

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Sixth Day of December, Two Thousand Fifteen
MORNING WORSHIP
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock
Senior Minister — The Reverend Mr. David T. A. Strain
Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey
Minister of Congregational 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 and 10:55 a.m.)

The Prelude — “Still, Still, Still” Arr. Catherine McMichael
Zachary Horne, Cello; Connie Wadsworth, Harpsichord

The Introit — “Benedictus” Ancient Chant

The Call to Worship

‡* **The Hymn of Praise No. 195** — “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

‡ **The Apostles' Creed** (See Guide)

‡ **The Doxology**

“All you that fear Jehovah’s name, His glory tell, His praise proclaim;
you children of His chosen race, stand in awe before His face,
stand in awe before His face. The Lord’s unfailing righteousness
all generations shall confess; from age to age shall men be taught
what wondrous works the Lord has wrought,
what wondrous works the Lord has wrought.”

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

The Morning Prayer

‡ **The Hymn No. 193** — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “And the Glory of the Lord” (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel

“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Isaiah 40:5

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 1:67-79 (Pew Bible pages 856-857)

The Sermon — *Advent Songs*: “The Benedictus” Mr. Strain

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 196** — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response** — “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” Felix Mendelssohn

The Postlude — “Joy to the World” Don Hustad

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

Presiding Minister — The Reverend Dr. Gabriel N. E. Fluhrer
Minister of Discipleship

Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. Ralph S. Kelley
Executive Minister

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

The Prelude — “In the Bleak Midwinter” Holst, arr. by J. Hunt
FPC Brass

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Psalm of Praise No. 12** — “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”
(From Psalm 135)

‡ **The Invocation**

‡ **The Hymn No. 213** — “What Child is This”

* **The Greetings**

The Evening Prayer — Ruling Elder Bill Moore

The Presentation of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” John Goss
Bill and Leigh Anne Moore, Soloists

The Young Children’s Devotional

For children currently in 4-year-old through 3rd grade Sunday School

The Children’s Catechism

Q 29: What is sin? A: Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q30: What is meant by lack of conformity? A: Not being or doing what God requires.

Q 31: What is meant by transgression? A: Doing what God forbids.

** **The Meditation and Prayer**...David Felker, Minister of Young Adults and College

‡ **The Evening Hymn No. 460 (stz. 1-4)** — “Amazing Grace!”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Matthew 20:1-16 (Pew Bible page 825)

The Sermon — “The Scandal of the Gospel” Dr. Fluhrer

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Response**

“And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”

The Postlude — “Silent Night” Gruber, arr. by J. Hunt
FPC Brass

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUED

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2015, please notify Earl Davis in the Business Office at 601-973-9107. **In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2015 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2015.** The Business Office will be open from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., and you may give online until midnight, December 31, 2015. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. 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, 2015. All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2015, will apply to your 2016 Contribution Statement.

COMMUNICANTS' CLASS

A new Communicants' Class will be offered to young people 6th grade and older who are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church. The four classes will begin on Sunday, January 10, 2016, and conclude on Sunday, January 31. Senior Minister, David Strain teaches the class which is held in Lowe Hall from 9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Anyone who would like to participate may contact the Children's Ministry Department at 601-973-9105 or email kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org.

MOMS BIBLE STUDY - DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

MOMS is a weekly Bible study for mothers of children 6th grade and under. It meets on Wednesdays in Patterson Hall from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Starting Wednesday, January 13, MOMS will be led by Emily Hartman in a study entitled, "The Heart of Contentment." Registration for new members begins January 1, 2016. To register, contact Joanna McNeel at 601-807-1596.

BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2016. Space is available for both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. To make your reservation, please contact Lisa Walters at 601-973-9102 or lisaw@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.

CIRCLES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

CIRCLE 2: *Fair Hurst*

10:00 a.m. – home of Becky Ivison
2631 Lake Circle

CIRCLE 3: *Tot Bailey & Ginger Cotten*

10:00 a.m. – home of Carolyn Heidelberg
145 Brae Burn Drive

CIRCLE 4: *Rebecca Redman*

10:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

CIRCLE 5: *Laura Blaylock & Bess Corbitt*

9:45 a.m. – Church Library

CIRCLE 6: *Rhonda Baird*

6:30 p.m. – home of Beth Archer
2257 East Northside Drive

CIRCLE 7: *Marian Ware*

NO MEETING THIS MONTH

CIRCLE 8: *Janet Davis*

9:30 a.m. – The Orchard

CIRCLE 14: *Susan Turner & Marty May*

12:00 noon – Miller Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

CIRCLE 9: *Gayle Poole & Grace Toler*

10:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

CIRCLE 10: *Diana Howie*

10:30 a.m. – home of June McDonald
103 Little Creek Rd., Ridgeland
Light lunch will be served

CIRCLE 11: *Frenchie Graham*

10:30 a.m. – home of Frenchie Graham,
4005 Cabell Lane

CIRCLE 12: *Nina Johnston & Rachel Bonner*

10:00 a.m. – St. Catherine's
Sienna I – Dining Room

CIRCLE 13: *Karen Crawford*

12:00 noon – Miller Hall

A GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and Earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he arose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

This brief affirmation of basic Christian belief is called the Apostles' Creed, not because one or several of the Apostles of the New Testament were its author, but because it expresses the faith the Apostles taught. So, it is "Apostolic" in the sense that it affirms and preserves the faith which they learned from Jesus. You will notice that we use the traditional translation of the Creed which retains both a beauty of language and some unfamiliar words: "Ghost" is employed where we would use "Spirit," the word "quick" where we would use "living," and "catholic" where we would use "universal." Also, when we say that Christ "descended into hell," we are not saying that upon His death, Jesus actually went into hell; instead, we are affirming that Jesus suffered all the pains and torments of hell as He endured the unmitigated wrath of God.

FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 6, 2015

Sunday

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
The Learning Resource Center — 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.
 (Library only)
Sunday School — 9:40 a.m. in various locations
Children’s Church for 3 and 4-year-olds — during 11:00 a.m.
 worship service in M135
Pre-Service Announcements — 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Student Choir — 4:40 p.m. in MS
New Members Received — 5:00 p.m. in PH
Children’s Choirs Christmas Rehearsal — 5:00 p.m. in the
 Sanctuary
The Learning Resource Center — 5:30 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
 (Library only)
Pre-Service Announcements — 5:55 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Senior High Insight — 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Cottens
 (2202 Culleywood Road)

Monday

Circles Meet This Week
Neighborhood Christian Center Tutoring — 3:00 p.m. in SC210
Fellowship Sunday School Class Christmas Party — 6:00 p.m.
 in PH

Tuesday

“Truth at Dawn” Men’s Bible Study — 6:30 a.m. in MH
Sew and Sow — 9:00 a.m. in SC211
The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Christian Center Tutoring — 3:00 p.m. in SC210
Presbytery Credentials Committee Meeting — 4:00 p.m. in WH202
Internationals Class — 6:45 p.m. in PH/SC

Wednesday

Men’s Bible Study — 10:00 a.m. in WH202
The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 6:25 p.m.
Family Night Supper — 5:00 p.m. in MH
Greeter’s Meeting — 5:30 p.m. in WH202
The Choir — 5:50 p.m. in MS
Children’s Choirs Christmas Pageant — 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Junior High D Groups — 6:30 p.m. in YH
Young Adults Men’s Basketball — 8:00 p.m. in the Gym

Thursday

The Learning Resource Center — 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday

No Scheduled Activities

Saturday

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

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..." **Johnny & Becky Long** – Serving with Serge (formerly World Harvest Mission) in Europe and Africa. Mailing address: 265 Sky Lake Dr. Hendersonville, NC 28739. Email: johnwadelong@gmail.com **Elliott & Carrie Everitt** – serving as campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Mercer University in Macon, GA. Mailing Address: 3279 Stinsonville Rd, Macon, GA, 31204; Email: elliotteveritt@ruf.org

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Donn E. Young — November 28, 2015

FLOWERS

The poinsettia tree for the month of December is given by Dr. and Mrs. J. Lee Owen to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Johnson and in appreciation of her ministry to the church through her art and as a member of the choir.

For the month of December, the poinsettias in the church foyer are given in loving memory of our brother, Denny Terry, committed servant of Christ, by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ridgway.

The poinsettias in the Greeting Courtyard for the month of December are given in loving memory of Jim Watts by his family.

STEWARDSHIP 2016

As we prepare for the 2016 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 2016, 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 368 stewardship commitment cards for a total of \$3,319,660 and 46 debt retirement cards for a total of \$81,567.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

The December children's Sunday School offering will be given to French Camp Academy. This money will help provide art supplies for a girl's dorm and outdoor games for a boy's dorm. Parents, thank you for encouraging your child to earn money at home and bring an offering each week as an act of worship.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, our children's choirs will lead us in worship. Please plan to attend this sweet service of Christmas Carols. If you are a parent of one of these children, please be sure to have your child in his or her choir room by 5:45 p.m. to prepare. We will also have one additional practice on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please make every effort to attend this, as we only have one regular practice remaining, on Wednesday, December 2. Questions? Janielclarke6@gmail.com or 601-953-4991.

STUDENT MINISTRY EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

The Early Bird deadline for upcoming trips (Senior High Winter Retreat–January 15-18 and Spring Break Ski Trip 2016–March 12-19) is December 9. For more information or to sign up, please visit www.fpcjackson.org/discipleship/youth/upcoming-trips. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Jenny Sanders at youthhouse@fpcjackson.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER — DECEMBER 15

Ladies, mark your calendars, and make plans to attend the Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 15, from 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in Miller Hall. *Christ is our Hope* will be our theme, and Lauren Felker will be our devotional speaker. A nursery will be available upon request at the time of registration. The cost of the dinner is \$6.00 (taken at the door). To register, call 601-353-8316 or email receptionist@fpcjackson.org.

BOOK STORE HOLIDAY HOURS AND OPEN HOUSE

Our holiday hours for December shopping are Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–6:25 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Also, be sure to join us for the annual Christmas Open House Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited for refreshments and free gift wrapping on all books purchased that day. Please note that the bookstore will be closed December 22–26. The following week we will be open on Tuesday, December 30, and Wednesday, December 31, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

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<http://get.theapp.co/d6ed>



2015 Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 9

Children's Christmas Pageant (6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, December 12

Junior High Christmas Bonfire (5:00 p.m. at the Turner home)

Sunday, December 13

Senior High Christmas Party (7:30 p.m. at the Duncan home)

Monday, December 14

College Christmas Party (4:30 p.m. at the Creekmore home)

Tuesday, December 15

WIC Christmas Dinner at 6:00 p.m. – MH

Thursday, December 17

Young Adults Christmas Party (6:00 p.m. at the Felker home)

Saturday, December 19

Bookstore Open House (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 20

Music of Christmas (5:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 23

No Supper or Service

Thursday, December 24

Church Offices Closed

Family Carols Service (4:00 p.m.) – Sanctuary

Friday, December 25

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 30

No Supper or Service

Friday, January 1

Church Offices Closed

