

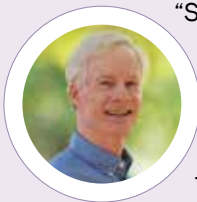
FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



THE JOY OF RHYTHMS

By Gerrit Dawson
Senior Pastor



“Summer’s here, I’m for that, got my rubber sandals, got my straw hat.” Remember that old song by James Taylor? Even as the heat moves in, we feel the excitement of a change in rhythm. School’s out. Traffic’s better (“better” being a relative word!), vacations await. We had a wonderfully intense Lent, followed by a season of celebrating confirmations, baptisms, graduations, memorials and weddings. Now most of the church slows down. But children’s ministry ramps up with Vacation Bible School. Youth ministry accelerates with camp opportunities. Members take off on mission trips as well as holidays.

Meanwhile, we still meet Sunday after Sunday. That’s a crucial part of rhythm too. Continuity in worshipping our triune God, studying his Word and encouraging each other. We’re here, every week, as anchor for your life. Stay tethered through our livestream while you travel. Come create the party of worship as often as you can. And know that your leaders are

thinking deeply and creatively about our future.

The elders, especially the strategic planning team, are busy building off the great data we got through the congregational survey. We hope to unveil our five year strategic plan for you this fall. Keep us in prayer!

Meanwhile, we are moving forward with a north Baton Rouge church plant. You can hear pastor Ron Hicks preach on July 14! We also celebrate the mission outreach we can underwrite through the gifts from our endowments. The session recently funded a young EPC church planter in the Atlanta area, and contributed to the church plant training our denomination has undertaken. We funded three seminary students, and contributed to a major evangelism program with our sister church in Cairo. Life rhythms have changed, but the ministry and mission of your church pulses forward this summer. As ever, please know how much I love being your pastor.

SUMMER WORSHIP

10.30 AM SERVICES

First Presbyterian Church invites you to attend its combined 10.30 am services each Sunday in July and August 4. These single services replace our typical worship schedule blending the styles of Classic Reformed, Contemporary and Chapel Communion worship. We encourage you to invite a friend. All Sunday school classes (children, youth and adults) are taking a summer break and will not meet in July.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

COURTNEY HILTON

Accountant



Courtney earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and has many years of experience in the field specializing in Corporate Accounting. She and her husband Chris are originally from Jackson, MS. They have three children: Kristen, Elizabeth and Macie, as well as a son-in-law, Andrew, and granddaughter Avory.

Courtney and her family, have been active members of First Presbyterian since 2019. She is ecstatic to be able to serve on staff at a place that is so dear to her heart.

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”
Lyrics by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1907

2 : "SO, I'VE GOT A QUESTION"
PASTORS' EDITION

2 : NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

3 : WOMEN'S JONAH BIBLE STUDY

4 : CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH SUMMER NEWS

JUNE CALENDAR

- JUNE 4 Confirmation Swim Party
- JUNE 10-13 Vacation Bible School
- JUNE 16 RYM Parent Meeting
- JUNE 16 Combined Adult S.S.
- JUNE 23 LFR Parent Meeting
- JUNE 24-28 Middle School RYM Trip
- JUNE 26 Women's Summer Luncheon

JUNE SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

- JUNE 2 Luke 16:19-31
- JUNE 9 Jonah 1
- JUNE 16 Jonah 2
- JUNE 23 Jonah 3
- JUNE 30 Jonah 4

JUNE FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

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

JUNE 9 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of our parents, Hazel & Paul Peters and Jerry & Ned Hickel by Cherie & Bill Peters.

JUNE 16 . . . in memory of Abbie and Lora Maye Cross and Mabel & KH Ferris by Bunny & Ron Ferris and family.

JUNE 23 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Dorothy & Joachim Aubert and Emma & Pete Ramos by Fé and Murphy Aubert.

JUNE 30 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lindley Spaht Dodson on the occasion of her birthday, June 30, by Susan & Frederic Billings.

MAY BAPTISMS

May 12, 2024:

Evelyn Anne Bailey
Parents are Melinda & Richard Bailey

Martha Jane Miller
Parents are Shelby & Connor Miller

Lucas Lorenzo Perez
Parents are Elizabeth & Eddy Perez

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

SO I'VE GOT A QUESTION . . .

How does the Bible claim authority over the life on an unbeliever? Is it wrong for a husband and wife to attend separate churches? What do Presbyterians believe that set us apart from other denominations? What do you think is the most challenging threat facing churches today?

If you have questions like this, join us for our Women's Ministry Summer Luncheon where you can ask a panel of pastors questions about the Bible, what we believe, or even their own faith journey! All questions will be anonymous and may be submitted to Jaime (jaime@fpabr.org) or as part of the registration form.

Wednesday, June 26 from 11.30 am to 1 pm
FPC Reception Room
\$10 Registration. Childcare offered.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Would you like an opportunity to sing with our choir without a long-term commitment? Perhaps you've sung in the past and would like to return for a limited time. Maybe you've never sung in a group before and want to see what it's like. Well, for the month of July we're giving away unlimited free subscriptions to the music ministry!



Beginning Wednesday, July 3 you can join us in the Choir Room at 6 pm for 1 hour of casual, joy-filled rehearsal. Each rehearsal features a fun theme, some light refreshments and fellowship. There is no audition. No previous experience is required. You don't even have to read music! We'll sing all kinds of music. From elementary school age to nonagenarians, all are welcome. You can sing for just one Sunday or you can sing for the entire month of July.

Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Still have it tucked away in the attic? Maybe you are wondering if you still have the chops or remember the fingerings. If you're curious to try it out, contact Chris Phillips (chris@fpabr.org) and let's talk about it!

NEW STAFF MEMBER

MANDI CROSKREY

Assistant to the Director of Children's Ministry



As a daughter of a former Children's Ministry Director, you could always catch Mandi helping in the nursery or teaching a lesson to kiddos on Sunday mornings. Not a lot has changed!

Originally from West Lafayette, Indiana, Mandi moved to the "Deep South" in 2019 to attend Belhaven University where she studied performing arts and public relations. She married her husband John shortly after graduation, and his career in software engineering brought them to Baton Rouge. The rest is history!

Mandi is elated to be a member of FPC and is thrilled to have the opportunity to help instill the love of Christ to so many young ones. When not running around and dancing in Children's Church, Mandi loves to travel with her husband, try new coffee shops in Baton Rouge with her sister Rachel, and curl up with a Jane Austen novel. She is continuously thankful for the joy children bring to her life!

SPECIAL COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MINUTE FOR MISSION SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Samuel Sesay, President of EduNations, an educational mission in rural Sierra Leone, West Africa, will be



with us in worship June 16. Rev. Sesay will also speak during the Sunday school hour in EB 202. In addition to his ministry with EduNations, Samuel also heads up the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Sierra Leone. Join us for an exciting update on what God is doing in West Africa!

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

WOMEN'S JONAH JULY STUDY

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known and yet most misunderstood stories in the Bible. An angry prophet disobeys God and is swallowed by a whale, but there's so much more to it than that! This story highlights God's boundless compassion toward a rebellious people and his relentless pursuit of his beloved, prodigal prophet Jonah.



Join Women's Ministry this July, on the heels of Gerrit's June sermon series on Jonah, to further experience the depths of God's mercy and grace as the story unfolds. May we feel God's persistent, loving pursuit of us—how he uses our circumstances (both the good and the bad) to work in and through us. He meets us right where we are (whether we are running away from him or toward him) in order to mold and shape us into who he created us to be.

Tuesdays in July, starting the second week: July 9, 16, 23, 30
6–7.30 pm at the home of Amber McConnell (4352 Woodside Dr.)
Light refreshments will be offered.

CLOTHING AND HOUSEWARES FOR PURPLE COW

In June, donation bins will be ready for your gently used clothing and houseware items for the Purple Cow. This thrift store funds the ministry of the Christian Outreach Center to provide essential services, employment opportunity, resume training and financial literacy in a Christ-centered way. This is a great time to declutter your home and ignite an important ministry at the same time.

S.T.A.R.S. SOCCER CAMP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

July 1–3 are the dates of the annual S.T.A.R.S. soccer camp at Abounding Love Ministries. Please consider volunteering to coach the children and share the gospel with Baton Rouge inner city kids. Camp times are 8.30 to noon. Contact Whitney Alexander to volunteer (225.810.2607).



GOT BLOOD? | BLOOD DRIVE JULY 21

You have the most precious resource of all: the ability to save a life by donating blood! First Presbyterian is hosting a blood drive on July 21 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm! Stop by the LifeShare blood truck before or after the 10.30 am single service and help share this invaluable gift with someone in need.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A POOL PARTY! | JULY 26

International Friendship Partners invites you to help them welcome internationals to Baton Rouge this summer. Join us for a pool party Friday, July 26 from 6 to 8 pm at Garland and Billy Wilson's (2077 Ramsey Drive). There will be swimming, games, hot dogs and burgers and watermelon.



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH | AUGUST 4

Mark your calendars for our annual congregational summer lunch on August 4 from 12 to 1 pm! Catering and cost details to come!

JULY CALENDAR

One 10.30 am Service Each Sunday
 JULY 1–3 S.T.A.R.S. Soccer Camp
 JULY 4–5 Church Office Closed
 JULY 9–30 Women's Jonah Study
 JULY 8–13 RYM High School Trip
 JULY 18–22 Lake Forest Ranch Camp
 JULY 21 LifeShare Blood Drive
 JULY 26 IFP Pool Party

JULY FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

JULY 7 Open date.

JULY 14 Open date.

JULY 21 . . . to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Melissa & Mike Thibodeaux.

JULY 28 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Florence & Mack Gregorie and their aunt, Nita K. Harris, by Ann K. Gregorie and Nancy Sue Burton.



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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER NEWS

So Loved Needs Volunteers

What a blessing! We have had an increase in the number of children in our So Loved hall each Sunday. Volunteers are needed to care for and play with the young ones. Please contact Candace Walker to volunteer (candace@fpcbr.org).

Register Today: Jerusalem Marketplace VBS

Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate in Jerusalem Marketplace VBS. Adults and youth are invited to volunteer as leaders and helpers. Please visit fpcbr.org/vbs for details and registration. Dates are June 10-13

Lake Forest Ranch Parents' Meeting: June 23

Children's Ministry invites all parents who have signed up their child for Lake Forest Ranch camp to attend a meeting Sunday, June 23 at 10.10 am in Dunham Chapel.

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER NEWS

Confirmation Swim Party: Tuesday, June 4

Please contact Jessica Saffell (jessica@fpcbr.org) to register your 6th grader for Confirmation 2024/2025. Swim Party on Saturday, June 4 at 3 pm at the Fabres' (5700 Sandalwood Dr.). Bring your swimsuit (one-piece for the girls) and towel.

Middle School Fellowship Nights: June 5, 12 & 19

6-7.30 pm in the FPC middle school room basement. Games and snacks will be provided!

RYM Parents' Meeting: Sunday, June 16

Youth Ministry invites all parents who have signed up their child for RYM (both Middle and high school) to attend a meeting Sunday, June 16 at 10.15 am in Dunham Chapel.

MEMBER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Due July 15 Please visit fpcbr.org for an application.