

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

*First Presbyterian Church*  
COMMUNICANT  
CLASS  
WORKBOOK

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

# DEAR *Communicant*

As young Christians, most of us struggle to put all the pieces together and see the big picture clearly. Sometimes it seems as though the more we learn, the more questions we have: Why did Jesus really come? Why do I need Him? What does it really mean to follow Him? What place should the church have in my Christian life?

Communicant Class is an opportunity to find God's answers to those questions together. I am really looking forward to spending these four weeks with you, as we think through our commitment to Christ and His people.

Should you have any questions, your Elder-sponsor or I will be very glad to help you find the answers.

Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Strain', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Strain

*First Presbyterian Church*  
**COMMUNICANT  
CLASS  
WORKBOOK**

**CONTENTS**

MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 1 . . . . .	P 2
THINK IT THROUGH WEEK 1 . . . . .	P 3
MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 2 . . . . .	P 4
THINK IT THROUGH WEEK 2 . . . . .	P 5
MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 3 . . . . .	P 6
THINK IT THROUGH WEEK 3 . . . . .	P 7
MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 4 . . . . .	P 8
MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 5 . . . . .	P 8
THINK IT THROUGH WEEK 4 . . . . .	P 9
STEPS TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP . . . . .	P 10
5 QUESTIONS OF MEMBERSHIP . . . . .	P 10
COMMUNICANT PERSONAL TESTIMONY . . . . .	P 11
NOTES . . . . .	P 13



# THINK IT THROUGH

## *Week 1*

Each week you will have homework based on a Membership Question or Questions from Sunday's Communicant Class. It is important to remember that you should "Think It Through" based on what the Bible tells us about that particular subject. The reason for this is that the Bible is our only infallible source for learning about God, ourselves, and salvation. It tells us what we need to know about faith and life.

Additionally, please note that the answers for all catechism questions are found in *The Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC)*.

**DAY 1** Read Ecclesiastes 7:20 and James 2:10. Read WSC #16 and #82. Are you a sinner? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 2** Read Isaiah 59:1-2 and Romans 7:24. Read WSC #19 and #84. What are the consequences of your sin?

---

---

---

**DAY 3** Read Acts 3:19, Ephesians 1:7, I John 1:9, and WSC #85. How can you be forgiven of your sins?

---

---

---

**DAY 4** Read Romans 9:14-16, Romans 11:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, and WSC #33. Is there anything you can do to earn your salvation? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 5** Read Psalm 103:10-13, John 3:16-17, Romans 5:1-2, and WSC #20. What does the free gift of salvation mean to you?

---

---

---

**CONSIDER:** *"Our sin is so profound, so deep, so real, so dangerous and so deadly that we never stop needing Jesus and his forgiveness."* - Pastor Strain



# THINK IT THROUGH

## *Week 2*

**DAY 1** Read Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 20:28, and WSC #21. Why did Christ become man?

---

---

---

**DAY 2** Read Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 1:21, John 3:3, and WSC #25. Why do you need a savior?

---

---

---

**DAY 3** Read Jeremiah 10:10a; I Timothy 2:5-6; and WSC #5, #45, and #46. Some false religions claim there are many ways to achieve salvation. Is this true? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 4** Read Romans 8:1-2, Ephesians 1:13-14, and WSC #31. The word 'Gospel' means "good news". What does the good news of the Gospel mean to you?

---

---

---

**DAY 5** Read John 1:12, Acts 16:30-31, and WSC #86. Do you trust and believe in Christ as your savior? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**CONSIDER:** *"God does not leave us in our sin, he delights to save sinners." - Pastor Strain*

# MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 3:

## *The Lifestyle*

*Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?*

I. All true Christians resolve to live as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Galatians 2:20**

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

### **Ephesians 5:8**

8 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

II. All true Christians live as followers of Christ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

### **Titus 3:4-7**

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

III. All true Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

### **Colossians 2:6**

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him...

### **Romans 6:1-4**

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# THINK IT THROUGH

## *Week 3*

**DAY 1** Read Deuteronomy 11:1, Joshua 22:5, I John 1:5-7, and WSC #1 and #3. According to the Bible, what does it mean to be a follower of Christ?

---

---

---

**DAY 2** Read Ephesians 2:10, I John 2:4-6, I John 3:16-19, and WSC # 35. Do you daily ask Christ to make you more like him? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 3** Read Psalm 51:10; Romans 8:26; I Corinthians 10:13; I John 2:15-17; and WSC #87, 98, 106. Think of the sins you struggle with. Why should you pray for the Holy Spirit to continually convict you and help you to resist temptation when you are confronted with these sins?

---

---

---

**DAY 4** Read John 13:35, I John 3:9-10, I John 5:1-3, and WSC #39 and #44. Can others look at your life and know you are a follower of Christ? Why or Why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 5** Read Romans 12:2, II Corinthians 5:17 and WSC #30 and #90. Give an example of how your life, thoughts, words or actions have changed from before you were a Christian to now?

---

---

---

**CONSIDER:** *“One of the marks of a true Christian is that God is at work in your life, in your heart, in your mind and in your thinking – to change you.” - Pastor Strain*

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 4: *The Place*

*Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?*

I. All true Christians love and are committed to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalm 122:1**

1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**Ephesians 5:25**

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

II. All true Christians are committed to \_\_\_\_\_ in the church.

**Psalm 96:9**

9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

**Hebrews 10:25**

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

III. All true Christians are committed to \_\_\_\_\_ the church.

**1 Corinthians 12:25-26**

25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**Philippians 2:3-4**

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 5: *The Body*

*Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

I. All true Christians acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

**Galatians 6:1**

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of

gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

II. All true Christians pursue personal godliness because they want the church to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Leviticus 11:44a**

44 For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

**1 Timothy 3:15**

15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

III. All true Christians cherish the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, and are committed to integrity and forgiveness.

**Psalm 133:1**

1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

**Colossians 3:13**

13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

# THINK IT THROUGH

## Week 4

**DAY 1** Read Romans 8:1, Ephesians 5:1-2 and WSC #36. How did Christ show his love for the church (the body of believers) and why?

---

---

---

**DAY 2** Read Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 19:30, Hebrews 10:24-25, and WSC #58 and #59. Should you regularly attend church? Why or why not?

---

---

---

**DAY 3** Read Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 13:16; I Peter 4:8-10; and WSC #100, #101, and #102. In what ways can you give, serve and pray for the church?

---

---

---

**DAY 4** Read Ephesians 4:11-16, Hebrews 12:6-7, 10-11, James 5:19-20, and WSC #42 and #89. How can God use the church to encourage your spiritual maturity?

---

---

---

**DAY 5** Read Ephesians 4:29-32, Philippians 4:8-9, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 3:8, and WSC #77 and #103. How can you promote purity (holiness), peace and unity within the church? Among your peers? Within your home? In your personal life?

---

---

---

**CONSIDER:** *“Jesus loves the church so much, He gave His life for her. True Christians should love what Jesus loves by caring for the church.” - Pastor Strain*

# STEPS TO BECOMING A COMMUNING MEMBER

## 1. STEP ONE: THE COMMUNICANT CLASSES

The communicant and parents attend all four Communicant Classes which are held on the last four Sunday's in January from 4:45-5:30 pm. During these times the senior pastor will explain and discuss the "5 Questions of Church Membership." **Only one absence is allowed.** The communicant must make-up the missed class by listening to the recorded session online together with his/her elder-sponsor. ([fpcj.ms/communicant-class](http://fpcj.ms/communicant-class))

## 2. STEP TWO: THE PASTORAL INTERVIEW

Once classes conclude, if the communicant wishes to become a communing member of FPC and the parents are in agreement, his/her elder may recommend him/her for membership. The parents will schedule an interview with the pastor. The link to sign-up for a pastor interview will be emailed to the parents by February 18. The communicant is welcome to invite his/her parents and/or their elder-sponsor to attend the interview.

**Note:** For the pastor interview, the communicant is asked to complete and submit both the Prospective New Member Form ([fpcj.ms/communicant-class](http://fpcj.ms/communicant-class)) and Communicant Personal Testimony (Communicant Workbook page 11) to the Children's Director **48 hours before the pastor interview.**

## 3. STEP THREE: BECOMING A COMMUNING MEMBER

If after the interview, the pastor determines that the communicant is ready to become a communing member of the church, the parents will contact the Women and Children's Administrative Assistant at 601.353.8316 for further details.

If after attending the Communicant Class process, the communicant decides he/she is not ready to become a communing member, he/she may continue the process at a later date without repeating the classes.

***For questions regarding the Communicant Class process, please contact the Children's Director at 601.353.8316.***

### 5 QUESTIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy? Page 2

2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel? Page 4

3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ? Page 6

4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability? Page 8

5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace? Page 8

# COMMUNICANT PERSONAL TESTIMONY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. All true Christians confess they are sinners. What does it mean to be a sinner?

---

---

---

---

2. Do you believe you are a sinner? Why or why not?

---

---

---

---

3. What does it mean to be saved?

---

---

---

---

4. Do you believe and trust in Christ alone for salvation? If yes, how does this affect your thoughts and actions?

---

---

---

---

ELDER SPONSOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_





*First Presbyterian Church*  
**COMMUNICANT  
CLASS  
SCHEDULE**

WEEK 1 . . . . .	MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 1 THE BAD NEWS
WEEK 2 . . . . .	MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 2 THE GOOD NEWS
WEEK 3 . . . . .	MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 3 THE LIFESTYLE
WEEK 4 . . . . .	MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 4 THE PLACE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION 5 THE BODY

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

601.353.8316

[WWW.FPCJ.MS/COMMUNICANT-CLASS](http://WWW.FPCJ.MS/COMMUNICANT-CLASS)

1390 NORTH STATE STREET

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI