



# Beloved Community of First Baptist Kansas City, MO

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Kansas City, MO 64114  
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Visit us on our website  
[www.belovedkc.org](http://www.belovedkc.org)  
or on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/fbckc](https://www.facebook.com/fbckc)

## Around & About - MARCH 2026

**Pastors**  
Rev. Dr. Dezo Schreiner  
Dr. Megan Bedford-Strohm

### *Now What?*

I will never forget a conversation among a few friends when one of them had just retired. Someone asked her a simple but profound question: "Now what?" She paused and said, "You know, I am still trying to figure that out. There are a few things I want to get involved in, but I am praying for God to help me discern what God wants me to do."

Her response stayed with me. It reminded me how often many of us have asked that same question in different seasons of life. At one point or another, we all find ourselves discerning the path ahead. Sometimes it is about choosing the right school or degree. Sometimes it is deciding whether to remain in a large home or move to a smaller one. Sometimes it means moving closer to family, or perhaps closer to the church community that nurtures our faith.

Some decisions may appear simple, yet they still require discernment. Spiritual writer Henri Nouwen once said, "Discernment is a life of listening to a deeper sound and marching to a different beat, a life in which we become 'all ears.'" Discernment is not easy, and it is never finished. As long as we draw breath, the work of listening for God continues. Discernment invites us to pay attention to the movements of our hearts and minds. It calls us to examine our lives carefully and prayerfully.

In the rhythm of everyday life, we often make decisions quickly. Yet decisions and discernment are not quite the same. Discernment asks a deeper question: How spiritually attentive are we to the choices we make? What values and priorities guide us? How do we seek God's will in the midst of our daily lives?

One of the clearest ways we seek God's direction is through prayer, Scripture, and thoughtful reflection. These practices help us align our choices with God's purposes.

This past Sunday we reflected on Mark 1:35, where Jesus rises early in the morning and goes to a solitary place to pray. Even Jesus, in the midst of ministry, made time to withdraw and listen for the voice of God. His example reminds us that prayer is essential when we face important decisions, whether choosing a career, a spouse, or a particular ministry path. Before we act, we seek God.

Scripture also reminds us to be discerning in another way. In 1 John 4:1, we read: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." Not everything that feels good is necessarily good. Discernment requires wisdom. It asks us to pause and consider: Is this movement in my life coming from the Holy Spirit, or from somewhere else?

During this Lenten season, I want to invite you to join me on a shared journey of discernment. Together we can ask an important question: "What is God calling us to become together?" As the Beloved Community we are one family so come home, let's sit, let's pray, let's discern together.

Often we focus on what God wants us to do. Yet just as important is who God is calling us to be.

Lent offers us space to slow down, to pray, to reflect, and perhaps even to journal about what we sense God doing in our lives. As we listen together, I encourage you to remain open to the ways God may be speaking through the work of our Transforming Congregation Team. They have faithfully conducted listening sessions and presented their findings. Their work helps us hear the voices, hopes, and concerns within our church family.

So the question returns once again: Now what?

Now we enter a season of communal discernment. Together we are seeking to recognize and participate in God's transforming work among us. Through prayer, reflection, conversation, and faithful participation, we will listen for the Spirit's guidance.

And I trust that, in time, God will reveal the path before us, both as individuals and as a church community. Amen!



**Pastor Dezo Schriener**

# Announcements



Please keep the Transforming Congregation Team in your prayers as they prepare to begin the discernment process together with

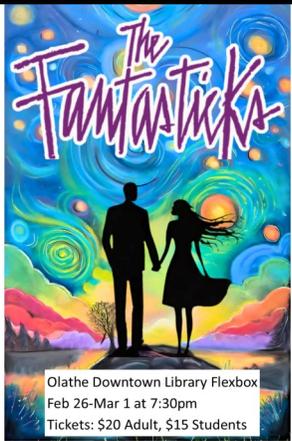
**P R A Y**

After worship on March 1, you are cordially invited to the ABWM's Women's Ministry. You are warmly invited to the ABWM's Women's Ministry Brunch immediately following worship on March 1st! This is the perfect event to kick off Women's Month, and we encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend. A big thank you to Lyn for hosting! Everything is ready for a wonderful event—all that's missing is you!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH 6PM  
MILLIE EDWARDS**

Brad Dawdy's latest show!



Olathe Downtown Library Flexbox  
Feb 26-Mar 1 at 7:30pm  
Tickets: \$20 Adult, \$15 Students

## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**Saturday, April 4th, 10AM-12PM**



**FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME**  
Easter Egg Hunts, Bouncy Houses and Food for Children and Families!



### 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!



# Spotlight on Lyn Barbee

This month we celebrate a beloved member of our church family who has been part of our congregation for about ten years. During that time, she has experienced our church as a community that reflects a glimpse of heaven, a place where the compassion and unconditional love of Jesus are lived out each day. For her, our church is a space where people can come to experience healing, belonging, and genuine welcome in a loving and inclusive Christian environment. She especially appreciates that our congregation is both Bible-teaching and nurturing, creating a spiritual family where people can grow in faith together.



Service to others has long been a central part of Lyn's life. For 15 years she led her own charity ministry, providing necessities and support to individuals experiencing homelessness and to those who were formerly incarcerated. Her heart for helping others continues to shape how she lives out her faith.

Family is another great joy in Lyn's life. She is the proud mother of a large blended family that includes five sons and four daughters, along with 28 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She also shares an interesting connection to the world of sports: she is the senior cousin of Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle Kelvin Beecham and a cousin of Olympic champion Michael Johnson. In addition, she is the aunt of Marcel Duncan, one of the flag bearers for the Kansas City Chiefs. Since Marcel joined the Chiefs' flag warriors staff, he has celebrated three Super Bowl victories with the team.

If Lyn had a full day to do anything she loves, she would spend it doing one of her favorite things: helping people. Something many may not know about her is that she is also a spoken word artist. She is a passionate lover of music as well, enjoying opera, country, jazz, R&B, show tunes, and gospel.

Her hope for the future of our church is simple yet powerful: that as we move forward together, we will impact our city and community in meaningful and transformative ways that truly represent God's love. Through faith, service, and compassion, she believes our congregation can continue to be a blessing to many.

We are grateful for Lyn's presence, her spirit of service, and the many ways she enriches the life of our church.

# ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

## WE PRAY FOR...

- Sue Fugitt who recently fell at home. Dennis who struggles with eyesight. Their daughter Megan who is only 42, but has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for Megan as she goes through chemo.
- Melba McIntosh for strength as she cares for her son.
- Karen Foster, LaMoine Tatum, Vonda Breedlove, Geneva Abel
- Kerry Triplett and his family
- Megan Severson (Recovering from Liver transplant)
- Lynette McLeod (Diana Parker's sister - Recovering from surgery)
- Beverly Ryan who is struggling with pain and other health issues.
- Lynette Adkins and her family. For her niece, Shianne Parris.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Dixie and Jim Kelly. Dixie's sister, Judy, fell very sick about two weeks ago. She is making progress.
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sallie's health.
- Toni Page' mother dealing with health issues
- Tom Ott, Jay Manda's father in law
- Daylin and Dalie Rodriguez Ortet and Noah.
- Several members of our church family who have been sick with upper respiratory viruses.
- Sue Hansen at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit



## WE GIVE THANKS TO ...

- The many members who developed "Black History Moments" and Children's Conversations, educating and enlightening us about the profound contributions of African Americans to American history.
- Eyvonne Walker, our director of music, for organizing two wonderful concerts.
- Eyvonne Walker, for organizing the well-attended trip to the Black Archive, and the members who participated. We enjoyed dinner at a black owned restaurant.
- The family who generously provided lunch for the Inquirers Gathering.
- The family who is sponsoring the ABWM Brunch
- Rob Kirbach, the Associate Executive Minister of the Great Rivers Region, who worshipped with us this past Sunday, February 22, 2026.



## WE REJOICE WITH ...

- Breeze Nieft and Sarah Hopper who joined our church on February 1, 2026.
- The six new members who received the hand of fellowship on Sunday, February 1.
- All who attended the Inquirers Gathering on February 1st, 2026. We had a great turn out.

## 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 — Justin Prigel (In the Military) — Samuel Okwo (US National Guard Training)



Thank you for celebrating Black History Month with us!



Thank you to everyone who attended the Ash Wednesday service. About twenty of us gathered to begin this sacred season together, and it was a meaningful time of reflection and worship. A special thank you to Pastor Megan for leading a creative time before the service where participants had the opportunity to collage their Lenten journals. It was a thoughtful and inspiring way to begin the Lenten journey, inviting us to engage both our hearts and our creativity as we enter this season of prayer and reflection.

Thank you to all who brought soups. They were all very yummy.



# 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.



# FOOD PANTRY

## RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

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

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

**Saturday, March 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**

We served 13 families with a total of 36 individuals, including a family with gluten-free needs, and another with low sodium needs. Thank you so much!! All of the families are always so appreciative of your generosity.

### Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — MARCH 2026:

- ⇒ Dry Beans (1lb bag)
- ⇒ Canned Pasta
- ⇒ Canned Chili
- ⇒ Hamburger Helper Type Meals
- ⇒ Dry Beans (1lb bag)
- ⇒ Laundry Detergent (small bottles)
- ⇒ Dish Soap
- ⇒ Other Household Cleaning Items
- ⇒ Gluten Free Items

**Contact Tarah Kruger with any questions**  
at [tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net)



**Scan to  
Donate online!**

## **FBC Music** -- Eyvonne Walker

As we move into the Lenten Season - our time of reflection on the journey of preparedness that our Savior took over the 40 days in the wilderness, I am heading the call of Dr. Dezo to focus on developing my discernment in my relationship with God.

It is an ever-present thought for me, in the shaping of our Beloved Community Music Ministries that our skills, talents and abilities be vessels, tools and conduits that move the hearts of our Congregation closer to God, that we are able to break up and cultivate the ground of those hearts to have them be ready to receive the seed of The Word that is sown each week by our Pastor. The ultimate goal is, as the song title reads:

"That in Our Music God is Glorified"

Our Palm Sunday Cantatina this year, March.29.2026, is entitled: **"Come and Dine"**

This will be another "compilation" work of various songs, hymns and readings that will be reflections from members of our Beloved Community.

Special thanks and gratitude goes to all who worked with such generosity of heart, time and skill to make last weekend's Black History Month "Fine Arts Fest" offering to our surrounding community a meaningful experience.

- ♥ Rev., Dr. Dezo and Robin King for all of the media venues contacted to get the word out!
- ♥ Bro. Andrew - timely and successful Tech support all over the church house
- ♥ (My) Deacon, Lyn Adkins - For your "presence through pain" in attending **both days** of the festival.
- ♥ Bro. David Page for running the AV booth with Guest AV Tech, Robert Chamberlain
- ♥ Deacon Lyn Adkins & Sis. Lyn Barbee setting the refreshment tables of welcome on Saturday & Sunday for each day's events
- ♥ Rev. Toni & Sis. Kathie Manda for your presence and readiness to assist in every way with all of the Sunday activities.

May your service and sacrifice multiply the blessings you will receive in return! I Thank our Almighty God for each and every one of you!

# 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

## SERMON SERIES: DISCERNING GOD'S CALL TOGETHER 2026 LENT PREACHING SCHEDULE

+ **Sunday, March 1st — 10:50am - The Second Sunday of Lent**

“A Call to Trust,” based on Matthew 14:22-33.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.

+ **Sunday, March 8th — 10:50am - The Third Sunday of Lent**

“A Call to Transformation,” based on Roman 12:1-2.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. International Women’s Day.

+ **Sunday, March 15th — 10:50am - The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Pastor Dezo, preaching.

+ **Sunday, March 22nd — 10:50am - The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

“A Call to Commitment,” based on John 12:23-26.

Pastor Megan, preaching.

+ **Sunday, March 29th — 10:50am - Palm Sunday**

“A Call to Courage,” based on Matthew 21:1-11.

Pastor Dezo, preaching. Easter Cantata.

+ **Thursday, April 2nd — 6:00pm - Maundy Thursday**

Agape Potluck Finger Food Meal and Service of Darkness, concluding with communion. Bring a dish of finger food to share with others.

+ **Friday, April 3rd — 6:00pm - Good Friday Zoom Service**

Join us by zoom as we provide readings and reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus.

+ **Sunday, April 5th — 10:50am - Easter Sunday**

“A Call to New Life,” based on Matthew 28:1-10.

Celebrating Christ’s Resurrection and communion Sunday.

## Financials

### OFFERINGS



### February Offering

In February, we receive the Deacon Communion Offering, to assist those within and near to our church in crisis or transition.

**We gave: \$110.00**



### March Offering



In March, we receive the American Baptist America for Christ Offering which supports the work of our own Great Rivers Region and across America! The need is great – please give generously! Note your check for the AFC offering, made out to First Baptist Church, or you can use special AFC envelopes in the pews.

**Please give generously!**

# Church Calendar

- **March 1st** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **March 1st** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 1st** — **The Second Sunday of Lent - "A Call to Trust," based on Matthew 14:22-33. Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- **March 1st** — Sunday, 12:00 p.m. American Baptist Women's Ministry Brunch
- March 2nd — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- March 3rd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 4th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- March 4th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **March 8th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **March 8th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 8th** — **The Third Sunday of Lent - "A Call to Transformation," based on Romans 12:1-2. Pastor Dezo, preaching. International Women's Day.**
- **March 8th** — Sunday, 12:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting (Fireside Room)
- March 10th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 11th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- March 11th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- March 14th — Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Yui's Baby Shower (Fireside Room)
- **March 15th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **March 15th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 15th** — **The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **March 15th** — Sunday, 6:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers - Millie Edwards
- March 17th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 18th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- March 18th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- March 18th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- March 20th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- March 21st — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **March 22nd** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **March 22nd** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 22nd** — **The Fifth Sunday of Lent - "A Call to Commitment," based on John 12:23-26. Pastor Megan, preaching.**
- March 24th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 25th — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- March 25th — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **March 29th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **March 29th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 29th** — **Palm Sunday - "A Call to Courage," based on Matthew 21:1-11. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- March 31st — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- April 1st — Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers (Handbell Ensemble rehearsal)
- April 1st — Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chanel Singers (Choir rehearsal)
- **April 2nd** — **Maundy Thursday, 6:00 p.m.** (Fireside Room)
- **April 3rd** — **Good Friday Zoom Service Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.**
- April 4th — Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Eggstravaganza!
- **April 5th** — Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Journeys Bible Study Class (Cross-Generations Classroom)
- **April 5th** — Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **April 5th** — **Easter Sunday - "A Call to New Life," based on Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Dezo, preaching.**



TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



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

100 West Red Bridge Rd,  
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Happy Women's History  
Month!



### March Birthdays

Anusha Damala	01
Joe Cooper	01
Yui Tadokoro	01
Laura Martinez	03
Tim Link	05
Andrea Ferguson	07
Vickie Murray	16
Jonas Bedford-Strohm	17
Kent Bevan	17
Amos Bedford-Strohm	23
Margo Humenczuk	23



**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=SFNmQUlvT0tRaHlDaVYrN3I5bzJlVQT09>
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/](http://www.belovedkc.org/)

**TO WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE AT 10:50AM ON FACEBOOK GO TO:**

[www.facebook.com/fbckc/](http://www.facebook.com/fbckc/)

**TO WATCH IT ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE GO TO:**

[www.belovedkc.org/watch](http://www.belovedkc.org/watch)

(The services will be posted on our website at 1:00PM)