

APRIL 2025

FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World



RIISING ON EASTER WINGS

By Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor

He's a dear friend. But the next time we talk will be the first time we've ever talked! You see, he lived four hundred years ago. But his writings have been my close companion for almost half a century. I'm talking about the pastor and poet George Herbert. I just know we're gonna like each other. Herbert wrote a famous poem called "Easter Wings." The words are spaced so that it looks like a bird in flight. And his theme is how we can ride on the wings of the rising Jesus.

In just a few words, Herbert depicts how the flight of our lives is "grounded" by the dead weight of our sins and afflictions. Jesus got "grounded" by the cross as well. But with his rising, we too can have hope of soaring again in life. "With thee let me combine, and feel this day thy victory." Joined to Jesus, we can participate in his resurrection life today. We can be grafted into Jesus, the way falconers would graft new feathers onto damaged wings of their birds. Our "wings," our hearts and lives and relationships and work, can be lifted by his rising "wings."

That's what we're after this month. Spiritually joining with Jesus in Holy Week. We want to go with him down into the shadows, dying to our old selves, being spiritually crucified with him. So that. So that we can with Easter joy, rise with Christ in his resurrection glory. Then we join in his great mission to the world.

Keep Holy Week with us this year. Palm Sunday. Holy Thursday. Easter Day. Let's rise together on Easter wings. How eager I am to be with you for this season!

Gerrit



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WEEK
WORSHIP

2 | "BEHOLD
THE LAMB!"
APRIL 17

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MISSION
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HAPPENINGS

4 | DONKEY
TALES
APRIL 6

APRIL CALENDAR

2 & 9	Mid-Week Lent Worship
4	rEcess
6	"Donkey Tales"
13	Palm Sunday
17	"Behold the Lamb!" Worship
18	Church Office Closed
20	Easter Sunday
21	Church Office Closed

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

4	Confirmation
17	Returning Hearts Celebration

IN MEMORIAM

February 28, 2025
David Hanner
Father of Katie Schellack

March 4, 2025
Al Jones
Father of John Jones

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary
flowers are given . . .

April 6 . . . to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for his gift of our
grandchildren: Wilson Russ, John
Russ, Corinne Boydston, James
Ryan Whittington, John Herbie
Boydston, Kerby Boydston and
Kate Boydston by Nan & Herb
Boydston.

April 13 . . . to the glory of God
and in memory of Kathryn Leake
Graving, James W. Leake and Dr.
and Mrs. Julius H. Mullins Sr. by
Kathy & Julius Mullins

April 20 . . . to the glory of God
and in memory of Norman
Saurage III, Maude & Norman
Saurage Sr., Alma Lee &
Norman Saurage Jr. and Flora
& Gustave Spaht by their
children, grandchildren and great
grandchildren.

April 27 Open date

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

We joyfully welcome back our annual Palm Sunday festival on April 13. The congregation will process around North Boulevard promptly at 10 am followed by a combined worship celebration in the Sanctuary. Join us for a crawfish boil after worship with fun activities for the children: egg hunt (further details below), face painting, a balloon artist and a petting zoo. Childcare will not be available during lunch. Casual dress is encouraged. Overflow parking will be available in the Old Governor’s Mansion lot on North Boulevard. Our Palm Sunday service, including the procession, will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Register for the Crawfish Boil!

To secure your plate, please register by April 4 by visiting fpcbr.org. Registering online is Step 1. After registering, physical tickets should be picked up at the Connection Center through Sunday, April 6. This ticket is necessary to get your lunch on Palm Sunday. Crawfish Plates are \$20 (crawfish, potatoes, corn, dessert, and a beverage). Hot Dog Plates are \$10 (hot dog, dessert, and a beverage).

Egg Hunt Details:

Children through 3rd grade are invited to participate in the egg hunt. Those in pre-k and younger will hunt eggs in the playground next to the Gym. Those in kindergarten through 3rd grade will hunt eggs in the Courtyard. Parents, please bring 12 plastic candy-filled eggs by Sunday, April 6 for each of your children participating in the egg hunt. Place them in the large baskets stationed at various church entrances. Eggs should be lightly taped shut. NO nuts, peanut butter or chocolate, please. The hunt begins following worship. We ask that parents assist their children by limiting their finds to 12 eggs each.

“BEHOLD THE LAMB!” APRIL 17 AT 7 PM

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Join us for this special time of worship that will trace the Golden Thread of God’s Lamb from Abraham’s altar on Mount Moriah to the banks of the Jordan river and finally to Golgotha. Through drama, imagery, music, preaching and sacrament come and be woven into the thread that runs both golden and red. It starts at 7 pm Thursday, April 17 in the Sanctuary.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Easter is a time to rejoice in the hope of Christ’s resurrection. Bring your loved ones and let us celebrate this blessed day together!

Start your day with a 6.30 am sunrise service in the Terraced Garden. Experience the beauty of the morning light as we gather outdoors to honor the hope and new beginnings Easter represents. This a peaceful way to begin your Easter journey. Stay after worship for a light breakfast in the Courtyard. No worries if it rains. We’ll gather in Dunham Chapel.

If a later start suits you better, join us at 9 am for a vibrant and joyful service filled with uplifting music and a powerful message of renewal. For those who prefer an even later option, our 11 am service promises a dynamic worship experience with inspiring music and a thought-provoking message. It’s an excellent time to come together with fellow believers and celebrate the victory of life over death.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SIERRA LEONE AND COLOMBIA

DID YOU KNOW WE'RE GOING TO SIERRA LEONE?

Join Scott Graham on a mission trip to Sierra Leone. You'll celebrate the graduation of seniors from an EduNations secondary school and visit some of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church plants. This trip offers an incredible opportunity to connect with the local community, share in the joy of academic achievement, and witness the vibrant faith of the church. We will participate in graduation ceremonies, engage in meaningful fellowship, and support the ongoing work of the church. Be part of this life-changing experience, making a difference and strengthening bonds with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sierra Leone. Trip dates are June 27 to July 7, 2025. Space is limited to 3 or 4 people and a visa and vaccinations are required. Contact Scott for more details (scott@fpcbr.org or 225.387.0617).

MAYBE COLOMBIA APPEALS TO YOU?

Come be a part of the story of what God is doing in Medellin, Colombia through the partnership of FPC and our local missionaries, Brian & Katherine Miller! This summer, July 19–24, we will send a team to work alongside the Millers as they care for young mothers and their babies who have been rescued from the streets. Along with providing physical help such as holding babies, playing with toddlers and light construction at the two ministry centers – Casa Esther and Boston House – we will also provide the rich gift of Christian fellowship. These rescued women have had much taken from them on the streets. We have the privilege of being the smiling face of Jesus, telling them that they are loved just as they are, that God has a plan for their babies and that the heart of God is only to give, not take. Our relationship as a church with this wonderful ministry has been going strong for years, and we'd love to have you help continue the legacy. Contact Darin Travis for more information at darin@fpcbr.org.

SUPPORT A NEW HOMEOWNER: HELP STOCK JAMIE PITTS' PANTRY

As a community of faith, we are called to love and serve others. One of the most powerful ways we can show our love is by supporting families as they begin new chapters in their lives. Habitat for Humanity is giving a family the keys to a new home to Jamie Pitts, and we have an opportunity to make that transition even smoother. An old-fashioned pounding is a beloved tradition where we come together to bless a new homeowner with essential items. Instead of bringing gifts, we are asking you to donate non-perishable items to help stock Jaimie's pantry. Canned goods, pasta, rice, spices, household cleansers or paper products can provide immediate help.

Let's join together and show the love of Christ through our generosity. Your donations will help the Pitts feel welcomed and cared for in their new home. Please bring your donations to the Connection Center by Palm Sunday, April 13, and let's make this an unforgettable blessing. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community!

ARE QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS RIGHT FOR YOU?

As tax season is upon us, you may want to consult with your tax advisor to see if giving appreciated stocks, or making Qualified Charitable Distributions as your pledge, is beneficial to you.



SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

APRIL 6

Proverbs 9:1–11, 1 Peter 1:13–21

APRIL 13

2 Chronicles 20:12, 15–18, 20–21

APRIL 20

Matthew 28:1–10

APRIL 27

Acts 11–11

BAPTISMS

March 16, 2025

Benjamin Wilder Zoghbi

Parents are

Bonnie Kate & Max Zoghbi

BIRTHS

March 21, 2025

Allison Alleman

Parents are Andrea and Andrew

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON

Senior Pastor

DARIN TRAVIS

Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM

Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD

Associate Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families

CONTACT INFORMATION

PH: 225.387.0617

fpcbr.org

763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and
Preschool

225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian
Counseling Center

225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com



“DONKEY TALES”

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Joyful Noise invites you to a hee-hawing good time on Sunday, April 6 at 6 pm in the Gym for a presentation of “Donkey Tales.” Lots of stories in the Bible have donkeys in them, join Tex Arkana and her friends to see how God creatively communicates with us using donkeys, but most importantly, God’s only begotten Son. A BBQ meal will be provided afterwards. It’s fun for the whole family!

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIPS

EPiC is a middle school retreat for rising 6, 7 and 8 grade students. We’ll join other churches within our denomination at Seashore Assembly in Biloxi, Mississippi on Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6, 2025.

RYM is a high school retreat that strives to serve the Church through summer conferences which are God-centered, Word-driven and Gospel-focused. Students will be encouraged and challenged by the Word of God, grow closer together as the body of Christ, and enjoy times of fun and fellowship. Dates are July 8–13, 2025.

Registration for both the RYM high school retreat and the EPiC middle school retreat are now open. Visit fpcbr.org for more information.

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REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

Vacation Bible School Jerusalem Marketplace 2025 registration is now open for campers, helpers (middle school and high school) and adult volunteers. Visit fpcbr.org to register. \$10 fee for all campers. VBS dates are June 9–12, 2025.

We will have a mandatory training day for all volunteers Saturday, May 31 from 10 to 12 pm.

