

FBC News

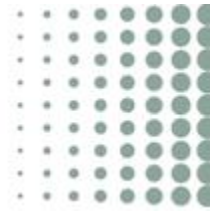
“Community - an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location.”

Merriam- Webster Dictionary

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2022



**UNGODLY UNION:**  
THE DANGER OF  
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM



Christian Nationalism, the assertion that the United States is officially a Christian nation and should be governed by explicitly Christian leaders, is not a new movement, but it is receiving increasing attention.

To help the community understand this ideology and what is at stake for democracy, FBC will sponsor a three-part online webinar, “Ungodly Union: The Danger of Christian Nationalism” on **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm via Zoom.**

Developed in cooperation with Word&Way, an award-winning publishing company in Jefferson City, Missouri, the community conversations will examine what Christian Nationalism is, why it is a threat to democracy, and how it is a distortion of the Christian faith.

**Our Facilitators:** Brian Kaylor is the President and Editor-in-Chief of Word&Way, an award-winning Baptist publication based in Jefferson City, MO. An ordained Baptist pastor, he holds a Ph.D. in political communication.



Beau Underwood serves Word&Way as its Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Editor. A pastor within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he is also working on his doctorate in public affairs.

**Participate in the Conversation:** With the leadership of our expert facilitators, we will host small and large group discussions at each session. Each session will include:

- A brief presentation on the week's topic ([check FBC's website for details](#))
- Time for small group discussion of a central question or theme
- Time for discussion with the whole group and
- Concluding remarks

**Register:** Please register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/ykn7u6ae>

You only need to register once to attend, but each person will need to register separately. You will receive a unique link that will allow you to attend any or all of the forum sessions on Zoom. If you miss a session, video of the forum will be available on this website the following week. We hope you'll encourage others to register and bring their voices to this important community conversation.

## Moving Right Along

In the last month, the Save, Repurpose, Recycle team has made remarkable progress as they packed up and sorted everything in our building. In preparation for the sale of the building, furniture, tools, keepsakes, and items of all kinds were moved to a storage unit. Thank you to Jeanne Petrosky for organizing everything for the moving company who moved all the furniture and for the volunteers who moved all the boxes.



## Out in the Park 2022

Out in the Park is the LGBT Center of Reading's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual festival. This year join everyone at FirstEnergy Stadium, Saturday, October 8th from 1pm to 7pm! With concessions, a pet parade, educational sessions, live entertainment on stage, and much more, the day is already packed... with more features coming daily!

Check it out on their website at [www.lgbtcenterofreading.com/out-in-the-park](http://www.lgbtcenterofreading.com/out-in-the-park) and plan to join in!



**Join POWER on October 22<sup>nd</sup> as they step into the next phase of POWER Metro!**

Over the last 6 years, POWER Metro has put our faith into action by advocating for public policies that expand equality and ensure the blessings of justice for Pennsylvanians across the state. They've won millions of dollars of money for public schools, secured funding for sustainable home repairs, created community-rooted police accountability, and much more. FBC is proud to be part of this organization.

In this crucial moment in history, they're stepping into the next phase of who they are as POWER Metro - and they want *you* to be a part of that celebration.

Join POWER on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4-7pm at St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester for the **POWER Metro Re-founding Convention** ([register here](#)). POWER invites you to "come, taste and see" what love looks like in public when it is organized and powerful.

Together you'll celebrate, train, inspire, connect with old and new friends, and commit to the work ahead. Bring your faith community, your organization, and your friends and family. A corporate meal will be served, so please register to give them an accurate headcount.

## Research Study on LGBTQ Inclusion in Church

Are you an adult (18 years or older) member of First Baptist who identifies as LGBTQ+? If so, please consider participating in a research study being conducted by Dr. Megan Yost, a professor at Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA). **There is still time to participate.**

The purpose is to learn about LGBTQ people who have found a home in a welcoming congregation, because most other research on this topic has examined LGBTQ people who have left churches due to experiences with sexual prejudice. To learn more about the study, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/3b3srway> for a video introduction, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p93xy5t> for a written description.

## What's Happening at FBC!

Check out these upcoming events! We have a very busy fall, so mark your calendars now. Visit us online to find links at [www.FBCPottstown.org](http://www.FBCPottstown.org).



- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am Online Worship with guest pastor Rev. Patricia Lawrence
- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm Ministry and Money Team Meeting
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Board of Spiritual Life Meeting
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am In-person Worship and Communion at FBC
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm Community Forum: The Danger of Christian Nationalism
- Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Book Group – *Out of the Sun*
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm LGBT Center of Greater Reading – Out in the Park
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am Online Worship
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm Community Forum: The Danger of Christian Nationalism
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am Online Worship
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm Community Forum: The Danger of Christian Nationalism
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Book Group – *Out of the Sun*
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am YW3CA Block Event – Week Without Violence
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm POWER Metro Re-founding Convention
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am Learning Community – *The Jesus Creed*

## Financial Info

We continue to come together to do the work of ministry in our neighborhood and in the world. Your gifts make this happen! Thank you!

Offering Income in July/Aug	\$ 9,241.57
Rental Income in July/Aug	\$13,615.64
Other Income in July/Aug	\$ 283.90
<hr/> Total income in July/Aug	<hr/> \$23,141.11
Expenses in July/Aug	\$14,351.09
Net Gain for July/Aug	\$ 8,790.02



**Do you have anything you'd like to add to the next edition of FBC News?**

Email details to the office at [office@FBCPottstown.org](mailto:office@FBCPottstown.org) by October 15<sup>th</sup>!