

FPC NEWSLETTER

DEEPER IN CHRIST FURTHER INTO THE WORLD



All Things New by Colton Underwood, Assistant Pastor of Children, Youth and Families

How would you describe a “good life?” For the average person in the West, the life well-lived looks like the fulfillment of the American dream: career success, financial stability, raising a happy family, dying at an old age surrounded by family and friends. For most Christians in the West, if asked, the answer would likely remain the same with perhaps the tacked-on afterthought of “and when I die, I get go to be with Jesus.” *Is that it?* Does the good news of Jesus’ victory over sin and death in the world and in our lives matter no more than for the 5 short seconds after we breathe our last breath? This was Reverend Brian Sorgenfrei’s question on the final night of our second RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) trip of the summer. It’s a question, not only for teens, but for us.

The theme for this year’s series of RYM conferences was “All Things New” taking its primary inspiration from Isaiah 43 and 65 as well as Revelation 21; glorious promises and depictions of God’s ultimate purpose for creation and humanity – to make all things new. This is our future hope, the day that we await. But what we need to understand about this *future* reality is that it has *present* implications. It is often thought that any long contemplation of the life to come might lead one away from being useful in the here and now, but the opposite should be true. Many theologians have made note of this, understanding that only by a right meditation and contemplation on the future life – when all things are made new – can we be freed to live a *good life* in the present. This truly good life is a life lived in the freedom that only Christ can give, a freedom both to die and to live.

As those following the path of the Cross, by fixing our eyes on our eternal destiny, we must find the freedom first to die to sin, to give up fleeting pleasure for the surpassing joy and lasting satisfaction that is in God alone. But this

understanding leads not only to dying continually to sin, it ought also to lead us willingly to die to ourselves. If we truly believe that one day all will be made new, every wrong made right and every tear wiped away, it should lead us deeper and more freely into a life of selflessness, of forgoing personal satisfaction and joy in view of others, even of opening ourselves up to weep and mourn with others – something we often hold ourselves back from doing because we fear that temporary pain and discomfort will define our existence. And, what’s more, this contemplation of the future life should free us to die in an actual sense. Calvin wrote in his *Institutes*, “If we deem this unstable, defective, corruptible, fleeting, wasting, rotting tabernacle of our body to be so dissolved that it is soon renewed unto a firm, perfect, incorruptible, and finally, heavenly glory, *will not faith compel us ardently to seek what nature dreads?*” In other words, knowing that God is making all things new and that this life is only a foretaste of eternal glory, should make us free to die.

But not only should this grand picture of all things being made new give us freedom to die, it must grant us freedom also to live. As Reverend Sorgenfrei put it in our RYM large group sermons, it should free us to live life “holding on with open hands.” So many of us experience a profound level of self-imposed anxiety – especially in younger generations – simply because we fear that at any moment in time we might not be living our lives to the fullest, that we might have passed up “the chance of a lifetime” unknowingly by committing to just about anything. With a worldview that sees this life as all we get, such an anxiety about each passing moment would make sense. But in view of that Eternal Day, we ought to be free to live life “holding on with open hands,” enjoying the highs while they last and not turning away from the lows. All the while, being free also to live as glimpses of the New Creation, to love sacrificially,

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AND
ACTION-PACKED

3 | FEEDING THE
“FOOD DESERT”
COMMUNITY

3 | MAKING
AN IMPACT

4 | LIFE-CHANGING
RELATIONSHIPS

AUGUST EVENTS

3-Service Schedule Resumes AUG 7
 LSU Prayer Walk AUG 13
 Sunday School Resumes AUG 14
 Confirmation Lock-In AUG 19
 Confirmation Parents' Mtg. AUG 14
 Youth Parents' Breakfast AUG 28
 Women's Fall Studies Begin AUG 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Worship SEPT 4
 Discover First Dinner SEPT 18

BIRTHS

May 31, 2022
 Charlotte Grace Barr
 Parents are Adelaide and Andrew Barr

May 29, 2022
 Henry Michael Black
 Parents are Selene and Chris Black

John Harman O'Rourke
 Parents are Mary Frances and Colin O'Rourke

June 1, 2022
 Anna Adele Mericas
 Parents are Laura and Chris Mericas
 Grandparents are Rene and Brett Furr

June 23, 2022
 Camille Denise Ferriss was adopted by
 Katie & Tom Ferriss IV
 Grandparents are Lee & Tom Ferriss V

FLOWERS

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are given . . .

AUG 7 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Kathryn Leake Graving and James Wesley Leake and Dr. and Mrs. Julius H. Mullins, by Kathy and Julius Mullins.

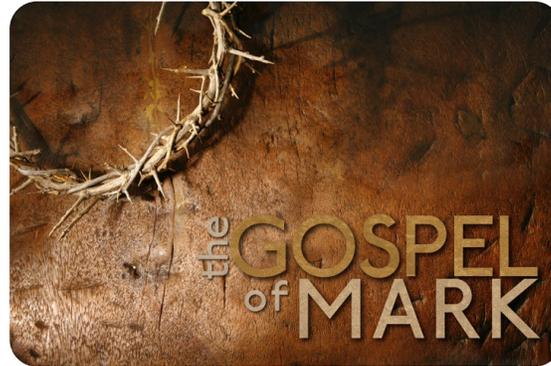
AUG 14 . . . to honor the christening of Annie Frances Miller. May the Lord guide and protect her throughout her life. Our love, the Miller and Quirk Families.

AUG 21 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley, by Cathy, David and Catherine Pugsley.

AUG 28 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

Hard-Hitting and Action-Packed: The Gospel of Mark

by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women's Ministry



The Gospel of Mark may be the most overlooked and underappreciated of all the gospels, but it arguably gives us the most vivid, passionate and distinct accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. It has a hard-hitting and action-packed punch, moving us quickly through one mighty miracle to the next with a sense of urgency.

Join us this fall as we focus our attention on the service and sacrifice of our Suffering Servant. May we be drawn to trust him, confess him and follow him

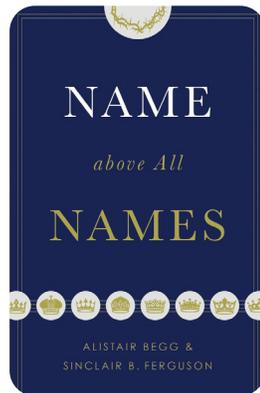
anew, as we witness Mark build an unshakable case for Jesus' true identity as the Son of God. Bible studies kick off the week of August 29. Please contact Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@fpcbr.org) with questions.

The Gospel of Mark Schedule

Monday: 7.15 am, FPC Room 219 (purposely designed for ladies in the 20s/30s age range)
 Wednesday: 6.30 pm, FPC Room 219 (Virtual option via Zoom)
 Thursday: 9.30 am, FPC Room 202 (Childcare available by request only)

Lift His Name High: "Name Above All Names" Circle Focus

by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women's Ministry



This world is self-centered, inward focused, busy and distracted, with so many out to make a name for themselves, now more than ever with various platforms available to us for this purpose. Our society focuses on and prioritizes the individual and consequently, we think far too highly of ourselves. As Christians, we are not immune to these trends and can be all too easily caught up in the same mindset. However, we are called to a life of Christ-centeredness rather than self-centeredness. Paul tells us in Philippians 2: 9-11 that "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

"Name Above All Names" by Alistair Begg & Sinclair Ferguson is our Women's Ministry Circle book for 2022-23. The book focuses on the person and work of Jesus Christ, covering seven key qualities and descriptions of his identity and ministry. He is, among many other things, the Seed of the Woman, the True Prophet, the Great High Priest, the Conquering King, the Son of Man, the Suffering Servant and the Lamb on the Throne. Each of these names, drawn directly from Scripture, holds a message of power and victory and helps us see and be transformed by the incomparable character of Christ, even in the midst of suffering and difficulty.

As we fix our eyes on Jesus, may we be encouraged to meditate afresh on our wonderful Savior and all that makes him beautiful and praiseworthy. May we, in humble adoration of our glorious King, lift his name on high.

Please visit fpcbr.org/womensministry.org for further information on Circle days, times and leaders.

Feeding the "Food Desert" Community

Today's paycheck, often from multiple jobs, doesn't stretch the way it used to. Combine this with limited access to grocery stores in "food desert" areas of Baton Rouge and you have many in our community struggling for fresh food and produce. The Christian Outreach Center is thrilled to announce a new partnership with DoorDash and Ideal Markets!

As of July 1, Ideal Markets will supply the food with DoorDash delivering groceries once a week to 50 qualifying households. This could potentially positively impact as many as 75,000 East Baton Rouge residents!

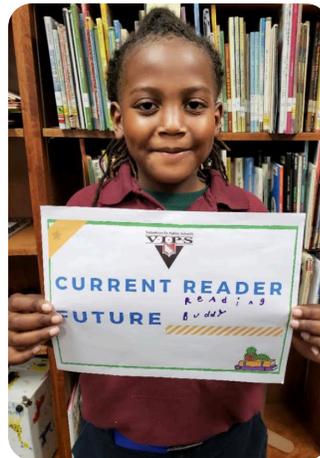
The ultimate goal is to nourish a person's body so they can move toward self-sufficiency. One option is to focus on children's snacks while another is to focus on actual meals for an entire week. The program will run indefinitely and as long as the resources are available.

Residents in the Greater Baton Rouge Area may apply for this free service by calling or emailing the Christian Outreach Center.

Want to Make an Impact?

We need your help at Buchanan Elementary! There are several opportunities to serve at our adopted school this year.

Dr. Britten has requested that our Reading Friends and Storytime Readers return this year. Reading Friends volunteer to mentor a first or second grader twice a month for 30 minutes each time to improve their reading level and confidence. Storytime Readers visit an assigned Pre-K through 2nd grade class at least once a month and read to the children. It's such a joy to see their faces light up when their reader comes! We also hope to have an Encourager for each teacher/staff member this year. Encouragers support their teacher during the year through prayer, sending a note, email, call or small gift each month. Items can be left at the church for delivery. It's an easy way to make a huge impact on folks that are working the "frontline!"



We would love to bless the school with much needed school supplies. A list of needed supplies is available at the Connection Center along with a basket where supplies can be dropped off.

For more information or to sign up for any of these opportunities, visit the Connection Center or contact Laura Shaw (laura@fpcbr.org or 387.0617). Help us show God's love to our neighbors just two miles from our church!

Prayer Walk at LSU

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 International Friendship Partners as they walk and pray by 2s and 3s across the LSU campus. Prayer guides will be available. Meet under the shady oaks in front of the LSU Union at 8.15 am August 13. 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) or just show up!



AUGUST SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

August 7, 2022 August 14, 2022
Psalm 121 1 Peter 1: 1-2

August 21, 2022 August 28, 2022
1 Peter 1: 3-5 1 Peter 1: 6-9

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

DARIN TRAVIS
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

COLTON UNDERWOOD
Assistant Pastor of Children, Youth
and Families

IN MEMORIAM

May 27, 2022
Pat Crabtree

June 14, 2022
Sophia Ann Kollmeyer,
Infant daughter of Rachel Reese-
Kollmeyer and Josiah Kollmeyer

July 8, 2022
Bill Oliver, father of Parish Oliver

July 15, 2022
Michael Brennan McKey
Parents are Sheri and Bobby McKey

MARRIAGES

June 18, 2022
Steve Gustafson and Sarah Schell



PH: 225.387.0617
fpcbr.org

763 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

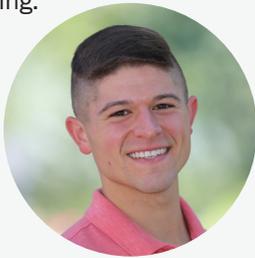
Mother's Day Out and Preschool
225.620.0245

BR Christian Counseling Center
225.387.2287
brchristiancounseling.com

All Things New *cont. from pg. 1*

to welcome as God intends to welcome his own, to heal as those who serve the Great Physician, to listen as those who follow the one who hears the prayers of his beloved. This is true freedom to live.

Living as followers of Christ, therefore, is much more than just something that changes the end of this existence as we transition to the next. Again, as Brian said, "If God is making all things new, it changes our purpose. He is making all things new *in you and through you.*" It changes everything.



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Building Life-Changing Relationships

First Presbyterian's abundant desire to share God's love and belief that all children matter to Jesus is evident in it's partnership with Kids Hope USA at Gardere Community Christian School. This faith-based mentoring partnership is making a difference!

Annette Lamond is seeking additional caring adults to become mentors. Training and support will be provided. Numerous children are asking, "How do I get a mentor?" Visit kidshopeusa.org/volunteer to learn more. Or contact our Kids Hope USA director, Annette Lamond (annette@fpabr.org).



MDO Teacher Needed

Are you, or someone you know, interested in loving and teaching our 2-year-olds at Mother's Day Out this year? If so, please contact our Whitney Weiner (mdu@fpabr.org or 225.205.5053).