



Current Updates

WORSHIP SERVICES

Your church officers, ministers, and staff are committed to serving the community of First Presbyterian Church and fulfilling our mission to glorify God by making disciples throughout the challenging circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. In light of this, and after having consulted medical experts, the Worship and Management committees of First Presbyterian Church have decided to update the guidelines for worship. Effective immediately:

- ◆ We will resume congregational singing. (Masks will continue to be worn throughout the service.)
- ◆ Registration for worship services is no longer required.
- ◆ Miller Hall Livestream Option: Families and children are always welcome in our worship services, however, if for any reason families would feel more comfortable, we will have Miller Hall set up to livestream the 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. worship services. Appropriate social distancing will be in place with families with young children in mind.
- ◆ We will continue our cleaning, distancing, and mask policy in all services.
- ◆ More information is available on the FPC Jackson website.
- ◆ Corporate worship continues via livestream at our regular service times: fpcj.ms/livestream and on Facebook Live.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Registration is open for adult D Groups which plan to begin meeting after Labor Day. Our D Groups are our church's small group ministry, with discussion-based teaching and various ages and stages encouraging fellowship among different age groups. If you are interested in joining one or would like to talk further, contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

WEEKLY PODCAST

During August, the Stories of Faithfulness podcast will introduce four new staff members: Josh Shideler (Discipleship Ministry Intern), Alli Sayle (Student Ministry Coordinator), Daniel Tortorrici (Young Adults Ministry Intern), and William Stabler (College Ministry Intern). We release new episodes of the podcast each week at fpcj.ms/stories.



Drive-Thru Event
Saturday, August 29 ~ 2-4 pm

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bring your sixth grade and younger children to our SnoCones and Sunday School Drive-Thru on Saturday, August 29 from 2-4 to receive a free SnoCone. Children in the rising 4-year-old through rising 5th grade will also receive their September Sunday School materials. Please drive up to the Belhaven Street porte-cochere.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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The First Epistle

SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 7, 2020 | ISSUE 17

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

DISCIPLESHIP CONTINUES

by David Felker, Minister of Discipleship

Much has changed in the Discipleship Ministry in this season but the basis of our church existence remains the same. COVID-19 has not changed our union with Christ nor altered God's sovereignty or diminished His care for us. Also, it has not changed our spiritual communion with one another or amended our membership vows to mature in our discipleship together in the name of Christ. In the Discipleship Ministry, we continue to work out our next steps for our major programs, Midweek, Sunday School, D Groups, Men's Ministry, Marriage Ministry, etc. We recently formulated a ministry plan reflective of the governor's executive orders that will provide a foundation for all FPC ministries and departments. I hope to have more to tell you about soon.

Meanwhile, I want to share some things that are relevant to our church family's discipleship this fall:

First, our podcast, Stories of Faithfulness, continues to have a very large number of listeners. This summer we had eight guests who are former FPC staff members and/or supported missionaries (three MTW missionaries, three RUF ministers, one church planter, and one church-planting coordinator). We will devote the month of August to introducing four new staff members: Josh Shideler (Discipleship Ministry Intern), Alli Sayle (Student Ministry Coordinator), Daniel Tortorrici (Young Adults Ministry Intern), and William Stabler (College Ministry Intern). We are richer for their presence on our church staff, and I hope you will tune in this month and get to know the stories of this solid group of new staff members in an effort to help introduce them to our congregation.

Second, even as we are unsure what our Midweek and Sunday School will be able to look like this fall, I believe that it is more important than ever to consider your involvement in smaller groups at church.

We are opening sign-ups for our Discipleship Groups (D Groups) which plan to begin meeting after Labor Day. Our D Groups are our church's small group ministry. When I was a child, my parents modeled for me a beautiful

gospel humility, joy in trials, tears, grace, transparency, and how it is a mark of being in the grip of Jesus to admit need. This was all the Lord's work, and their small group was the earthly vessel that would receive the MVP award for producing these things in my parents. I share that to stress that God greatly worked in my family when I was a child through my parents' small group. That said, small groups are not peripheral or an administrative headache to my other work here, but they are central to my own story, and to my role here. I am in a D Group, and I lead a D Group. Further, D Groups are a great complement to Sunday School involvement. Many of our adult Sunday School classes are bigger in size, are based on age and stage, and are a large-group teaching environment. By contrast, D Groups are smaller, composed of various ages and stages (allowing you to get to know different age groups in our big church), and the teaching style is discussion based rather than a monologue. If you are interested in joining one or would like to talk further, contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

Also, Lord willing, after Labor Day our Men's Ministry "Huddle Groups" can meet in accordance with the guidelines and our church's ministry plan. Our Huddle Groups are our men's small groups made up of 10-15 men who desire to pursue fellowship across ages and stages in our big church. Our hope is that our huddle groups would facilitate a place where "mentoring" relationships would develop. These groups are not meant to facilitate a lengthy reading list or a box to check but meet a few times in the semester - the time and location will be determined by the lay-leaders of each group. To sign up or for more information, contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

My hope is that soon I will be able to update you regarding a ministry plan for some of our larger groups (Adult Sunday School, Midweek, D Groups, and Men's Ministry). We need each other, and we look forward in faith to God's work among us in the days ahead - even in the season He has given us now - to grow together into the likeness of Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing you soon.

MISSION FIRST SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

Help us reach out to our friends at Mission First by providing school supply items needed for the school year. Items needed are: Number two lead pencils, eraser caps, wide-ruled notebook paper, and two-pocket folders with fasteners. Items may be dropped off in the white collection bin located inside the Day School entrance near the information desk. For more information, contact Ashley Meena or Anne Pringle.

In Sympathy

Please pray for:

David Marchetti in the death of his mother and father.

David Day in the death of his father.

Welcome to Our World

Jack Hall Taylor

born July 11

to parents Blair and Fulton

Grandparents:

*Hall & *Carole Bailey

Paxton David Ferris

born July 27

to *Mary Elizabeth and David

Grandparents:

*Chief and *Sophie Randolph

Great grandparents:

*Doyle and *Allene Moorhead

*FPC Members

Please send information on the births and deaths in your family to receptionist@fpcjackson.org.

TWIN LAKES UPDATES

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Visit the camp store to support Twin Lakes! It is a great time to add to your shirt collection!

<https://twinlakescamp.square.site>

PLAY AT TWIN LAKES

Twin Lakes is available to the families and ministries of our church this summer, with appropriate systems and guidelines in place. Call Twin Lakes at 601-845-6858 to reserve your time.

Missionaries of the Week

Rick & Terri Herr – Rick: SIL Field Systems Customer Service and Ethnic Radio Director / Terri: logistics staff for Refuge 139 and Intercultural Communications Coordinator facilitator

Pray:

- For Refuge 139 (Terri's main ministry), asking the Lord to show the director and team His will. It is currently at a standstill with no overseas mission groups holding meetings, conferences, etc. No trips for 2020, possibly two in 2021.
- As with most everyone, endurance as we await the Lord's leading. We praise Him for our health, for our emotional and spiritual well-being. We continue growing in Him through difficult family situations; HE is keeping us!



Mark & Raylene Casson – Metanoia Prison Ministries Director

Pray:

- For their new students; that they will stick with their studies and grow in their faith.
- For their mentees; never before have they seen lockdowns with the no visiting, no volunteers. Morale among the prisoners will be lower.
- That their mentors will maintain contact with their mentee and will be a source of encouragement to them.

MIDWEEK PRAYER MEETING

We invite you to a time of prayer to be held Wednesdays in the Sanctuary at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We will have a brief time of encouragement from God's word and then focus on a specific prayer topic each week. No registration is required.

If you are unable to join us in person, we would be delighted if you would join us in prayer from a distance. Sign up by emailing Jenny Sanders at discipleship@fpcjackson.org, and we will send you prayer requests each week.

STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

Offering plates are available at the doors on Sundays. If our members and regular givers would like, here are alternative ways to give:

- **Give online:**
fpcj.ms/give
- **Download our app:**
*FPC Jackson
(on IOS and Android)
and click "giving".*
- **Mail to the church:**
*1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202*
- **Give by text:**
Text [fpcjackson](https://fpcjackson.org) to 779-77

Music Ministry

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir is a fun way to teach our covenant children about singing and music in worship. If you are interested in helping to guide our children toward good worship habits, please contact Genneysa Case at 601-540-2370.

Women's Ministry

BLOOMS TO GO

The beautiful flowers that grace our sanctuary on Sunday mornings have a second life on Mondays. Women meet in the "flower room" at the church, usually in pairs, to rearrange the blooms in smaller vases. These simple but pretty arrangements are then delivered to members of our congregation, such as those who are grieving, have been in the hospital, have a new baby, etc. Any woman who loves flowers and people is most welcome to participate and no particular skills are required! If you would like to participate please contact Helen Ferguson at helenbferguson@comcast.net.

EPHESIANS: REALLY GOOD NEWS

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our Ministry Team is working hard not only to prepare for this study but also to come up with a plan for how we can safely gather to study God's Word together. Our plan will include being able to spread out to allow for proper distancing, wearing masks, limiting our number, and shortening our time together. While we haven't ironed out every detail, we do need to know how many would be interested in attending so that we can plan accordingly. If you think you would like to be a part of this study, please email lisao@fpcjackson.org.

MOMS Fall Bible Study

Ladies, we hope you'll join us for MOMS this fall! 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. Led by church member, Jane Wiggins, we will be studying the book of Jonah together. Due to uncertain school schedules and safety restrictions, MOMS will be virtual this fall. For more information or to register, contact moms@fpcjackson.org.