

The First Epistle

Volume 54 / Issue 6 / December 2021

THE *Music* OF *Christmas*

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE
OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Choir & Symphony Orchestra

December 19
4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

What's Inside?

December Event Information
Cory and Heather Brock's Commission in Edinburgh, Scotland
and more!

Two Cities, Same Gospel

Brock Family Takes Ministry to Scotland



The Brock Family in 2016 at St. Columba's Free Church of Scotland in Edinburgh

Across the Atlantic Ocean lies a lovely city with a lovely church where God's people gather for worship. And soon our Minister of Young Adults, Cory Brock, will minister there at St. Columba's Free Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. The congregation there has many young families living and working in a bustling city in need of gospel teaching. Cory will join Derek Lamont at this church whose building is in the city-centre, on the Royal Mile, next to Edinburgh Castle in the capital of Scotland.

Cory and Heather Brock and their family have served at FPCJ for the last three and a half years, and he has been in ministry for eleven years, with four of those serving as an intern at FPCJ from 2009-13. Prior to serving as a minister at FPCJ, Cory was a doctoral student at University of Edinburgh and worshipped at St. Columba's where he also served as ministry director and as an out of bounds pastor from our Presbytery. First Presbyterian



Church is commissioning the Brock family into the mission field once again to serve in the Free Church of Scotland with a partnership and pledge of support from FPCJ.

On Sunday, October 31, the church commissioned the Brock family to proclaim Christ. David Strain charged Cory to preach Christ as the theme of every sermon—warning people of wrath to come and teaching of Christ crucified for all of us. All people need Jesus both here and abroad. Dr. Strain reminded Cory that ministry is hard and that he does not go in his own strength but is to rest in Jesus and cling to Christ.

The connections between First Presbyterian Church Jackson and St. Columba's are very deep. FPCJ is a Scottish Presbyterian Church by tradition. Edinburgh is the historic center of Scottish Presbyterianism and where the Scottish Reformation started under John Knox. St. Columba's is the General Assembly seat of the Free Church of Scotland and now stands in a very different culture, one in which there are few Christians. Our Scottish pastor, David Strain, and his family worshipped at St. Columba's while they were in Edinburgh and countless others have been a part of the congregation at St. Columba's, while visiting, or while students at the seminary and divinity schools just across the street.

Cory says that they are drawn to St. Columba's both because of their past relationships there and also because the church issued a call for them to come. There are real, significant needs for the Scottish church in the midst of a thoroughly secular humanist culture, and the Brocks feel like God has called them to answer yes to the church's call.

The FPCJ ministry staff hopes to explore and build a long-term ministry partnership with St. Columba's in which the two congregations support and encourage one another. As specific needs are identified, the congregations from both churches look forward to growing closer as believers in our different cities with the same gospel and the same Lord, praying for one another, and seeking a movement of the gospel in both Jackson and Edinburgh.

2021 Advent Devotional

BUT WILL GOD
INDEED DWELL
ON THE EARTH?

1 KINGS 8:27

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14

Pick up your copy of the 2021 Advent Devotional today!

Around the church this month, you'll see copies of a devotional to be used during Advent. This Christmas, the devotionals are prayers written by members of our church. The tradition of prayers-as-devotion is older than the first Christmas. King David crafted the prayers of the Psalms. The reformers and the puritans picked up this tradition and drafted beautiful things to orient hearts toward the Lord. Additionally, you will see the beautiful artistic creations of our members. What wonderful ways God has gifted our church. Like the God whose image we bear, we are able to create both with art and with words. Use the booklet in whatever ways make the most sense for you. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church receptionist at 601-353-8316.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
BOOKSTORE

Open House



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Courtesy gift wrap & Refreshments



Gifts in the Bookstore

Children's Christmas Book

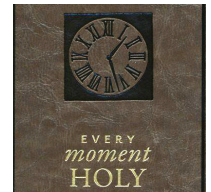
The Promise

By Jason Helopolus



Devotional

Every Moment Holy
Volumes 1 and 2



Prayer Series

Five Things to Pray



Bibles

A new stock of ESV Bibles will be available including study Bibles, journaling Bibles, and more.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The unfortunate reality is that most orphans will never be adopted. Of the estimated 140,000,000 orphaned children in the world, over 99% are not adopted, and some of these children become targets for abuse and sexual exploitation. Many more reach adulthood totally unprepared and without the knowledge that they have a Heavenly Father who loves them dearly.

Lifeline Children's Services created the (un)adopted program in 2009 with a goal of reaching these children with the gospel. (un)-adopted strives to develop a model of ministry that can be replicated throughout the world. The ministry works with the indigenous international church to care for the physical and spiritual needs of orphans while giving them necessary job and life skill training, and

it also exposes American churches, businesses, and individuals to the plight of orphans around the world.

The offering collected in children's Sunday School classes in November and December will be designated for Lifeline Children's Services to support their (un)adopted program. Please consider how your family can support this ministry through prayer and giving.

Junior High Fall Retreat Growing Together

In November, the youth department took just over 50 students to Timber Creek Camp for the annual Junior High fall retreat. Stephen Biggs, Weston Blaha, and Dr. John Fesko taught "Four Lessons from the Life of Moses," showing how Moses's life points us to Jesus Christ. In the midst of the time spent growing together and learning, the group ate good food, took

a break from phones, played games, and slept (not much). They had a blast playing human foosball, survivor, and of course 9-square in the air (which was the favorite). Next up for junior high students is the Junior High Spring Retreat, during which the FPCJ youth group will meet up with other area churches at Twin Lakes!



December Events

December

1

Midweek Hymn Sing

6:00 p.m.

Join us for a congregational hymn sing of old favorites and new classics.

December

3 & 4

Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree

7:30 p.m.

Contact missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org for how to get involved.

December

7

Women's Ministry Christmas Brunch

11:00 a.m. in Miller Hall

Speaker: Beverly Wilson

December

8

Carols in the Park(ing Lot)

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Contact missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org for how to get involved.

December

18

Bookstore Open House

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December

19

The Music of Christmas

4:00 & 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December

24

Christmas Eve Service

4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December

26

Breakfast & Carols

9:45 a.m. in Miller Hall

Adult and Youth Sunday School classes will meet together.

December

26

Winter Grace Service

6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A Service of Comfort and Hope

Advent PSALMS

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

November 28

8:30 and 11 a.m.

The Only Begotten King
Psalm 2

December 5

8:30 and 11 a.m.

All Things Made New
Psalm 8

December 12

8:30 and 11 a.m.

A Body You Have Prepared
Psalm 40

December 19

8:30 and 11 a.m.

A Lamp for My Anointed
Psalm 132

December 24

4:30 p.m.

The Lord Is Come
Psalm 98

Midweek

Regular Midweek Activities
will pause for the month of December.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Winter Grace

A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

DECEMBER 26 | 6:00 P.M. | FPC SANCTUARY

IT IS OFTEN DURING THIS SEASON OF GREAT JOY THAT WE ARE ALSO ACUTELY AWARE OF OUR LOSSES, FEARS, DOUBTS, AND STRUGGLES. AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US, WE OFTEN FEEL ALONE AND FAR FROM HIM. THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT CHRIST SHARES OUR LIFE IN JOY AND SORROW, DEATH AND NEW BIRTH, DESPAIR AND PROMISE. JOIN US AT EVENING WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 26 FOR A SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE "BRUISED AND BROKEN BY THE FALL."

