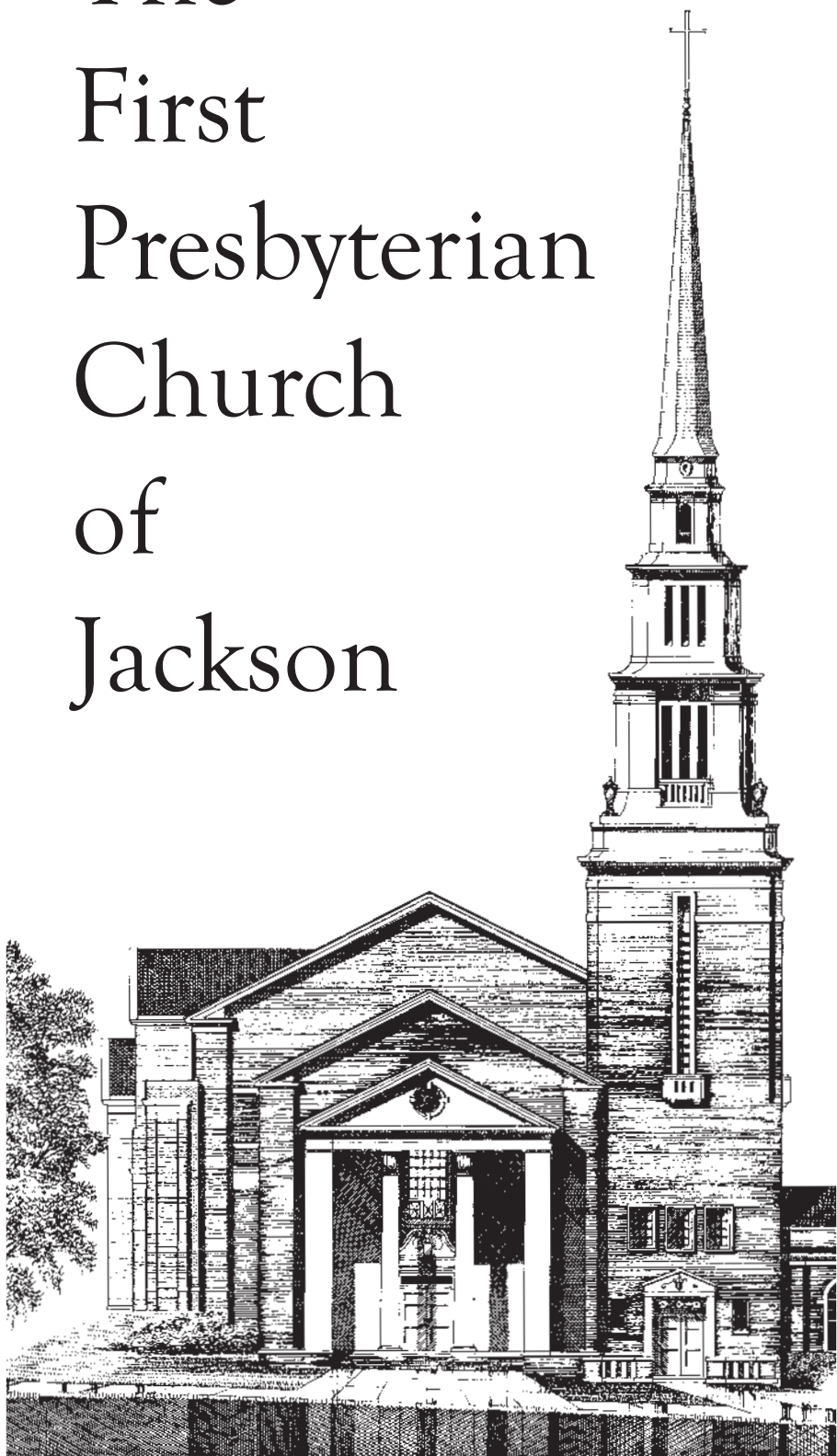


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Sixteenth Day of December, Two Thousand Eighteen
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 — “Angels We Have Heard on High”Arr. John Schmidt
John Sinclair, Cello; Rae Shannon, Piano

The Introit — “Yea, Lord, We Greet Thee”David Willcocks

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Carol of Praise No. 214** — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

‡ **The Doxology** — Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis

The Introduction of New Members

The Questions of Membership

The Prayer

The Declaration

The Blessing

The Solo — “O Holy Night”Adolphe Adam
Gena Everitt, Soloist

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “Stars of Heaven” ...Words: D. Thomas; Music: W. Wymond
Stars of Heaven glowing softly twinkling orbs set in the sky.

One which soon will shine more brightly,

Hail Messiah! Born to die! God has sent to us His Son, peace with God for us has won.

Shepherds, poor, their sheep are watching,

oxen too in nearby stall; all in wonder; silence keeping,

at the sight that greets them all. God has sent to us His Son,

peace with God for us has won.

Angels singing tales of wonder, tales of woe, and promise made;

Adam's folly will be mended, by the Savior;

Ransom paid! God has sent to us His Son, peace with God for us has won.

Faithful children greet this birthday, as the gift of God divine,

and with thankful hearts rejoicing full of faith sing:

“He is mine!” God has sent to us His Son, peace with God for us has won.

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Isaiah 9:2-7 (Pew Bible page 573)

The Sermon — “Everlasting Father”Dr. Strain

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 201 (Stzs. 3,4)** — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response** — “Four-Fold Amen”W. Wymond

The Postlude — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain!”Southern Spiritual

‡Congregation standing





THE MAJESTIC MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Choir and Symphony Orchestra

This evening
4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

A Nursery will be provided
for children through five years old.
Sanctuary doors open at 3:00 p.m.





2018 Holiday Schedule

December 16	4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Music of Christmas Services
December 17	7:00 p.m.	Young Adults Christmas Soiree at Deep South Pops (N. State Street)
December 19	6:00 p.m.	Winter Grace Service/No Supper (Childcare provided for nursery through 3rd grade)
December 24	4:00 p.m.	Family Carols Service
December 24-25		Church Offices Closed
December 26		No Wednesday Night Activities
December 31		Church Offices Open
January 1		Church Offices Closed
January 2		No Wednesday Night Activities
January 9	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Kickoff Concert with Sandra McCracken in Sanctuary

A GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

The Introduction of New Members

This week we have the happy occasion to receive new members into our church family during the morning worship service.

Why must we be members of a local church? The Bible uses metaphors to define “the Church.” The Church is one body in Christ. We are all members of the same body, and we belong to one another (Romans 12:5). The Church is one family. To be a member of any family, we are to be either born in it or adopted into it. Since we are all born as “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), we must be adopted; and God has adopted us into His community of the Trinity. We have one Father, one Savior and elder Brother, and one Spirit of adoption by Whom we are made members of the family (Romans 8:15-17). Therefore, as Scripture repeatedly addresses us, we are brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers to one another. So, why must we become members of a local church? It is because, having been united to Christ, we are necessarily united to all those who are united to Him. Therefore, we are entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church, and other rights and privileges that come with it.

Who can be a member of the church? Any person who is called a Christian by having made a credible profession of faith, having been baptized in a Bible-believing church, and having been admitted by the Session (the body of elders) to the Lord’s Table can be a communing member of First Presbyterian Church. Children of believer(s) are, by virtue of their birth in a believing household and in covenant with God, children of the covenant. However, they may not partake of the Lord’s Table as a way to protect them from eating and drinking judgment upon themselves, if they were to do so in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Hence, our children are called non-communing members of the church. We hope that all our covenant children would embrace the gospel and become communing members. While only the communing members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church, all members of the church family are, however, entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church. Having discussed why and who can become members of First Presbyterian Church, let us look briefly at the questions for membership:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope, save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The first three of five questions seek to show to us our hellish plight before God, bring us to a point of desperate need for the person and work of Jesus, and rely upon the life-giving power in none but the Holy Spirit alone. We would do well to bring these grand truths of the gospel in our prayers every day. While the first three questions speak of our relation to each person of the Godhead, the next two questions speak of our relation to the Church of God which the Father loves, the Son died and rose to save, and the Spirit now indwells. Since each Person of the Trinity is interested and invested in the Church, we who are called by His name must do likewise. May we who are members of the covenant community pray for the welfare of the Church and of First Presbyterian Church. May we seek to live lives in which the gospel has pervaded every sphere. May we be growing disciples seeking to learn more of our God, His great majesty, and His magnificent Fatherhood. May we grow as committed members by regularly worshiping and seeking to gather with our family as often as opportunities provide us. May we be humble followers submitting to the wise leadership and discipline of those who care for our souls. May we grow to love the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

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 MB135
The Learning Resource Center — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
 (Library only)
The Music of Christmas — 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Monday

Young Adults Christmas Soiree — 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Deep South
 Pops on North State Street

Tuesday

Staff Meeting — 9:00 a.m. in MH
French Camp Quilters — 9:00 a.m. in MB 132/Library
Gateway Christmas Dropoff — 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in PH
The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday

The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 5:55 p.m.
Chinese Bible Study — 6:00 p.m. in SC 210A
Winter Grace Service — 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Brass Rehearsal — 7:15 p.m. in Music Suite

Thursday

MTW Committee Meeting — 12:00 noon in WH 202A

Friday

Officers' Prayer Time — 11:30 a.m. in PH

Saturday

Men's Prayer Breakfast — 7:30 a.m. in MH

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...”

Michael & Maria – Serving as church planters in Asia. For more information, please contact the Mission Department.

Mustard Seed – The Mustard Seed is a Christian organization which seeks to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Johnson by Dr. and Mrs. Lee Owen.

NEW MEMBERS

On December 2, 2018, the following new members were welcomed into our fellowship: Miss. Julia Lee Ashley, Mr. Addison Mark Burton, Mr. and Mrs. William Gilbert (Gretchen) Cook III, Mr. Arrington Johnson Rhett Jr., Mr. Thomas Carter Smith, Miss Taylor Dianne Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Thomas (Kimberly) Smith.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2018, please notify Cliff Ford in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2018 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2018. The Business Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. that day. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. 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, 2018. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2018, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on “Giving.” All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2018, will apply to your 2019 Contribution Statement.

YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS SOIREE

Young Adults, join us for our annual Christmas party on Monday, December 17, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Deep South Pops on North State Street. The cost is \$10 and includes dinner.

GATEWAY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Share Christmas joy by providing sweet or salty treats for the Gateway Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19. Items needed are cakes, cookies, pies, bars, cupcakes, candy, salty snacks, etc. Items may be dropped off on Tuesday, December 18 from 9:00-2:00 in Patterson Hall. Please be sure items are clearly labeled for Gateway.

WINTER GRACE

Please join us on Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00 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. Childcare will be provided for children up to third grade. Fourth grade and up are invited to the service. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact christinam@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9125.

MOMS BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, we hope you'll join us on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. beginning January 16 for MOMS Bible Study, *From Garden to Glory*. The format is small groups followed by a large-group lecture led by Debbie Dempsey. 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 1. Please contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

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, weekly 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, twice each month a group of those who have loved ones who struggle with addiction/alcoholism 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.

CONNECT WITH FPC

Website: www.fpcjackson.org

Office Phone: 601-353-8316

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Download the FPC app:
Text [fpcjacksonapp](https://www.fpcjacksonapp.com) to 779-777



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
Jackson, Mississippi

First Presbyterian Church

STEWARDSHIP 2019

We can plan to do more gospel ministry with your commitment for 2019. If you have not turned in your Stewardship Commitment Card, you may place it in the offering plate during today's worship services. You can also pledge electronically by visiting our church app and clicking on "Giving," then "Pledge."

To date, we have received
367 Stewardship Commitments
for a total of \$4,146,716 and
30 Capital Projects & Improvements
Commitments for a total of \$55,372.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.