



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

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Together

Vol 37 No 7

July 2021

Rev. Dr. Kathryn S. Kimmel Called as Pastor

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE



Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

After a 6-month search and a clear direction from God throughout the process, Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel was invited to preach at First Baptist on June 27, 2021 in view of a call as pastor. After a Spirit-filled time of worship with an inspired sermon by Dr. Kimmel, Deacon Chair Tom Marchand called the church into conference. The search committee was recognized and appreciation was expressed. The search committee presented

their unanimous recommendation, read by Cathy Wilhelm, Search Committee Chair, in the form of a motion to the church to call Dr. Kimmel.

Discussion was called for but none took place. The voice vote from the congregation was unanimous to call Dr. Kimmel as pastor.

Dr. Kimmel will complete her commitment to her current place of ministry, University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS, in July. After a time of transition to Memphis, Dr. Kimmel will begin her ministry at First Baptist on Sunday, August 29, 2021.

Dr. Kimmel earned her Bachelor of Arts in religion from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina and graduated with a Master's from Duke Divinity University in Durham, North Carolina. She began her career in full-time ministry in South Africa as Associate Minister of Berea Baptist Mission Church which is associated with Door of Hope. She then returned home to North Carolina and began work as a hospital and Hospice chaplain. She earned her Doctorate in Ministry from Candler School of Theology at Emory University

in Atlanta, Georgia, with a concentration in Church Leadership and Community Witness.

Her husband, Tom Kimmel, is an award-winning singer, songwriter, entertainer, poet and teacher, whose compositions have been recorded by a number of musicians including Linda Ronstadt, Johnny Cash, Joe Cocker and Randy Travis. He has released seven solo albums, published a book of poems and led songwriting workshops and classes in the United States and Europe. In demand as a songwriting teacher and lecturer, his workshop instruction ties the creative spirit to the nuts and bolts of composition.

The Kimmels have been married four years and have a dog and a cat.

Please continue to pray for Dr. Kimmel, Tom Kimmel, the church they are leaving, and for our future together here at First Baptist.

Thanks be to God for this great blessing and the exciting future ahead. God is always faithful!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Worship

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

Perhaps you are aware that, unlike our weekly *Table Talk* email, the *Together* deadline comes pretty early. In fact, we were asked to turn in our pieces on June 9, three weeks in advance. So my thoughts for this issue are somewhat of an extension of my *Table Talk* from that same date. They have to do with worship.

My friend Steve Hancock, pastor of Second Presbyterian in Little Rock, preached June 6 on the theme of worship, the congregation's first Sunday of in-person worship since the outset of the pandemic. I had preached on the same subject two Sundays before, so I couldn't help but compare notes.

Steve asked his folks why they attend worship. "Most of all," he says, "we come to worship for a deepening connection with the Divine." He makes an interesting point: "To worship for God's sake is to worship for the world's sake too." To underscore that, he says, "Do remember also how vast a multitude that we're a part of as we do this." Another of his thoughts that I will leave with you is this: "Friends, we are here for no trivial purpose. This is ultimate."

"We are here for no trivial purpose. This is ultimate."

No doubt, when we were sheltering in place due to Covid-19, you began longing for the time when we could gather again for worship. You missed your FBC friends. But I do hope you were also aware that the primary reason for worship is not fellowship with others, as important as that is. Our main purpose is to be with God, and that does not require sanctuary or the presence

of others.

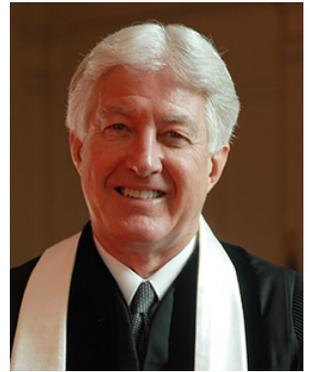
Having said that, however, please do not hear me say it is an either/or situation. True worship involves both/and, giving our hearts to the One who created us and loves us beyond all measure, and sharing that experience with those who choose to be present with us in our gatherings. It just doesn't get any better than that, does it?

A true Presbyterian, my friend Steve has some Baptist DNA. In his sermon on worship he says that one of his heroes in the pastorate was Carlyle Marney, a well-known 20th-century Baptist figure, if you are not familiar with him. One day Marney was stunned by the sight of a sculpture depicting the return of the prodigal son to his father. The position of those two men's bodies, the expressions on their faces, showed an astonishing depth of feeling. "Such brokenness and tenderness and regret and pure welcome," is the way Steve recounts the story.

The artist was there; a young man. Marney didn't know him, but said to him, "Where did you learn such compassion?" And the young artist replied, "From sitting on the back row of your church for years."

Worship does that, doesn't it?

Randy



SS

In Person Sunday School Classes Have Resumed

At this time, we are allowing each Sunday School class to determine the best time for them to return to meeting regularly at the church.

When your Sunday School class is

ready to return to church on Sunday mornings, the teacher should send an e-mail to Bridget Ellis (bellis@fbcmemphis.org) letting us know the date you would like to return.

We'll provide you with any necessary information to ensure the return of your Sunday School class will be as safe as possible. Thank you for your patience and your dedication and prayers for our church.

TOGETHER FOR HOPE

On the Move: Together For Hope

MAY 15-AUGUST 15, 2021



First Baptist Memphis is participating in the On the Move: Together for Hope to raise awareness and money for Together for Hope (a CBF missions project that ministers to the poorest counties in the US) and to encourage all of us to MOVE

more.

This is a virtual project that began May 15 and goes through August 15. For \$30 you can sign up at <http://cbfky.org/Tchaikovsky-virtual-walk-run-swim-ride>. You will get more info (and a cool t-shirt) when you sign up. Gayla Foscue (gayla.foscue@gmail.com) will be happy to answer questions. Donations are accepted. Checks payable to First Baptist Church with “Together for Hope” on memo line.

RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

Update from the Re-opening Task Force

The reopening task force and the deacons have met and approved new guidelines regarding face masks and other procedures.

Face masks are required while entering or exiting the building as well as at anytime while moving through the building. In accordance with CDC recommendations, masks will not be required while seated in the sanctuary if you are fully vaccinated.

In the past several weeks, the ensemble performing during worship services had expanded to eight singers. Our Sanctuary and Welcome Center will continue to be sanitized each Saturday to ensure it is safe for everyone to attend services on Sunday.

The senior adult Sunday School Class returned to in-person meeting in April. Several other classes have been making plans to return to in-person meeting beginning sometime in June.

We appreciate everyone’s faithfulness and grace as we navigate through the pandemic as safely as possible.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children & Youth Summer Events

JULY & AUGUST

Our Youth meet on Wednesdays for Friends-day Wednesdays.

Kids will have Temple on Sundays at either 10 am. Keep an eye out for Kid’s Pop-Up Play Days throughout the summer.

July

July 17: Vacation Bible SWIM @Kellet’s 1-3 pm

July 18: Youth Dive-In Movie @Burton’s 7 pm

August

August 15: 6th Grade Promotion and Messy Games 5 pm

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Brant Butler** by

Jim & Mary Ann Rogers

Gayla Foscue

In memory of **Frances Ray** by

Milton Ray

In memory of **Tom Morse** by

Mark & Sally Smith

In memory of **Jim Morse** by

Mark & Sally Smith

HONORARIA

In honor of **Libby Linder** by

Jimmie Harris

In honor of **Recent Parent/Child Dedications** by

Willena Highsmith

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LETTER

Letter to the Church

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful cards and remembrances during my hospital visit. The prayers, love and inspiration helped so much. I read the cards over and over with much love and appreciation. We are so blessed to have each other through the good times.

God bless and Keep You- Anita Cobb

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your continued support of Caritas! Though the last year has been a challenge for us, support from our community partners like you has meant we are able to plan for a return to serving our Binghampton community soon. We look forward to welcoming you back into our beloved community space soon!

With gratitude,
Caritas Community Board

Dear First Baptist,

Thank you for your streaming ministry that

makes it possible for us to worship with you even though my husband pastors a church in Indiana. Since our service is 10:45 am EST, we can get home in time to watch your 11 am CST service as it is happening and we feel blessed.

First Baptist Memphis has been a special church to me since I was a little girl watching it being built and later completed. As we rode the bus to the zoo I told my mother I wanted to go to that church. Since my family did not have a car she said we could not.

Years later when my husband became a protestant chaplain at St. Francis hospital, my childhood dream came true and we joined First Baptist the first Sunday we visited.

Thank you for your ministry to us during that time when our girls were growing up until God led us to Indiana. Those years were a special time for our family. We are grateful for your ministry then and now.

Sincerely, Lydia & Robert Burton