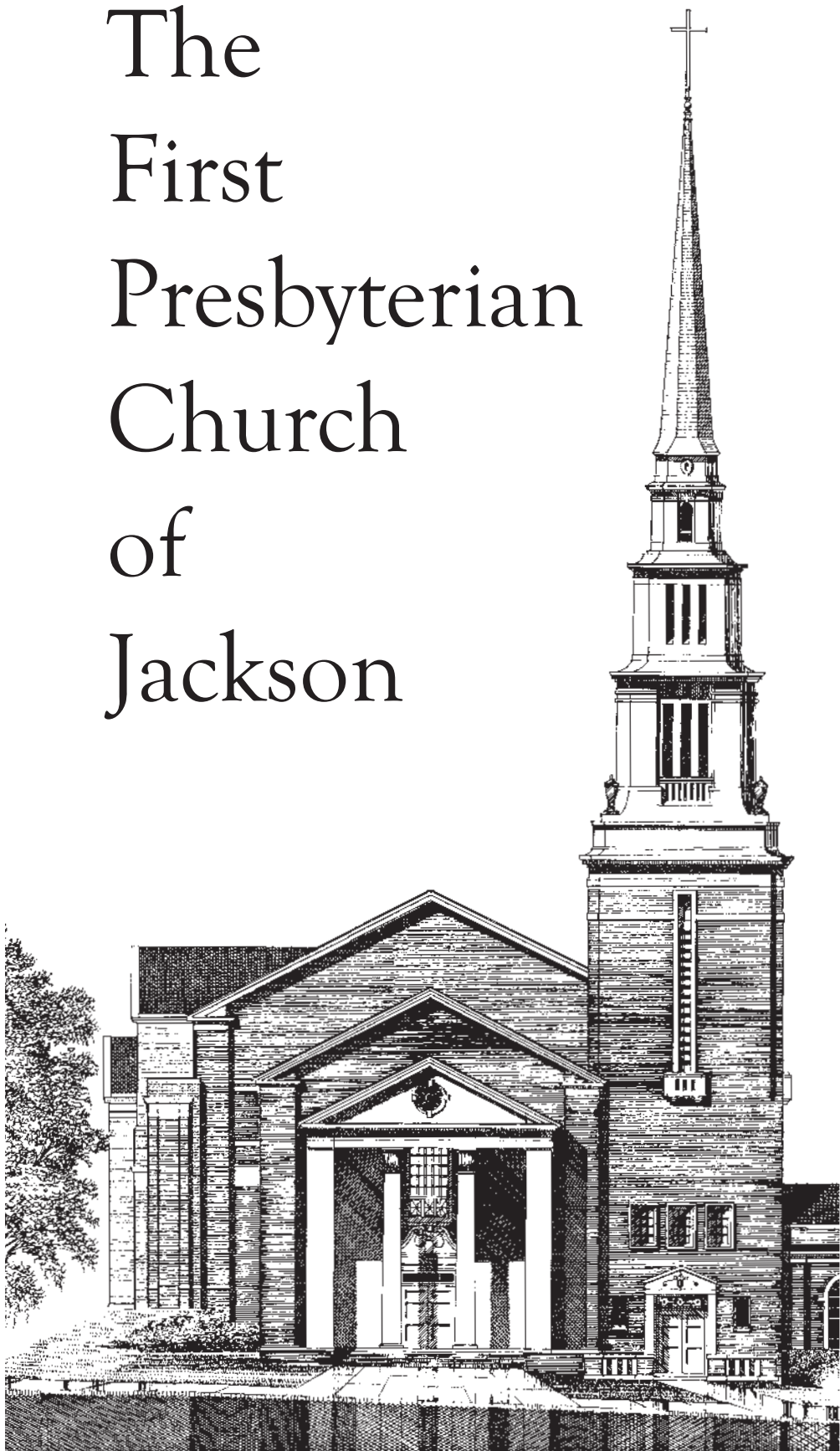


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Eleventh Day of December, Two Thousand Sixteen
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

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

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care

At the time of the Greetings and Announcements and during the Prelude, the congregation is invited to a season of silent and reverent preparation for corporate worship.

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

The Prelude — “Arise, My Soul!”Dan Forrest
Dr. Dave Snyder, Piano

The Introit — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”.Ancient Chant
The Student Choir; Maleesa Brenchley, Accompanist

The Call to Worship

‡* **The Hymn of Praise No. 207** — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

‡* **The Doxology**

“All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;

Evermore your voices raising to th’ eternal Three in One.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.”

The Scripture Reading — Mark 12:13-34 (Pew Bible pages 848-849)

The Pastoral Prayer

‡ **The Hymn No. 210** — “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child”Dan Forrest
With John Sinclair, Cello

“The hands that first held Mary’s child were hard from working wood.

From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.

This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,

But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,

And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant’s name,

The angel’s words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven’s height,

And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

“This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,

But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.”

The tiny form in Joseph’s palms confirmed what he had heard,

And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven’s human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift and use with anger,

Fear, and pride to crucify God’s gift.

Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who’s born today,

But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Isaiah 9:1-7 (Pew Bible page 573)

The Sermon — *Prepare Him Room*: “For to Us a Child Is Born”Mr. Strain

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 213** — “What Child Is This”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Congregational Response**

“O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

The Postlude — “Joy to the World”Fred Bock
Rae Shannon, Organ

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. Gabriel N. E. Fluhrer — Minister of Discipleship
The Reverend Mr. Ralph S. Kelley — Executive Minister

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

The Prelude — “Away in a Manger”
FPC Brass

The Call to Worship

‡* **The Hymn No. 214** — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

‡ **The Invocation**

The Children's Choirs Musical Offering

The Sonshine Singers (4-year olds) — “Knock! Knock! Knock!”

The Melody Makers (5-year olds) — “Away in a Manger”

The Carol Choir (1st Grade) — “Once in Royal David's City”
“Christ Was Born”

The Covenant Choir (2nd Grade) — “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
“Have You Heard?”

The Girls' Choir (3rd-5th grades) — “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

The Boys' Choir (3rd-5th grades) — “We Three Kings”

The Greetings

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “Carol of the Cuckoo”
The Girls' Choir

‡ **The Evening Hymn No. 208 (Stz. 1-3)** — “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — James 2:14-19 (Pew Bible page 1012)

The Sermon — *The Gospel for the Rest of Us: “Talk Is Cheap”*Dr. Fluhrer

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response**

“Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

“The Postlude — “Improvisation on ‘Angels We Have Heard on High’”

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

**Children dismissed after the prayer

To All Our
Visitors

We are delighted that you are here with us today. Our hope is that your understanding and love of Jesus Christ will grow because of your visit. To answer any questions you might have, please come by our Greeting Courtyard through the doors on the south side (right side as you face the pulpit) of the sanctuary after the 8:30 a.m. or the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We would love to meet you.



2016 Holiday Schedule

December 11	6:00 p.m.	All Children's Choirs Sing
December 13	6:30 p.m.	Young Adults Christmas Party
December 15	6:00 p.m.	WIC Christmas Dinner
December 17	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Bookstore Open House
December 18	5:00 p.m.	Music of Christmas
December 19	4:30 p.m.	College Christmas Party
December 21		No Wednesday Night Supper/Service
December 23		Church Offices Closed
December 24	4:00 p.m.	Family Carols Service
December 25	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship Service Worship Service No Sunday School or Children's Church (a.m. or p.m.) No Evening Worship Service
December 26		Church Offices Closed
December 28		No Wednesday Night Supper/Service
January 1		Regular Worship Services & Sunday School
January 2		Church Offices Closed



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 fpcj.ms/fam-devo. Or contact the church office at 601-353-8316 or receptionist@fpcjackson.org.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS:

Question 28 : How is Christ exalted?

Answer: Christ is exalted by His rising from the dead on the third day, His going up to heaven, His sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and His coming to judge the world at the last day.

MONDAY

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-11; Philippians 2:9-11

Key Thought: The exaltation of Christ is seen in His resurrection.

Questions:

- What is meant by the word "exaltation"?
- Can Christ, as God, be exalted any higher than He is? What does the exaltation of Christ refer to?
- What was Christ exalted over in His resurrection?

Prayer

TUESDAY

Scripture: Read Mark 16:19-20; Acts 1:1-9; John 14:1-3

Key Thought: The exaltation of Christ is seen in His ascension.

Questions:

- What is meant by the word "ascension"?
- How is His physical body different than it was when He was on earth? How is it the same?
- What does His ascension tell us about His work on earth?
- Is Jesus any less real because we cannot see Him?

Prayer

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Key Thought: The exaltation of Christ is seen in His coronation.

Questions:

- What is a "coronation"?
- When was Jesus Christ crowned as king?
- What does the "right hand of God" symbolize?
- Does Jesus have to wait until some future time to begin to reign?

Prayer

THURSDAY

Scripture: Read Acts 1:10-11; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:31

Key Thought: The exaltation of Christ is seen in His promised return.

Questions:

- What did the disciples of Jesus do when they saw Him ascend?
- What did the angels tell them?
- What does Jesus expect us to be doing while we wait for Him?
- What will happen when Jesus returns?

Prayer

FRIDAY

Scripture: Read Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Peter 5:5-7

Key Thought: The humiliation and exaltation of Christ is our model.

Questions:

- What happens to those who exalt themselves?
- What happens to those who humble themselves?
- In what ways are you prone to exalt yourself?

Prayer

FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

Sunday

Gateway Baked Goods Drop-off — 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
in the MH Kitchen
Pre-Service Announcements — 8:25 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Prayer for Worship Service — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.
in M133
Christmas Brunch for Children's SS Volunteers — 9:30 a.m.
in Church Office Hallway
The Learning Resource Center — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
(Library only)
Sunday School — 9:40 a.m. in various locations
Pre-Service Announcements — 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Children's Church for 3- and 4-year-olds — during 11:00 a.m.
worship service in M135
The Learning Resource Center — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
(Library only)
Pre-Service Announcements — 5:55 p.m. in the Sanctuary
No Senior High Insight

Monday

Circles Meet This Week
Gateway Baked Goods Drop-off — 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
in the MH Kitchen
Neighborhood Christian Center Tutoring — 3:00 p.m. in SC210
Session Meeting — 7:00 p.m. in MS

Tuesday

"Truth at Dawn" Men's Bible Study — 6:30 a.m. in MH
Gateway Baked Goods Drop-off — 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
in the MH Kitchen
Sew & Sow — 9:00 a.m. in SC211
The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Students & Families Committee Meeting — 11:45 a.m. in WH204
Neighborhood Christian Center Tutoring — 3:00 p.m. in SC210
Presbytery Credentials Committee Meeting — 4:00 p.m.
in WH202
Young Adults Christmas Party — 6:30 p.m. at the home of the
Felkers (2004 Laurel St.)

Wednesday

Men's Bible Study — 10:00 a.m. in WH202
The Learning Resource Center — 9:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m.
Family Night Supper — 5:00 p.m. in MH
Children's Activities — 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Gym
Junior High D Groups — 5:45 p.m. in YH
Adult Choir Rehearsal — 5:50 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Q & A — 6:30 p.m. in MH
Children's Choirs — 6:30 p.m. in various locations
FPC Brass Rehearsal — 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Men's Basketball — 8:00 p.m. in Gym

Thursday

The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
WIC Christmas Dinner — 6:00 p.m. in MH

Friday

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday

Men's Prayer Breakfast — 7:30 a.m. in MH
Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal — 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
in the Sanctuary
Bookstore Open House — 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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....”

Kevin and Maria Bidwell – Serving as a church planter with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW) in Sheffield, England. Email: kevinjbidwell@me.com

Pioneer Ministries – This ministry seeks to prepare young people spiritually, emotionally, and educationally to serve Christ in their communities and to become self-supporting, upstanding, and contributing citizens. Email: pioneerinfo@pioneerministries.org

FLOWERS

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary for the month of December are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Denny Austin Terry by the Terry family.

The poinsettias in the foyer for the month of December are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of “Mop” and Jack Howard by their daughter, Betsy Howard, and grandson, Bill Abbott.

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

STEWARDSHIP 2017

As we prepare for the 2017 budget year, it is important that each member of the congregation supports the work and worship of First Presbyterian Church. If you have not turned in your stewardship commitment card for 2017, you may place it in the offering plate during this Sunday’s worship services. Cards are available in the sanctuary pews and in the tract racks throughout the church. To date, we have received 322 Stewardship Commitment cards for a total of \$3,485,308 and 32 Debt Retirement cards for a total of \$50,877.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

Don’t miss the Early Bird Deadline (Dec. 12) for the Senior High Winter Retreat 2017 to be held January 13-16, at Alpine Camp for Boys in Mentone, AL. The cost is \$200, but sign up tomorrow and pay \$140. Register online at www.fpcjackson.org/youth, and contact Jenny Sanders with questions or for more information: 601-973-9117.

Q & A — DECEMBER 14

Join us on Wednesday, December 14, in Miller Hall at 6:30 p.m. for a special time of Questions & Answers with Senior Minister, David Strain. Submit your questions to questions@fpcjackson.org or call the receptionist at 601-353-8316 no later than noon on Tuesday, December 13. Please note that neither the adult D Groups nor the Prayer Meeting will meet that evening.

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Young Adults ministry will have its Christmas party on Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of the Felkers (2004 Laurel St.). Come, and enjoy good food and fellowship!

WOMEN’S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER – “HOW GREAT OUR JOY”

The Women’s Ministry Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 15. Appetizers and fellowship will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the dinner and program will be from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Laura Martin Wofford will be the devotional speaker. Nursery is available upon request at the time of registration. To register, please call the church at 601-353-8316 or email receptionist@fpcjackson.org. The deadline to register is tomorrow, Monday, December 12.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2016, please notify Cliff Ford in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2016 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2016. The Business Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and you may give online until midnight, December 31, 2016. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2016. 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, 2016. All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2016, will apply to your 2017 Contribution Statement.

CONNECT WITH FPC ONLINE

website: www.fpcjackson.org

Follow us on Twitter
[@FPCJxnMS](https://twitter.com/FPCJxnMS)

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

Download the First Pres App free
<http://get.theapp.co/d6ed>

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

2017 COMMUNICANT CLASS

A new Communicant Class will be offered to students 6th grade and older who are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church. The four classes will be held in Miller Hall during the Sunday School hour and will begin on Sunday, January 8, and conclude on Sunday, January 29. For more information contact the Children's Ministry Department at 601-973-9105 or email kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org.

BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 15. Space is available for both services. To make your reservation, please contact Lisa Walters by January 11, at 601-973-9102 or lisaw@fpcjackson.org.

MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY – JANUARY 27, 2017

Men, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual Mid-South Men's Rally. Our speaker this year will be The Reverend Dr. Carl Trueman, professor of church history at Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA, and author of more than a dozen books. No advance registration is necessary. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:15 p.m., with the first session beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 601-326-9243 or discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

SUPPORT GROUP

If you are struggling with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to get together with people who share in the same struggles, we have a small and very safe group that meets regularly for just that purpose. This discreet, monthly meeting is one of friendship, encouragement, and biblical reflection. Personal anonymity is very important at this meeting. For more information, please call or text 601-260-1636. Also, every month a group of those who have family members (spouses, children, siblings, parents) who struggle with addiction meets for a time of 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.

DECEMBER CIRCLES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

CIRCLE 2: *Beth Keeler*

10:00 a.m. – home of Mary Ellison

4204 North Honeysuckle Lane, Jackson

CIRCLE 3: *Tot Bailey & Ginger Cotten*

10:00 a.m. – home of Ann Saucier

169 Dogwood Place, Flowood

CIRCLE 4: *Bess Corbitt*

& Rebecca Redman

10:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

CIRCLE 6: *Rhonda Baird*

6:30 p.m. – home of Beth Archer

2257 East Northside Drive

CIRCLE 7: *Marcia Penn*

Will not meet

CIRCLE 8: *Janie Purvis*

9:30 a.m. – The Orchard

CIRCLE 14: *Susan Turner*

& Georgia Miller

12:00 noon – Miller Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

CIRCLE 9: *Gayle Poole & Grace Toler*

10:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

CIRCLE 10: *Diana Howie*

10:00 a.m. – home of Mary Bratley

#30 Heritage Place, Flowood

CIRCLE 11: *Frenchie Graham*

10:30 a.m. – home of Frenchie Graham

4005 Cabell Lane

CIRCLE 12: *Nina Johnston*

& Rachel Bonner

10:30 a.m. – St. Catherine's, Marian Hall

CIRCLE 13: *Elizabeth Fulcher*

5:30 dinner, 6:00 meeting – Corner

Bakery, Madison