

FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World

NEITHER OPTIMIST NOR PESSIMIST BE

By Colton Underwood

Associate Pastor, Children Youth and Families

My mother always called me a pessimist and my usual reply was to say that I'm simply a realist. I think most of us have grown to feel this way. The world around us seems in a bad way and it isn't unfair to point that out. It would be naive, it seems, to claim that Christianity in the West has never been in a stronger place. When we look around and see chaos (the results of abandoning and despising our heritage, those who would dance on the graves of our fathers all while not realizing that their homes are founded upon the ruins of a great people that they have taken utterly for granted) terms like realism, pessimism, and despair have a great deal of overlap.

What is the Christian to do? Does he look at the world with rose-colored glasses and hide his head in the ground as an optimistic ostrich, unwilling to look hard truths in the eye? Or does she scowl at the sun, call herself a realist and give in to despair, feeling helpless to change a society that feels too far gone?

A great Catholic writer of the early twentieth century, GK Chesterton, considered the same difficulty in his day. Are optimism and pessimism the two paths before us? Is there no other road? He wrote, "the point is not that this world is too sad to love or too glad not to love; the point is that when you do love a thing, its gladness is a reason for loving it, and its sadness a reason for loving it

more." Chesterton's resolve is that Christians ought to be both brutally honest about the world and yet see that the warts are not a reason to flee or to despair. No, the warts and wounds should provoke the one response that will do something: love.

Perhaps that sounds trite. How appropriate to our day to say that love is the solution! And yet, as Christians, we know that it must be true. How can we balance the reality of being exiles in the world and yet called to pray and work for the welfare of the place of our exile? How can we embrace being "not of this world" while heralding the truth that the earth is the Lord's, that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to the Lord Jesus? By loving the world for God's sake.

Chesterton would continue his thought to write that, even in a hard and fallen world, "the only way out of it seems to be for somebody . . . to love it with a

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The session has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, October 27 at the 10 am service for the purpose of electing the nominated officers for the upcoming year.

2 FELLOWSHIP
& FOOTBALL

2 CONCERT
OF PRAYER

3 KIRKIN'
REFORMATION
SUNDAY

3 IFP
FALL
FESTIVAL

4 YOUTH
MOVIE
NIGHT

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 3 Prime Time Club Luncheon
- 4 rEcess
- 10 Youth Movie Night
- 19 Men's LSU Football Watch Party
- 20 Concert of Prayer
- 24 Caring to Love Banquet
- 25 IFP Harvest Social
- 27 Confirmation Elder Breakfast
- 27 Kirkin' O'the Tartans
- 27 Congregational Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 10 Dedication Sunday

IN MEMORIAM

August 29, 2024: Mimi Alsobrook
Mother of Eugenie Burglass

BAPTISMS

September 15, 2024
John Lloyd Mayo
Parents are Sarah and Erik

September 22, 2024
Stephen Randolph Vick III
Parents are Stephanie and Stephen

MARRIAGES

September 7, 2024
Lauren Hensley and Jackson Hogue

CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

Oct. 6 . . . to the glory of God by
Tricia & Donovan Davis.

Oct. 13 . . . in loving memory and
with thanksgiving for Jonathan
David Pugsley honoring his birth
date of October 17, by his parents
Cathy & David, and his sister
Catherine.

Oct. 20 Open date. Sanctuary and
Chapel Sunday flower donations
can be arranged by contacting
Kathy Mullins (603.4735).

Oct. 27 . . . to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Don
R. McAdams, Mr. & Mrs. James
C. McAdams, Mr. & Mrs. James S.
Carr, and Miss Inez McDougald by
the McAdams family.

FELLOWSHIP & FOOTBALL: A MEN'S LSU WATCH PARTY

Saturday, October 19 LSU vs. Arkansas

Guys love to watch LSU football, especially when it's an SEC game. Don't watch it alone. Instead, come enjoy great food and fellowship at Jake Wood's home! Our annual game watch party is Saturday, October 19 to watch LSU take on Arkansas. This will be a great event to connect with other guys from church. Jakes' home has plenty of televisions for those who don't want to miss a play as well as spots for smaller conversations.

Since we're going to beat the Hogs, it's only fitting that we enjoy some barbecue. The church will provide meat and drinks. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share.

We'll send an email to all who are registered once we know the kick off time. Please register at fpcbr.org so we can have an accurate head count for food. Even if you don't love football, come join us. It'll be fun and we'd love to have you!

CONCERT OF PRAYER, OCTOBER 20

On Sunday, October 20 from 6 to 7 pm in the Sanctuary we will have a Concert of Prayer, a set of prayer and music that has a rich and long history in our nation. Concerts of prayer allow for a beautiful combination of individual, small group, and corporate prayer, interspersed with hymns and praise music. Oswald Chambers said, "prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Let's come together to pray!

PRIME TIME CLUB LUNCH



Our newly launched "Prime Time Club," (generally sixty-somethings and older) is having its first gathering on Thursday, October 3 from 11.30 am to 1 pm in the Reception Room. We will reserve time for club planning. Come prepared to share your thoughts on the club's focus and future gatherings. Sign up with Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org or 387.0617).

SSSSIIINNNNGGG!!



Would you like to sing in the choir for a limited time, no strings attached? Consider singing in this year's Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 16 at 6.30 pm.

CELEBRATION BANQUET & GALA

Your gifts of time and money over the years have helped enable the Caring to Love Pregnancy Clinic offer compassionate support and life-affirming choices to women, particularly women who may be struggling financially. Accurate information about pregnancy choices helps ensure a healthy full-term pregnancy and success in the transition to parenthood. The Clinic offers counseling, health exams and educational resources to pregnant women in crisis.



Come join Gov. Jeff Landry and musical guest Ricky Skaggs at the 39th annual Caring to Love Celebrate Life Banquet and Gala on Thursday, October 24 at 6.45 pm at Renaissance Hotel. Visit ctlm.org for more information about tickets to the Banquet as well as learn about being a part of Caring to Love's life saving vision.

REFORMATION SUNDAY: KIRKIN' CELEBRATION OCTOBER 27

As we celebrate our Scottish heritage on Reformation Sunday, we focus on what mattered most to our Scottish forbears: not ethnicity, but the gospel of Jesus Christ. From Scotland, we have inherited a passion for Jesus Christ as he is known to us in the Scriptures, the inspired Word of God. Let's celebrate our Scottish roots of our Presbyterian faith by wearing plaids, kilts and tweeds at our one 10 am Kirkin' O' the Tartans service on October 27. A congregational meeting will take place during the service for the purpose of electing next year's elders and deacons.



Clan Tartans for the Kirkin' Service

We want your clan's tartan to be represented in the Sanctuary at the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans. Contact Jaci Gaspard to see about including yours (jaci@fpcbr.org or 620.0221).

FRIED CHICKEN AND WAFFLES

Join us in the Gym immediately following the Kirkin' O' the Tartans service on October 27 for fellowship, fun and Southern fried chicken and waffles. Register early and pay less. Skip the line and pick up your meal ticket at the Connection Center on Sunday, October 13 and October 20.

EARLY REGISTRATION:

\$15 for Adults

\$5 for Kids 9 Years Old and Younger

DAY OF KIRKIN' REGISTRATION:

\$20 for Adults

\$10 for Kids 9 Years Old and Younger

McKINLEY NEEDS YOU!



Our adopted school McKinley Elementary needs YOU! We still need Teacher Encouragers, Reading Friends and Storytime Readers to

serve. Please sign up at the Connection Center or email Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org). Let's share the love of Christ with our neighbors just down Highland Road!

COSTUMES OPTIONAL BUT ...

International Friendship Partners invites you to join them for a Harvest Festival with internationals on Friday, October 25 from 6 to 8 pm at the Beall's (1452 Glenmore). We'll hang out, play games and have a costume contest so wear something festive! We love a potluck. Please bring your favorite fall food. Please email Steve Tubre if you have questions (stevetubre@gmail.com).



BECAUSE ALL CHILDREN MATTER



Research shows that the common factor in determining a child's future success is if they have stable, committed, healthy relationships with adults in

their lives. For Kids Hope USA students, one of those relationships gets to be with their mentor. Annette Lamond, our FPC Director of Kids Hope USA, would love to tell you more about how you can pray for a student and become a mentor.

TRAIN UP! CLASS CONTINUES



The Train Up! parenting class is underway but still has four more sessions. Join various speakers who will address everything from social media to

spiritual leadership. Class meets at 10.10 am on Sundays in Dunham Chapel.

SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

OCTOBER 6
Revelation 7:9-17

OCTOBER 13
Revelation 8-10 (Sections)

OCTOBER 20
Revelation 11

OCTOBER 27
10 am Kirkin' O' the Tartans Worship
Text to be announced

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

SCOTT GRAHAM
Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Associate Pastor of Children,
Youth and Families



225.387.0617
fpcbr.org

763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

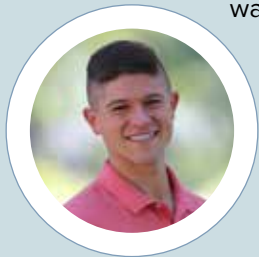
BR Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

OPTIMIST NOR PESSIMIST, *continued from page 1*

transcendental tie and without any earthly reason.” For, he writes, “men did not love Rome because she was great. She was great because they had loved her.”

We’ve been called to love God for God’s sake. That is, to love God not just for what he can give us, but for himself. That is the true center of love. Then, flowing out from this ultimate love, the love of man toward creature and creation becomes a love for God’s sake. We ought to love our church enough to see its flaws and yet fight for her all the more fiercely. We ought to love our families, our country, our friends, and all other things in creation in the same

way. So the question remains before us, can we love our world, our town, or our church so boldly? To paraphrase Chesterton one last time, can we hate it enough to change it, and yet love it enough to think it worth changing?



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. K.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

OCTOBER 10 MOVIE NIGHT



Join us for dinner and a movie in the Terraced Garden on Tuesday, October 10 from 5 to 9 pm. Bring a picnic blanket or folding chair.

CONFIRMATION ELDER BREAKFAST OCTOBER 27

Confirmation students are invited to join their sponsoring elder for a delicious breakfast and time of fellowship before the annual Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan 10 am worship service.

Sunday, October 27 at 9.30 am in the Reception Room.