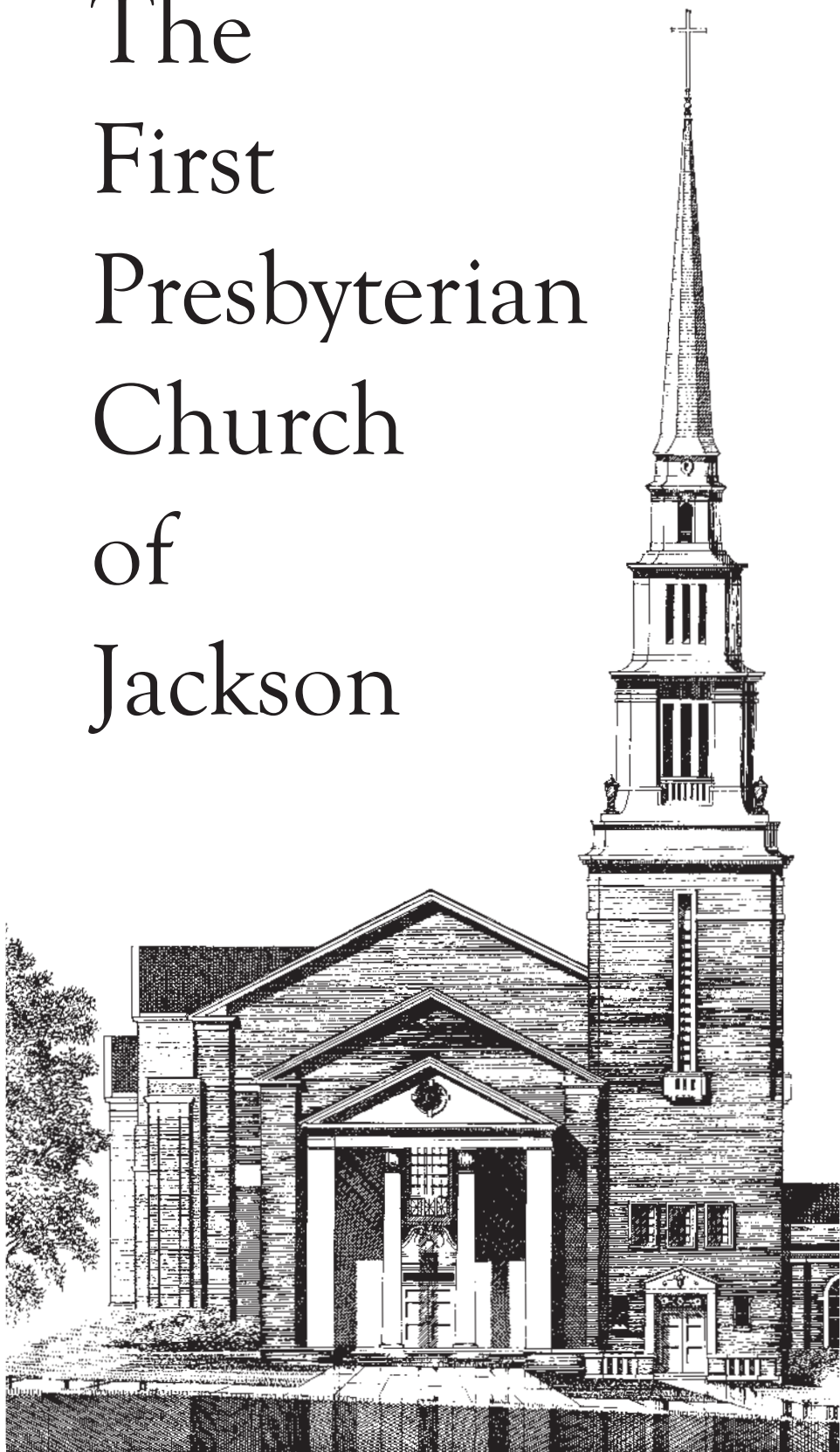


The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirty-first Day of December, Two Thousand Seventeen  
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Ralph S. Kelley — Executive Minister  
The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

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

**The Prelude** — “What Is This Lovely Fragrance” .....Paul Manz  
Rae Shannon, Organist

**The Call to Worship**

‡\* **The Psalm of Praise No. 30** — “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” (from Psalm 90)

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

‡ **The Assurance of Pardon**

‡\* **The Doxology**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

**The Scripture Reading** — Psalm 18:1-24 (Pew Bible pages 454-455)

**The Pastoral Prayer**

‡\* **The Hymn No. 599** — “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory**

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Psalm 1 (Pew Bible page 448)

**The Sermon** — “How to Be Assured of a Happy New Year” ..... Mr. Kelley

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 587** — “Who Is on the Lord's Side?”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Congregational Response**

“Have Thine own way Lord;  
Have Thine own way.  
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.”

**The Postlude** — “Joy to the World” ..... Wilbur Held

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care  
The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker — Minister of Young Adults & College

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

**The Prelude**

**The Call to Worship**

‡\* **The Hymn No. 302** — “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

‡ **The Invocation**

‡\* **The Evening Hymn No. 246** — “Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

**The Greetings**

**The Evening Prayer** — Ruling Elder Danny Story

**The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory**

‡\* **The Evening Hymn (Stzs. 1, 2)** — “How Deep the Father's Love” (See Guide)

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — John 3:1-36 (Pew Bible pages 887-888)

**The Sermon** — “The New Beginning” ..... Mr. Lowry

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response**

“I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.”

**The Postlude**

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

**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.

# How Deep the Father's Love



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us,  
2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross,  
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing,



How vast be - yond all mea - sure,  
My sin up - on His shoul - ders;  
No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom;



That He should give His on - ly Son  
A - shamed I hear my mock - ing voice  
But I will boast in Je - sus Christ,



To make a wretch His treas - ure.  
Call out a - mong the scoff - ers.  
His death and res - ur - rec - tion.



How great the pain of sear - ing loss,  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Why should I gain from His re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns His face a - way,  
Un - til it was ac - com - plished;  
I can - not give an an - swer;



As wounds which mar the cho - sen One,  
His dy - ing breath has brought me life  
But this I know with all my heart



Bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
I know that it is fin - ished.  
His wounds have paid my ran - som.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING

### **MOMS Bible Study Spring Semester:**

#### ***Rooted...Cultivating a Healthy Marriage in Union with Christ***

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.

Format: Small Groups and Large-Group Lecture

Wednesdays: 9:00 - 11:00, January 17 - April 4

Registration is for new members only and begins January 2nd.

Please contact Joanna McNeel at [joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com) or 601-807-1596.

### ***Growing in Godliness***

Small-Group Book Study

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:00

January 11 – March 8

Registration is for new members only.

Please contact Lisa Oswalt at [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org) or 601-973-9115

### ***Jesus is Better: A Study of Hebrews***

Thursdays: 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.

January 11 – March 8

Teacher: Laura Husband

Format: Lecture

Registration is for new members only.

Please contact Alice Patterson at [alipatte@gmail.com](mailto:alipatte@gmail.com).

### **Working Women's Bible Study:**

#### ***Standing Firm in the Truth - A study of 2 Timothy***

Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

January 17 – March 7

To register, contact Lisa Oswalt at [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org) or 601-973-9115.

### **2018 PCA Women's Conference**

#### ***ONE: one hope...one faith...one church***

FPC is hosting the first of the four regional

"ONE" PCA Women's Conferences that will be offered in 2018!

April 13 – 14

Conference Speaker: Courtney Doctor

Friday afternoon: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Optional pre-conference workshops  
(\$25 additional fee)

Friday evening: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Main conference  
(includes 1 plenary session with Courtney Doctor)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Main conference  
(includes 2 plenary sessions with Courtney Doctor,  
2 workshop sessions, and lunch)

*We encourage you to put the conference on your calendar and register early as conference spots will fill up quickly. Registration will open on January 1, 2018. You may register through the FPC Jackson app or on the church website.*

# FPC THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

<b>Sunday</b>	<p>Prayer for Worship Service — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in M133</p> <p>Children's Church for 3- and 4-year olds — during 11:00 a.m. worship service in M135MB</p> <p>No Senior High Insight</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>Church Offices Closed</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>Sew &amp; Sow — 9:00 a.m. in SC211</p> <p>French Camp Quilters — 9:00 a.m. in MB132</p> <p>Executive Diaconate Committee Meeting — 11:45 a.m. in SC215</p> <p>Management Committee Meeting — 5:30 p.m. in SC215</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>Elders/Deacons Duties Committee Meeting — 12:00 noon in SC211A</p> <p>No Wednesday Night Supper or Activities</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>College Dinner &amp; A Movie — 6:30 p.m. at Pizza Shack in Madison</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>No Activities Scheduled</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<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...”*

**J. C. & Alohalani Cunningham** – Serving as church planters in Port St. Lucie, FL.  
Email: christthekingpsl@gmail.com

**William and Judith Traub** – Serving with MTW in partnership with the Free Church of Scotland as a Bible teacher and as an elder in Dundee, Scotland.  
Email: willtraub@mac.com

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary, from the wedding of Shelby Sumner and Gary Dye, are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. David Marion Bryan, grandfather of the bride and Ms. Dorothy Lonson and Mr. Edward Dewey Lawrence, grandparents of the groom.

## 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 DINNER & A MOVIE

College students who are home for the Winter Break, please plan to join the College Ministry staff for dinner and a movie this Thursday, January 4. We'll plan to meet at Pizza Shack at 6:30 p.m. Movie to be determined.

## NEW EVENING SERMON SERIES

### *AFFLICTION IN VERSE: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JOB*

Why do we trust God? How do we respond when the Giver of our good gifts chooses to take them away from us? The book of Job addresses these questions in poetic form by allowing us to witness a true story of dramatic loss in the life of a faithful servant of God. Through Job's affliction, we're given a window into the glory and majesty of a God who is forever sufficient for His people. Join us Sunday evenings beginning January 7, as Senior Minister David Strain unpacks the book of Job for us.

## 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.

## BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 21. Space is available for both services. To make your reservation, please contact Lisa Kim at 601-973-9102 or lisak@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, 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 ONLINE

website: [www.fpcjackson.org](http://www.fpcjackson.org)

Follow us on Twitter  
@FPCJxnMS

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

Download the FPC app:  
Text fpcjacksonapp 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](mailto:receptionist@fpcjackson.org). It is also available on the app under "Resources."

## **THIS WEEK'S FOCUS:**

**Question 88: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?**

**Answer:** The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

### MONDAY

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1-2

**Key Thought:** God has given ordinances to His people.

#### **Questions:**

- What is an ordinance?
- What are the ordinances of God?
- How do we recognize an ordinance of God?

**Prayer**

### TUESDAY

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:18-23; Matthew 15:7-9

**Key Thought:** We are not free to invent our own ordinances.

#### **Questions:**

- What sort of ordinances did Paul warn the Colossians against?
- What sort of ordinances did the Pharisees observe?
- Why can't man institute his own ordinances?

**Prayer**

### WEDNESDAY

**Scripture:** Romans 10:13-15; Acts 9:1-19

**Key Thought:** God's ordinances are the ordinary means of salvation.

#### **Questions:**

- What five elements leading to salvation does Paul list in Romans 10:13-15?
- How are these elements tied to the ministry of the Church?
- Are these ordinances the only means of salvation?

**Prayer**

### THURSDAY

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:10-11; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

**Key Thought:** The ordinances of God are a means of salvation to the elect, but to the reprobate they are a means of judgment.

#### **Questions:**

- Do all God's ordinances achieve their purpose?
- Is it the purpose of God through His ordinances to save everyone?
- To whom are the ordinances of God made effectual by the Spirit?

**Prayer**

### FRIDAY

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:41-50

**Key Thought:** The ordinances of God deserve a response.

#### **Questions:**

- Why do the ordinances of God deserve our reverence?
- Why do the ordinances of God deserve our gratitude?
- Why do the ordinances of God deserve our diligent attendance?

**Prayer**