The strife is everywhere. Between friends. Between family members. Between generations. A great divide seems to have opened up. Everything seems political. Everything seems to be about race. Everyone is always offended. We hate the conflict but don’t really even understand it. What’s going on?

The church of Jesus faces particular challenges. We know we are sent to the most difficult and desperate people and places with the gospel of Christ. We know Jesus loved the outcast and challenged the powerful. We resonate with the yearning for equality. Yet we feel that something is amiss in the demands for justice that want to deconstruct the way we’ve always lived. It’s hard to sort out Christian compassion from “woke” compulsion.

The mission of the church remains the same: to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth, to regard everyone in the loving light of Christ. Yet we face increasing hostility. In fact, we face competition. There is a worldview competing with us for adherents. A religion that wants to replace us. It’s a religion of harsh legalism and burning urgency that demands total allegiance. It’s a promise of an earthly utopia that has no blueprint except dismantling structures deemed oppressive. It resists being identified and wants everyone to view the world through its lens as the “normal” way of seeing.

Call it cancel culture, cultural Marxism, woke theology, or simply “justice, equity and diversity.” Whatever the label, it has a source. The technical name is Critical Theory. Christians of all ages need to understand the view of the world that underlies so much of today’s discussions. We need to be able to grasp what’s being said in order to evaluate if it’s really compatible with the gospel.

Our “Stay-Treat” on August 20-21 will feature three dynamic presentations by an expert in Critical Theory. Dr. Neil Shenvi brings the rigor of his background in theoretical chemistry along with his unique ability to present complex issues clearly. You can read more about Neil at shenviapologetics.com.

Please plan to join us. And bring a car load! We can’t afford not to understand what’s going on in our current cultural conversations.
AUGUST 2021

AUGUST EVENTS

Combined 10:30 Worship AUG 1
Sunday School Kick Off AUG 8
LSU Prayer Walk AUG 14
Stay-Treat AUG 20 & 21

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined 10:30 Worship SEPT 5
Faith & Football SEPT 12
Habitat Build Begins SEPT 30

BIRTHS
April 27, 2021 - Emery Kate Chapman
Parents are Chelsey and Jacob Chapman

June 8, 2021- Caroline McClure
Parents are Brandy and Chris McClure
Grandparents are Kelly and Ken Mizell

July 22, 2021 - Thomas Anthony Means, Jr.
Parents are Elizabeth Landreneau and
Thomas Anthony Means

BAPTISMS
June 13, 2021 - Claire Turner Webber
Parents are Claire Peyton and Rawley
Webber

MARRIAGES
June 12, 2021
Melissa Hall to Calvin Fabré

August 2021

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In addition to the 10.10 am Sunday school hour, we will continue to have our beloved “Tom & Jerry” class meeting at 9 am. This class meets right after the 7:45 service and will continue their epic journey through the book of Romans. Kevin McCarter’s passion for Scripture and excellence as a teacher makes this class one you won’t want to miss!

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Women’s Fall Study: Esther by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women’s Ministry

The book of Esther tells how an exiled Jewish girl became the queen of Persia and, with the help of her cousin Mordecai, rescued God’s people from those that sought to destroy them. There were no signs and wonders, no special revelations, no miracles. This teaches us that God’s plan is often achieved through his divine providence working through ordinary events. Even the actions of those that oppose God are woven into the purposes determined by him.

Esther’s story also teaches us that God’s sovereignty does not negate human responsibility. He has set us apart, to live in this world with courage and integrity, to carry out the responsibilities before us and to trust him to protect and provide for us even when we cannot feel or see him. In fact, God is never mentioned in the book, revealing that even when he is most conspicuously absent, he is all-powerfully present. He providentially watches over us and no power leveled against us will ultimately prevail. Our Esther fall study begins the week of September 1 and concludes November 11: Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm via Zoom and Thursdays @ 9:30 am in FPC Room 202. Childcare is available by contacting Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@fpcbr.org).

Women’s Ministry Circles by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women’s Ministry


The Envy of Eve exposes the reality of our covetousness, examines its ugly roots and explores the depth of this common sin in our lives. Through the illustrations of biblical figures such as Judas, David and Joseph, we see how discontentment, unbelief and a failure to trust God rob us of a life fully satisfied in Christ. And we begin to see that it is not our circumstances, relationships, or our abilities that need transformation . . . it is our hearts!

Join us this year as we discover how to replace covetousness with contentment. In turn, we are drawn toward true joy in a life of gratitude and service that more fully honors and glorifies our Heavenly Father, who has given each of us a cup that truly runs over, if only we have the eyes to see.

Women’s Circles meet monthly for study, prayer, and fellowship from September through May. Contact Jaime Carnaggio (jaime@fpcbr.org) if you are interested in either joining or leading a Circle.

Small Groups Forming Now by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship

We all know that the Christian life was not meant to be lived in isolation. God has fashioned us for community. To continue our efforts of living in community and loving one another well, this fall our small groups will kick off on September 7. As the Sunday services kick off a series on 1 Thessalonians, we are excited to have our small group content complement the sermons. Groups will focus on one of two topics. Many of our groups will use Ray Vander Laan’s “Dust of The Rabbi” material found on Right Now Media. This teaching will provide wonderful context and understanding of the 1st century church that will really help 1 Thessalonians sermons come alive. For those who listen to Gerrit’s sermons on Sundays but always want more, many of our groups will study 1 Thessalonians verse by verse following along with each Sunday’s passage. Discussion questions coming from the sermons and verses will help these groups go deep with each other and God’s Word.

Groups will come in all shapes and sizes: married or single, coed, men or women, live or virtual, weekly or every other week. There is sure to be a small group that fits your preferences. To find a group, contact Kelly Wood at kelly@fpcbr.org.
LSU Prayer Walk
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 us to 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 on August 14. Parking is usually available directly in front of the Union or in the parking lot behind Barnes & Noble across from the Union. Contact Jim Solomon if you have questions (jim@fpcbr.org or 387.0617).

Nursery Helpers Needed
The So Loved ministry is looking for helpers for the nursery on Sunday Mornings. Volunteers typically serve for one hour, one Sunday per month. If you feel led to help minister to the precious children in our church, please contact Karah Guillory (karah@fpcbr.org or 225-278-8753).

Mentors Make a Difference
All children face challenges. Sometimes kids need a little support to build resilience and hope. Research shows that by helping a child feel loved and valued, the child can better learn, grow and succeed. A Kids Hope USA mentor spends one hour each week talking, reading, playing and listening to a child at Gardere Community Christian School. Mentors receive training and support. Contact Annette Lamond to learn more about being a mentor (annette@fpcbr.org).

Buchanan Elementary Needs Our Help!
Our sweet adopted school is in need of school supplies for the upcoming academic year. These supplies help families who are not able to provide the required items for their children. Please consider picking up “extra” supplies when you are out shopping this summer so these children can be blessed! Items may be left at the Connection Center. Items needed: booksacks (heavy duty if possible-no wheels), plastic 3-prong pocket folders (red, yellow, blue, green), red pens, pencils, multi-colored highlighters, washable Crayola markers, colored pencils, 24-count crayons, black dry erase markers, pink pearl erasers, loose leaf paper (wide-ruled), protractors, school supply boxes, pencil bags, Fiskar scissors (blunt tip), watercolor paint sets, 4-pack glue sticks, wide-ruled composition books.

Help us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors just two miles from our church! For more information, contact Laura Shaw at laura@fpcbr.org or call 387.0617.