

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



Take the Walk Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

Our theme picture for *Asking Jesus* this Lent has been Liz Swindle’s beautiful painting of the walk to Emmaus. Each day as we take up a question or a request of Jesus, we’ve had this scene in the background. Would you like to walk with Jesus for a couple of hours talking about the Scriptures? I would!



Every year during Holy Week, Christ’s people try to do just that. We walk closely with him. We retell the epic events asking the Holy Spirit to make them present experiences in our lives. We want to keep watch with Jesus, to let him know our gratitude for all he did to undertake so great a salvation.

And at FPC, we literally take walks with Jesus! On **Palm Sunday** we process around North Blvd. with palm branches. The children lead us as we declare, “Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” We participate in that brief moment when the world recognized its savior. It’s been three years since we’ve been able to close North Blvd. for our procession and the big picnic that follows. To celebrate this return to a great tradition, we’re going to have a *massive crawfish boil!* Plus, of course, egg hunts, games and hot dogs for the kids and a glorious time as one church.

On **Holy Thursday**, we take another walk. From the dramatic reading of the passion, we walk from the Sanctuary to the Terraced Garden where the body of Jesus is laid in the tomb. We answer the question as we sing, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” As last year, the music will be richly layered with instruments and voices. We’ll add visuals on our stunning new screens to accompany the readings. And by all means, bring your children. This is a

significant opportunity for the drama of the passion to be imprinted on the next generation.

Holy Saturday we don’t walk. We sit. We enter silence. We ponder the meaning of this huge pause, creation’s deep breath, between cross and empty tomb. If Easter joy has become stale to you, the antidote is to push deeper into the darkness of this bleak Sabbath.

Easter Morning we make our way to the Terraced Garden at first light, rejoicing to see the stone rolled away and declaring the news at the heart of the gospel, an announcement that has been reverberating throughout the cosmos: The Lord is risen! Breakfast in the Garden follows sunrise service before two glorious festival services of worship light up our sanctuary.

Come take the walks with us! *Don’t let anything stop you or your family.* Not sports, not entertainments, not tiredness, not taxes, not doubt, not fear. There is no more important news in all of human history than what the church proclaims in Holy Week. Compared to this, nothing else matters. Let’s walk with Jesus!

Energizing Marriage Seminar. FPC will host Pete and Dee Adams leading a Created for Connection seminar for married couples, Friday evening, April 29 through Saturday afternoon April 30. Past participants describe the weekend as “enlightening, encouraging, revealing, hopeful, powerful, safe, loving and renewing.” Rhonda and I still reap the benefits from attending two years ago. Sign up at createdforconnectionbr.org. And here’s a little more incentive: for FPC church members, we will cover 50% of the cost! Just email Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpabr.org) to let us know you’re attending.

Gerrit

2 HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
DETAILS

3 WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY WORKSHOP
AND PICNIC

3 JERUSALEM
MARKETPLACE
VBS

4 KHUSA
MENTORS
NEEDED

APRIL EVENTS

Women's 40s/50s Gathering APR 7
 Congregational Meeting APR 10
 Palm Sunday Worship APR 10
 Maundy Thursday Service APR 14
 Holy Saturday Worship APR 16
 Easter Sunday APR 17
 Women's Workshop Begins APR 28
 Women's Spring Picnic APR 29
 Couples' Workshop APR 29 & 30

BIRTHS

March 11, 2022
 Claire Elaine Roe
 Grandparents are Fran & Darrell White

IN MEMORIAM

February 25, 2022
 Klaus Keil
 Father of Kathrin Sieberth

February 27, 2022
 Neal McGaugh
 Father of Mike McGaugh

March 4, 2022
 Joe Richard

March 23, 2022
 Gyp Olsen
 Father of Roxanne Struppeck

March 24, 2022
 Syed Zamin Naqvi
 Father of Rick Naqvi

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

APRIL 3 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lamar Boydston, Ms. Martha Wilbourne Nabers and Mr. Fred Foster Nabers, Jr., parents of Nan and Herb Boydston.

APRIL 10 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Linda and Wayne Barker's parents (Wayne and Helen Harvey Barker and Christine and Sam Orwin) as well as Wayne's sister, Kitty Barker.

APRIL 17 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of Norman Saurage III, Maude and Norman Saurage Sr., Alma Lee and Norman Saurage Jr., and Flora and Gustave Spaht by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

APRIL 24 . . . to the glory of God and in grateful appreciation for the ministry of Gerrit and Rhonda Dawson given by Dadie and Princeton Bardwell.

Join Us for Holy Week



Palm Sunday

We joyfully welcome back our annual Palm Sunday festival April 10. The congregation will process around North Boulevard promptly at 10 am with a combined worship service to follow. We will have Easter Egg hunts, face painting, a balloon artist and a petting zoo (oh my!) for the children. Casual dress is encouraged. Additional parking will be available in the Old Governor's Mansion lot on North Blvd. Crawfish lunch early bird special is \$15 per person or \$50 per family. After April 3 at 1 pm, the price increases to \$20 per person or \$60 per family.

Egg Hunt Details: Children's Ministry will provide Easter eggs. Please bring an Easter basket for each child. The Easter Egg hunt will take place in our Terraced Garden and is for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. Children in Kindergarten and under will hunt for eggs with their class during the worship service. Our Quest Kids (4th and 5th grade) get to help hide eggs during the service. Please contact Kendra Bremer (kendra@fpcbr.org) if your 4th or 5th grader would like to help hide eggs.

Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows



We observe the Thursday before Easter, April 14, as a sacred day, remembering Jesus initiated the sacrament of communion on that night and washed his disciples' feet, giving them the commandment to treat each other the same way. (That's why it's called Maundy Thursday from the Latin word for mandate, or command). Our service includes a very quiet communion, the dramatic retelling of the passion narrative and a visit in silence to the Garden where the entombment of the body of Jesus will be reenacted. As the stone is rolled across the tomb, we sing "Were You There?" It's a very moving moment. This also sets up the particular joy of meeting in the same place at sunrise on Easter.

Join us in the Sanctuary at 7 pm for this moving service. The service is suitable for elementary school-aged children. Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger.

The King Sleeps: A Holy Saturday Service



At the center of the gospel, sits the silence of Holy Saturday. Jesus has slipped from the world's view. His body lies sealed away in the tomb. His soul has departed to the realm of the dead. Meanwhile his disciples hide in fear. Their Lord has died. The sounds of Good Friday keep spilling into the eerie quiet of this dark Sabbath. For them, it seems the very end of the world. What is the meaning of this day? Jesus plunged farther, died deeper and was crushed finer than we can imagine on Holy Saturday.

Join us for a brief service with quiet reflection of Scripture and meditative music. April 16 at 11 am in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday



We gather around the empty tomb in the Terraced Garden April 17 for a brief sunrise service at 6.30 am followed by breakfast. We will also have two festive worship services in the Sanctuary at 9 am and 11 am. If rain, the sunrise service will meet in Dunham Chapel. Sunday school classes will meet as usual. Don't forget to bring fresh flowers to decorate our Easter cross which will be on North Blvd.

We eagerly look forward to the sweet joy of keeping Holy Week and Easter with you!

Women's Bible Study Workshop: Dwelling in God's Word

Join us for a 3-week workshop as we seek to more confidently approach and interpret the Word of God in such a way that we experience its original and intended meaning and allow it to inform and shape our lives today. We will review fundamental principles and strategies for studying the Bible and read and observe various Bible passages as we work together to uncover the structure, context, main truths and its connection to the Gospel of Christ. Our prayer is that we would be awakened to God's presence in his Holy Word and allow it to take residence in our hearts.

Thursday, April 28, Thursday, May 5 and Thursday, May 12. Each session will be held from 9.30-11.30 am in FPC Room 202.

Childcare is available by request only.

Women's 40s/50s Social

Women's Ministry is kicking off April with a 40s/50s social (but all ages are welcome!) hosted by Jessica Saffell, April 7 at 6.30 pm. Bring your favorite appetizer and a friend and join the ladies in fellowship! No need to register. Just show up at Jessica's home (7622 Lanes End, 70810).

Calling All Campers to Lake Forest Ranch

Kingdom Kids children ages 7-12 are invited to join us as we head to Macon, Mississippi for camp at Lake Forest Ranch. LFR's mission is building relationships for eternal impact. Your camper will experience life-changing messages, uplifting worship, arts and crafts and high energy recreation such as ropes courses, archery, swimming and gaga ball—all while forming lasting friendships with their fellow campers. Camp dates are July 17-21 and is \$399 per camper. Please register by June 30. For more information, please contact Karah Guillory (karah@fpcbr.org).

Jerusalem Marketplace VBS

Jerusalem Marketplace VBS is a unique Bible immersion, living history experience for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. Come hear Bible stories from a seasoned storyteller, learn to make amazing crafts as apprentices of master craftsmen, interact with the kinds of people Jesus did when he walked the streets of Jerusalem. There is incentive to register sooner rather than later as space is limited and registration closes June 16. There is no charge for VBS. Bring a friend! Visit fpcbr.org/vbs for details and to register. VBS dates: June 20-24.

Congregational Meeting April 10

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, April 10 during morning worship. The purpose of the meeting is . . . 1) to ask Gulf South Presbytery to dissolve the call of the Rev. Jim Solomon and 2) to elect the following as the search committee for the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer: Kyle Beall, chair; Pat Canfield; Melissa Fabr ; Blake Fowler; Judy McGimsey.



Refresh & Delight in Isaiah 55: Women's Spring Picnic

Come be delighted and refreshed at the Women's Ministry annual Spring Picnic, hosted by Kathleen Pourciau on Friday, April 29 11 am-1 pm. All women of the church and their guests are welcome! Come and delight in fellowship, devotion and a delicious lunch. The cost is \$10 per person. Further details and registration online at fpcbr.org or at the Connection Center. Childcare will not be available.

APRIL SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

APRIL 3, 2022

Luke 22: 31-34

7.45, 9 and 11 am Worship

APRIL 10, 2022

Luke 19: 1-10

Palm Sunday: 10 am Worship

APRIL 17, 2022

Luke 24: 13-27

Easter: 6.30, 9 and 11 am Worship

APRIL 24, 2022

Acts 9: 1-9

7.45, 9 and 11 am Worship

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON

Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER

Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS

Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS

Associate Pastor for Discipleship



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763 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool

225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center

225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com

KHUSA Needs Mentors!

Thank you First Presbyterian Church Kids Hope USA Mentors and Prayer Partners for bringing hope, smiles, encouragement and prayers to over 22 children at Gardere Community Christian School! A 1st grade teacher shared, "I've seen such a wonderful difference in the children who have a Kids Hope USA mentor. My prayer and goal for next year is to have a mentor for each one of my students."

We need more mentors! As the KHUSA Director, one of my biggest challenges is to answer a child's question "How do I get a mentor?" Contact Annette Lamond (annette@fpibr.org).



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Called to Full-Time Ministry?

The Session Income Allocation Committee accepts applications for scholarship funds to attend seminary. Persons eager to prepare to serve Christ's church as pastors, counselors and chaplains may inquire by contacting Jaci (jaci@fpibr.org). Applications are due by noon April 19.

Ukrainian Refugee Assistance

The session has made a \$10,000 contribution to the EPC International Disaster Relief Fund. Our denomination will get the money to vetted pastors and churches in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary who are assisting refugees from the Ukraine. Visit epc.org to find out how you can join us!

College Scholarships

The FPC Women's Ministry College Scholarship Fund is a unique fund established in 1955 for all students who wish to further their education. Its purpose is to offer financial assistance to church members who anticipate having difficulty meeting the obligations of continued education. The administration of the fund is the responsibility of the Memorial Scholarship Committee and honors particular need-based guidelines. Rather than academic achievements, aid is intended to be a helpful supplement in the student's pursuit of higher education. The annual value of an individual grant varies between \$400 and \$600. The application deadline is June 1, 2022. Applications are available by contacting Jaci Gaspard (jaci@fpibr.org) or online at fpibr.org.