



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

SEPTEMBER 2020

FEATURE ARTICLE:
New Life through Jesus
Via Small Groups

Tim Hast and Jeannie Bath share their stories of how small groups change lives

Laura Burton, Director of Small Groups & Sunday School



Jeannie Bath, Online Small Group Leader

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
**DIRECTOR OF
EMERGING GENERATIONS:**

Brett Hardy

**SEPTEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tyler Boren, Digital Media Coordinator



Tim Hast, FPCE Member & Mentor

VISION MOMENT

Get to the Heart of the Matter – Online & Live

by: Carol Hartzog

New Life through Jesus is about our hearts. One day you are one person, and the next day, a different person, said Rev. Eric Laverentz during a recent sermon. "HE does it by changing our heart."

During September, we will hear from the pulpit about hearts that are Great, Peaceful, Generous, and Loving as we study Matthew 5 - The Beatitudes.

Through these sermons, we are being asked to dig deeper into the state of our hearts and to live out what is being preached through self-formation of groups, Pastor Eric explained. This is done by calling a friend, zooming with a group, or meeting with some friends at a distance for an impactful growth experience.

About 10 years ago, Tim Hast had the opportunity to speak to a large group of Christian men. He noticed a camaraderie among them which he later learned came from small group meetings. "I want that. That's missing in my life," he told the leader. "It didn't answer all the problems of life, but (meeting with other men to work through the Scriptures) certainly filled a hole that was missing in my life."

Tim started meeting with the leader – praying together, reading scripture, and discussing the Bible. When Tim would struggle with something, he could call his friend and work through it.

"He began the process of discipling me. We would talk and pray and study scripture. And he would also hold me accountable to memorize scripture. That has had a powerful impact on my life.

"As a result, I found three guys in my life that I'm pouring myself into. That's the whole point of disciple-

NEW LIFE, through JESUS

ship," he said, referencing scripture. "On the walk to Emmaus, two guys are walking down the road talking about Jesus and Jesus shows up. When two people begin to talk about their lives in relationship to God, Jesus shows up."

Do you think you might need a heart readjustment? How do you know if your heart has some gaps or holes?

The word 'blessed' means 'Oh, the deep joy - Oh, the incredible joy! If you are a believer and you are feeling like you are missing that deep joy, I believe that God uses that relationship with others in the Body to point us to Him.

"There's something about sitting down with other believers, pointing each other to God; and, even with Covid-19 and all that's going on, God is still in control. There's a part of that discipleship component that is 'Oh, the deep joy.' There's something about that one-on-one encouraging relationship. There's a sense of joy. When I realize that I am poor in spirit, for example, I also realize that God provides resources and one of the resources is other believers." With these words, Pastor Eric is encouraging each of us to find that deep joy of being in close relationship with other believers. Will you accept his challenge to initiate gathering with some friends to talk about your lives in relationship to God?

Jeannie Bath has taken that step. Jeannie grew up in the FPCE family, and she challenges church members to start groups. She said she has been enabled and taught to be a Bible leader because of the people of FPCE, and that every one of the members themselves could start groups as all are steeped in the Bible.

Jeannie started a Facebook group to specifically discuss the sermons.



"It's kind of embarrassing to say, but Facebook is kind of my language.... I don't think it replaces an in-person group, but it's way better than nothing and even people who have the lowest level of commitment (to the study) are going to see and question the Scripture verse I post with the sermon video link and they will note what other people have reflected on when scrolling through their social feed."

A lot of group members – of which there are 65 – do not attend FPCE, which is especially exciting.

"I like the idea that some are strong in their faith, but they will have great perspectives that are good to know and some are marginal in their faith. It may be the first Bible study they are in or the first in a long time, and they are not sure how it relates to their life."

Small groups are where you will grow. So, get going, form a group and:

- Read the sermon scripture together
- Share who you are
- Pray together
- Then go and live out what you have learned

Each week, new group discussion questions (NEXT STEPS) will be posted in the weekly Enews, at www.fpcedmond.org/media, and on the church app underneath the sermons.



At The Core: An FPCE Podcast

We now have a podcast!! Listen to "At The Core" *exclusively on our app* to hear testimonies from members of our congregation. Each episode follows along with Pastor Eric's current sermon series, Life on the Rock. Each week you will get to hear a new story from someone who lives out the theme of each sermon. This podcast allows us to share with each other who we are and how God has impacted our lives. Please listen to our first two episodes!



WE ARE HERE

We Are Here

As we head into the uncharted territory of our fall activities in a Covid-19 world, the terrain looks very different than we are used to walking. While God's people are called to gather, we also recognize the risk involved in gathering. That's why this fall, we are staying connected to one another through a wide variety of options. We want to remind you that We Are Here...at 1001 S. Rankin, online, in your hearts, & when you are ready to join us again.



Wednesday Night Gathering

Our Gathering dinners will begin on **September 9** and run through **November 18** (with no meal on Oct.14, which is the week of fall break). Serving will be from **5:15-5:45pm** temporarily in the Family Life Center for social distancing purposes. The cost is \$6/person, maximum of \$20/family. For the first meal on Sept.9, *please make a reservation for each person in your family coming by Sunday, Sept. 6*. Pizza will still be available for \$1/slice, but no reservations needed for pizza. Please email Linda Boyce at lboyce@fpcedmond.org to reserve your spot. Classes for all ages will be held from 6-7:30pm following the meal. Kids Ministry will meet on the playground, and Student Ministry will meet drive-in style in the back parking lot behind the gym.

September Menus:

- 9/9 Ham or Turkey Wrap
- 9/16 Taco Salad
- 9/23 Chicken Tetrazzini
- 9/30 BBQ Brisket



Making Lemonade out of Lemons
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

DONATE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

Scholarship Fundraiser

Life giving you lemons? We're making lemonade! Please join us on **Sunday, September 13** after first service, between services, and after second service. Grab a bottle of cold lemonade and donate to the college scholarship fund to help deserving 2021 high school seniors. Not attending live church? You will still be able to support by mailing in your donation to FPCE and indicating for the scholarship fund. The Women's Circles look forward to seeing you on Sunday, Sept. 13. "Train a child in the way..." Prov. 22:6

RETURNING THIS FALL:

Small Group for Moms

Tuesdays at 9:45AM beginning September 15, 2020



ECP Moms Small Group

Returning this fall, Small Group for Moms will meet on Tuesdays at 9:45am starting **September 15**, in **Room 2108**. Join us for fellowship, Bible study, encouragement, and prayer. Free childcare available. For more info., contact Robin Bickley at robin.bix@gmail.com or Jen Laverentz at jenlaverentz@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY

3 MEETING TIMES AVAILABLE (pick one!):

- Tuesdays at 7pm
- Wednesdays at 9:15am
- Saturdays at 8:30am

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15
REGISTER ONLINE OR IN PERSON!



Join us this fall for the study of Romans: Good News that Changes Everything by: Melissa Spoelstra. In-person registration will be Sunday Mornings **August 30, Sept. 6, & 13**, or register online at fpcedmond.org/adults. The Wednesday morning meeting will be live streamed if you prefer to participate remotely, and childcare is available at that meeting time as well. Registration is \$20, and books will be at the Welcome Desk to pick up Mon-Fri 9am-12noon. Week 1 homework should be completed before first meeting.



NEXT STEPS

CALL A FRIEND, ZOOM YOUR GROUP, OR MEET AT A DISTANCE!

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

SHARE WHO YOU ARE

PRAY TOGETHER

Next Steps

Pastor Eric has started a new sermon series called "Life on the Rock" that will continue through November. As we walk through this sermon series together, there will be weekly Next Steps available for you to use in small groups and apply to your everyday walk. We encourage you to dive into these study tools and grow a small group no matter how small. We are excited to hear how God uses this within our community throughout the fall.

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- Month of August: YouTube: 460 Views - 8,748 Minutes watched
- All Time App Downloads - 1,378
- Media Plays on App - 10,441 views
- App Launches YTD - 22,834
- July revenue: \$168,342
- YTD revenue: \$1,501,847
- July expense: \$225,526
- YTD expense: \$1,372,195
- July net deficit: \$57,184
- YTD Net Surplus: \$129,652

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

A Letter from the newly-appointed Director of Emerging Generations, Brett Hardy

Church Family!

I am honored and humbled to begin a new role here at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond! My family and I have been blessed with so many different ministry opportunities over the past ten years, but I want you to know that this new opportunity right here at FPCE is one that we are more excited about than maybe we've ever been. We love this church, and we believe God is moving in ways that are beyond anything we might ever think, dream, or imagine to launch FPCE into the next beautiful season! As I sit here writing these very words, my heart fills with wonder and excitement when I imagine the college students, young adults, interns, and families that will be impacted by the work that lays before us. And let's be clear - there is work to be done! We must now lean into a ministry demographic that is watching and waiting to see how and if God's church will connect with them. I want you to know that I believe with all of my heart that First Presbyterian Church of Edmond has the DNA that makes it ready to pursue that calling. I know you church - and I know that while the emerging generation is one that has its challenges when it comes to the intersection of the Gospel - I know that this body of believers has been uniquely equipped, resourced and fashioned to rise to the occasion. So, I'm asking you to come alongside me and lock arms as we go for it! Let's believe together that God is ready and able to transform our community for the Glory of his renown! Thank you for giving my family and me this opportunity.

Brett Hardy
Director of Emerging Generations



Brett, Madelinn, & LeiLinn Hardy



Brett with FPCE summer interns in 2019

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FALL 2020

Beginning Sunday, August 23, the following adult Sunday School classes will be offered for the fall (until December 13) from 10:00-11:00am:

James: The Proverbs of the New Testament • Room 2115

Taught by Lee and Julie Schmidt—*Live and Online**

A continuation of the study that began last Spring. James is an intensely practical book, filled with exhortations about how we, as Christians, should live our lives now that we have been given new life in Jesus. Filled with allusions to His teachings, and quotations of Jesus, it is packed with 'imperatives,' vitally important points, with which many of us are familiar: Every good and perfect gift is from above..., do not merely listen to the Word...do what it says...faith without deeds is dead...and much more. The objective of James is not a theological presentation of the Bible, but is written to Believers with the goal of helping them lead faithful lives as followers of Jesus. This class practices community, fellowship and discussion (koinonia) and all are welcome as we break open this challenging book as a guide to a life worthy of our calling.

*To receive the Zoom link and participate online, please email Lee – herbleschmidt@sbcglobal.net

Peter, the Bold and Reckless Leader • Room 2108

Taught by Steve and Susan Kinney—*Live*

Peter was the acknowledged leader of the disciples yet many of us have never studied his letters. He teaches us how to be the chosen people we are and how to do God's bidding. Peter starts off by telling us we are chosen and therefore very much loved by God. Then he goes on to tell us how to live and he does it in a powerful way. The way we would expect him to do - forcefully and with much vigor. If you have never studied Peter's letters, now is your opportunity. We will study him in detail and use John MacArthur's commentary and others as our reference material. Guided by God's Holy Scripture and expository teaching, we welcome everyone to join us.

Faith 2:42 • Room 2126

Led by Bill/Jayne Roberts, Mark/Kari Gallart and Mark/Susan Gamber –*Live*

Faith 2:42 is a vibrant group of 20/30 somethings that meet weekly for biblical teaching, fellowship, friendships and prayer! This fall they are beginning a new study on the book of Titus. This video study is taught by Chip Ingram and issues the challenge to display the gospel in our lives through doing good. We do good works not to earn God's favor, but as a result of God's favor. When the gospel has truly taken root in our lives, it produces the fruit of godliness. As we pass these things on to future generations, the Church stands in bright contrast to the darkness of the world. We love to welcome new friends weekly!

Everybody's Watching: Being Christian in the Public Square • Fellowship Hall

Taught by Sheri Stickley—*Live and Online**

In the midst of today's division and turmoil, what does it mean to be a Christian and a citizen of a city, state and country? What kind of people are Christians called to be in the public square? The world is always watching what Christians say and do, including those who most need to experience the love of Christ in their lives. Just as in any other setting, our behavior in the public square reflects on Christ. Does it glorify Christ and draw people to Him, or does it drive them away?

This strictly non-partisan class will study the scriptural underpinnings for: 1) determining whether, how, and why Christians can participate in the public square; and 2) forming and expressing our views in ways that honor Christ. This will be a welcoming environment for ALL so please join us in this prayerful study of a timely issue!

*To receive the Zoom link and participate online, please email Sheri – sheristickley@gmail.com

Curiosity and Questions: Jesus and Science

Taught by Wes Fryer—*Online**

Using the Bible as well as resources from Harvard's Veritas Forum and John Lennox's new book, "2084: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity," we will explore how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and our Reformed understanding of Christianity can be complementary rather than competitive with scientific perspectives. Offered virtually only (via Zoom) and taught by Dr. Wesley Fryer. Class resources and more information is available on followjesus.wesfryer.com.

*To receive the Zoom link and participate online, please email Wes – wesfryer@gmail.com



FALL EVENTS

FALL 2020



The Gathering

Wednesdays, 5:15-5:45p.m. dinner, 6:00-7:30pm Classes for all ages

On August 26th, our Wednesday Night activities will kick off for the fall and run until Wednesday, November 18th. Dinner will be served temporarily in the Family Life Center beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 9th for \$6/person or \$20/family, and pizza will be available beginning August 26th for \$1 per slice in the FPCE backyard. Nursery is available. Come join us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES FALL 2020

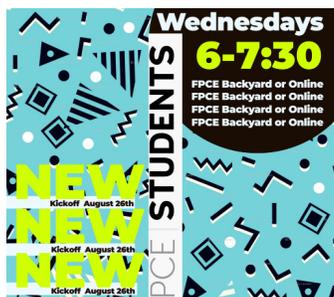
- **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW** - Bill & Uni Ball, Fellowship Hall
- **1 CORINTHIANS** - Dave Lewis, Room 2115
- **THE ART OF PARENTING*** - Ryan & Lauren Mitsuhashi, Room 2108 (*begins Sept.16)

Classes begin on Wednesday, August 26 • 6:00 - 7:30pm

Adult Wednesday Night Classes

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Bring a friend and grow in Wednesday night adult classes this fall! There are a variety of classes that meet weekly from 6-7:30p.m. View the list to the left, or contact Laura Burton at lburton@fpcedmond.org for more info.



Student Ministry Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm • (7th - 12th grade)

We are back beginning August 26th! Get pumped! Continuing outdoors Drive-In style or online, we have a new start time of 6pm. Small groups will kick off, we'll worship together, and dig into the Word. Email Alyssa Dess at adees@fpcedmond.org to let her know if you'll be connecting live or online.



Kids Ministry Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm • (Pre-K through 6th grade)

Wednesday nights for FPCE | Kids will begin on the FPCE playground each week. Please pray for our Wednesdays, specifically that we would have safe interactions and Spirit-filled discussion. We cannot wait to be back together again as a big church family. For now we encourage all of you to look around and see who Jesus is calling you to serve in your midst. For more information please email djones@fpcedmond.org.

After School Program

Mondays/Tuesdays, 2:15-4:30pm • Thursdays/Fridays, 2:15-4:30pm

The Central After School Ministry has returned! We are looking forward to an awesome year of serving the Central Middle School students and their families. We have been working with CMS staff to take the proper safety precautions for maintaining a safe and friendly environment. Parents can sign up their students on the website at: fpcedmond.org/afterschool. For further questions,

