

AUGUST 2025

# FPC NEWSLETTER

Deeper in Christ, Further into the World



## THE 3 GREATEST DAYS: A STAY-TREAT LIKE NO OTHER

**By Gerrit Dawson**  
Senior Pastor

The bridegroom came for his bride. He would journey to the darkest depths through the most agonizing pain to find her, free her and bring her home. That's the journey of Jesus for us, his bride, the Church.

Would you like a fresh look at this ancient story? Would you like to explore the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in ways you've yet to imagine?

I'm so pleased to announce that artist, pastor, and theologian Christopher Powers will join us for three intriguing presentations Friday evening August 22 and Saturday morning August 23. We've been using his art for bulletins and Lent books for years. I'm regularly nourished by his Biblical insights. Now he's coming to our church!

You remember how a Stay-Treat works. It's a retreat, but you get to sleep in your own bed! Starting at 6 pm Friday, we have dinner together,

then a presentation by Christopher, followed by a tasty dessert. Saturday morning we have a light breakfast at 8.15 am followed by two sessions with Christopher. A children's track runs concurrently. The whole thing wraps up by 11.30 am.

Christopher will be sharing some of his art, his animations, and his Biblical insights in each session. The theme is *Paschal Mystery: A Journey through the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Our Lord*. Don't be baffled by the word *Paschal*. It's an ancient word that refers to the 3 days of Good Friday to Easter that make one grand event of our salvation. This will be a Stay-Treat to remember. You'll find more details and registration at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).



With Pastor and Artist  
CHRISTOPHER POWERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Register at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)

I'm very eager to  
share this journey

with you, beloved congregation!



2 SITTING AT  
JESUS' FEET  
STUDY

3 SUPPLIES  
FOR  
MCKINLEY

3 PRIME TIME  
TRIP TO WWII  
MUSEUM

4 CONFIRMATION  
NEWS

4 CHILDREN'S  
& YOUTH  
NEWS

## AUGUST CALENDAR

1	Barnyard Bash
3	10.30 am Combined Service
3	Pastoral Search Prayer Mtg.
10	Confirmation Meeting
10	7.45, 9 and 11 am Worship
10	S.S. Promotion
10	Adult Sunday School Resumes
15	Confirmation Lock-In
22 & 23	Stay-Treat
24	Youth Group Resumes
26	Women's Fall Study Begins
31	10.30 am Labor Day Worship

## BAPTISMS

June 8, 2025

Colton & Cayden Treadaway  
Parents are Kaci & Chad

Hodges Bryant

Parents are Abbey and Tripp

June 13, 2025

Warren McVea

Parents are Claire &amp; Stephens

June 22, 2025

Ramaraj Iyengar

Parents are Von &amp; Veneeth

## FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary  
flowers are . . .AUG 3 . . . given to the glory of  
God and in memory of loved  
ones by Melissa and Mike  
Thibodeaux.

AUG 10 Open date.

AUG 17 . . . given 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.AUG 24 . . . Annslee Laura  
Phillips by Lauren Teague  
Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

AUG 31 Open date.

## SITTING AT JESUS' FEET: THE FIVE TEACHINGS OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

*"And [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom" (Matthew 4:23).*

Can you imagine what it would have been like to be there? To sit in the synagogue or on the grassy hillside as the Lord Jesus himself began to teach? To hear him explain how to live as his disciple, to reveal the mysteries of God's kingdom and the hope of what is to come, to invite weary souls to find true rest in him? To hear the very Word made flesh, teaching in the flesh?

This fall, join our Women's Ministry Bible Study as we journey through Jesus' five major teachings in Matthew's Gospel. Together, we'll discover who he calls his followers to be, and how he reshapes our hearts and renews our minds to live fully for him. Let us come and sit at the feet of Jesus, listening to his voice, as he calls us to live as beloved daughters of the Kingdom.

Bible studies kick off the week of August 26. There are three options:

**Tuesday mornings** @ 7:15 am in the FPC Library. This study is designed for girls in their 20s/30s. Childcare available.**Wednesday evenings** @ 6:30 pm at the home of Suzie Thompson.**Thursday mornings** @ 9:30 am in FPC Room 202. This study is also available via Zoom. The link is online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).ELIZABETH. MARY. MARTHA. LYDIA. PRISCILLA.  
WOMEN'S CIRCLES

These were not passive figures on the sidelines of God's story.

The women of the New Testament played vital roles in Jesus' ministry. They were some of his most faithful followers, and they helped lead the early Church. They faced fear, shame, rejection, illness, grief, and oppression—yet responded with faith, courage, and devotion. They often grasped truths about Jesus that others overlooked.

Elizabeth teaches us to trust God's faithfulness and rejoice in his timing. Martha reminds us that while service is valuable, it must flow from a heart centered on Christ. Women like Herodias and Sapphira serve as warnings against bitterness and deceit.

Join one of our Women's Ministry Circles this year as we journey through the LifeGuide® Bible Study *Women of the New Testament* by Phyllis J. Le Peau. Together we'll step into the lives and stories of twelve remarkable women and discover what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. Email [jaime@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaime@fpcbr.org) for more information.



**JOIN AN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS.** Our adult Sunday school classes resume next week after taking a summer break. We have several options covering a range of topics that will help you go deeper in Christ. Visit the Connection Center for details.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND WORSHIP  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Our last summer combined 10.30 am service is Sunday, August 3. On August 10, we resume our regular schedule of 7.45, 9 and 11 am. All Sunday school classes resume on August 10. On Sunday, August 31, we come together for one 10.30 am worship service in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school.

## MCKINLEY STORYTIME READERS, TEACHER ENCOURAGERS AND READING FRIENDS NEEDED

We are ready to get busy at our adopted McKinley Elementary School! Located at 575 W. Roosevelt St., right off Highland Rd. near the Tiger Band practice facility, there are several opportunities available for our members to serve and make a difference for the students and staff. Please consider joining this ministry as a Reading Friend, Teacher Encourager or Classroom Storytime Reader. No previous experience is necessary—all you need is a love for children and a willing heart. For more information or to sign up, stop by the Connection Center on August 10 or email Laura Shaw at [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org).

## PLEASE HURRY! MCKINLEY SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

We are helping the teachers and families of McKinley Elementary get ready for the 2025-2026 academic year by collecting supplies but the deadline for donations is Sunday, August 3. Come on First Presbyterian! Please help our adopted school. A handy Amazon link to needed items is online at [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**COME PRAY FOR OUR PASTORAL SEARCH.** Join us in room 220 after worship on Sunday, August 3 for a time of intercession as we call on the Lord's guidance and power to find our next head of staff. "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known" (Jeremiah 33:3). We expect to spend about 30 minutes. Let's come together in prayer!

**WE WANT YOUR INPUT.** The Campus Plan Task Force, which formed as a result of our recent 5-Year Strategic Plan, welcomes your input in helping plan future campus renovations. Please contact Kelly Wood ([kelly@fpcbr.org](mailto:kelly@fpcbr.org)) if you would like to participate in a focus group.

**SAME WEB ADDRESS, DIFFERENT LOOK.** The new church website has launched! It's more than a facelift. It's an updated, clean and sophisticated look honoring who we are as an historic downtown place in the community. Visit [fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org).

**PRIME TIME IS GOING TO THE WWII MUSEUM!** The trip to the WWII Museum in New Orleans is moving full speed ahead! We are happy to have so much interest in this long-anticipated trip on Thursday, September 11. We have chartered a 56 passenger Hotard coach for those who are interested (so far, 100% of you). Please feel free to invite your adult friends! We are offering a very reduced rate for the bus (\$45) thanks to First Presbyterian Church! Our last date to offer face-to-face registration in the Reception Room is Sunday, August 3. The deadline to register online is August 8 at 11.55 pm. If you need assistance after August 3, please call the church office and ask for the contact information of Brenda Salassi. We will be in touch with more details as we get closer to the date.

## Church History Fun Facts, Continued by Zora Olsson

During the Revolutionary War, Louisiana was divided between the British and the Spanish. War was declared September 7, 1779. General Galvez, serving as the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, invaded British West Florida with an army of 1,400 men which included Spanish regulars, freed slaves, local militia, Choctaws and Acadians. After Galvez took Fort Bute, six Hessian mercenaries fighting for Britain escaped to warn the Baton Rouge garrison where British Lt. Colonel Alexander Dickson had staged troops, militia, and thirteen cannons. If they could hold out, Dickson's force was capable of defeating Galvez.

## SERMON TEXTS

*Texts are subject to change.*

AUG 3

Psalm 34:1–9

AUG 10

Philippians 1:1–6

AUG 17

Philippians 1:7–11

AUG 24

Philippians 1:12–26

AUG 31

Philippians 1:72–30

## UPCOMING SEPT. EVENTS

SEPT 1 Church Office Closed

SEPT 11 Prime Time WWII  
Museum Trip

## PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

DARIN TRAVIS  
Associate Pastor for Disci-  
plesh

SCOTT GRAHAM  
Associate Pastor for  
Pastoral Care and Prayer

COLTON UNDERWOOD  
Associate Pastor of Children,  
Youth and Families



## CONTACT INFORMATION

225.387.0617

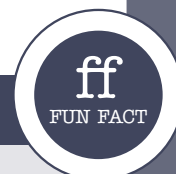
[fpcbr.org](http://fpcbr.org)

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](http://brchristiancounseling.com)



## CONFIRMATION NEWS

### CONFIRMATION MEETING

Our 2025-2026 Confirmation class is kicking off soon. On Sunday, August 10, all parents and students entering the 6th grade are invited to a quick meeting at 10.10 am in the Confirmation Room. Come meet the teachers and learn more about this class designed to prepare students for making a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. This is the year we explore what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

### CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN

Mark your calendars for Friday, August 15 when we'll have a Confirmation lock-in here at the church. 6 pm drop off in the Gym. Contact Jessica if you have questions (225.921.2175).



## CHILDREN'S & YOUTH AUGUST THINGS

### Sunday, August 10

#### Sunday School Promotion

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.

### Wednesday, August 20

#### Middle School Pursuit

Wednesdays from 6 to 7.30 pm  
Church Youth Room

### Sunday, August 24

#### Youth Group Resumes

We meet each Sunday evening from 5 to 7 pm for study and fellowship as a family, and have fun playing games! Middle school meets at the church Gym and high school usually meets at a home in town. Contact Jessica Saffell to be sure you are on the email list for updates.

### Tuesday, August 26

#### High School Reformed

Tuesdays from 6.30 to 8 pm  
1647 Patrick Drive