

# The First Epistle

Volume 54 / Issue 1 / March 2021

## Our Vision

*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.*

In March 2020, the Covid-19 virus disrupted the world as we knew it and brought a host of challenges to ministry at First Presbyterian Church. Please take some time to reflect over the ways God provided for our needs and the community's needs over the past 12 months.

As each new chapter unfolded over the year, the ministers and elders of the church faced them prayerfully with a mind toward the gospel and

the vision of the church. Beginning with the additions of daily devotionals, *Life With God*, virtual worship services, and Zoom fellowships, many new programs for the year came to fruition!

How did we “glorify God by making disciples on the North State Street corridor, in the greater Jackson area, and around the world” during the shut downs and hardships of the last year? Read on for a sampling of programs and events!

### Discipleship



D Group Outreach



ZOOM Fellowship



Lots of ZOOM Fellowship



FPC Sign Outreach



FPC Men's Golf Scramble



Father and Son Retreat at Twin Lakes

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## Women

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**Meals for Gateway** – We provided 250 boxed lunches from Primos and continue supporting them with three weekly deliveries of food and supplies.

**Loving With Letters** – We encouraged congregation members to write notes of encouragement to each other.

**Mask Ministry** – The ladies of Sew and Sow, along with others, made and distributed more than 3,000 masks. They have supplied numerous hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, volunteer fire departments and first responders.

**Small Things – Big God** – Mother Daughter Sister Friend Podcast event with Susan Tyner.

**Summer Book Club** -Discussion on *5 Things to Pray for Those We Love*.

**Service Ministries** – Blooms to Go, Cooks Who Care, Caring Ministry Team, Correspondence Ministry, Funeral Meals, French Camp Quilters, and Sew and Sow continued to operate in a distanced manner.

**Gatherings** – MOMS Bible Study finished virtually in the Spring 2020 and met virtually during the Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021. Thursday Morning Bible Study met in person in the fall with precautions and was also offered virtually. Circles met with precautions.

### Mission First School Supply Drive

**Come to the Table** – A morning of fasting followed by a communal meal, a time of prayer, and a devotional by David Strain on Revival.

**Live Laugh Love** – Regional fellowship groups met outside.

**Fleece Blankets** – Sew & Sow and French Camp Quilters made fleece blankets for families impacted by Hurricane Laura. Blankets were distributed through MNA Disaster Relief for the Lake Charles area.

**Women in Need Christmas Bags** – Items (socks, shampoo, deodorant) were collected and delivered to the Central MS Women's Correctional Facility.

**Let Heaven & Nature Sing** – 65 poinsettias delivered to congregation and community members.

**Prepare Him Room** – Weekly Advent video devotional series.



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## Children

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**Life Toward God** – Kids virtual devotional series.

**Virtual shows** – Talent and art shows via social media.

**Summer Weekly Devotionals** – Weekly social media devotionals working through the book *Wise Up* by Marty Machowski.

**Sunday School** – Materials drive-through pick up with ice cream.

**Christmas Cards for Gateway** – Children hand made cards.

**Virtual Classes** – Communicant Class and Sunday School.

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## Mission & Outreach

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"The Twelve Days of Christmas" served as inspiration for the Mission and Outreach Committee and Women's Ministry. Under the direction of Ed Hartman, to bring comfort and joy to their North State Street corridor neighbors in special ways throughout December. Such "days" were spent:

- ◆ Taking fresh baked cookies to local fire stations and police precincts.
- ◆ Preparing and delivering casseroles to residents of the Ronald McDonald House.
- ◆ Taking nursing home residents pots of bright red poinsettias.
- ◆ Providing care packages and a listening ear to international students alone for the holidays.
- ◆ Providing lunch to Murrah High School teachers as Dr. David Elkin instructed them in the area of suicide prevention and awareness.



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## Students & Families

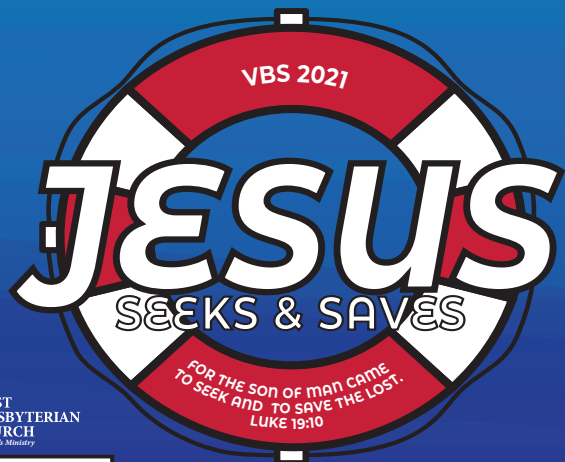
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- ◆ Individual and small group ministry on porches.
- ◆ Two Senior High Retreats (picture from Alpine Camp Retreat)
- ◆ Two Junior High Retreats



## Vacation Bible School

REGISTER ONLINE AT [FPCJ.MS/VBS](http://FPCJ.MS/VBS). REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1.  
REGISTER BY MAY 10 TO ENSURE A T-SHIRT.



**JUNE 7-11, 2021**

Planning for Vacation Bible School 2021 has begun. If you are a FPC member and would like to help with VBS, please

contact VBS Director Cassie Graves at [Cgraves7@gmail.com](mailto:Cgraves7@gmail.com) or 601.624.1987.

## Welcome to our World

James Hampton Peaster  
born November 19  
to Matt and Taylor  
Grandparents  
Chip and Beth Pickering  
Great grandparents  
Wade and Betsy Creekmore

Henley Frances Meyer  
born December 8  
to Greg and Mary Jane  
Grandparents  
Arthur and Janie Davis

Arthur Pelzer Davis III  
born December 4  
to Arthur and Christine  
Grandparents  
Arthur and Janie Davis

Matthew "Rush" Benton  
born January 9  
to Matt and Macey  
Grandparents  
Mark and Rhonda Baird  
Great grandmother  
Jane Baird

## In Loving Sympathy

Prayers and loving sympathy go to

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|--|--|---|
| ◇ William Stabler (staff) in the death of his father.        | ◇ Eddie Batte in the death of his mother.  | ◇ Fair Hurst, Will Barbour, and Charles Barbour in the death of their father. |
| ◇ The family and friends of Chief Gardner.                   | ◇ Mike Myers in the death of his mother.   | ◇ The family and friends of Jean Turner Brewer.                               |
| ◇ Charlotte Watkins Turner in the death of her husband.      | ◇ The family and friends of Dotte Cates.   | ◇ Stefanie Fairly in the death of her mother.                                 |
| ◇ Jimmy Sparks in the death of his mother.                   | ◇ Earl Davis in the death of his mother.   | ◇ Mike Beasley in the death of his wife.                                      |
| ◇ The family and friends of Jim Bateman.                     | ◇ Susan Geiger in the death of her father. | ◇ Mark Nicholas in the death of his mother.                                   |
| ◇ Robby Gathings in the death of his mother.                 | ◇ Johnny Young in the death of his father. | ◇ The family and friends of Dan and Joyce Rose.                               |
| ◇ Mike and Joan Cohen in the death of their daughter-in-law. | ◇ The family and friends of Zeb Jones.     | ◇ Kathryn Day in the death of her grandmother.                                |
| ◇ Morgan Yeates in the death of his mother.                  | ◇ Donna Dobbs in the death of her father.  | ◇ The family and friends of Charlie Williams.                                 |
| ◇ The family and friends of Streety Minor.                   | ◇ Cary Spence in the death of his father.  | ◇ The family and friends of Bill Whitwer, former assistant pastor.            |





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## THE FIRST EPISTLE

1390 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39202-2095

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

JACKSON, MS  
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

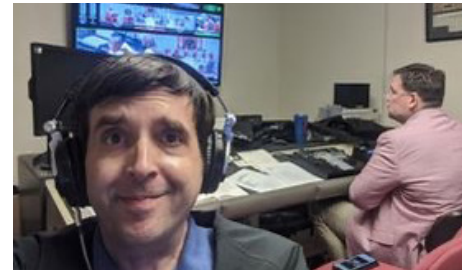
### Worship

- ◆ In-person, socially distanced worship services were supported by ushers working diligently during and after each service to ensure safety of all congregation members.
- ◆ Small choral groups enhanced the services while practicing social distancing.

### Pastoral Care

- ◆ Over the past year the Burwell Fund continued to help church members with financial need.
- ◆ We will begin a study of Romans this spring in the Midweek Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

### Broadcast



- ◆ Since the first Sunday of the shutdown (March 15, 2020), there have been more than 53,000 views on the website. That's from all 50 states and 46 total countries.
- ◆ We've added extensive captioning for hymns, Scriptures, prayers, and responsive reading.
- ◆ We began including Facebook Live in our livestream two weeks later (March 29, 2020). Since that day, our videos on Facebook have tallied almost 113,000 views either live or after they were published.

### MINISTERS

Senior Minister David Strain  
Executive Minister Ralph Kelley  
Music Minister Bill Wymond  
Congregational Care Billy Dempsey  
Pastoral Care Wiley Lowry & Brister Ware

Mission/Outreach Ed Hartman  
Discipleship David Felker  
Young Adults/College Cory Brock  
FPDS Chaplain Gary Sinclair

### DEPARTMENT HEADS

Business Lee J Webb  
Women/Children Donna Dobbs

Students/Families Stephen Biggs  
Communications Margaret McPhillips

*The First Epistle* is a monthly mailed publication.  
Submit articles: Mary Ball, at [maryb@fpcjackson.org](mailto:maryb@fpcjackson.org).  
Church member births, and deaths: Lynn Smith at (601) 353-8316.  
Change of address or name: Kristina Barnes at [kristinab@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kristinab@fpcjackson.org) or (601) 973-9101.

# MARCH 2021 AT FPC

## Week of February 28 - March 6

2/28 Sunday Morning and Evening Worship  
3/1 Visit Israel and Jordan Interest Meeting  
3/2 Last Day of Registration for Live, Laugh, Love



## Week of March 7-13

3/7 Sunday Morning and Evening Worship  
3/8&9 Circles  
3/9 Live, Laugh, Love

## Week of March 14-20

3/14 Sunday Morning and Evening Worship  
3/17 No Wednesday Evening Activities

## Week of March 21-27

3/21 Sunday Morning and Evening Worship  
3/21 Baptism

## Week of March 28 - April 3

3/28 Sunday Morning and Evening Worship  
3/28 New Members Received  
4/1 VBS Registration opens

## MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

### Adults

#### **Midweek Prayer Meeting and Bible Study**

6:00 p.m. in Patterson Hall  
Contact: Discipleship Ministry

#### **Women's Bible Study**

*Seeking Him*

6:00 p.m. in WH 204  
Contact: Women's Ministry

#### **Evangelism Group**

*Sharing Christ During a Pandemic II*

6:00 p.m. in WH 202  
Contact: Discipleship Ministry

#### **D Groups**

6:00 p.m.  
Discipleship Groups  
On-site and Off-site options  
Contact: Discipleship Ministry to sign up for a D Group.

### Children

#### **Nursery**

infant - three  
6:00 p.m.  
Contact: Children's Ministry

#### **Children's Choirs**

four - fifth grade  
6:00 p.m.  
Contact: Genneysa Case

#### **Sixth Grade Fellowship**

6:00 p.m. in SC215  
Contact: Malcolm Saxon

### Youth

#### **Junior High Large Group**

6:00 p.m. in the Youth House  
seventh - ninth grade

#### **Senior High Small Group**

6:00 p.m. in the Youth House  
Contact the Student Ministry for more info.

## Weekly Schedule

### SUNDAY

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship

9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School  
6:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship

### WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m.  
Midweek Activities

## OUR BROADCASTS

### TELEVISION:

*(One week delayed)*  
Sundays 10:00 a.m. WLBT TV3  
Jackson, MS and

### 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

### MONTHLY CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

#### James: Mercy Triumphs

Circles will meet on March 8 and 9. If you are interested in joining a circle, email Lisa Oswalt at [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org).

Circle leaders will be in touch with their members about details and locations.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

#### Live, Laugh, Love

Ladies, please join us on March 9 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. for small group fellowship on neighborhood porches or patios in various locations around the metro area. You can learn more and sign up on the FPC website or app or you can email [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org).

In order to allow time to assign groups in COVID-safe numbers, please sign up by **March 2**.

#### Come to the Table

April 6 | 12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Laura Husband

Cost: \$8 taken at the door

Join us for a socially distanced lunch with speaker Laura Husband. Learn more and register on the FPC website and app or email [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org).

Registration will be limited to 50. Please sign up by April 2.

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



## Students and Families

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

Insight, Midweek, Sunday School, and Small Groups are all happening in person. Check our social media for more details.

### UPCOMING EVENTS Senior High

Spring Break Retreat  
March 15-20

#### Junior High

Spring Retreat  
Twin Lakes  
April 16-18



## College

### COLLEGE Sunday School

10:00 a.m. WH204

Contact William Stabler at  
[williams@fpcjackson.org](mailto:williams@fpcjackson.org) for  
more info.



## Young Adults

### PROGRAMS Sunday School

9:45 AM in Patterson Hall

#### Small Groups

Girls, to sign up text  
Mackenzie Shideler at  
662-295-0875

Guys, to sign up text  
Daniel Tortorici at  
205-276-5842



## Congregational Care

### VISIT ISRAEL AND JORDAN

Visit Israel and Jordan and the sites of Old and New Testament events with David Strain and Billy Dempsey October 18-28, 2021. Cost: \$4,950 per person with airfare from Jackson.

For more information, join us for a meeting Monday, March 1, 7:00 p.m., in Miller Hall. Organized by Denise Wilson of Let's Travel & Co.



## Discipleship

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School will meet IN PERSON in the month of March.

For more information and a class list, visit  
[fpcj.ms/adult-sunday-school](https://fpcj.ms/adult-sunday-school).

### SOCIAL MEDIA and INTERNET

Web Page:

[www.fpcjackson.org](http://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