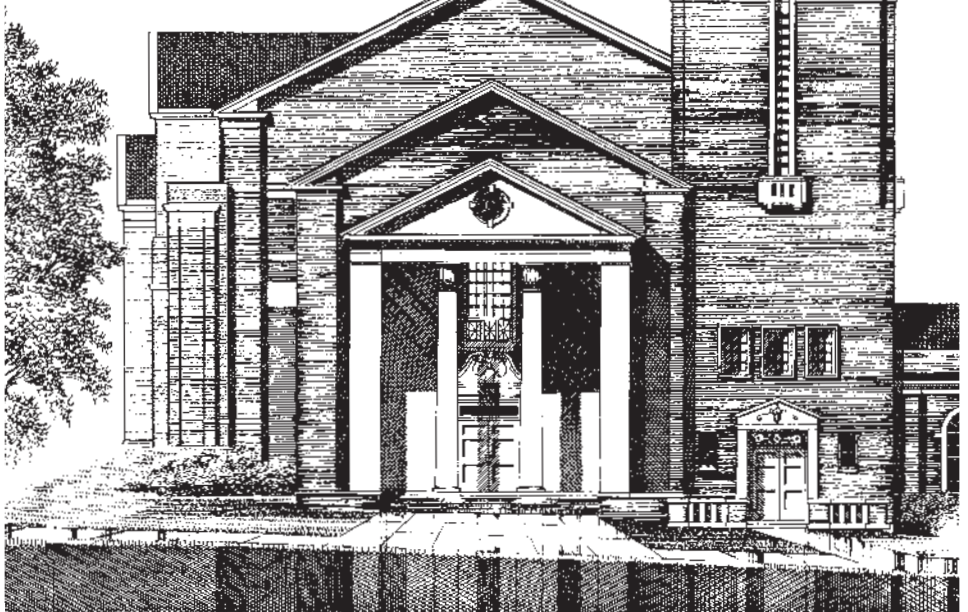


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"

THE LORD'S DAY

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventeenth 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 Mr. David L. Felker — Minister of Young Adults & College

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

The Prelude — “Christmas Ballad” Rene de Boisdeffre
Jessica Schmidt, Violin; Nancy Bateman, Cello; Rae Shannon, Organ; Susan Lawler, Harp

The Introit — “Sing Choirs of Angels” Felix Mendelssohn

The Call to Worship

‡* **The Hymn of Praise No. 218** — “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

The Solo — “What Is this Lovely Fragrance?” Arr. Mack Wilberg
Gena Everitt, Soloist

‡ **The Public Profession of Faith**

The Biblical Basis

The Introduction of New Members

The Questions of Membership

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00 a.m. only)

The Prayer

The Declaration

The Blessing

‡* **The Hymn No. 222** — “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “Silent Night! Holy Night!” Arr. Barlow Bradford

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 1:46-56 (Pew Bible page 856)

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

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 201** — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response** — “Joy to the World” Arr. Kuykendall

The Postlude —

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

The Music of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Choir and Orchestra

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

A nursery will be provided
for children through four years old.

Sanctuary doors open at 3:00 p.m.



2017 Holiday Schedule

December 17	4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Music of Christmas
December 18	4:00 p.m.	College Cookie Decorating Party
December 19	6:30 p.m.	College Open Gym
December 20	5:30 p.m.	Winter Grace Service/No Other Wednesday Night 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 Morning Worship Services & Sunday School/No Evening Children's Activities
January 1		Church Offices Closed
January 3		No Wednesday Night Supper/Service



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 17, 2017

Sunday	<p>Prayer for Worship Service — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in M133</p> <p>The Learning Resource Center — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. (Library only)</p> <p>Children's Church for 3- and 4-year olds — during 11:00 a.m. worship service in M135MB</p> <p>Nursery Workers Christmas Party — 12:00 noon in PH</p> <p>Music of Christmas — 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary</p> <p>The Learning Resource Center — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. (Library only)</p> <p>No Senior High Insight</p>
Monday	<p>College Cookie Decorating Party — 4:00 p.m. at the Felker home (2004 Laurel Street)</p>
Tuesday	<p>Sew & Sow — 9:00 a.m. in SC211</p> <p>The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>French Camp Quilters — 9:00 a.m. in MB132</p> <p>Gateway Christmas Food Collection — 9:00 a.m. in PH</p> <p>Miller Hall Construction Meeting — 10:30 a.m. in SC215</p> <p>College Open Gym — 6:30 p.m. in Gym</p>
Wednesday	<p>The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m.</p> <p>Winter Grace Service — 5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary</p> <p>Chinese Bible Study — 6:00 p.m. in SC210</p> <p>No Wednesday Night Family Supper or Activities</p>
Thursday	<p>Family Night in Laurel Park — 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p>
Friday	<p>No Scheduled Activities</p>
Saturday	<p>Men's Prayer Breakfast — 7:30 a.m. in SC211</p>

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...”

Larry and Debby Thompson – Serving as International Director and Vice President of International Ministries for Athletes in Action (A Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International). Email: Larry.Thompson@cru.org

Jegar Chinnavan and Jemima Jegar – Serving as church planters in Fairfax County, VA. Email: jegarchinnavan@gmail.com

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 Session room are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edward Harvey Kemp, Jr., and in honor of Miriam Roberts Kemp by Neal, Laura, Erin and Jackson Kemp.

NEW MEMBERS

On December 3, 2017, the following new members were welcomed into our fellowship: Mary Hamilton Chestnut, Mollie Montgomery Coker, Oleksandr Donskyi and Olena Donska, Sam and Tashina Fortenberry, Amy Fountain Gatlin, Katherine Mackenzie Hemphill, Abigail Grace Kanicka, Gus Ford and Glynda Hatten Mosby, James Cooper and Darya Donskaya Peipon, MaryLynn Minor Ritchey, Euan Strain, and Mary Will Sykes.

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 1:00 p.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.

WINTER GRACE — DECEMBER 20 — 5:30 P.M.

Please join us this 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 provided for children up to four-years old. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact christinam@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9125.

FAMILY NIGHT IN LAUREL PARK (BELHAVEN)

Please join us for a fun family Christmas gathering in Laurel Park (1841 Laurel Street) on Thursday, December 21, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. There will be food, music, carols, a hayride, kids’ activities, and more for the whole family. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact christinam@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9125.

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 for new members begins January 2. Please contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

CONNECT WITH FPC ONLINE

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

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 86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

MONDAY

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-9; Romans 11:6; John 1:12-13

Key Thought: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace.

Questions:

- Is grace something that is earned by doing good?
- Is this grace gained by the exercise of the human will?
- Why is it important to recognize that saving faith is the gift of God?

Prayer

TUESDAY

Scripture: John 1:11-17

Key Thought: Saving faith receives Christ.

Questions:

- What does it mean to "receive Christ"?
- Can we receive Christ with our mind only?
- Can we receive Christ as Savior but not as Lord?

Prayer

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

Key Thought: Saving faith rests in the finished work of Christ.

Questions:

- Why are sinners "weary and heavy laden"?
- What does it mean to rest in the finished work of Christ?
- Can we add anything to the work of Christ by our actions either before or after we are saved?

Prayer

THURSDAY

Scripture: Romans 1:16, 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 1:21-24

Key Thought: Christ is offered to sinners in the gospel.

Questions:

- What is the gospel?
- How does God ordinarily bring the gospel to the hearts of sinners?
- Where is the Word to be preached?

Prayer

FRIDAY

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:5

Key Thought: No man can be saved without faith in Christ.

Questions:

- What are the distinguishing marks of true faith?
- Can you see these marks in your own life?
- How should you respond?

Prayer