



Current Updates

“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.”

FPCJ Vision

WORSHIP SERVICES

Register for worship service attendance at fpcj.ms/register-for-worship.

Corporate worship continues via livestream at our regular service times: fpcj.ms/livestream and on Facebook Live.

MIDWEEK

There are no Midweek activities through June and July.

THE BURWELL FUND

The Burwell Fund is available to help FPC members needing financial assistance. Please contact Wiley Lowry or Billy Dempsey at (601) 353-8316 or by email wiley@fpcjackson.org or bdempsey@fpcjackson.org for more information.

NEEDS

Email needs@fpcjackson.org or call the church office at 601-353-8316 if you are able to help others, if you or your neighbors have tangible needs, to volunteer or help in other ways.

STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

Without passing the offering plate, we ask that our members and regular givers consider alternative ways of sending offerings:

- Give online: fpcms/give
- Download our app on IOS and Android (FPC Jackson) and click “giving”.
- Mail to the church office (1390 N. State St).
- Give by text: Text fpcjackson to 779-77.

MINISTRY DURING COVID-19

Livestream and Facebook Outreach

In the 12 weeks that we worshiped via livestream only (according to our platform provider, Sermon Audio), we had 20,400 views and 15,780 unique viewers for our worship services on our First Pres website.

Additionally, we’ve broadcast our worship services on Facebook Live for the last 10 weeks. In that time, we’ve had more than 11,000 Facebook users watch our worship services live with us and our worship service videos have been viewed nearly 33,000 times total on Facebook. In fact, since March 15, all of the church’s Facebook videos (which include the worship services, the Wednesday night programs, and the “Life Toward God” daily devotionals) have had approximately 51,400 views.

The services at First Presbyterian have been viewed in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in 34 countries outside of the United States.

CHURCH STAFF INFORMATION

The church staff is working regular hours. Some are working in the office and some are working remotely. Please feel free to contact staff members via email, direct line, or by calling the receptionist at 601-353-8316. Each person can access voice mail if still working remotely.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1390 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202-2095
(601) 353-8316 | fpjackson.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON, MS
PERMIT 122



The First Epistle

SPECIAL EDITION

JUNE 4, 2020 | ISSUE 11

SUNDAY SERVICE ON WLBT AT 10 AM
STREAMED ONLINE AT FPCJACKSON.ORG/LIVESTREAM | SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM, 11 AM, AND 6 PM

fpcjackson.org 1390 N. State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 601-353-8316

Resuming In-Person Worship Services

We are very glad to announce that we will worship in person again beginning June 7, 2020. We have missed being together and are glad to get the chance to see one another face to face. As everyone likely anticipates, things will be different for now. We have received the governor's reopening guidelines, consulted with doctors, and spoken with other churches. With all this in mind, we have created the following plan for resuming worship services in person at First Presbyterian Church. We've organized this information around some frequently asked questions, but if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the church office at 601-353-8316 or receptionist@fpcjackson.org, and we will direct you to the appropriate staff member.

Should I stay home?

We want to assure anyone who might feel safer staying home and worshipping via livestream that you should feel no guilt or shame in doing so.

If you have any of the following symptoms, please do not attend: fever, chills, body aches, cough/congestion, recent loss of taste or smell, or if you are generally unwell. Based on current medical advice, we strongly encourage those who are in categories of increased risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 due to underlying health issues, low immunity, or age, also to consider refraining from attending worship services right now.

What will Sundays look like in general?

- Worship will remain at normal times: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
- We will resume worship services only. There will be no meetings of Sunday School classes on Sundays.
- There will be no nursery available. All children are very welcome in the worship services.
- There will be no choir. For now, music will be led by small groups or soloists.
- Based on the latest medical advice, we discourage corporate congregational singing during the services at this time. The words of the hymns will be provided, so that you can follow along as they are sung from the platform. This isn't ideal, and we hope to change it soon, but we are trying to follow best practices for the good of all, and we ask for your patience and understanding.
- We will continue to stream our services online. We also broadcast the service from the week prior at 10:00 a.m. on WLBT.

What about the details?

In order to resume, we will need to follow a number of guidelines to keep everyone as safe as possible, including the following:

- From the parking lot to the pew, we ask that everyone practice social distancing.
- We will be limiting capacity at each service. We ask that all congregants sign up in order to attend the service.
- To avoid bottlenecks at the entrances, we'd ask that you please arrive 15-20 minutes early.
- The ushers will be available to help everyone find a responsibly-distanced seat.

This may not be your "usual" seat. We'd ask that you follow the ushers' directions while we work to keep everyone safe. People who live in the same home can and should sit together.

- After the service is over, please remain in your seats, and the ushers will help dismiss everyone in sections.

How do I sign up?

During this phase of reopening, we will need everyone to register for worship services. It is a sad consequence of our situation that we will have a limited number of spots for each service in order to accommodate appropriate social distancing. Here are the details:

- [Register at \[fpcj.ms/register-for-worship\]\(https://fpcj.ms/register-for-worship\) for each week's worship service.](https://fpcj.ms/register-for-worship)
- [fpcj.ms/register-for-worship.](https://fpcj.ms/register-for-worship)
- If you would prefer to register via phone, please call the church office at 601-353-8316.

What are we doing to keep everyone safe?

Here are a few other best practices that we will implement:

- Everyone should wear a face mask throughout the service. We will have some available, but we recommend you bring your own.
- The sanctuary will be sanitized following each service.
- Bathrooms will be available for use in the Greeting Courtyard and between the Sanctuary and the Library and will also be cleaned between services.
- We ask that no one drink from the drinking fountains.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- We will have bulletins placed on seats waiting for your arrival. Please take them with you when you leave.
- Instead of passing offering plates, our ushers will be standing by the doors in the sanctuary to collect your tithes and offerings at the close of each service. Online giving is also available through our website and our church app.

Resuming Ministry Activities

Ministry activities will resume to varying degrees in the weeks following the resuming of Sunday services. More info will follow regarding specific ministry activities.

Information for Resuming In-Person Worship

Guidelines

The guidelines for resuming in-person worship have been thoughtfully and prayerfully adopted and are also malleable as we tweak the process for gathering as a body of Christ. The article printed in this *First Epistle* was valid as of publication date, and we suggest that you check the website for any changes that have been made. Updates will also be sent over email and social media.

Please email Ralph Kelley at ralphk@fpcjackson.org with comments or suggestions about the worship services. Thank you for your prayer and support for the leadership of First Pres.

Registration

To register for a worship service, please visit fpcj.ms/register-for-worship.

Welcome to Our World

"Conway" Collins Bowden

born June 3

to *Graham and *Ginny

Grandparents *Paul and *Mary Bowden

Great grandparents *Graham and

*Eleanor Hughes

*FPC Members

In Sympathy

Please pray for

Barry Vickery in the death of his brother.

Sophie Owen in the death of her brother (also Lee Owen's uncle).

Barbara Hederman in the death of her sister.

Ben Miley in the death of his mother.

Dean Dunaway in the death of his father.

Missionaries

Josh & Gina Rieger – Hexham, England – Church Planter

Praise:

We want to thank you all for your prayers and support that allowed us to apply! We have been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain! This was an expensive and time-consuming process, but we're now in a position where we will not need to apply for any more visas in the future and the costs associated with this are in the rear-view mirror.

Pray:

We are thankful to have been able to serve not only the congregation in Hexham, but other local Christians whose congregations don't have livestreams and two sister churches who are currently without a minister. Please pray that the Lord would use this even as we lament the loss of our gathered worship. We have many logging on for worship who are not connected with our congregation, and we hope to see this used for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom.

Kelly & Caroline Jackson – Campus Minister at Florida State

Pray:

- For our family as we finalize our adoption with our four-month-old daughter Annelise in early June! Pray, also, for our family as we are able to slow down in the summer months and get a lot more quality time together with way fewer students in town.
- For me (Kelly) as I guest preach for supporting churches, find new financial partners, and I as read and plan for large group, small groups, one-on-ones, and prayerfully(!) grow in leadership development and vision-casting!
- We just started a Summer RUF Bible study on the I Am Statements on Zoom that I had a blast leading. Please, pray for us to stay connected with old students and connect with incoming students during a strange summer!
- For the interns, leadership, and me as we reflect on the past year and plan for a Fall that will likely be a combination of virtual and possibly limited in-person ministry!

Media Resources



Stories of Faithfulness Podcast

Look for new episodes of the Stories of Faithfulness podcast beginning this week and in the months of June and July from friends of First Presbyterian Church, including former staff members and supported missionaries.



Life Toward God Devotionals

Thanks for viewing Life Toward God. Many of you have expressed your appreciation. Last week marked the end of Season 1 of Life Toward God. We will break for the summer and hope to return in the fall.

For past devotionals and resources please visit: fpcj.ms/ltg

SOCIAL MEDIA

Youth

Email youthhouse@fpcjackson.org
Instagram @FPCYM

Young Adults

Email youngadults@fpcjackson.org
Instagram @fpcjxnyoungadults

College

Email collegehouse@fpcjackson.org
Instagram @fpccollege
Facebook FPCJ College

Children's

Facebook: FPC Jackson Children's Ministry
Instagram: @fpcjchildrensministry

Women's

Instagram @fpcjacksonwomen
Facebook @FPC Jackson Women's Ministry

Women's

TAKE FIVE

Grab your Women's Ministry Directory, pray for the five names listed below your own, and then call or write each one. Let's pray for and draw closer to each other - even from a distance!

Children's

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you were unable to pick up your child's Sunday School summer materials at the June 3 Drive Thru pick-up, they will be available at the church office. Please use the Nursery door entrance.