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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 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Living in Consequential Times

Both candidates for President agree on one thing: this is a consequential election, and we are living in a consequential time. This election matters. Sometimes we are presented with two candidates who basically agree on most things, only differ in emphasis. That is not true this year.

We are faced with a clear choice not so much between two different candidates or personalities, though they differ, but the consequential part is their vision for America. Where will America likely be in four years of this President's term? Where will we be economically? Where will we be in terms of our political discourse? Will each attempt to be President of the entire nation, or just those of their own persuasion? Where will we be in light of our international relations?

We likely have already solved the problem of immigration at our southern border. Republican and Democratic senators have negotiated such a plan which was largely acceptable to both parties, in the Senate and in the House. So whoever wins the White House has a reasonable working plan. The bigger issue is what to do with immigrants in our country who do not yet have their Green Cards? One vision is to offer them a reasonable roadmap to citizenship. Another vision is to deport all of them to their countries of origin. Another issue is what to do with Dreamers, those who came with their undocumented parents as children but have not known any other country? Another issue has to do with acceptance of future immigrants.

We truly recognize that we are a nation of immigrants, and our economy, particularly entry-level work, would greatly suffer without newer immigrants. The story is as old as America. Immigrants arrive, whether in the 1800's or in 2025, and work at entry level jobs and work their way up in the American economy. When we served with Karen people from Myanmar, many of them worked in meat-packing plants in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. They sought out these kinds of jobs because it was something they particularly enjoyed. And they thrived at it. Our farming economy would suffer greatly without immigrants picking and harvesting the crops. Our landscaping and construction industries would fall apart without their work.

With the economy growing and with unemployment so low, we simply can't fill the necessary jobs without immigrants. Our economy will fall backwards without their labor.

We will be deciding in at least 10 more states about the abortion issue. Kansas already decidedly resolved this issue a few years ago and in this election, Missouri voters will decide. We have one of the most stringent anti-abortion rules in the nation, and voters will decide its future.

Voters will decide on whether we want to cooperate with other like-minded nations in the world, or with more autocratic nations, or turn our backs and go it alone.

All of these are consequential decisions. We stand at a crossroads. Esther was asked by God if she was born for a time such as this? Esther found herself in a position to rescue her people, the Jews, from death. Was she up to the calling?

Are we? Are we born for such a time as this? This is a consequential crossroads for our nation. The decision will likely be close. Your vote and your voice will matter. If you are not yet registered to vote, please, please, do so! We need you to stand with all of us in this consequential moment in American history.

Pastor Stephen Jones

Announcements



OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT A CROSSROADS –

We give thanks for Evie Triplett who has so ably led our children's classroom for the summer and to Daline Desauguste who continues working with our infants and toddlers. Evie is now returning to college in Chicago and this leaves a large hole in our program. We have a church member interested in teaching a class for four, five and kindergarten children, but this member works on Sunday morning. Now we are looking for at least an interim replacement. Join us in prayer – and offer your ideas – if you can help!

August Communion

OUR AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING was for the United Mission Program of the American Baptist churches USA came to \$1,581.60. Thanks for your gift.



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

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!!



Early Journey Bible Study
Sundays Mornings



SEPTEMBER OFFERING

Our special offering for September is designated for AMOS, a health ministry in Nicaragua serving 25 remote rural villages & 2 urban clinics.



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!

2024 FALL JAZZ VESPERS PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH 6-8PM
EBONI FONDREN AND BAND

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 6-8PM
MIKOLE E KAAR AND BAND MIKOLE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 6-8PM
CHARLES WILLIAMS AND BAND



Wilson Fund Recipients: The Wilson Scholarship Committee has reviewed applications from these members who are attending schools this fall: Evie Triplett, Columbia College of Art in Chicago; Andy Schreiner, finishing his MBA from Rockhurst University; Lynn Barbee at Avila University; Dani Gonzalez continuing at Central Seminary; and Amelie Clingan at UMKC.

Jan Jones, Wilson Fund Chair



EBONI FONDREN AND BAND

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
6:00-8:00pm

One of KC's great jazz vocalists with her band!



NEED VIDEO/SOUND/STREAMING VOLUNTEERS!

We still need more volunteers to serve in the sound balcony on Sunday mornings. Talk with Bill Humenczuk or Matt Clingan.

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- Steve McBride in the midst of chemo treatments for cancer. We pray for his full recovery.
- Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Sue Hansen continues at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit on Lahser Road.
- Debbie Ebright experiencing back pain and asks for our prayers
- Please pray for someone in our congregation struggling with a diagnosis for which there is no apparent treatment.
- Leonard and Lynn Barbee request prayers
- Dixie Kelly is making a strong recovery following open heart surgery but is experiencing back pain.
- Susan Smith is now largely bedfast at home. Pray for her and for Sally who is coordinating all of her care.
- John Hopkins has been released from St. Luke's East and is now a nursing facility to improve his mobility.
- Becky Boden is a patient at Lee's Summit Hospital but has now transferred to Mid America Rehab.
- Pastor Dezo remains at KU Medical Center. To date, the twins are growing well within her and she is feeling fine! She sends her greetings to everyone at the Beloved Community of FBC!



WE REJOICE WITH...

- Janelle Jones and Dwight Crosby on the birth of Sophia Josephine Crosby, born on Saturday, August 3 at St. Luke's on the Plaza at 3 lbs. 12 ounces. It's close to the birth weight of her two older sisters. She was released on August 27th and is now home with her family. Congratulations to Janelle and Dwight and two very proud sisters, Brielle and Aria, and two proud grandparents, Steve and Jan Jones.
- Congratulations for Laura Martinez upon the birth of her new granddaughter, Finley Jo Martinez, 6lbs 11oz. Born on Sunday, August 25th to Travis and Rachel Martinez in North Carolina.
- Marie Humenczuk Omer and Steve Omer who were married in Pagosa Springs, Colorado on August 24. Bill and Margo and David and Jayme and Claire and Emily joined in the festivities.
- We celebrate with Carol Colston and her decision to join our church on Sunday, August 25. Carol has been an active leader in her former church, which is relocating out of south KC. Dr. Carol Colston works remotely for Bright Horizons, a large corporation helping employees with their benefits. We celebrate Carol as a loving spirit and leader joining our church!
- We celebrate with Luther and Marcena Chandler who also joined our church on Sunday, August 25. They have eight children, five of whom live in the KC area and 3 in Texas. They have long ABC roots so we welcome them back to the ABC! Marcena was a social worker for many years and then opened her own day care center in the basement of their home for over 25 years. Luther worked for Bendix, then became a city planner with the city of KCMO, and then a financial planner and investment counselor. We celebrate their decision to unite with our congregation!



WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

Geraldine Raines — Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Leonard Barbee — Al Madrid (Dixie Kelly's brother-in-law who has four different cancers) — Cosette Kelly (Vision Issues) — Dixie Kelly — Susan Smith (bedfast at home) — Patty Vann — John & Donna Hopkins — Pat Betteridge — Valerie Carroll (Daughter of Bill & Chris Rinck) — Justin Prigel (Military in Italy)



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE GREAT RIVERS REGION will be held at the First Baptist Church of Peoria, IL, on Saturday, Oct 5. Stephen Jones is the current President of the Region and will be leading the business meeting and delivering a presidential address. You are welcome to attend! Talk with Pastor Steve for details. The meeting is in the morning, with smaller gatherings late morning and lunch with worship and dismissal.

Mission Team Updates



Nicaragua Update

We still need one more person to join our Nicaragua Mission Trip!

* Making a total of 10 persons *

Trip dates are: Friday, November 8th-Sunday, November 17th

- Please contact Pastor Steve if interested -

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Tuesday, September 3rd — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — **Restocking Day**
(Volunteers Needed!)

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

Saturday, September 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

Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — September 2024:

- ⇒ Paper Towels
- ⇒ Deodorant (Men's & Women's)
- ⇒ Laundry Detergent (Small Bottles)
- ⇒ Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ⇒ Canned Peas
- ⇒ Canned Pasta
- ⇒ Canned Chili, Manwich (or comparable), Stews
- ⇒ Dried White Beans

Contact Tarah Kruger with any questions at

tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net

Fun Fact! In August, the Food Pantry helped 44 individuals in 16 families!

MORE2 ANNUAL BANQUET AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

We have one FREE ticket to the Banquet. Speak with Stephen Jones. Thursday, September 19, 6 pm downtown at the LUX.



VOTER ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Sponsored by MORE2 on Saturday, October 12th, from 9 am to noon in the sanctuary of our church!! Learn 3 new methods, easy to use, to get people to vote in the November election. Bring your cell phones! This is an ecumenical non-partisan effort to mobilize people to vote using proven, new, and easy-to-use methods.

It's free!! Join us on October 12th!

****We'll need hosts from our church as we anticipate many visitors coming to this training.**

Financials

SEVERAL BUILDING PROJECTS – the lower condenser for our air conditioning in the educational building has been replaced and is working well. We also have two room units that are rusted and leaking and we have let the contract for these to be replaced.

The expanded kitchenette in the Fireside room now has the electrical installed and we are waiting on delivery of the appliances.

We are looking for more bids on the corner stone sign to install our newly-branded name, “The Beloved Community of First Baptist Church.” This is coming soon.

A special gift was received from a church family to put new material over the face of our church steeple. A contractor was selected after multiple bids, but due to family complications they have had to withdraw. We are now moving on to new contractors and recontacting one of our first contractors to get up to date bids. We are hoping for an early Fall schedule. The façade of the steeple has seriously deteriorated.



Good News! Punkin Patch, which had accumulated over \$180,000 in debt as of the end of 2023, has recorded strong monthly balances each month in 2024, reducing their indebtedness to below \$100,000. We anticipate this to continue until they operate in the black again. They are looking at full enrollment for the Fall!



More Good News!

First Baptist Church finances continue to improve. In our 2024 budget, we anticipate receiving \$13,166 each month from our pledges and giving by our members and friends. Through the end of July, we hoped to receive \$92,162 and in fact have given \$100,630. This greatly reduces the amount of funds we need to withdraw from our unrestricted endowment, which is a great step forward.



* **In July**, we gave over \$2,000 to Lance and Christina Muteyo as our special offering in support of the wonderful work they do in Zimbabwe. Thanks, everyone, for your faithfulness!



FBC Music



The choir and music director have decided at their first rehearsal that the choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights for the Fall Quarter. We invite others to join us for this 6-7 week period!

Our Music and Worship Committee met recently to discuss ideas for how to ease stresses on our small core of church musicians and best provide meaningful music during worship. Concerns raised were the mid-week rehearsals adding to the scheduling load for our working members, our small ensemble making it difficult for musicians to take a week off without feeling they have let the group down, and difficulty finding new musicians to add to our group.

We are interested in hearing congregational feedback for several ideas we are entertaining.

One thought is to break up our music year into several smaller portions, rather than a full nine-month session. This might look like 6 weeks or so of regular choir offerings during worship, followed by 2-4 weeks of special music similar to what we have done this past summer. We might have a fall session, a holiday session including a Christmas cantata, a spring session culminating in Holy Week/Easter Cantata, and a late spring/early summer session going later into the summer than we have in the past. Handbells would offer music according to when pieces are ready to be performed, with possibly some additions to hymns or offertory music at times as well.

We also discussed moving rehearsals from Wednesday nights to Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 to allow that night off for our musicians, and hopefully to attract more people to join us.

We welcome your thoughts and input, and encourage you to see the green sheet in the weekly bulletin to let us know your ideas! You may also talk to Pastor Jones, Sandi Leonard, David Page, or Eyvonne Walker at any time. We are open to ideas, volunteers, and suggestions!

- Sandi Leonard & Eyvonne Walker

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:

† Sunday, September 1st — 10:50am:

"The Body of Christ", *1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Labor Day weekend; Communion Sunday*

Faith in Christ has to be embodied; it isn't just a mind game, or an emotion.

Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Jones, preaching

† Sunday, September 8th — 10:50am:

Rev. Dr. Brian Kaylor, preaching

Brian is the president and editor-in-chief of "The Word and Way," an important monthly magazine published from the heart of Missouri. He concludes our week-end together by preaching in our Sunday service.

"WHO IS THE GREATEST?"

Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Jones, preaching

Mark 9:33-37. (Mt. 18:1-5; Lk 9:46-48)

† Sunday, September 15th — 10:50am:

"When Arguments Break Out"

Jesus asked, "What were you arguing about on the way?"

What does argumentation gain us?

† Sunday, September 22nd — 10:50am:

"Who is the Greatest Among Us?"

"On the way, they had argued about who was the greatest among them"

We compare ourselves to all those around us, usually to no great advantage or gain

† Sunday, September 29th — 10:50am:

"Those Who Serve Are the Greatest"

"Whoever wants to be first must be the last of all and servant of all"

Why do we look down on servanthood?

REV. DR. BRIAN KAYLOR IS COMING TO FBC!

Brian Kaylor is the editor and publisher of the highly acclaimed award-winning news magazine published in Missouri called, "The Word and Way." Under his leadership, he has become a leading voice for justice in the mid-west. He has just co-authored a highly anticipated book, *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism*, co-authored with Rev. Beau Underwood.

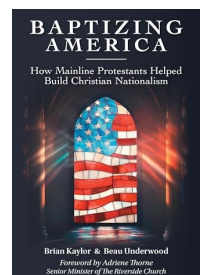
How did phrases like "One nation under God" become part of the Pledge of Allegiance, and "In God We Trust" become America's national motto? As Christian Nationalism becomes more and more mainstream, experts like Brian Kaylor are examining the origins of these religious elements in American public life. Contrary to popular belief, much of this conflation of religion and national identity was not established by evangelicals, but were, instead, the work of mainline Protestant clergy and politicians.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 3:00 PM

In the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church
Dr. Kaylor will speak and sign copies of his new book.

**** He will preach in our church on Sunday,
September 8th, in our morning worship service.**



Church Calendar

- **September 1st** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **September 1st** — **"The Body of Christ"**, *I Corinthians 12:12-27*; *Labor Day Weekend*; *Communion Sunday* at 10:50 a.m.
- September 2nd — FBC Offices Closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 3rd — Tuesday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- September 3rd — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- September 4th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Evyonne 816-289-4793)
- September 4th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. START DATE of Handbell Choir
- September 4th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- September 7th — 3:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Brian Kaylor speaking and book signing
- **September 8th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **September 8th** — **Rev. Dr. Brian Kaylor, preaching**
- September 10th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- September 11th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Evyonne 816-289-4793)
- September 12th — Thursday, 12:00 p.m. Trolley Trail Park Rally for Resistance to the White Christian Nationalism
- **September 15th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **September 15th** — **"When Arguments Break Out"**
- **September 15th** — **6:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers Performance - Eboni Fondren and Band**
- September 17th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- September 18th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- September 18th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Evyonne 816-289-4793)
- September 18th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- September 18th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- September 19th — Thursday, 6:00 p.m. MORE2 Annual Banquet and 20th Anniversary
- September 20th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- September 21st — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- **September 22nd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome! (Contact: David Page)
- **September 22nd** — **"Who is the Greatest Among Us?"**
- September 24th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- September 25th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Contact: Evyonne 816-289-4793)
- September 25th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- September 25th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **September 29th** — **"Those Who Serve Are the Greatest"**

Join the Rally!!



MORE²

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12, MONTHLY RALLY – this time in our area of South Metro, CALL OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY, RESISTING WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, at noon, at the Trolley Trail Park across from the former Southwest High School, just south of Brookside Shopping District (65th Street & Wornall Rd).

* Pastor Steve is one of the speakers. Please lend us your support by attending!



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



September Birthdays

Michelle Hopkins	09
Noah Rodriguez-Ortet	13
Eyvonne Walker	20
Justin Prigel	24
LaMoine Tatum	29



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=SFNmQUlVTD0tRmRlbnR3IjZlVQVQ09>
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)