

The First Epistle

Volume 53 / Issue 5 / October 2020

63:5 FOR YOU ARE OUR FATHER,
THOUGH ABRAHAM DOES NOT
KNOW US,
AND ISAAC DOES NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE US;
YOU, O LORD, ARE OUR FATHER,
OUR REDEEMER FROM OF OLD IS
YOUR NAME.
17 O LORD, WHY DO YOU MAKE US
WANDER FROM YOUR WAYS
AND HARDEN OUR HEART, SO THAT
WE FEAR YOU NOT?

2 THAT THE MOUNTAINS MIGHT
QUAKE AT YOUR PRESENCE—
AS WHEN FIRE KINDLES
BRUSHWOOD
AND THE FIRE CAUSES WATER TO
BOIL—
TO MAKE YOUR NAME KNOWN TO YOUR
ADVERSARIES,
AND THAT THE NATIONS MIGHT
TREMBLE AT YOUR PRESENCE!
3 WHEN YOU DID AWESOME THINGS THAT
WE DID NOT LOOK FOR,

6 TIME, AND SHALL WE BE SAVED?
WE HAVE ALL BECOME LIKE ONE WHO IS
UNCLEAN,
AND ALL OUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS ARE
LIKE A POLLUTED GARMENT.
WE ALL FADE LIKE A LEAF,
AND OUR INIQUITIES, LIKE THE
WIND, TAKE US AWAY.
7 THERE IS NO ONE WHO CALLS UPON
YOUR NAME,
WHO ROUSES HIMSELF TO TAKE
HOLD OF YOU;

RETURN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR
SERVANTS.

15 THE TRIBES OF YOUR HERITAGE
YOUR HOLY PEOPLE HELD

FOR A LITTLE WHILE;

OUR ADVERSARIES HAVE
DOWN YOUR SANCTUARY.

19 WE HAVE BECOME LIKE THOSE OVER
WHOM YOU HAVE NEVER RULED,
LIKE THOSE WHO ARE NOT CALLED
BY YOUR NAME.

64:1 OH THAT YOU WOULD REND THE
HEAVENS AND COME DOWN,

AWAKENING

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL 2020-2021 ♦ ISAIAH 64:1

BEHOLD, YOU WERE ANGRY, AND WE
SINNED;
IN OUR SINS WE HAVE BEEN A LONG

FOR YOU HAVE HIDDEN YOUR FACE
FROM US,
AND HAVE MADE US MELT IN THE
HAND OF OUR INIQUITIES.

16 NOW, O LORD, YOU ARE OUR
FATHER;
WE ARE THE CLAY, AND YOU ARE
OUR POTTER;
WE ARE ALL THE WORK OF YOUR
HAND.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Jackson, Mississippi

The 2020-2021 Vision Video will be shown in Adult Sunday School Electives Announcement time on October 4 then will be emailed to the congregation on October 5.

At times not unlike our own, when revival seemed improbable and unlikely, God has been pleased to visit his people in seasons of extraordinary blessing. In such days, the preaching of the Word of God is given new power, deep conviction of sin penetrates the heart, believers are

revitalized as the gospel comes to them with renewed sweetness and joy, and many are converted to Christ. Please join us as we learn more about the true revival that only our sovereign God can bring.

Registration is required for **Sunday School** and **Midweek activities**. Register for all ages at fpcjackson.org/registration/



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Jackson, Mississippi

Sunday School

What's the plan for Sunday School?

For Youth

Junior and Senior High Teaching
Youth House • seventh - twelfth grade • 9:45 AM • contact youthhouse@fpcjackson.org

For Adults

Sunday School Electives

9:45 AM • contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org
Miller Hall, Patterson Hall, and Lowe Hall

Teachers

Al Chestnut — Four Questions
Cory Brock — A Renewed Church: How to Seek Spiritual Renewal
David Elkin — God's Providence in Uncertain Times

For College

College Sunday School
SC 215 • 10 AM • contact collegehouse@fpcjackson.org

For Special Friends

Special Friends Sunday School
9:45 AM • Contact Betsy Chestnut at 601-291-4145

For Children

Nursery

infants - three • 8:30 - noon • contact genad@fpcjackson.org

Children's Sunday School

four - sixth grade • 9:45 AM • contact kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org

Missionaries of the Month



African Scholarship Exchange - ASE is a ministry that partners with African churches to help develop Christian leaders through post-high school educational opportunities.



Children of Abraham – The Children of Abraham (COA) ministry was founded in 1997 to communicate the saving message of Christ to a largely unevangelized Arabic community in and beyond North America. Children of Abraham's purpose is stated in the charter as, "to glorify God and advance His kingdom through the communication of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both nationally and internationally, to engage in and carry on, missionary work, to publish Christian literature, to produce Christian programs in order to spread the saving message of the Gospel."



Mr. & Mrs. William H. – Serving with SIM in Africa. For more information, please contact the Mission Department.



Sarah – Serving alongside First Presbyterian Church's Tuesday night ESL class. She seeks to show hospitality to internationals from around the world who are studying in Jackson. Please contact the Mission Department for more information.

Pastor's Perspective

REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS

by Gary Sinclair, FPDS Chaplain

I'm sure that many of you have heard the oft-quoted, yet insightful, comment from the seventeenth-century Puritan, John Flavel, who stated that "the providence of God is like Hebrew words: it can only be read backwards." It's a profound statement written by a pastor to encourage his beloved members as they traverse their present. Yes! 'Look back,' but only to see the fingerprint of perfect providence, so that you may be reminded of the covenant faithfulness of God toward you today. This very statement, urges us to press on. It's a tremendous encouragement through illuminated truth!!

Now, one reason for beginning the Pastor's Perspective in this manner, this month, is to remind us to 'take stock...to remember.' At the time of writing this, I'm sitting in my office. It's mid-September, the weather is definitely showing signs of cooling down (a South African interpretation of Mississippi weather), and society is adjusting to recent months. In fact, First Presbyterian Day School has been back in the classroom for seven weeks, and besides a few minor adjustments to life in the class, learning and fellowship and growth continues. The boys and girls are growing in their knowledge of the covenant God who, in perfect providence, faithfully guides every detail of every day for His glory, and in accordance with His loving redemptive purposes! At the same time, each boy and girl is privileged to learn about the complexity and beauty of God's world, and how everything sings His praise! How can we not be thankful for seasons such as the one we're in? And yet, we may never have truly appreciated this season if we had not been through the 'crucible' of the past six months! So, as scripture implores us: Remember...Observe...Reflect...Give Praise and Thanks! And, as I mentioned last year: who can fathom the cumulative impact of these recent months, as God brings precious fruit to bear in His own, and more particularly in each precious FPDS soul, which is what I'm praying for!

As many of you will remember (and especially if you have children in the Day School) two years ago, our FPDS Chapel theme for the year was, "Rooted...in Christ." Last year it was "On Mission Together..." And this year, our theme in chapel (albeit virtual till now) is "Awakening: Preparing for Revival..." Please think about the trajectory the Lord has had us take over the last three years, and especially in light of 2020. Isn't it astonishing that God has been equipping

each of us, through His Word, with a knowledge that we are safe and secure in our identity in Christ? We are not called to serve self but He calls us to serve others, which often comes as He 'ruffles the apple cart.' This year, we're thinking through what it means to cry out to God, praying that He would rend the heavens, come down, and capture our hearts (Isaiah 64v1). Unbeknown to us, God has had us on a journey: training, teaching, and preparing us to look to Him, to trust Him, and to worship and adore Him. It's astonishing!

Well, as we have entered our 55th year of education and ministry, there have been a number of changes to the body of teachers. We have had to bid farewell to Margaret Collins, Kelly Davis, Gena Dear, Molly Eastland, Joanna Hopkins, Carrie Kimball, Sarah Little, Sara Maaruszak, Chyna Marble, Tara McDaniel, Leigh Anne Moore, Darya Peipono, Cissy Prewitt, Anne Pringle, Katherine Rash, and Anna Splaingard. Some retired, some had babies, and others to new areas of ministry. We praise God for each of you! At the same time, we give thanks to God for His provision of the following teachers: Nicole Booker (4th Grade), Ellen Champagne (3rd Grade Dyslexia Program), Ashley Dukes (PreK), Catherine Glover (6th Grade English), Jalya Jones (Lower School Music), Carrie Stafford (K5 Assistant), Morgan Stevens (K4 Teacher), and Rachel Wise (K5 Assistant). Welcome and may the Lord bless you all!

Let me conclude by asking the members of FPC to keep the following aspects in your prayer, please:

~ pray for all the transitions, as well as the administration staff as they navigate the school year.

~ pray that the Lord would use His Word to imprint Truth on all our hearts, and that we would cry out for a taste of true revival.

~ pray for each of the boys and girls, and the teachers, that throughout these months, God would bring forth much fruit for His honor and glory.

Once again, thank you for your continued prayers and support of our teachers and administration. We are grateful to the Lord as we continue our mission to plant seeds of Christlikeness, preparing our students for future service in God's kingdom in their homes, churches, and professions.

Session Minutes

MINUTES OF THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, 7:00PM

I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Tony Doggett and Graham Guo, students at Reformed Theological Seminary, were introduced as attending this Session meeting for the purpose of fulfilling their Presbytery requirement.

II. ACTION ITEMS WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The minutes of August 10, 2020 were approved.

B. PRESBYTERY:

- Barry Vickery presented Christopher S. Moody, a student at Reformed Theological Seminary, as a candidate to come under the care of The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley. Following his testimony and expressions of commitment to the Gospel Ministry, the Session voted to recommend that Christopher S. Moody be taken under the care of The Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley.

C. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES:

- Mark Windham was elected to serve a three-year term on the Committee on Committees commencing January 1, 2021.

D. CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

- A wedding scheduled for June 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with the reception away from the church, was approved.
- A wedding scheduled for June 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Greeting Courtyard, with the reception away from the Church, was approved.

E. MISSION/OUTREACH:

The following MTW Committee recommendation was approved:

- That Wes Strebeck, serving with 20Schemes, receive monthly support and a one-time gift to help with initial funding.

The following MNA Committee recommendations were approved:

- That a one-time gift be given to the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network, led by Clint Wilcke.
- That a one-time gift be given to MNA African American Ministries.

F. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

- The Session approved the recommendation of the Management Committee that additional duties and responsibilities to the Church be assumed by Rev. Gary Sinclair to enable recognition of Rev. Sinclair as a full-time (at least 40 hours per week) assistant minister serving as chaplain to the Day School and fulfilling other expanded Church ministerial needs primarily focused on pastoral care, with compensation to be appropriately shared by the Day School and the Church.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was closed in prayer by the Moderator.



COME TO THE TABLE

Women's Ministry Luncheon

October 20 | 12:00 - 1:00 | Miller Hall & Facebook Live

Speaker: David Strain

Cost: \$8.00 taken at the door

Join us from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on October 20 for Come to the Table in Miller Hall. We encourage you to fast beforehand if you feel led and are able, but join us for prayer and lunch regardless as we embark upon a year of hungering and thirsting for God! David Strain will lead our devotional thoughts, and several of our own ladies will lead us in prayer. Following our time of prayer, we will break our fast together with a communal meal as we pray for revival in ourselves, our community, and our world.

This year our church and our Women's Ministry theme is a call to revival—for our church, our nation, our world, and for us personally. Revival in many ways reminds us of our experience when we were first saved. We have an awareness of something that is missing or wrong in our lives, nation, or world that can only be righted by God. And don't we all have a sense of that right now? When we acknowledge our need and petition God, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, allowing us fully to see ourselves in comparison to God's majesty and holiness, and we are restored to fuller and richer fellowship with Him as we are humbled and He is exalted.

In the Bible God called His people to fast and pray for revival and healing in their lives and in their land. One of the reasons fasting was prescribed was to awaken a spiritual hunger for God that may be dulled because of "desires for other things" (Mark 4:19), and who among us can plead innocent to that charge?

Even if you cannot fast, we invite you to join us for prayer, fellowship, devotion, and lunch. Registration is limited to 50 to allow for appropriate distancing. You may register on the FPC website or app or by calling the church at 601-973-9115. If you are not able to join us in-person, we invite you to participate via Facebook Live.

*All events held at the church will follow CDC guidelines. The room will be set up for adequate distancing, and we ask that you wear a mask until seated.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Twin Lakes is launching a new outdoor education option this fall, full of Biblical content, fun activities, and a beautiful open-air setting to learn. This mid-week program is perfect to supplement homeschooled, virtual, and hybrid learning for students 6-12 years of age.

Visit
www.twinlakescamp.org
for more information.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST EPISTLE

1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202-2095

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“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

Midweek

What's the plan for Wednesday Nights?

For Children

Nursery

infants - three • 6 - 7 PM • contact genad@fpcjackson.org

Children's Choirs

four - fifth grade • 6 - 7 PM • contact gdcase@comcast.net

Sixth Grade Fellowship

6 - 7 PM • contact msaxon@ccs.ms

For Youth

Junior High Large Group

Patterson Hall • seventh - ninth grade • 6 - 7 PM • contact youthhouse@fpcjackson.org

For Adults

Midweek Prayer Meeting

Sanctuary • 6 - 7 PM • contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org

Women's Bible Study

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

WH 204 • 6 - 7 PM • contact lisao@fpcjackson.org

Evangelism Group

WH 202 • 6 - 7 PM • contact apchestnut@gmail.com

D Groups

6 - 7 PM • contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org

SOCIAL MEDIA and INTERNET

Web Page: www.fpcjackson.org
Twitter: @FPCJxnMS
Facebook: @Firstpresjackson
Instagram: @fpcjackson
Look for the FPC Jackson app

MAIN PHONE

Phone: (601) 353-8316
Fax: (601) 326-9250

MINISTERS

Senior Minister	David Strain
Executive Minister	Ralph Kelley
Music Minister	Bill Wymond
Congregational Care	Billy Dempsey
Pastoral Care	Wiley Lowry and Brister Ware
Mission/Outreach	Ed Hartman
Discipleship	David Felker
Young Adults/College	Cory Brock
FPDS Chaplain	Gary Sinclair

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Women/Children	Donna Dobbs
Students/Families	Stephen Biggs

The First Epistle is a monthly publication mailed at the beginning of the month.

Submit articles: Mary Ball, at maryb@fpcjackson.org.
Church member in the hospital, births, and deaths: Lynn Smith at (601) 353-8316.

Change of address or name: Marie Phillips at mariep@fpcjackson.org or (601) 973-9101.

OCTOBER 2020 AT FPC

Week of September 27 - October 3

9/27 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Lowry (p.m.)



Week of October 4

10/4 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Brock (p.m.)
10/4 Sunday School Electives (registration required)

Week of October 11

10/11 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Brock (p.m.)
10/12 Circles Meet
10/13 Circles Meet
10/14 Kim Henderson with WORLD Radio (3:00 p.m.)

Week of October 18

10/18 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Brock (p.m.)
10/20 Come to the Table Women's Luncheon

Week of October 25

10/25 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Brock (p.m.)

In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

- ♦ The family and friends of Jack Holiman.
- ♦ The family and friends of Anna Griffin Callender.
- ♦ Patrick Johnson in the death of his stepfather.
- ♦ The family and friends of Oscar Burris.

Welcome to Our World

Lillian Helene Bowling
born September 4
to *Michael and *Dea
Grandparents:
*David and *Ann Bowling

*FPC members

Support Groups

SUPPORT GROUPS

If you are struggling with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to get together with people who share 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 meet 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.

Job Opening

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

First Presbyterian Church Jackson is looking for someone to lead our communications department.

If you know of someone who might want to learn more about this position please have them contact Ralph Kelley at ralphk@fpcjackson.org

OUR BROADCASTS

TELEVISION:

(One week delayed)
Sundays 10:00 a.m. WLBT
TV3 Jackson, MS and
WBIH TV Prattville, AL

RADIO:

Sundays 9:30 a.m.: WYAB
103.9

LIVESTREAM:

fpcj.ms/livestream

Livestream is currently offered at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. services.



Women's Ministry

MONTHLY CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

James: Mercy Triumphs

Circles will meet on October 12 and 13 in the locations listed below. Some rooms and locations have been changed in order to allow for appropriate distancing. If you are already a member of a Circle, there is no need to register. If you are interested in joining a circle, please email Lisa Oswalt at lisao@fpcjackson.org.

Circle 2: Monday 10:00 am in PH

Circle 3: Monday 10:00 am in WH 204

Circle 4: Monday 10:00 am in
Church Parlor

Circle 6: Monday 6:30 pm at the
Home of Beth Archer

Circle 9: Tuesday 10:00 am in WH 204

Circle 10: Tuesday 10:00 am in PH

Circle 11: Tuesday 10:30 am at the
Home of Frenchie Graham

Circle 14: Monday 12:00 noon in MH

PH: Patterson Hall

MH: Miller Hall

WH: Westminster Hall



Children's Ministry

COMMUNICANT FALL MEET AND GREET

On Sunday, October 18 there will be a Fall Meet and Greet for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and parents who are interested in learning more about the process of becoming a communing member. This informational meeting will begin at 4:45 in room 205A Miller Hall. Prospective communicants will meet their elder-sponsor who will shepherd them throughout the process. To register your student contact Kimberly Wilkins at kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9105.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents of 4-year-olds through fifth graders may still pick up children's September Sunday School materials on the first floor Study Center across from the drink machines.



FPDS HOLIDAY POTPOURRI

CANCELLATION

For more than 50 years, First Presbyterian Day School has been a steadfast leader in Christian education. As the world around us has faced an ever-changing social and political landscape, FPDS's dedication to providing our students with an academically robust, Biblically-based education has been unwavering. Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, our commitment to our students' academic, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being resonates louder than ever.

With that being said, prioritizing the health and safety of our families takes precedence. So, it is with a heavy heart that we announce the cancellation of our beloved annual Holiday Potpourri fundraiser. As this is our school's only fundraiser, cancelling it was a difficult decision that we did not take lightly. This fundraiser generates more than \$200,000 annually, and its revenue has supported such important projects as the development of the preschool program, the building of a state-of-the-art science lab, the library expansion and, most recently, our campus expansion, which will include a new gymnasium.

However, despite Holiday Potpourri's cancellation, we optimistically look toward the future and place our trust in the Lord.

We thank you for your prayers and support and, most importantly, for investing in future generations,

- Brian Smith, FPDS Head of School
- Caroline Hogan, Holiday Potpourri Chair



WORLD Radio Reception



Kim Henderson, a senior correspondent with WORLD Radio, will speak at a reception in Miller Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson on Wednesday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m.

A Mississippi native and a communications graduate of Mississippi College, Kim has emerged as a colorful voice and writer in WORLD's publications and broadcasts, including WORLD Magazine and The World and Everything in It, the popular daily news podcast.

While homeschooling her five children, Kim enjoyed a variety of freelance writing opportunities, including 20 years as a curriculum writer for LifeWay. In addition to her work for WORLD, Kim has won awards from the Mississippi Press Association for her weekly column in The Daily Leader in Brookhaven.

Because of space limitations related to Covid-19, seating is limited to 70 persons. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Ambria Collins at acollins@gwpub.com.

CHURCH-LED RELIEF EFFORTS IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Serving the people of Lake Charles through clean-up and recovery efforts was an opportunity for ministering to others in need, comradery working with fellow believers, and using new talents discovered through the Lord's provision. There has been and continues to be much need for this support in and around the city. Our team worked together to clear trees and brush from yards as well as covering roof damage with tarps. Speaking to residents passing by while we completed this work was also an opportunity to minister to people of the city. - Kevin Smathers

