you to all who donated to sponsor the Bethel Neighborhood Family for Christmas. Diana Parker and Pastor Dezo dropped off the gifts on December 17th. The car was full. You are a generous congregation.

WE REJOICE WITH ...

- Lynn Barbee, who completed her bachelor's degree at Avila University this fall. **Congratulations**, Lynn. We are so proud of you!
- Pastor Megan, who begins her ministry with our Beloved Community on January 1, 2026.
- Pastor Dezo, who begins his new role as the president of the board of International Ministries.

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 — Lilly Atcheson (Grieving that passing of her sister, Esther) — Pat Betteridge — Justin Prigel (In the Military)

A BIG
Thank
YOU

Big thanks to Our Chancel Singers (Sandi Leonard, David Page, Marcena Chandler, Adesjola Tucker, and Brad Dawdy) for the fantastic Christmas Cantata on December 21st!

Thank you to the narrator, Eyvonne's mom, **Lillie E. Walker**. And a huge shout-out to Eyvonne Walker, the talented conductor and accompanist, who put in countless hours to make it happen.



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.



Doing a New Year's Clean Out? Donate unwanted items to our Savers Drive!

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.

Savers is a thrift store that will pay the church for items donated to our drive by our members, friends and community. We are paid by the pound for your unwanted household items, kitchenware, nick knacks, clothing, toys, shoes, camping gear, etc. Please pack clean clothing, towels, linens and other soft goods in clean trash bags.

Please bring household items (hard goods) in boxes. There are boxes for clothing, hard goods, books and shoes by the outside door into the commons. We will be collecting for several months, so you have plenty of time to go through closets, drawers, etc.

Remember, all the money earned from the goods taken to Savers will be used for the mission trip costs for water filters, training for volunteers, supplies for VBS done in Nicaragua, etc.



Clean out your closets for the Beloved Community of First Baptist Church Kansas City, MO!



We Are Collecting

CLOTHES

Men's, Women's and Children's Clothes, Coats, Shoes, Scarves, Handbags, Wallets, Fashion Accessories, Ties, Belts, Backpacks, Etc.

HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES

Bedding, Comforters, Blankets, Sheets, Towels, Linen, Tablecloths, Curtains, Pillows, Etc.

Please gather clothes and household textiles in bags. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.



The holidays are historically a difficult time for blood donations; however, this holiday season brings added challenges. Our current blood inventory is approximately **5,000 units lower than this same time last year**, making every donation critical as we work to build inventory heading into January.

Please go to www.savealifenow.org to find your closest donation location. *Donations made now are essential to rebuilding and stabilizing inventory as we enter the new year.*



**Community
Blood Center**

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, January 5th — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, January 14th 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 14th.** 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 16th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — **Fill Food Pantry Orders**

Saturday, January 17th — 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 2026:

- ⇒ Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Canned Veggies (mixed veggies, mushrooms, potatoes, sauerkraut and beets)
- ⇒ Boxed Meals (hamburger helpers type)
- ⇒ Jelly
- ⇒ Foil
- ⇒ Wax Paper
- ⇒ Plastic Wrap
- ⇒ Parchment Paper
- ⇒ Cleaning Supplies

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

We helped 16 families (3 of whom were new), with 46 individuals. Everyone was so appreciative and expressed thanks to all who contribute to helping them.

Thank you for helping these families at this most special time of the year!



Thank You to All who Participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive

We received at least 33 donations from the Reverse Advent Calendar food drive. Thank you for providing this variety of food that we can use to meet our client's needs!

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!



FBC Music



-- Eyvonne Walker

November is most often considered the month of "thanks" and "giving". For me, my biggest month of thanks comes in January. After the dust has settled from the hustle and bustle that the world has made of the last quarter of the year, after the last cut-off has been conducted and the last pitch of reverberation has sounded in the Sanctuary, that is when my season of thankfulness begins!

I will first, as always, give my thanks and praise to our Almighty God, The Holy Spirit and our Savior Emmanuel, Yeshua, Jesus, for blessing me individually to be in the presence of such willing, multi-talented and dedicated Musicians who willingly and consistently come to enrich the worship of our Beloved Community Congregation! Many blessings to each of you for blessing our Music and Worship Ministries in so many ways: Adesjola Tucker, Marcena Chandler, Sandi Leonard, Aleta Laurence, David Page, Brad Dawdy, Samuel Okwo and Laura Martinez

My thanks continues and extends to our Audio-Visual Team who makes it possible for the efforts of everyone "on the platform" to be seen, heard and archived so that The Gospel can be received as we go into ALL the world to share the message of salvation and everlasting life in Christ: Bill Humenczuk, Matt Clingan, LaMoine "Sunshine" Tatum, Andrew Schreiner and Cameron Leonard

There are still others who work even farther behind the scenes, without whose presence, things would definitely unravel absolutely and completely! Special thanks I give to Robin King, FBC Office Manager/Admin. Assistant and John Fisher, Building and Grounds Dir. Robin's impeccable work is only surpassed by her gracious and unending patience we with me! 😊 And John, the Celestial Ringers couldn't read their music were it not for the repair of the ceiling lights in the Sanctuary!

The purpose and relevance of our Music & Worship Ministries would be of little value were it not for our Congregation! I want to lift my gratitude up to the Almighty for each of you for your responsiveness, for your encouragement and participation in offering our worship to God corporately each Sunday whether in person or online. For it is our time being together in The Spirit that we can multiply our offerings of praise to God and be able to enjoy seeing the outpouring of blessings upon each of us and on our church as a whole. Thank you, Beloved Community for your responsiveness, for completing the green sheets with the titles of your favorite hymns, Christmas Carols and contemporary songs of worship, as well as suggestions to Rev. Dezo about how the Music Ministry can continue to enhance and enrich the worship experience of our congregation. Our FBC Music Ministry is here and blessed for the purpose of serving the Body of Christ. I give thanks for how we stay after worship for the "Hanging of the Greens" and dinner gatherings and support our members who have endeavors outside of our church walls!

As we move into the new year before us, I give thanks and pray that blessings flow on each soul, each family and on those who we reach out to in the coming year!

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 ADVENT SERMON SERIES: DIVINE HOSPITALITY

† Sunday, January 4th — 10:50am, Epiphany Sunday

"The Revelation of Hospitality," based on Matthew 2:1-12.

This is the Final sermon of the series on Divine Hospitality. Communion Sunday.

Pastor Megan Bedford-Strohm, preaching.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES: SERMON SERIES: A CALL FOR ALL OF US 2026 JANUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

† Sunday, January 11th — 10:50am

"The Call That Does Not Wait," based on Isaiah 6:1-8.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

† Sunday, January 18th — 10:50am

"The Call to Beloved Community," based on Amos 5:21-24.

We will remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

† Sunday, January 25th — 10:50am

"Called to Speak and to Listen," based on James 1:19-27.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

† Sunday, February 1st — 10:50am

"Called to Reconciliation," based on James 5:16-21.

First Sunday of Black History Month. Communion Sunday.

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

OFFERINGS



Financials



December Offering

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

We gave: \$600.00



January Communion

Our January, Special Offering goes to the American Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries Love Offering, expressing our thanks for all the retired ABC pastors and missionaries.

Please give generously!



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
Serving as the hands and feet of Christ



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

- **January 4th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **January 4th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **January 4th, Epiphany Sunday** — **"The Revelation of Hospitality," based on Matthew 2:1-12. Pastor Megan Bedford-Strohm, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- **January 5th** — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- **January 6th** — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- **January 7th** — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- **January 7th** — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **January 11th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **January 11th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **January 11th** — **"The Call That Does Not Wait," based on Isaiah 6:1-8. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **January 11th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **January 11th** — Sunday, at 12:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting (Fireside Room)
- **January 13th** — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- **January 14th** — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- **January 14th** — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- **January 14th** — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **January 16th** — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- **January 17th** — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **January 18th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **January 18th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **January 18th** — **"The Call to Beloved Community," based on Amos 5:21-24. Life & Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **January 18th** — Sunday, at 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting (Fireside Room)
- **January 19th** — Monday, FBC Offices Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **January 20th** — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- **January 21st** — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- **January 21st** — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **January 25th** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **January 25th** — **"Called to Speak and to Listen," based on James 1:19-27. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **January 25th** — Sunday, at 12:00 p.m. Inquirers Gathering
- **January 27th** — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- **January 28th** — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- **January 28th** — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **February 1st** — Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **February 1st** — **"Called to Reconciliation," based on 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. First Sunday of Black History Month. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

The Executive Council meets Sunday, January 11th at Noon

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 18th. We will discuss and approve the slate of candidates for election to the proposed 2026 budget. The meeting will be held immediately after church at noon. We look forward to seeing you there.

ANNUAL MEETING

Inquirers

Gathering is Sunday, Jan. 25th, after church at noon for new members, guests, and prospective members. Come for info and a building tour!



Black History Month: Next Month we will be celebrating Black History Month. Activities include a movie, a concert, dinner and more. More details will come later.

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



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

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp
Here

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

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

HAPPY
New Year



**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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTD0tRaHlDaVYrN3I5bzJVQT09)
[pwd=SFNmQUlVTD0tRaHlDaVYrN3I5bzJVQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTD0tRaHlDaVYrN3I5bzJVQT09)
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)