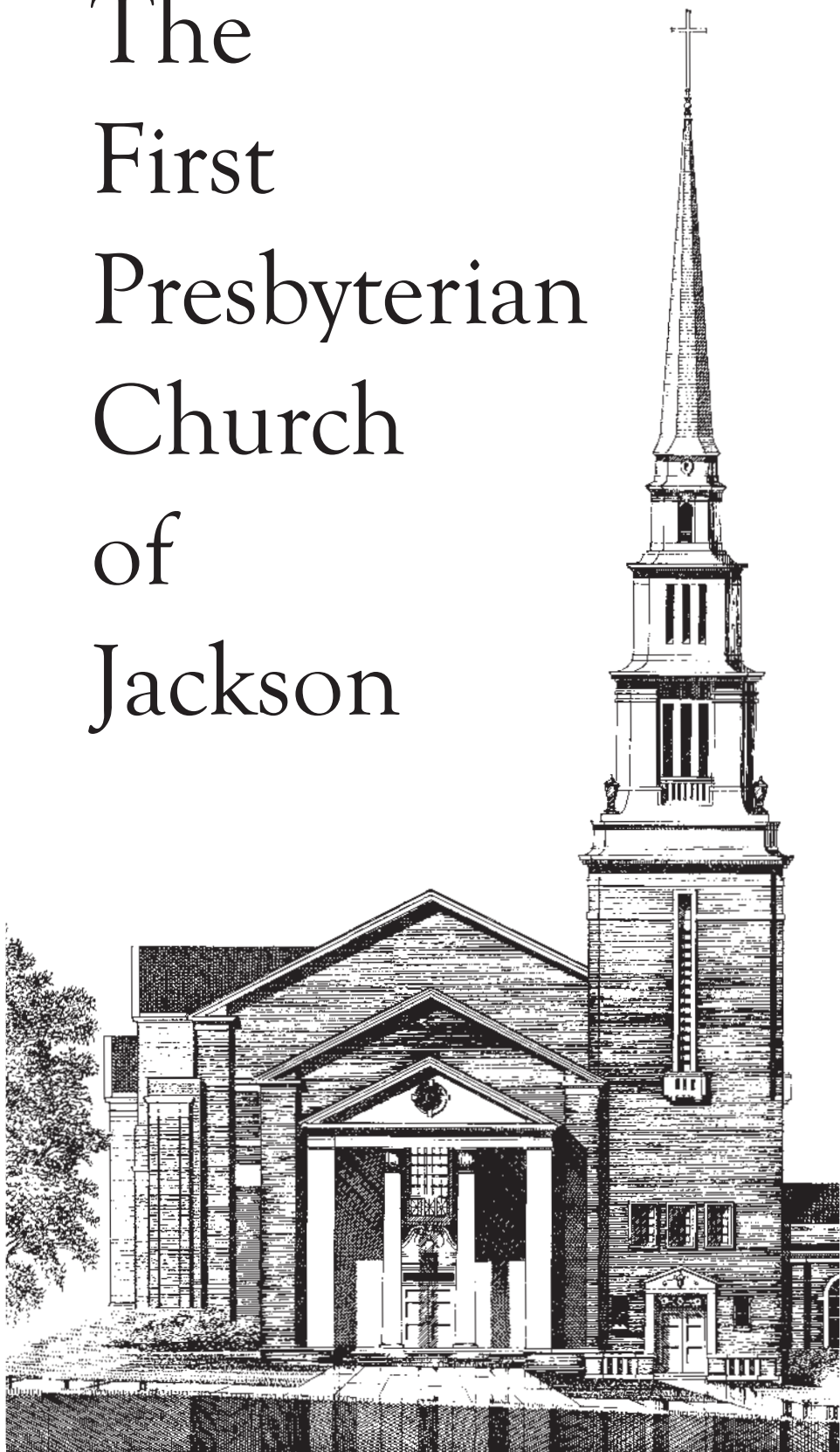


The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Tenth Day of December, Two Thousand Seventeen
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

The Reverend Dr. Edward A. Hartman — Minister of Mission & Outreach

The Greetings and Announcements (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

The Prelude — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”Arr. David Winkler
Shellie Brown, Violin I; Jessica Schmidt, Violin II;
Lauren Bargar, Viola; Jeremiah Reese, Cello

The Introit — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice!” English Tune
The Student Choir

The Call to Worship

✦* **The Carol of Praise No. 203** — “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

✦ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

✦ **The Assurance of Pardon**

The Solo — “Mary, Did You Know?” Lowry/Greene
Clint Pride, Baritone

The Scripture Reading — Isaiah 7:10-17 (Pew Bible page 572)

The Pastoral Prayer

✦* **The Carol No. 210** — “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “Gloria” Antonio Vivaldi
“Glory to God in the Highest”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 1:39-45 (Pew Bible page 856)

The Sermon — *Veiled in Flesh: “The Blessing”* Dr. Strain

✦ **The Carol of Response No. 213** — “What Child Is This”

✦ **The Benediction**

✦ **The Congregational Response**

“Glo-ri-a in Excelsis Deo.
Glo-ri-a in Excelsis Deo.”

The Postlude — “God Rest Ye, Merry, Gentlemen” David Willcocks

*The ushers may seat latecomers

✦Congregation standing

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

The Reverend Mr. Ralph S. Kelley — Executive Minister

The Announcements and Words of Preparation (5:55 p.m.)

The Prelude

The Call to Worship

‡* **The Carol No. 200** — “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

‡ **The Invocation**

‡* **The Carol No. 202** — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Story of Rescue — Ann Lowrey Forster

‡ **The Carol No. 224** — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Evening Prayer

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

The Story of Rescue — Matt Glover

The Carol No. 218 — “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible page 807)

The Sermon — “Rescue Mission Two” Dr. Strain

‡ **The Carol of Response No. 211** — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

‡ **The Benediction**

The Postlude

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

##Children dismissed after the carol


Our Vision

First Presbyterian Church of Jackson exists to glorify God by making disciples on the North State Street corridor, in the greater Jackson area, and around the world.



2017 Holiday Schedule

December 10	7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight Christmas Party
December 12	6:30 p.m.	Young Adults Christmas Party
December 13	6:30 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program
December 13	7:30 p.m.	Covenant College Christmas Party
December 14	6:00 p.m.	WIC Christmas Dinner in Gym
December 16	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
December 16	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Bookstore Open House
December 17	4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Music of Christmas
December 20	5:30 p.m.	Winter Grace Service/No Supper or Children's activities
December 21	4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Family Night in Laurel Park (Belhaven)
December 24		Regular Morning Worship Services & Sunday School
December 24	4:00 p.m.	Family Carols Service No Evening Worship Service
December 25-26		Church Offices Closed
December 25-29		Bookstore Closed
December 27		No Wednesday Night Supper/Service
December 31		Regular Worship Services & Sunday School
January 1		Church Offices Closed
January 3		No Wednesday Night Supper/Service



FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

Sunday

Prayer for Worship Service — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in M133
The Learning Resource Center — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
 (Library only)
Children’s Church for 3- and 4-year olds — during 11:00 a.m.
 worship service in M135MB
College Lunch — 12:00 noon in Gym
Adult Choir Rehearsal — 4:00 p.m. in MS
The Learning Resource Center — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
 (Library only)
Q&A — 7:00 p.m. in Lowe Hall
Senior High Christmas Party — 7:30 p.m. at the Hurst home
 (2210 Culleywood Rd.)

Monday

Missions First Tutoring — 3:00 p.m. SC 210 & 213
Diaconate Meeting — 5:30 p.m. in PH
Session Meeting — 7:00 p.m. in MS

Tuesday

Men’s “Truth at Dawn” Bible Study — 6:30 a.m. in PH
Sew & Sow — 9:00 a.m. in SC211
French Camp Quilters — 9:00 a.m. in MB132
Mission Conference Committee Meeting — 12:00 noon in SC211A
Presbytery Credentials Committee Meeting — 4:00 p.m.
 in SC211A
Young Adults Christmas Party — 6:30 p.m. at the home of the
 Felkers (2004 Laurel St.)

Wednesday

The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m
Family Night Supper — 5:00 p.m. in LH
Junior High D Groups — 5:30 p.m. in YH
Children’s Playtime — 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Gym/Playground
Adult Choir Rehearsal — 5:50 p.m. in MS
Chinese Bible Study — 6:00 p.m. in SC210
Senior High Small Group Meetings — 6:30 p.m. in Y201 and Y202
Children’s Choirs Christmas Program — 6:30 p.m. in PH
Covenant College Christmas Party — 7:30 p.m. at the Story home
 (2416 Culleywood Rd.)

Thursday

WIC Christmas Dinner — 6:00 p.m. in Gym

Friday

No Activities Scheduled

Saturday

Men’s Prayer Breakfast — 7:30 a.m. in SC211
Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal — 9:00 a.m. in Sanctuary
Bookstore Open House — 10:00 a.m. in LRC

BC - Basement Classroom
CH - College House
LH - Lowe Hall
M - Main Floor

MCR - Ministers Conference Room
MH - Miller Hall
MS - Music Suite

PH - Patterson Hall
YH - Youth House
SC - Study Center
WH - Westminster Hall

HC - Hutton Chapel
LRC - Learning Resource Center
SR - Session Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

II THESSALONIANS 3:1 — “Finally, brethren, pray for us...”

Tial & Annie T. – Serving with MTW in Myanmar. For contact information, please call the Mission and Outreach Office.

FLOWERS

The poinsettia tree is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Johnson by Dr. and Mrs. J. Lee Owen, Sr.

The poinsettias in the foyer are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Denny Terry by his family.

The poinsettias in the Greeting Courtyard are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Watts by his family.

EVENING WORSHIP TONIGHT — BRING A FRIEND

We are drawn to rescue stories because we all have a desire for salvation. Sadly, we often seek it where there is none. But the Scriptures teach us that the most dramatic rescue happens when we're set free from our sins. Please join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. as we consider the beginning of Matthew's Gospel and how Jesus came to set His people free. We hope you'll also invite a friend or neighbor to hear the gospel message, enjoy the singing of Christmas carols, and hear testimonies of rescue. Then, following the service, join us in Lowe Hall for a light meal and a time of Q&A.

STEWARDSHIP 2018

As we prepare for the 2018 budget year, it is important that each member of our congregation support the work and worship of First Presbyterian Church. We can plan to do more gospel ministry with your commitment. If you have not turned in your stewardship commitment card for 2018, you may place it in the offering plate during today's worship services. You may also pledge electronically by visiting our church app and clicking on "Giving," then "Pledge." To date, we have received 391 stewardship commitments for a total of \$4,031,469.76 and 43 Capital Projects & Improvements commitments for a total of \$65,562.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2017, please notify Cliff Ford in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2017 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2017. The Business Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. that day. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Security will be posted on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2017. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2017, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on "Giving." All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2017, will apply to your 2018 Contribution Statement.

COLLEGE SUNDAY LUNCH TODAY

The last Sunday Lunch of the semester for local college students (Millsaps, Mississippi College, Belhaven, Jackson State, Hinds, etc.) will be held today in the gym following the 11:00 a.m. service. Covenant college students, please note the winter schedule available in the FPC Jackson app for information about the Christmas party and other events while you are home!

CONNECT WITH FPC ONLINE

website: www.fpcjackson.org

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[Facebook.com/FirstPresJackson](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresJackson)

Download the FPC app:
Text [fpcjacksonapp](https://www.fpcjackson.org) to 779-77

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

INSIGHT CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT

Senior High students, grab a \$5 gift for our “white elephant” gift exchange and your best Christmas sweater, and join us at the Hurst home (2210 Culleywood Rd.) tonight at 7:30 p.m. for our Insight Christmas Party!

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Young Adults, join the Christmas festivities at the Felker home (2004 Laurel St.) this Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. Sign up by contacting David, Mackenzie, or Joe. Plan to bring a side dish or \$5.

WINTER GRACE — DECEMBER 20

Please join us on Wednesday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a Christmas worship service for those who are struggling with grief, brokenness, and loss during a season of celebration. This would be a good opportunity to invite struggling friends and family members who may not be part of our church to join us for a worship service uniquely designed for them. A nursery will be provide for children up to 4 years old.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

10th-12th graders are invited to join FPCYM January 12-15, 2018, at the Senior High Winter Retreat at Alpine Camp for Boys. Our Speaker this year is David Felker, Minister of Young Adults and College. The cost is \$215, but sign up by our Early Bird Deadline tomorrow and pay \$165. Sign up online or on the FPC Jackson app.

SPRING BREAK AT SEAGROVE

FPCYM is returning to Seagrove Beach, Florida, for Spring Break 2018! 9th through 12th graders are invited to join us March 13-17, 2018. The cost is \$150, but sign up by the Early Bird Deadline tomorrow and pay \$100 online or on the FPC Jackson app.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Ladies, please join us for our Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 14, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Gym. Our devotional speaker will be Kathryn Day. The cost for the meal, catered by Bravo, will be \$10 taken at the door. A gluten-sensitive meal option will be available upon request. To ensure your meal order is placed, please register by tomorrow through the FPC App, on the website, or by contacting the church at 601-353-8316 or receptionist@fpcjackson.org. A nursery is available upon request at the time of registration.

COMMUNICANT CLASS 2018

Communicant classes, open to students 6th grade and above, will be held January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2018, beginning at 9:40 a.m. in Miller Hall. To register or for more information, please contact Kimberly Wilkins at kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9105.

MOMS BIBLE STUDY SPRING SEMESTER

Rooted...Cultivating a Healthy Marriage in Union with Christ: Ladies, we hope you'll join us on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. beginning January 17. The format is small groups followed by a large group lecture led by Emily Hartman. MOMS is a weekly Bible study for expectant moms, those who hope to become moms, and those whose youngest child is in the sixth grade or below. A nursery is available, but space is limited. Registration begins January 2. Please contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

At FPC, we believe that family worship is important. Recognizing the time challenges of a busy week with work and school, we want to make it as easy as possible for you. So we hope you find this Family Worship Guide helpful and use it in your homes this week. Each week addresses a question from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, with a daily scripture reference, key thought, and questions for family discussion. You can use this abbreviated version by simply taking this bulletin home with you today, or get the complete version emailed to you weekly by subscribing at <http://fpcj.ms/fam-devo>. Or contact the church office at 601-353-8316 or receptionist@fpcjackson.org. It is also available on the app under "Resources."

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS:

Question 85: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for our sin?

Answer: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

MONDAY

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-19; Romans 6:26

Key Thought: God has provided a way of escape!

Questions:

- Was God bound in any way to provide salvation for fallen man?
- What does the word "require" teach us about salvation?
- What should your response to these things be?

Prayer

TUESDAY

Scripture: John 14:1-6; Acts 4:12; Philippians 3:9

Key Thought: God requires faith in Jesus Christ.

Questions:

- How is biblical faith different from the "power of positive thinking"?
- What does it mean to say that faith must have an object?
- Who is the only proper object of biblical faith?

Prayer

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9; Acts 11:17-18

Key Thought: God requires repentance unto life.

Questions:

- What is repentance?
- Does repentance have an object?
- What does it mean to repent toward God?

Prayer

THURSDAY

Scripture: Romans 10:13-16; Philippians 2:12-13

Key Thought: God requires the diligent use of outward means.

Questions:

- Does the diligent use of outward means contradict God's eternal decree in our election?
- Does this contradict God's sovereignty in our salvation?
- Does this undermine God's glory in our redemption?

Prayer

FRIDAY

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 4:13-16

Key Thought: These requirements of God show us His priority.

Questions:

- How does Christ communicate the benefits of redemption to us?
- What is the primary work of those called to be ministers?
- How is the Word made effectual in the heart of a sinner?

Prayer