



## A Shared Heartbeat for Worship and Ministry by Stephen Newman, Worship Director

It's hard to believe that we have been here at First Presbyterian for almost three months. What a blessing it has been to step into this new and exciting role. You have all been so gracious to Lisa and me. We quickly experienced the love and family of First Presbyterian on so many levels. We have embraced the staff, worship ministry team and congregation to the point where we feel like we are already a part of this amazing church family.

My faith journey began while attending a Christian youth church camp in Hawaii. Even though I grew up in a pastor's home, it wasn't until my teen years that I placed my faith in Christ. Those early years as a follower of Christ were forming as God was preparing me for something bigger than myself and something that I would embrace with my entire being.

My story as a Director of Worship began while I was attending college in Oklahoma. Sitting on my dorm room bed during my devotional time, God impressed upon me his purpose for my life. It was one of the most real expe-

riences I have ever been a part of. My commitment to serve Christ faithfully in the ministry of music and worship began that day and continues to this day. The passion and pursuit to be a true worshiper who worships in spirit and in truth is the heartbeat of my ministry and my life. The desire to share that passion with the local church is who God designed me to be.

I am so excited to be in a church that shares the same heartbeat for worship and ministry.

Thank you for being who you are in Christ to reach the city of Baton Rouge and beyond. We so look forward to getting to know each of you personally. A special thank you to the search committee and staff team for being an integral part of this journey and process. May God be glorified in all things. To God be the glory and honor.

*Stephen M. Newman*



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Father's Day June 16  
 Women's Ministry Summer Study June 19  
 Vacation Bible School June 24-27

UPCOMING JULY EVENTS  
 Independence Day July 4

Combined 10.30 am Worship Each Sunday in July.

Sunday Evening Prayer Meetings resume in August.

**BIRTHS:**  
 May 1, 2019  
 Lydia Gail Bailey  
 Parents are Melinda and Rich Bailey

**BAPTISMS:**  
 May 19, 2019  
 Jacob Lee Castle  
 Parents are Kate and Ryan Castle

Jude Henry LeBlanc  
 Parents are Eryn and Paul LeBlanc

Sutton Lynn Valluzzo  
 Parents are Rebecca and Nick Valluzzo

**MARRIAGES:**  
 May 4, 2019  
 Whitney Mills to Chad Brady  
 Andrew Alexander to Kara Bethard

May 11, 2019  
 Eleanor Stone to Harrison Howell

May 14, 2019  
 Brandli Roberts to Roger Greer

**IN MEMORIAM:**  
 May 2, 2019  
 Steve Couvillion  
 Father of Wendi Couvillion French

May 13, 2019  
 Eloise Sheffield

May 25, 2019  
 Jessie Gray

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:**  
 The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of . . .

JUNE 2 . . . Sue and Bill Edrington and Mary and Emmett Edrington by Susie and Buzzy Heroman, Leah and Billy Edrington and Lynn and Mark Edwards.

JUNE 9 . . . John W. Wheeler by his family.

JUNE 16 . . . Jack H. Field by Sharon, David, Stephanie, Sydney and Estin Field.

JUNE 23 . . . Open date.

JUNE 30 . . . our parents, Joachim and Dorothy Aubert, and Pete and Emma Ramos by Fe' and Murphy Aubert.

## Living Dangerously Tired by Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions

Henri Nouwen, author of 39 books on the spiritual life, shares, "We aren't rest-filled people who occasionally become restless: we're restless people who sometimes find rest."

Over the past four years, I've learned to identify and name my dangerous levels of exhaustion, and the choice to begin attending Transforming Community Retreats in Chicago has begun to slowly replenish my heart and soul. Two years into these transforming retreats, my Aunt Helen had a stroke and died soon thereafter in May 2017. During that month, I traveled to be with her on ten occasions sitting and praying before she went home to Jesus. While caring for my family and others that month, I did not realize I was on the brink of disaster. On the morning of May 31, 2017, I was driving to New Orleans one more time, to prepare and counsel three couples for marriage and fell asleep at the wheel of my automobile for a moment. The rest is history.

"There are at least two kinds of tired we might experience—good tired and dangerous tired. The differences between the two are important because the remedy for each one is different. Good tired is the poured out feeling we experience after a job well done or an unusually intense season of activity. Remedies for that include a good night's sleep, our normal Sabbath, a weekend off, or even a vacation. But the condition of being dangerously tired is not simply the result of an intense run of activity or even a crisis, as demanding as these may be. Dangerous levels of exhaustion usually accumulate over a longer period of time in which we are consistently living beyond human limits, functioning outside our gifted-

ness, or not paying attention to the sources of our exhaustion." *Invitation to Retreat: the Gift and Necessity of Time Away with God* by Ruth Haley Barton, p 24.

When we are dangerously tired, we are unable to be our best selves. We find it difficult to make wise and discerning decisions. My body began to break down under the stress and strain of doing too much. I have learned that exhaustion from juggling so many balls so much of the time is not going to be touched by shorter times spent in solitude. When I arrive on Transforming Community Retreats every quarter, I am so grateful for rest. I literally fall down onto my bed closing my eyes for as long as possible to renew my strength.

If we are honest, many of us have given up hope that we will ever be rested. My life felt out of control and I chose to walk through it exhausted. I was convinced that being rested was not an option. But God's invitation to go on retreat four year ago and be in his presence began a deep healing that was greatly needed. If you are struggling with living dangerously tired, please let go of all the striving for productivity and believe that in the resting you are accepting Jesus' invitation to all his busy disciples.

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## Set in Stone: A Study of God's Character and His Timeless Commands for His People

Women's Ministry is excited to take a deep dive into the Ten Commandments this summer. So much of what we say is flexible; it isn't set in stone. Well the Ten Commandments are literally set in stone! Are the commands even relevant for us now? What if they are? They show us beautifully how Jesus fulfilled them perfectly when we cannot. This study will highlight the incredible grace God shows to us in Christ and we are all about hearing that message! Come to Dunham Chapel at First Presbyterian each Wednesday from June 19 to July 24 at 6.30 pm (excluding July 4). Bring a friend or two!



Introducing Our New Youth Staff Members by Paula Walker, Youth Director

I am very excited to introduce our Assistant Youth Directors. Jessica Saffell and Noah Pourciau will begin working at FPC immediately along with our summer youth interns!

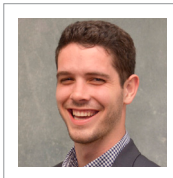
Jessica Saffell grew up in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She moved to Baton Rouge in 1989 to attend LSU and has a masters in elementary education. While at LSU, she met her husband Scott. They were married in 1992 and joined First Presbyterian Church shortly after. They have three children: Bryan, Sarah Beth and Anna Claire.



Jessica spent 14 years at home raising her children and has 13 years combined teaching experience at University Lab School, St. James Episcopal Day School and The Dunham School. Over the years, she has also enjoyed teaching Sunday school at FPC, volunteering with the youth department and leading Bible studies. Jessica loves traveling, reading, cooking and investing in the lives of children, close family and friends. She is thrilled to be joining the youth team at First Presbyterian and looks forward to seeing what God has in store. Jessica will be the Administrative Assis-

tant to the youth department while focusing on the discipling of our summer youth interns.

Noah Pourciau was born and raised in Baton Rouge. He was classically educated at Sequitur Classical Academy and went on to achieve his associates degree at Baton Rouge Community College. He is now attending LSU studying international trade and finance. His long-term educational objective is to attend graduate school. Noah worked at a camp called Chosatonga in North Carolina. He gained a love for service while working directly with 6th and 7th graders. There, Noah found a passion serving God through teaching the ways of Christ.



Noah loves working with the youth of First Presbyterian and will be the Assistant Youth Director overseeing middle and high school students. His summer focus will primarily be middle school youth. Noah loves to read, camp, hunt, fish, ride dirt bikes, skydive, paddle, hike and rock climb. He is an avid outdoorsman, and has a passion for the teachings of the Lord, and loving the people around him.

**VBS 2019: A Journey into *The Pilgrim's Progress***

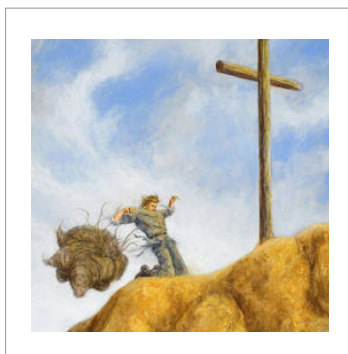
This summer at VBS our kids will journey into the heart of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan's timeless classic. *The Pilgrim's Progress* is the second-most widespread book sold, surpassed only by the Bible in number of copies distributed. It has been translated into over 200 languages, and it has never been out of print.

You don't have to be a parent to volunteer for VBS. We recruit parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, youth and anyone with a passion to serve God by serving our children. We also include a nursery for children of VBS volunteers. All volunteers are screened.

During VBS we will help our kids not only understand and enjoy the allegorical tale, but grow and learn from the spiritual lessons and Biblical truths discovered along the way.

Church, you know it takes a village! Join us Monday, June 24 through Thursday, June 27, 9 am - 12 pm.

The VBS registration deadline is June 14. We need a deadline in order to collect an accurate amount of supplies ahead of time. Please register your children before June 14. Registration for campers and volunteers is available online at [fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org).



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

7.45 Chapel Communion  
9 am Contemporary  
11 am Classic Reformed

**JUNE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

Texts are subject to change.

JUNE 2, 2019  
1 Samuel 1: 1-20

JUNE 9, 2019  
1 Samuel 2: 12-36

JUNE 16, 2019  
1 Samuel 3: 1-21

JUNE 23, 2019  
1 Samuel 2: 1-2: 10

JUNE 30, 2019  
1 Samuel 7: 3-14

**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 for Discipleship,  
Men's Ministry & Young Adults

STEVE NEWMAN  
Director of Worship



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[fpibr.org](http://fpibr.org)

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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

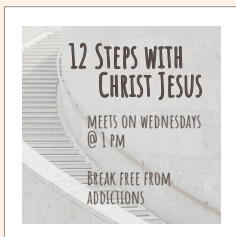
Mother's Day Out and Preschool  
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center  
225.387.2287

[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)

### New 12 Steps with Christ Jesus Group Starts June 12

Break free from addiction through a new *12 Steps with Christ Jesus* group led by Jim Solomon and Elizabeth Parker on Wednesdays



at noon beginning June 12. Regardless of the addiction (alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling, overeating, or anything else that trips you up), this group may be for you. Come join us! As we will be working through a book entitled *The Twelve Steps for Christians*, please email or call Pastor Jim Solomon if you are planning to participate so that he can order enough books in advance. You may reach Jim at [jim@fpabr.org](mailto:jim@fpabr.org) or by calling his direct line and leaving a voice mail at 620.0228.

### Chancel Choir to Sing at Chapel Communion Worship Service

The Chancel Choir is pleased to present the music for the Sunday, June 9, 7.45 am service. They will provide all the service and special music including the prelude, postlude and offertory. The music will be drawn from recent selections from the Classic Reformed service. Please join us.



### Dangerously Tired

*continued from pg. 2*

Ask yourself, where am I in danger these days? Your answer will give you insight as you quiet yourself in God's presence and begin to get in touch with your soul.

### The Human on Heaven's Throne

Check out Gerrit's new article on why the ascension of Jesus matters at [desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org).

### SUMMER PRAYER SERVICE

The Sunday evening prayer service is taking a break in June and July. Contact Jim Solomon for other prayer opportunities this summer ([jim@fpabr.org](mailto:jim@fpabr.org)).