

# FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



## SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER

**By Gerrit Dawson**  
Senior Pastor



And just like that lazy days of summer are gone and a new school year arrives. It's the very definition of the word "oxymoron" to talk about the fall programs beginning in the suffocating heat of August. But it's true! Everything is cranking up.

Here's a preview. This Sunday, August 4, will be our final single service. As worship concludes, we'll be celebrating the ministry of Barry Phillips with a festive reception.

August 11, we return to our usual three services. That's a good time to check out a service you don't normally go to. I encourage us to all be "multi-lingual" in our worship expressions. I'll be starting our fall series on Revelation. I've never preached through the entire book before. I'm eager to engage this premier worship book with you.

Adult and children's Sunday school also resume on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to make a commitment to deepen your discipleship by joining a class. Our teachers are passionate and engaging.

Opportunities to serve are also coming up. Did you know our programs require over 500 hours of child care each month? We could really use more loving volunteers of many generations to give a few hours a month looking after our little ones. Soon, we begin mentoring at Gardere Community

Christian School through our Kids Hope USA program. You can also get involved in encouraging a teacher or reading to students at McKinley Elementary.

Looking ahead, we have a great opportunity to grow close together by sweating together! Beginning September 5, we will be constructing our 8<sup>th</sup> Habitat House! All kinds of volunteers are needed from skilled builders to snack providers, from earnest pray-ers to grunt workers at my skill level! It's a great feeling to work with a new homeowner in creating a house.

As ever, know that I love being your pastor and I'm eager to share in life and ministry with you this fall.

### WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE UPDATES

Our last summer combined 10.30 am service is Sunday, August 4. On August 11, we resume our regular schedule of 7.45, 9 and 11 am. All Sunday school classes resume on August 11.

On Sunday, September 1, we come together for one 10.30 am worship service in the Sanctuary.

**2** : OUR 8TH HABITAT BUILD!

**3** : WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**4** : CHILDREN'S & YOUTH NEWS

**5** : SEE YA LATER ALLIGATOR!

**6** : HAPPY RETIREMENT, CAROL

**AUGUST CALENDAR**

- AUG 4 Last Combined 10.30 Service
- AUG 11 Regular Worship Times Resume
- AUG 11 S.S. Moving Up Sunday
- AUG 16 Confirmation Lock-In
- AUG 17 LSU Prayer Walk
- AUG 18 Youth Parents' Meeting
- AUG 23 Barnyard Bash
- AUG 25 Discover First Dinner
- AUG 26 Women's Fall Study Begins

**IN MEMORIAM**

July 24, 2024  
 Emily Head, mother of Lisa Head  
 Virgie Ann Dyess, mother of Darrell Dyess

July 22, 2024  
 Barbara Rhame, mother of Paula Begnaud

**BIRTHS**

July 6, 2024  
 Eli Foster Zak  
 Parents are Claire & Thomas

July 8, 2024  
 Amelia Lee Rodeheaver  
 Parents are Brennan & Mitchell

July 14, 2024  
 Robert Thomas Davis Jr.  
 Parents are Mary & Robert

July 27, 2024  
 Thomas Michael Croskrey  
 Parents are Maegan & Daniel

**BAPTISMS**

June 16, 2024  
 Harrison Crawford Comeaux  
 Parents are Brittany and Jamy

Collier Scott Milton  
 Parents are Laura and Matt

Oliver James Smith  
 Parents are Elizabeth and Adrian

Isla Wren Swarner  
 Parents are Elizabeth and Jeff

**LET'S BUILD A HOME FOR JAMIE PITTS!**

On Thursday, September 5 at 7.30 am, First Presbyterian Church will begin work on its eighth Habitat for Humanity home. This is a major commitment for our church, and we hope you will join us on this important City Ministry project!

This year's Habitat Build homeowner is Jamie Pitts. Jamie is a single mother with two children: 10-year-old son Kevin, and 4-year-old daughter Riley.

Jamie is so thankful to First Presbyterian Church for making this dream a reality and cannot wait to work beside everyone on the construction site building her very own home.

Jamie is experiencing major issues currently living through the Housing Authority in Scotlandville. Not only is the area unsafe for her and her children (they can't play outside), but the unit in which they live is not in good shape. Jamie came to Habitat for help to create a better life for herself and her children. She is doing everything in her power to give them a better, more fulfilling life, including working two jobs.

Who can help? Everyone! Although building skills are welcome, no experience is necessary! The Habitat staff is skilled and patient in training volunteers for tasks. Youth must be 16 years or older to work on site.

How to sign up? Visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) to choose a build day that works with your schedule.

Can you help with support? Yes! We will need approximately 20 lunches per build day and hospitality volunteers on site to help serve beverages and food. Contact Emily Viguerie to help ([emily@fpcbr.org](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)).

Even if you cannot help with the build, consider joining us for Jamie's house dedication on Saturday, September 28 at 2.30 pm.

**BUILD DETAILS**

When: Thursday/Friday/Saturday, September 5-7, 12-14, and 26-28

Where: 1874 Fountain Avenue, Baton Rouge, 70810 (Gardere area)

What Time: 7.30 am-3 pm

Please come join us this year!



**AUGUST CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

AUGUST 4 Open date.

AUGUST 11 . . . With praise and thanksgiving to God, we celebrate 50 years of marriage on August 10 again in this church where our vows were first spoken by Kathy & Julius Mullins.

AUGUST 18 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy, and Catherine Pugsley.

AUGUST 25 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips & N. LaRon Phillips.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOMEN'S MINISTRY?

AUGUST

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**THE LIFE  
OF JOSEPH:  
DREAMER.  
DELIVERER.**

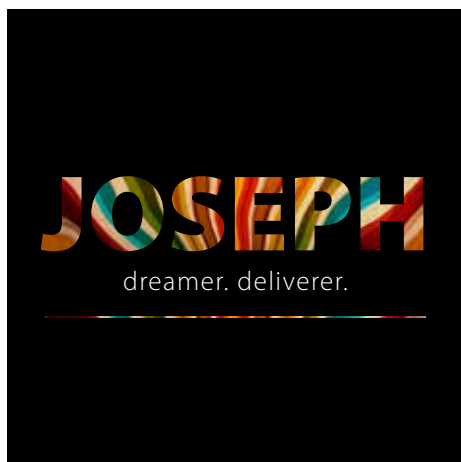
**Genesis 37-50**

The story of Joseph has a prominent place in the Bible's opening book of Genesis. After a beloved son is

betrayed by his resentful brothers, he endures years of slavery, false accusations and wrongful imprisonment. At every turn, Joseph's faith is tested. But as the story unfolds, we see how God brings glory through suffering, exaltation through humiliation and deliverance through forgiveness.

Join Women's Ministry this fall as we journey through Genesis 37-50 uncovering how Joseph's life richly contributes to the story line of Scripture and ultimately foreshadows our greater Deliverer, Jesus Christ. May we marvel at the wonder of God's sovereignty as he keeps his covenant promises through a rejected but royal seed and providentially works all things for his good purposes.

1. Tuesdays @ 7.15 am in the FPC Library
2. Wednesdays @ 6 pm @ the home of Suzie Thompson (13 Stones Throw) \*Study will be from 6.30-7.30 pm with time before and after for fellowship and prayer.
3. Thursdays @ 9.30 am in FPC Room 202  
\*Childcare is offered each week in the Sanctuary Basement (1st Grade Classroom). Please email Jaime ([jaime@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaime@fpcbr.org)) by noon on Wednesday if you need childcare. \*This study will be recorded and shared online.



**circles resume in**

sept.

**REJOICE AND TREMBLE**  
2024 Women's  
Circle Focus

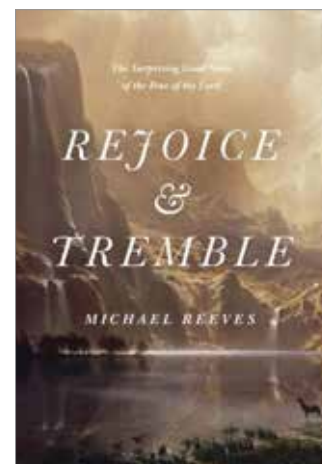


Fear. It's one of the strongest, most unwelcomed human emotions. But we all feel it in some form or another. It's an

inescapable concept. It's not whether we fear, but what, or whom, we fear. But Scripture teaches us not to fear the world, but the Lord alone. So what does a "fear of the Lord" look like and how does it direct our everyday lives?

In *Rejoice and Tremble*, Michael Reeves differentiates a sinful fear of the Lord with a godly one. A good, godly fear of the Lord is a familial fear; one that is utterly safe, one that moves us to awestruck reverence, one full of wondrous and trembling delight in our Creator and Redeemer. Turns out, a good, godly fear of the Lord is surprising, good news for us!

Join a Women's Ministry Circle this year as we come to fear God not as slaves, but as his beloved daughters. Email [jaime@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaime@fpcbr.org) for more information. Circles resume in September. Stay tuned for a full list of Circle days and times.



THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 19 | 6-8.30 PM

**LADIES' NIGHT OF TESTIMONY & FELLOWSHIP**

What is your testimony? That's a loaded question, and somewhat difficult (or intimidating) to answer. We often connect our "testimony" to how we first came to faith in Christ. But many of us can't pinpoint that exact moment. It's more of a gradual awareness of our belonging to him. The truth is, your testimony is the entire journey of your faith as a whole, from cradle to grave; how he's shaped you, convicted you, opened your eyes to his goodness and grace, and continues to grow you closer to him. These are stories we should be sharing with each other! Join Women's Ministry this fall for our Testimony & Fellowship Night as some of our beloved sisters-in-Christ share the ways the Lord has worked personally and powerfully in their lives. Registration is online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) and is \$15 per person.





**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

**AUGUST**

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION**

Sunday school promotion is August 11. After checking in on the computers, head to the Sunday school classroom of the grade you are entering this new school year! Reminder: All rising first graders will report to the Kingdom Kids hallway in the basement of the Sanctuary building.

**CONFIRMATION MEETING**

All rising 6th-grade students and parents are invited to a Confirmation meeting with Gerrit and the Confirmation Team Sunday, August 11 at 10.10 am in the Sanctuary Basement.

**AUGUST**

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**CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN**

First Presbyterian 6th-grade students spend the year of Sunday school in Confirmation. This is the class that prepares students for means to have a personal relationship with Christ.

All Confirmation students (rising 6th-graders) are required to attend the kickoff lock-in on Friday, August 16. Drop off is at 6 pm in the Gym. Parents may pick up their kids at 8 am on Saturday, August 17. Be sure to bring a pillow and sleeping bag.

**AUGUST**

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**YOUTH PARENTS' MEETING**

Drop off your kids at Sunday school then join the Youth Ministry team in Dunham Chapel at 10.10 am. You'll hear plans for the upcoming school year and get dates for 2025 summer trips and retreats.

**AUGUST**

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**BARNYARD BASH**

Childhood Ministry invites families with children in 5th grade and younger to a fun night of lawn games, Western dancing, and BBQ. We'll even have a mother/son and father/daughter dance time. Western attire is encouraged. Siblings older than 5th grade are welcome! \$10 per family.

Please RSVP at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org) by Sunday, August 18.

**SEPTEMBER**

8

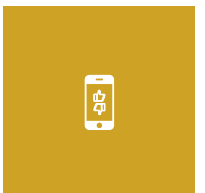
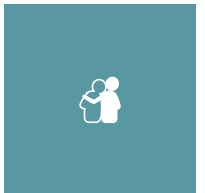
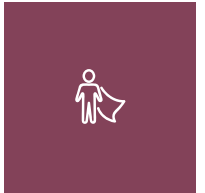
**TRAIN UP! PARENTING BY GOD'S DESIGN**

When should my child get a cell phone? How can our family have a devotion time without feeling like it's more homework? Should every child get a trophy? My child ran across questionable books/media. Now what do I do? If children don't have social media, won't they be left out? How do I wisely watch over my child without being a helicopter parent? How can I parent confidently when it seems like I'm fighting a losing battle in today's culture?

You probably have plenty more questions. That's good! Bring them to our "Train Up" limited series for parents (and grandparents!) beginning September 8 at 10.10 am in Dunham Chapel.

Topics will be presented by various speakers, and parents will have an opportunity to ask questions. As the body of Christ, we can learn from one another as we "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

- September 8    Serving as a Role Model
- September 15    Standing Firm in Parenting Convictions
- September 22    Fostering Empathy
- September 29    Break for Gerrit's Annual Communion Class
- October 6    When and When Not to Helicopter
- October 13    Social Media Smarts
- October 20    Spiritual Leadership



**SEE YA LATER ALLIGATOR!** Celebrating Barry on August 4

Join us in celebrating years of achievement as we wish a happy retirement to our dear Ministry Executive, Barry Phillips. We are hosting a reception with some of Barry's favorite sips and sweets following the single service on August 4.

**LSU PRAYER WALK** | AUGUST 17

Let our love and passion for Christ mobilize us to intercede for the unreached international and American students at LSU and in our city. Join us to walk and pray by 2s and 3s across the LSU campus. Prayer guides will be available. Meet under the shady oaks on the Parade Ground at 8.15 am on August 17. Parking is usually available directly in front of the Union or in the parking lot behind Barnes & Noble across from the Union. Contact Steve Tubré if you have questions ([tubresteve@gmail.com](mailto:tubresteve@gmail.com)).

**DISCOVER FIRST DINNER** | AUGUST 25

Senior pastor Gerrit Dawson hosts a Discover First Dinner several times a year. This is an opportunity for you, in a smaller setting, to learn more about how you can be part of our mission and ministry. Our next Discover First Dinner is Sunday, August 25 at 4 pm. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Emily Viguerie ([emily@fpabr.org](mailto:emily@fpabr.org) or 225.333.9084).

**COMING SOON . . . FAMILY NIGHTS AT FIRST!**

Sunday nights this fall, FPC will be a great place for the whole family to gather. Between adult community groups, middle and high school youth groups, children's choir and other childcare options for the younger set, there's something for everyone to enjoy. More details coming soon!

**KIDS HOPE USA NEEDS MENTORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Gardere Community Christian School has grown to 170 students this school year! To serve in this growth, Kids Hope USA is seeking more mentors and volunteers to help build caring relationships in sharing the love of Christ for these children and the impact that has on the community. Look for a special our video during worship on Sunday August 18. Interested in being a mentor? Contact Annette Lamond ([annette@fpabr.org](mailto:annette@fpabr.org)).

**LOVE BOOKS?**

The church Library is seeking an experienced volunteer librarian to routinely sort and refile borrowed books. Please contact Kelly Wood to learn more ([kelly@fpabr.org](mailto:kelly@fpabr.org)).

**STRONGHEART: A NEW BOOK BY JILL GARNER**

Parenting. It's one of the most important endeavors in our lives. And there's no shortage of advice on how to raise kids. But amidst the chatter of competing voices, how do we sort the folly from the wisdom? *StrongHeart* cuts through modern parenting myths and trends to deliver timeless Truth about what it really takes to raise the next generation to become all God intends them to be.

Jill Garner focuses on the education of the heart as she shows parents how to: champion self-respect rather than self-esteem, replace happiness with deep, lasting joy, instill a heart of gratitude that stifles innate selfishness, engrave others-centeredness on kids' hearts. This book enables us to see beneath the surface of our children's struggles to the heart attitudes that determine kids' thoughts and actions. This is an essential resource for parents, grandparents, and anyone who has a heart for cultivating strong hearts in children. Visit the Connection Center to purchase a copy.

**AUGUST SERMON TEXTS**

*Texts are subject to change.*

AUGUST 4

Psalm 139:7-12; Isaiah 43:1, 2  
4-5; Luke 8:1-2; John 19:24;  
John 20:1, 11-16

AUGUST 11

Revelation 1:1-8

AUGUST 18

Revelation 1:9-20

AUGUST 25

Revelation 2:1-7

**PASTORAL STAFF**

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS  
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM  
Associate Pastor for  
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD  
Assistant Pastor of Children,  
Youth and Families



225.387.0617  
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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](http://brchristiancounseling.com)

## **FAREWELL, CAROL!**

After 25 faithful years serving as its bookkeeper, First Presbyterian Church wishes Carol Pruitt a heartfelt, "Happy Retirement!" Carol has devoted herself to the members of this church with efficiency, discretion, loyalty and loads of humor. This is not a goodbye to Carol but a thank you for the camaraderie, the mentoring and the endless support. Her contribution to this congregation would not have been the same without her dynamic personality and innovative spirit.

Carol looks forward to more time with family, specifically her grandbabies, and more fishing with her husband, Jason. We so appreciate her and will miss her.

