



## Restoring Your Soul Through Psalms by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

This wretched distancing goes on! Yet so does the need to connect to others. And to God. Our hearts are still made to be in communion. So how do we stay connected in isolation? This month we begin a series of interlocking ways to encounter Christ through the Psalms. I'd like to tell you about it in advance of a mailing you'll receive next week.

For 3,000 years, the LORD's people have climbed the stairways of words that are the Psalms. By making these prayers their own prayers, they have ascended through psalms straight into God's presence. The Psalms were the very prayer book of Jesus himself. We find Christ's heart for his Father when we pray psalms in communion with Jesus. We get drawn close to each other when we pray psalms together and for one another. We even find words to pray for our enemies when we pray psalms on behalf of those hostile to us! Psalms express our souls; they also transform our souls, taking us deeper than we could ever go on our own.



This fall, for 100 days, we're going to hone in on the Psalms. Spiritual riches beyond price reside in these songs. So I'll be inviting you to engage these psalms in a variety of practices. Next week, you'll receive in the actual mail a beautiful bookmark with the schedule of psalms we are studying and five ways—one for each week day—we can pray the psalms with different people in mind. Beginning August 10, each Monday you'll

receive by email a three-minute video introducing the psalm of the week, and then, the following Sunday we'll use that psalm in worship. And, very exciting to me, for three Sunday evenings at 5 pm, we'll be launching by livestream special presentations introducing these psalms. Guest speakers include one of my spiritual heroes, Malcolm Guite from Cambridge, and one of Darin's heroes, Mark Futato from Reformed Theological Seminary. We're hoping those of you with big TVs and spacious seating areas will host watch parties. And consider joining a *Shepherding Through the Psalms* group to encourage one another. These groups will consist of 3-6 friends who will weekly connect with each other via a text, phone call, lunch or coffee—whatever works best for you. Spur one another on by discussing what you're learning from the psalm of the week, how the prayer rhythms are going, and how to intentionally pray for each other. For more information visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org). To sign up as a group shepherd or member, email Kelly Wood ([kelly@fpcbr.org](mailto:kelly@fpcbr.org)).

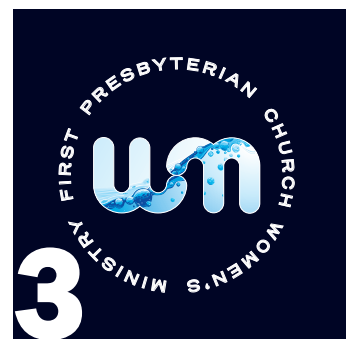
### Global Mission Conference

I'm so pleased that our speaker this year is Rev. Brian Miller. Brian and his wife Katherine work with sex trafficked girls in Medellin, Colombia. He is a passionate and eloquent speaker. More info. on page 2.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"Faith at Five" Psalms Lesson	AUG. 9
International Prayer Walk	AUG. 15
Nursery During Worship Resumes	AUG. 16
"Faith at Five" Psalms Lesson	AUG. 16
"Faith at Five" Psalms Lesson	AUG. 23
Global Mission Conference	AUG. 29-30
Youth Parents' Meeting	AUG. 30

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Ministry Fall Study Begins	SEPT. 2-3
Confirmation Class Begins	SEPT. 13
"Live" Sunday School Resumes	SEPT. 13
Circles Resume	

### BIRTHS:

July 23, 2020  
 Evelyn Louise Dawson  
 Parents are Ashley and Jacob Dawson  
 Grandparents are Rhonda and Gerrit Dawson

### IN MEMORIAM:

July 12, 2020  
 Rosa Huff

July 14, 2020  
 Emile Pourciau

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are placed . . .

AUGUST 2 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sara & Wylie Barrow by Madeline & Harry Barrow, Wylie Barrow, Jr., Ann & Grant Conway and Angelique & Gray Barrow.

AUGUST 9 . . . OPEN DATE

AUGUST 16 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley, by David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

AUGUST 23 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips

AUGUST 30 . . . OPEN DATE

If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 291.3095.

## Global Mission Conference 2020 by Steve Tubré

Putting together this year's Global Mission Conference on August 29-30 has been challenging, but we keep moving forward nonetheless. It'll be a little different this time, but everybody is invited and you don't even have to get out of your pj's to join in! Sessions this year can be attended in the Sanctuary, with appropriate social distancing and masks of course, or viewed on YouTube and Facebook . . . and, our guest speaker Brian Miller of Transformation Ministries in Colombia, S. A. will be streaming live.



**Saturday** 9.30-10.30 am Session #1 Brian Miller  
 10.30-10.45 am Break  
 11-11.45 am Session #2 MacGregor Magruder  
 11.45-12.15 Q&A for Brian and MacGregor  
 Questions may be submitted via [missions@fpcb.org](mailto:missions@fpcb.org) or Facebook

**Sunday** 10.30 am Brian Miller will be preaching

This conference is a unique opportunity to see God's faithfulness across the globe from the perspective of our field missionaries with a particular emphasis on Latin America and Malaysia. Please join us the last weekend of this month for a brief mission experience and be blessed to hear of his works in far off lands.

**You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth (Acts 1: 8).**

## Children's Ministry Update by Darin Travis, Interim Children's Ministry Director



If your kids are like mine, they enjoy watching church from home, but they are eager to be back with friends on Sunday mornings. We know it's been a long season apart and the following is our current plan to come back together in-person.

We will begin childcare for the little ones (birth through Kindergarten) in the So Loved hall on August 16. More information will come in the next few weeks with the particulars, but we will strive to provide a safe environment by following local and national recommendations.

We are planning to launch children's ministry for Kingdom Kids (1st through 5th graders) on September 13. By launching this ministry after Labor Day, we will be able to assess how school openings have been going and what the state of the virus is here locally.

Like you, we want to strive to keep our kids safe, to return to some normalcy, and most of all, to walk by faith in God as our ultimate provider for safety, health and peace. We are excited for all that God has in store for our children in the coming year! By the way, Sunday school for older kids (confirmation through high school) and for adults will launch on September 13 as well.

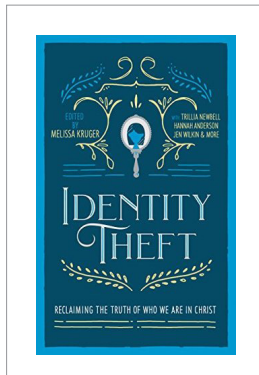
Please pray with me that our children walk deeply with the Lord during these uncertain times, and also please ask God to provide his perfect fit for a new Children's Ministry Director. I am happily serving as the interim director (along with Kelly Wood as Discipleship Facilitator) and have full confidence in our boots-on-the-ground ministry coordinators Karah Guillory, Kendra Bremer and Rebecca Dees. We believe God has just the right person to give focused leadership to the overall children's ministry. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer that our church might glorify God!

News from Women's Ministry by Jaime Carnaggio, Director, Women's Ministry

**Women's Ministry Circles**

The Women's Ministry Circle book for 2020-21 is *Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We Are In Christ*. Who am I? It's a question we all ask ourselves at some point. Depending on the season, we focus our identity on our job performance, marital status, personality type, or social network, among other options. However, there's a larger question to consider. Who am I in Christ?

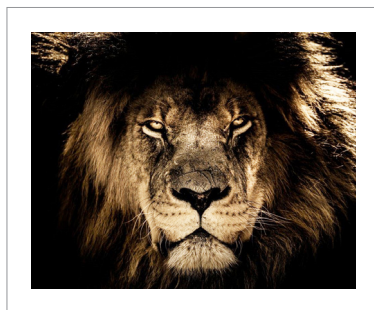
A group of insightful, diverse authors including Jen Wilkin, Melissa Kruger, Trillia Newbell, Hannah Anderson, Jasmine Holmes, Jen Pollock Michel, and more, share their wisdom and perspective to help us answer these questions by: exposing our false notions of identity; understanding the biblical truth of our identity in Christ; and reflecting on what it looks like to live in our new (and true) identity. They point out the subtle and significant ways our true identity can be lost . . . and found. In ten chapters we'll cover everything from our identity as children of God to citizens of heaven.



Join us as we explore how knowing who we are in Christ changes every aspect of our lives. Circles kick off in September and there are multiple options (in-person and virtual). Contact Jaime ([jaime@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaime@fpcbr.org)) for the 2020-21 Circle Schedule.

**Women's Ministry Fall Bible Study: Daniel**

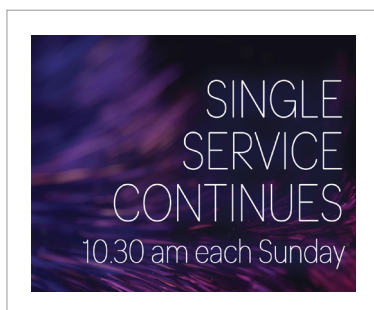
We feel displaced. We feel confused and concerned. Thousands of years ago, another believer felt this way. Daniel, whose name means "God is my judge," fought to balance his loyal service to Babylon with his ultimate obedience to God. Through his apocalyptic visions, Daniel reveals that in spite of present circumstances that make it appear as if evil is winning, God is in control and will ultimately be victorious. He is sovereign over the course of history, even over those who rebel against him and seek to destroy his people. He is aware of the suffering of his people and will bring their trials to an end on the day when he reestablishes his kingdom. All of the kingdoms of this world will come to an end and will be replaced by the Lord's kingdom, which will never pass away.



Fall Bible Study Kicks Off September 2-3:  
 Wednesdays @ 6.30 pm (Virtual)  
 Thursdays @ 9.30 am (Chapel)

**Single Service Continues!**

We're going to continue having one 10.30 am "live" service through at least September 6. With COVID concerns, leadership feels this gives us the safest, most energetic and unifying way to conduct worship. Live Sunday school will not resume until September 13. However, beginning August 16, nursery care for infants through kindergarten will be available for those who sign up! Visit [fpcbr.org/soloved](http://fpcbr.org/soloved) to make a reservation.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

10.30 am Sanctuary worship.  
 Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.

**AUGUST SERMON TEXTS**

Texts are subject to change.

AUGUST 2, 2020  
 Isaiah 60: 1-3; 14-17

AUGUST 9 2020  
 Jeremiah 29: 4-7; Isaiah. 60: 18-20

AUGUST 16, 2020  
 Psalm 23

AUGUST 23, 2020  
 Psalm 20

August 30, 2020  
 Mission Sunday  
 Scripture to be determined

**PASTORAL STAFF**

GERRIT DAWSON  
 Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
 Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
 Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON  
 Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS  
 Director of Discipleship,  
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Mother's Day Out and Preschool  
 225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center  
 225.387.2287  
[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)

**But God . . .** by Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions

God called Jonah to go to Nineveh. But what does Jonah do? Does he respond, “Yep, I’m going that way!” No, in fact, he goes to Joppa where he hopes to catch a ship going to Tarshish instead of going inland to preach the gospel. Scripture says, “He is fleeing from the presence of God.”

Have you ever heard God calling you to do something but you hesitated? The world will always have a ship ready to take you anywhere you want to go. Jonah was doomed in his disobedience and you always have to pay in full to ride a ship of the world. It costs a lot to not do the will of God. Jonah was disciplined for his disobedience, yet we still have a tendency to think that we can run away from God. God’s Word tells us that we cannot hide. God is calling you and me on a journey. There is a journey that leads to Nineveh and a journey that leads to Tarshish. In what direction are you headed? Are you going toward the presence of the Lord or are you going to make an excuse, “But God . . .”

This fall, we have the opportunity to serve the Lord here in Baton Rouge at Gardere Community Christian School as a mentor with Kid’s Hope or at Buchanan School as a Reading Buddy. The list is endless how we can serve the Lord. Just do it!

**Buchanan Volunteer Coordinator: Laura Shaw ([laura@fpabr.org](mailto:laura@fpabr.org)).**  
**Kids Hope USA Director: Annette Lamond ([annette@fpabr.org](mailto:annette@fpabr.org)).**

**Restoring,** *cont. from page 1*

**LSU Prayer Walk**

Saturday morning, August 15 at 8.15 am we will meet at the LSU Student Union to spend an hour walking the campus and praying for our university. In particular we will pray for our international students. Prayer walking is safe, fun, discrete and powerful. Full instructions will be given. Come casual.

*Gent*

