



Current Updates

WORSHIP SERVICES

We will continue to worship together via livestream at our regular service times: fpcj.ms/livestream and on Facebook Live.

CHURCH EVENTS

- All church-related events and activities are canceled through May 18.
- May Midweek Series will air on fpcj.ms/livestream on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.:
 - Pastoral Conversations**
 - May 20 *Stewardship*
 - May 27 *Spiritual Rhythms*

STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

Without gathering on Sundays and passing the offering plate, we ask that our members and regular givers consider alternative ways of sending offerings:

- Give online: <https://www.fpcjackson.org/about/giving-and-stewardship>
- Download our app on IOS and Android (FPC Jackson) and click "giving".
- Send your offering through the mail to the church office (1390 N. State St).
- Give by text: Text [fpcjackson](https://www.fpcjackson.org) to 779-77.

NEEDS

Email needs@fpcjackson.org or call the church office at 601-353-8316 if you are able to help others, if you or your neighbors have tangible needs, to volunteer or help in other ways.

MISSION FIRST

Mission First is distributing food to families in need. To help them, please bring non-perishable food items to the box by the nursery door at the church.

CHURCH STAFF INFORMATION

Most of the church staff is working regular hours remotely. Please feel free to contact staff members via email, direct line, or by calling the receptionist at 601-353-8316. Each person can access voice mail remotely.

NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND FACILITIES

Please join us in welcoming Lee J Webb to the church staff as our new Director of Finance and Facilities. He started at First Presbyterian on May 11. Look for a more formal introduction soon.

SUPPORT GROUPS

If you struggle with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to meet with people who share the same struggles, join a small and very safe group that meets for that purpose. This weekly meeting is one of friendship, encouragement, and biblical reflection. Personal anonymity is very important.

For more details, please call or text 601-260-1636.

Also, twice each month a group of those who have loved ones who struggle with addiction/alcoholism meet for mutual encouragement and Christ-centered counsel. Anonymity is required. For more information concerning the place and time of these meetings, call or text 601-260-0388.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1390 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202-2095
(601) 353-8316 | fpjackson.org

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The First Epistle

SPECIAL EDITION

MAY 14, 2020 | ISSUE 8

SUNDAY SERVICE ON WLBT AT 10 AM
STREAMED ONLINE AT FPCJACKSON.ORG/LIVESTREAM | SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM, 11 AM, AND 6 PM

fpcjackson.org 1390 N. State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 601-353-8316

A BRIEF MISSION UPDATE

by Ed Hartman, Minister of Mission and Outreach

What's been going on in the mission department at First Presbyterian Church? The Lord has clearly been at work in spreading the gospel and building his Kingdom through your faithful investment in giving, praying and engaging personally in the fulfillment of Jesus' final command, the great commission.

Total giving to mission last year (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020) was \$783,662. That was roughly \$200,000 MORE than what was pledged and roughly \$20,000 MORE than our total commitments for the year. Thank you so much for your generous giving to the spread of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world.

We remain focused on our strategic plan, which focuses heavily on reaching the remaining unreached people groups of the world with the gospel (remember the THUMB acronym? Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist people groups).

Following our recent mission conference (doesn't feel so recent, does it?), our congregation pledged a total of \$676,546, which is roughly \$100,000 more than what was pledged last year. Again, thank you for your generous commitment toward

the spread of the gospel! If you've not yet made a pledge, it's not too late. Please mail your pledge card to the church office, or you can go to the church app and submit your pledge there. You can also call or email Lee J Webb (601-353-8316 or email leejw@fpcjackson.org). May the Lord continue to bless us, that we may be a blessing to those yet to be brought into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

Last month, the session sent a special gift of \$10,000 to our partners in Indonesia, which will provide food boxes for bi-vocational house church leaders, which will enable them to stay focused on shepherding the small congregations that have been gathered in their villages and cities.

Please pray for all our missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers, that they would be faithful and creative in ministering to people in this strange and unfamiliar season. Pray for their health, safety and courage in engaging the people among whom they live... even if the engagement is at a greater distance than what they're accustomed to. If you would like to receive a weekly prayer update on our missionaries, please email missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org. The Lord bless you and keep you!

PASTORAL COUNSELING

We have set aside certain hours of each day to meet with members and friends of our congregation by video conference or phone call. If you would like to schedule a time to talk through and to pray about whatever concerns or struggles you are facing, please email Marie Phillips at mariep@fpcjackson.org or call the church at 601-353-8316. All names and information will be handled compassionately and confidentially.

Twin Lakes Summer Camp

Twin Lakes Summer Camp has made the decision to cancel all programs for Summer 2020.

We believe that this is the wisest decision for the health and safety of the beloved Twin Lakes community.

We look forward to seeing and serving our guests and campers again soon!

In Sympathy

Please pray for:

- **Betty Bell Gibson and Larry Noblin in the death of their brother.**
- **The family and friends of Laurin Hume.**
- **Dominique Jordan in the death of her grandmother.**

Welcome to Our World

Olivia Anne Pyron

born May 13

to ***Rob and *Caroline**

Grandparents

***Doug and *Anne McDaniel**

***FPC members**

Missionaries of the Week

Anthony & Felicia Forrest – Campus Minister at JSU

Pray:

- Pray for Felicia. She is a nurse at St. Dominic's hospital. Her likelihood of being exposed to the virus may be increasing with each shift, making her anxious.
- Pray for JSU students - specifically seniors. Graduation was canceled, and much of their last semester is crowded with disappointment and frustration.
- Pray that opportunities for virtual ministry continue at this time. It is an unprecedented thing, which can cause flustering and discouragement.
- They are looking to buy a home which would provide numerous benefits for their family.
- Their need for a second car was met when he was allowed to take one with minimal payment. Pray for them as they manage their funds in the midst of all that is uncertain, including any change in Felicia's work.

Alonzo & Esther Ramirez – Serving in university campus ministry, seminary training and church planting with Christian Missionary Society in Cajamarca, Peru.

Pray:

- He has been in house quarantine in Lima since April 6 after a US trip is not able to travel to Cajamarca. Pray that permission may be given so he can return to family.
- He has been preaching by livestream every Lord's Day for the church plant in Quiritimayo and many other churches listen to the preaching in Perú, Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia and Colombia. Pray for the Spirit to illumine each sermon so that the hearers faith may be strengthened and non-believers may be converted.
- Pray that the Lord would make it possible for their seminary course on Christology would be come to fruition in July with pastors Chad Bailey, Wayne Kirk, and Roland Barnes and in late August with Dr. Nick Wilborn.
- During all this quarantine time, he has translated Volumes 3 and 4 out of the 5 volumes of Calvin's commentary on the book of Psalms into Spanish. He has started the fifth volume, so please, pray that the Lord may give him the focus and strength to finish this work.



Media Resources

Daily Devotionals

Daily devotionals called "Life Toward God" and the kids' version are available through email, on our website, and on the FPC Jackson app.

Would you like to get these and more delivered to your email?

Visit <https://fpcj.ms/subscribe> and check the appropriate boxes to sign up for these resources.

Youth Ministry Updates

Follow our Youth Ministry on Instagram @FPCYM and email youthhouse@fpcjackson.org to get added to the weekly email list.

Women's Ministry

Meals for Gateway

Women in the Church is providing weekly deliveries of food and supplies to Gateway Rescue Mission.

Women's Ministry Directory

We are updating the information for the Women's Directory. If you have changed address or contact information since last July, please email lisao@fpcjackson.org by June 1 (even if you have officially updated your information with the church or on the ShelbyNext app).

Take Five

Wouldn't it be great if after this time apart, we return to worship together encouraged by a new friendship or two? Or to find that some old ones are strengthened and renewed? Grab your Women's Ministry Directory, pray for the five names listed below your own, and then call or write each one.

Let's pray for and draw closer to each other - even from a distance!

Medical Mask Project

We are still in need of volunteers to sew either medical or cloth masks. For more information or to volunteer, contact rebeccar@fpcjackson.org.

Children's Ministry

Summer Devotional

Beginning June 1, Children's Ministry will be working through *Wise Up* by Marty Machowski for morning devotionals. Each week, we will work through one of the themes of Proverbs. If you don't have a copy and would like one, please email annah@fpcjackson.org, and we will get a copy to you by the end of May.

Thank You

Children's Ministry would like to thank the many volunteers who have given their time to make our daily devotionals possible. Since March 23, fifty-six different church members have written devotional lessons that have been available to our children via email, the FPC app, website, and social media. If you missed one, check them out on the website!