



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

JANUARY 2022

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Alisa Childers

Loving others by leading them
back to the God of the Bible.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
OUR NAME IS JOHN
Using Our Lives to
Point to Jesus

VISION MOMENT

Lovingly Leading Others Back to God

By: Jen Laverentz

“The Bible is outdated and needs to be read through our own filter.”
“I could never identify with a God that would send someone to Hell.”
“That Bible verse doesn’t really resonate with me.”
“It’s not sin, but shame that separates us from God.”

Ideas like these are becoming more common in everyday conversation, even in Christian churches. Now more than ever, individuals are celebrated for seeking their own truth and for creating their own standards of morality. Christians are reluctant to speak up for fear of being ridiculed or dismissed for disagreeing with the cultural narrative. And yet, we know that the freedom and joy that humanity seeks can only be found by repenting of our sins and giving our lives to Jesus. How can we communicate the core beliefs of Christianity in a way that loves people yet firmly directs them to the Savior? In a world that is asking so many questions, we need to provide solid answers.

In late January, author Alisa Childers will come for an in person event to FPCE and share the story of the deconstruction of her Christian faith. She will share how the God of the Bible pulled her out of darkness into light. She emerged

from this terrible season stronger and more convinced than ever that Jesus is the way, the Truth and the life. Childers writes,

“I’ve learned that the Bible, attacked and maligned century after century, stands tall above the rubble of accusations that have been piled against it.”

Before authoring the book, *Another Gospel, A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity*, Alisa Childers was one of the founding members of the popular Christian band ZOEgirl. She currently hosts the ‘Alisa Childers podcast’ and interviews well known Christian writers and thinkers to discuss modern day challenges to Christianity. On her YouTube Channel, she breaks down tough theological concepts and teachings of the Church in a grace-filled way that broad audiences can understand.

Join us January 28-30th for hope filled sessions led by Alisa Childers in which she will teach us how to lovingly, yet firmly direct people back to the God of the Bible. Childers will outline some of the challenges to Christianity which may appear like interesting ideas on the surface, but as you dig deeper, these seemingly innocent ideas challenge the very core of Christianity. The ideas can diminish and even mock Christ’s redemptive work on cross.

Alisa will also discuss ways to demonstrate love to those with whom you disagree and how to demolish arguments, not the people making those arguments.

On Friday evening, she will discuss

the essential beliefs of Christianity and why they are still as true now as when they were defined by the early Church. On Saturday, we will hear more about the progressive Christianity, a movement that gained momentum through the 2000s, with its ideas infiltrating Bible believing churches within a decade. The next session



with focus on equipping our children of all ages for a lasting faith. Alisa will conclude her visit on Sunday, and join Pastor Eric for conversations at both the 9:00 and 11:15 services.

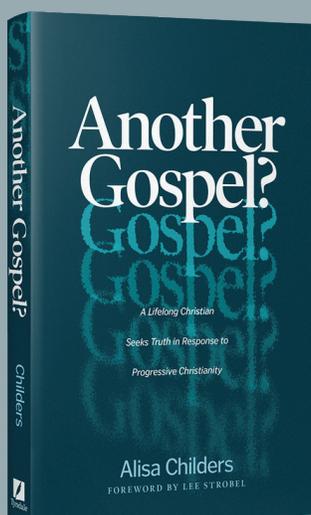
Invite friends, neighbors and family members to join you at this important weekend. The event is free, but registration is needed to save your spot. Childcare is also provided throughout the weekend, please note when registering.

Friday Jan 28, 6:30pm: Nothing Better Than the Real Thing: What Are the Essential Beliefs of Historic Christianity?

Saturday Jan 29, 9:30am: Progressive Christianity: A Biblical Response to a Growing Movement.

11am: Equipping our Kids for a Lasting Faith.

Sunday Jan 30 9am & 11:15am: Conversation between Pastor Eric and Alisa Childers.



Alisa’s Most Recent Publication: *Another Gospel?*



To register, go online or scan the QR code!



SERVE DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 | TASK FORCE NEEDED

Our 2022 Serve Day will be organized so that multiple churches are helping multiple schools in an effort to share God's love in a broader spectrum. The Serve Day task force meets the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30-6:30pm in Room 2114. If you would like to be involved, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Boecking at sboecking@fpcedmond.org.



Wednesday Night Gathering

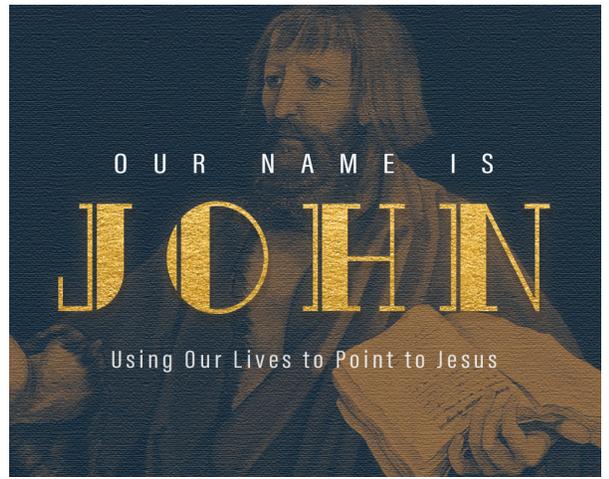
Reunite after the new year at the Gathering, starting up again for the new year on January 12th. Catch up with friends, enjoy dinner and attend a class or a small group. Dinner begins at 5:15 (see insert for more).

New dates have been set for the "Footsteps of Jesus" Israel Pilgrimage: May 21st- June 3rd. Pastor Eric Laverentz will lead this unique living workshop on Jesus' model of ministry and way of living. Pilgrims will see nearly every important place described by Scripture in the Holy Land. To learn more, visit our events page at fpcedmond.org/events.



EMERGING GENERATIONS

Are you a college student or young adult? Join us as we go through the book of James, beginning on January 9th in Fellowship Hall! This is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and connect with some community at FPCE!



See the ministry highlight article (back page) or the January class insert for more details!



Parking Hosts Needed

Do you have the gift of hospitality or a willingness to share a bright smile? We need people to serve in our Parking Host ministry on a regular basis. Serving doesn't require much, just a willingness to greet all who come within the sound of your voice. For more information or to sign up to support this ministry, contact Sharon Boecking at sboecking@fpcedmond.org or Jim Hartzog at jthartzog@aol.com.

SO MUCH MORE

GENERATE
SUMMER 2022



Camp Generate: July 10-15

Estes Park Colorado! Here we come! We are pumped to be headed to Estes Park Colorado this year for Generate 2022. Join us for this life-changing camp.



CÉSAR CHÀVEZ FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your faithful continued commitment to César Chávez Elementary!

The TOP 5 items needed for the month of January are: Canned Vegetables, Shelf Life Milk, Juice (only plastic please), Hot & Cold Cereal, Canned Soup.

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL

2022

Beginning Sunday, January 9, the following adult Sunday School classes will be offered through May 15 from 10:00-11:00am:

"Faith 2:42" by Kari & Mark Galliard; Susan & Mark Gamber; Jayne & Bill Roberts

- Late 20s to 30s (Married & Single)
- Room #2127

"Ephesians: The Grand Canyon of the New Testament" by Lee Schmidt

- Adults
- Room #2115

"Holy Parenting" by Todd Cooper

- Adults
- Room #1248

"Acts" by Emily Blaess

- Women
- Room #2109

"Gospel of John" by Mark Britton

- Open to all (historically older adults)
- Room #2124

"Marriage Matters" by Tim & Ruthie Hast

- Married couples (with or without kids)
- Room #2106

"Crucial Questions About the Christian Faith" by Dave Martin

- Adults
- Room #2108

"Bible Class" by Steve Kinney

- Adults
- Room #2114

"Finding Jesus in Media" by Rick Roberts

- Adult Class
- Room #2126

"College & Young Adult" by Jim Hartzog & Brett Hardy

- Married or Single
- Room #1205/Fellowship Hall

STUDENTS:
"Discipleship" by Joel & Sarah Hall

- High School Seniors Only (Graduating in 2022)
- Room #1240

STUDENTS:
"Core Curriculum" by FPCE Dir. of Student Ministry

- Middle School & High School Students (7-12th)
- Room #1250/Student Min. Worship Area

STUDENTS:
"Confirmation Class" by Forrest & Jeannie Bath

- Middle School Students
- Room #1242

KIDS:
by FPCE Kids Min. & Volunteers

- Kids Only (Pre-K through 6th Grade)
- Room #1237/Miracle Movies

(No Sunday school for Students and Kids: March 13th for spring break and April 17th for Easter. Adults should always check with their teachers for the class schedule.)

Wednesday Night Gathering

Classes for all ages, 6:00-7:30pm

- Kids Ministry meets in the FPCE Kids Room (Rm 1237)
- Student Ministry will meet in the Yinger Youth Center. Worship Choir rehearsal and Adult classes are also meeting from 6-7:30pm:

- "Jesus: Healer, Teacher, Savior; A Study of the Gospel of Mark" by Rev. Matt Jones | Open to all | Room #2108

- "Sermon Series" Bible Study Class* by Judy Gross

Open to all | Room #2123 *please call ahead 826-1044



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SPRING EVENTS

2022

New Sermon Series: *Our Name is John: Using Our Lives to Point to Jesus*

January 9th-February 13th

Prophet, prophesied, baptizer, rabble-rouser, critic, humble, instrument, forerunner, prisoner, cousin of God—all these descriptors paint a picture of a mysterious man named John. Before Jesus’s ministry began, John’s preaching, teaching and baptism for the forgiveness of sin was the talk of everyone. Yet, when the time for Jesus’ ministry began, John - knowing his mission, began to decrease so Jesus could increase. It’s important for us to know more about John because the work of the Church is very similar. We are called to point to Jesus and declare His imminent arrival. Beginning January 9, join Lead Pastor Eric Laverentz at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond as we take a deep dive into the life of



this important man and learn how to live a life that points to Jesus.



Wednesday Night Gathering

January 12th - May 11 - No Wednesday nights: March 2nd (Ash Wednesday), March 16th (spring break), April 13th (Holy Week)

Gathering Meal, 5:15-5:45pm | Classes for all ages, 6:00-7:30pm

Come for dinner and stay for fun and fellowship! Kids Ministry meets in the FPCE Kids Room (Rm 1237), and Student Ministry will meet in the Yinger Youth Center. Worship Choir rehearsal and Adult classes are also meeting from 6-7:30pm: “Jesus: Healer, Teacher, Savior; A

Study of the Gospel of Mark” by Rev. Matt Jones | Open to all | Room #2108 and “Sermon Series” Bible Study Class by Judy Gross Open to all | Room #2123 *please call ahead for this class at 826-1044

Women’s Spring Bible Study Opportunities

All women are welcome to come to these times of fellowship and growth. For childcare reservations, email childcare@fpcedmond.org.

Spring Bible Study (3 optional times)

- Room 2115, Wednesdays 9:15-11am Beginning on Jan.19
- Via Zoom, Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm Beginning on Jan.18
- Room 2115, Saturdays 8:30-10:00am Beginning on Jan.22



We will be showing the series, “Now That Faith Has Come” by Beth Moore. \$20 online registration. Invite a friend!

Young Mom’s Bible Study

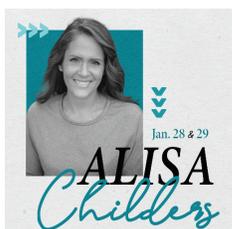
Mondays via Zoom, 8-9pm
Zoom Bible study for young moms will continue in the spring, focusing on lessons from the video series *The Chosen*. 8-9 pm Mondays. Beginning Jan. 10 through March 7.



Alisa Childers Event

Friday, January 28 - Sunday, January 30

Hear Alisa Childers, Author, Speaker, and Apologist, as she shares her experience about walking through a dark season of doubt and meeting the God of the Bible. Please register [HERE](#) and join us for this unique weekend experience.



FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- Income

Year-to-date receipts for the 11 months ended November 30, 2021, were \$2,001,506 (\$111,761 over budget-ed receipts of \$1,889,745 or 105.9% of budget).

- Expenses

Year-to-date expenses for the same period were \$162,327 or 7.1% under budget (\$2,123,955 actual versus budgeted expenses of \$2,286,282).

- Online Attendance

The average online attendance for the month of November was 164. The average attendance for the month of December was 129.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Our Name is John: Using our Lives to Point to Jesus

Prophet, prophesied, baptizer, rabble-rouser, critic, humble, instrument, forerunner, prisoner, cousin of God— all these descriptors paint a picture of a mysterious man named John. Before Jesus's ministry began, John the Baptist's preaching, teaching and baptism for the forgiveness of sin was on everyone's. People traveled for miles into the desert to hear him speak. A nation, thirsty for a word from God, eagerly sought his preaching and teaching. At his direction, they repented of their sins and were baptized by him. He told them things they had not heard. Yet, when the time for Jesus' ministry began, John, knowing his mission, began to decrease so Jesus could increase.

It's important for us to know more about John because the work of the Church is very similar. We are called to point to Jesus and declare His imminent arrival. Are we

prepared to set aside our sense of individual importance and point others to Christ? If not, how do we get there? What can we learn from the life of John the Baptist?

Beginning January 9th, join Lead Pastor Eric Laverentz at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond as we delve into the life of this important man and learn how to live lives that point to Jesus. Study guide available in app.

Luke 3:1-12

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Series Schedule:

January 9

Made to Be a Light in the Darkness
Luke 1:67-79

January 16

Preparing the Way
Matthew 3:1-12

January 23

Behold the Lamb of God
John 1:19-30

January 30

Conversation with Alisa Childers

February 6

He Must Increase and I Must Decrease
John 3:22-36

February 13

The Way of Prophets
Mark 6:21-29

