

The First Epistle

Volume 53 / Issue 7 / December 2020



The Herald Angels

Advent Sermon Series

Sunday mornings beginning November 29 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.



November 29, 2020

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

Luke 1: 5-25

December 6, 2020

King of Kings, Yet Born of Mary

Luke 1: 26-38

December 13, 2020

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Matthew 1:8-25

December 20, 2020

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Luke 2:8-20



2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK AWAKENING: A NEW AND GLORIOUS MORN

Pick up your copy of the 2020 Advent Devotional book, *Awakening: A New and Glorious Morn*, with devotionals and artwork created by First Pres church members, available for pick up at the church or online at fpcjackson.org/advent-devotional/ beginning

November 29. This book of devotional readings and original artwork is intended as a supplement to family worship twice a week beginning November 29, with the final two devotionals designed to be read on December 24 and 25.



WINTER GRACE

DECEMBER 27 | 6:00 P.M. | FPC SANCTUARY

A worship service of lament, comfort, and encouragement for those who are struggling with grief, brokenness or loss during a season of celebration and for those who are walking alongside them.

Missionaries



Josh & Gina Rieger – Hexham, England – Church Planter (now living in Richwood, TX)
Pray for:

- Gina as she undergoes chemo treatments. As of November 13, the cancer was shrinking! Pray that this will continue.
- Josh and the children as they fight this battle alongside Gina.



Clarke & Khrystya N – Serving as a church planter with Mission to the World in Lviv, Ukraine. Holy Trinity is now focusing on setting up ministries that care for children all the way from diapers until they attend university.

Pray that God:

- Would cleanse His Church through this season purifying her in preparation for the day in which He will come again.
- Might give great wisdom so that Christ may be exalted in this time.

Sarah G – serves with Audobon Bible Church in Jackson where she shows hospitality to people from around the world who live, study, and work in the Jackson area and is thankful for the blessings of cross-cultural friendships.
Pray for:

- Continued open doors for gospel conversations and discipleship.
- Encouragement in this season of deeper prayer and Scripture study.
- Wisdom in current ministry and for future ministry direction.

Jonathan & Maggie I – serving as church planters with Mission to the World and Redeemer City to City in Southeast Asia. Pray for them to be able to return to the field when borders open.

Let Heaven and Nature Sing!

On December 13, following the 8:30 and 11:00 services, you will have the opportunity to leave with a poinsettia to deliver to someone in our church family. We hope you'll stop on your way out and help us share a little Christmas joy.



YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you plan to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2020, please notify Lee J. Webb in the Business Office via email at leejw@fpcjackson.org.

In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2020 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2020. The Business Office will be open from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. that day. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.

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, 2020. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2020, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on "Giving." All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2020, will apply to your 2021 Contribution Statement.

Construction Project



The construction on the new gym and building has started! Please pray for good weather and safety. Exciting things are happening in spite of Covid!

Students and Families



SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT TO ALPINE

The Students and Families Ministry staff looks forward to this time each year as we plan for the annual Senior High Winter Retreat at Alpine Camp for Boys. We value this time away from the busyness of school and have seen friendships deepen as students learn more about the love of Christ. Our weekend is full of fellowship, play, and rest atop Lookout Mountain. We are excited to announce our speaker this year is David Felker, who is the Minister of Discipleship at FPC, and he will be teaching on the topic of Sanctification. The cost is \$230, but sign up by Early Bird deadline of December 4 and pay \$185.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST EPISTLE

1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202-2095

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PERMIT 122

“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

Lessons and Carols Services

Saturday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations Required

Our choir is preparing to sing our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Services. An orchestra has been secured and plans are in place so all can be reasonably distanced.

This year we plan on having three services, one on Saturday evening, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. and two

on Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Since the congregations will need to be distanced, we will have a system to reserve tickets so all who sign up can be assured of a seat. Information about the plan will be forthcoming later.

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: Kristina Barnes at kristinab@fpcjackson.org or (601) 973-9101.

DECEMBER 2020 AT FPC



Sunday School

Safely resuming programs for
Adults, Children, and Youth

Registration for December
Sunday School opens December
1. Registering should only
take a few minutes to sign up
yourself or your family for the
entire month of December. We
encourage this if you plan to
attend the majority of Sundays.
Select "yes" to the first question
to apply your registration to the
entire month.

Register online at
fpcjackson.org/registration/.

For Adults

December electives for
Adult Sunday School begin
December 6
and will be taught by
Bill Stone,
Chase Wynn,
and *Zeb Henson.*

For College

College Fellowship
Location TBA

For Children

Nursery
infant - three
8:30 a.m. - noon

Children's Sunday School
two-year-old - sixth grade
9:45 a.m. in various locations

For Youth

Junior High and Senior High
Sunday School
9:45 AM in the Youth House

Week of November 29 - December 5

11/29 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Strain (p.m.)
12/1 Women's Christmas Dinner
12/2 Junior High Progressive Dinner



Week of December 6-12

12/6 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Wymond (p.m.)
12/6 New Members Received
12/8 Young Adults Christmas Hymn Sing (Miller Hall)

Week of December 13-19

12/13 Preaching: Strain (a.m.) and Dempsey (p.m.)
12/19 Lessons and Carols Service

Week of December 20-26

12/20 Preaching: Strain (a.m.)
12/20 Lessons and Carols Service
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
12/24 Church offices closed
12/25 Church offices closed

Week of December 27 - January 2

12/27 Preaching: Kelley (a.m.)
12/27 Winter Grace Service (p.m. service)
1/1/21 Church offices closed

Staff Updates

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Kristina Barnes joined the staff as the Executive Minister's Administrative Assistant in November of 2020. She is originally from Texas but has called Mississippi home since 2008. She has been married to Johnathan since 1995, and they have two grown sons. Kristina is a graduate of Mississippi College and an active member of Briar Hill Baptist Church in Florence.

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 December 7 and 8 in the locations listed below. If you are interested in joining a circle, email Lisa Oswalt at lisao@fpcjackson.org.

Circle 2: Monday 10:00 am in PH

Circle 3: Monday 10:00 am in WH 202

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 202

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

PREPARE HIM ROOM

Look out for an Advent devotional series coming to Women's Ministry social media and to your email inbox this December!

Follow us on
Instagram and Facebook
[@fpcjacksonwomen!](https://www.instagram.com/fpcjacksonwomen/)



Midweek

No Midweek in December. We look forward to relaunching Wednesday night programming in January 2021.



Young Adults

YOUNG ADULTS ACTIVITIES

December 8

Tuesday Night Fellowship
Christmas Dinner and Hymn Sing

6:30 p.m. in Miller Hall

Week of December 14

Young Adults Small Groups
Christmas gatherings

In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

- ♦ Frank Laws in the death of his mother.
- ♦ The family and friends of Roberta York.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for this casual and family-friendly service.

December 24
Sanctuary
4:00 p.m.

Welcome to our World

Jack Walden Vollema
born October 29
to *Kevin and *Mary Lowry

Alice Claire Hohm
born October 31
to *Michael and *Amanda

*FPC members

Children's Ministry

COMMUNICANT CLASSES

January Communicant Classes for children in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be held January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2021.

If your student is interested in learning about the process of becoming a communing member at FPC and is not pre-registered, please contact Kimberly Wilkins at kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org or 601-973-9105. Child care for siblings below grade 6 is available by request.

PARENTING WORKSHOP

Save the date:

Parenting Workshop Wednesday, January 8,
6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
More info to follow.



Kids' Service Opportunity

WHAT: MAKE CHRISTMAS CARDS
FOR: GATEWAY MEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
WHEN: BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
WHERE: DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN LAST NAMES
QUESTIONS: ANNAH@FPCJACKSON.ORG