

The background of the entire page is a vibrant watercolor illustration of various flowers. Large, light purple and white lilies are prominent, with smaller red and pink blossoms interspersed. The brushstrokes are visible, giving it a soft, artistic feel.

# The First Epistle

Volume 55 / Issue 3 / April 2022

Join us

## *Easter Weekend*

at First Presbyterian Church

**Good Friday Service**  
6:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 15

**Easter Morning Services**  
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

**Easter Evening Service**  
6:00 p.m.





David Strain stopped by the sixth grade Sunday school class to give a lesson on communion and for a Q&A session or "Stump the Chump" as he called it.

# *The First Epistle*

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Artwork by Adrienne Penny

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*The First Epistle* is a publication of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi.

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# The First Word

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featuring sermon notes and audio,  
missionary reports and prayer  
requests, event information, and  
announcements.

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**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
Jackson, Mississippi

# *Navigating* **RELATIONSHIPS** THROUGH UNCHARTED WATERS

APRIL 20 & 21 | ELLEN DYKAS, SPEAKER

**The Unending Bending of Gender**  
Biblical Clarity, Courage, & Compassion  
for Parents & Grandparents  
Wednesday Morning Session  
9-11 a.m.

**Toxic Relationships**  
Identifying Idolatry in Key Relationships  
& Taking Refuge in Christ  
Thursday Women's Lunch  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | \$12

**Compassionate Discipleship**  
for Christians Experiencing Same-Sex Attraction  
Wednesday Evening Session 6-7 p.m.

REGISTER FOR ONE, TWO, OR ALL THREE EVENTS ON THE FPC WEBSITE OR APP.

## Welcome to Our World

**Mary Hampton Zegel**  
Born September 9, 2021  
to Daniel and Anne Elizabeth  
Grandparents Pat and Craig  
Flowers

**Joseph Julian Luter**  
born February 7  
to David and Rivers  
Grandparents Joe and Susan  
Uithoven

**John Alden Cranford**  
born February 3  
to Alden and Kate  
Grandparents Bob and Anne  
Cunningham

**"Darden" Louisa  
Elizabeth Benton**  
born February 10  
to Matt and Macey  
Grandparents Mark and  
Rhonda Baird  
Great grandmother Jane  
Baird

**Robert "Sayles" Nicholas**  
born January 17  
to Reed and Maris  
Grandparents Mark and Alice  
Nicholas

**Adaleigh Walker  
Strickland and  
Emerson Graham  
Strickland**  
born November 1  
to Jim and Elizabeth

**Rosalie "Rosie"  
Frances Young**  
born February 3  
to John Henderson and  
Frances  
Grandparents Johnny and  
Laura Young

**"Sawyer" Wooding  
Wright**  
born January 27  
to Tommy and Courtney  
Grandparents Tom and Nancy  
Wright

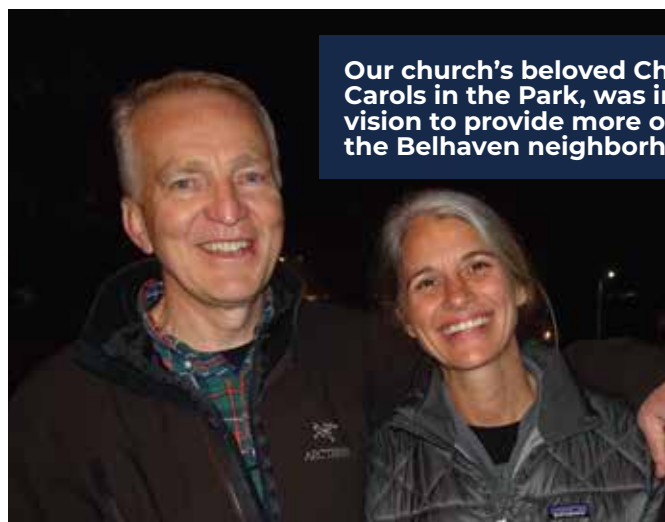
**Benning McCormick  
Webb**  
born March 7  
to Lee J and Molly

**Harper Elizabeth Frey**  
born February 15  
to Robert and Morgan  
Grandparents Bob and Libba Frey





Ed & Emily visit with a Muslim family during a mission trip to Indonesia.



Our church's beloved Christmas Carols in the Park, was a vision to provide more of the Belhaven neighborhood.



The Hartmans visit a retreat for church leaders in Indonesia, supporting the mission field.

## A Heart for Missionaries

### Hartmans Equip Others for Ministry Around the Corner and Around the Globe

When Ed and Emily Hartman moved to Jackson eight years ago to accept Ed's call to be the Minister of Mission and Outreach at FPC, they had recently left the mission field themselves. That experience in foreign missions gave them a unique perspective as they joined the team at FPC. It enabled them not only to empathize with and care for the missionaries we support but also to challenge and encourage our congregation in the way we think about evangelism and hospitality.

Emily and Ed's firsthand knowledge of the challenges that missionaries

and church planters face enabled them to serve our church's supported missionaries in a way that few others could. They spent time counseling missionaries in their ministries and their relationships. Through our gifts to missions they have been able to provide outlets for gospel community and restoration for missionaries on the "front lines" of ministry.

In helping to form the strategic plan for missions at FPC, Ed saw a particular opportunity to serve missionaries and advance the

gospel in unreached areas of the world. Through Ed's leadership, our church has invested more resources – both financial and spiritual – in unreached people groups than ever before. Our congregation's eyes have been opened to the challenges of spreading the gospel in countries where it is dangerous to speak the name of Jesus Christ and we have been encouraged to see the ways God is working despite immense obstacles.

The Hartmans' experience on the mission field also opened their eyes

Christmas tradition,  
inspired by Ed's  
outreach events for  
food.



Worship at a  
church planters in  
supported by FPCJ.

to the power of hospitality in evangelism. Through their own example of “radical hospitality,” Ed and Emily have shown us how to love our neighbors, our community, and each other well.

“Ed and Emily have opened my eyes to see the mission field afar and yet just across the fence,” says Dallis Ketchum. “When we moved into the home where we live now, Ed and Emily came in and dropped by a housewarming gift. They gave us a book on the art of neighbor-ing, and it outlines the Hartman's mission model. We became in some little sense missionaries like them, seeking to love the Lord and our literal neighbor as our self.”

When Ed shares about how he met people on the mission field in Romania, he has often quips, “bring your grill to the front yard, and people will come!” The illustration is helpful when thinking of small ways to reorient our mind-sets to hospitality as a gateway for evangelism. Ed's message is this:

one invitation or step outside of our own comfort zones can reap huge relational benefits with unbelievers. Indeed, developing friendships with those all around us usually opens doors to fruitful gospel conversations.

“Ed faithfully challenged us to think intentionally and engage in our neighborhoods and communities so that, as Rosaria Butterfield says, strangers can become neighbors and neighbors can become part of the family of God,” says Gail Jones, who served on the FPC Outreach Committee with Ed. “In his wisdom, we were reminded that this requires service and sacrifice that is sometimes messy and not always easy. We are better people for our time with Ed – we love the Gospel more, and our hearts are filled with more compassion for reaching the lost.”

“Even in the very nature of his verbal delivery Ed teaches me to love the lost,” adds Dallis Ketchum.

Loving others well and supporting families in ministry is also what has led the Hartmans to their next kingdom endeavor. At the end of March, Ed will move on from his work at FPC and, together, he and Emily will launch Kingstone Partners, an organization serving couples in ministry.

## **“Ed faithfully challenged us to think intentionally and engage in our neighborhoods and communities.”**

In their work with ministers and in their own experience, Ed and Emily say they have seen the burden that can be placed on couples in ministry.

“There appears to be a greater need to come alongside and shepherd ministry couples now than ever,” say Ed and Emily. “We recently spent three days consulting and serving a church planting couple who are doing great work, but are emotionally depleted. All the normal challenges, weaknesses and complexities of church planting have been significantly amplified by the heightened racial tensions and prolonged social distancing that have marked the past two years.”

Healthy ministers are a crucial part in building healthy churches. According to the Hartmans, research indicates there are five themes that must be addressed to help leaders thrive in ministry: spiritual formation, self-care, emotional and cultural intelligence, marriage and family, and leadership.

“Our work will focus on helping couples grow in these areas as they sink their roots more deeply into their union with Christ,” explains Ed.

Though Ed and Emily will not be leaving Jackson, they both say that they felt the Lord calling them to focus all of their vocational time on service to others in ministry. The Hartmans explain that because of their combined experience in ministry, growth in their own marriage, and stories of beauty and brokenness in both, their passion is to invest in other couples with the grace that they have received.

Please join us in praying for the Hartmans as they transition to their new ministry with Kingstone Partners and thanking them for loving the FPC community well in their ministry at the church.



## In the Bookstore: Children's Catechism Flashcards



This month, the bookstore is featuring a children's Catechism learning resource. These flashcards and classroom-sized books are designed to aid children of all abilities to learn the Catechism through simple pictures and text.

The editor of these catechism tools is Ashley Belknap whom many FPC members will remember from her four years serving here as Director of Women's Ministry. Ashley now serves as the Director of Engaging Disability with the Gospel, the denominational disability ministry of the PCA and is the editor of these catechism tools. She describes these resources and how they can be a great aid for children.

The Catechism tools are uniquely adapted visuals based on the questions and answers in the First Catechism (used by Sunday school classes at FPC). The series breaks the catechism into groups of 50 questions, so there are three sets of cards that can be purchased individually or as a set. There are two sizes for sale in the bookstore: a large version designed for classroom or group use, and a personal size that a parent can keep in the car or a purse for quick reference when on the go. Both are constructed from heavy duty card stock in full color. While these resources were designed with special needs children in mind, the visuals are useful for all children as they learn catechism.

Kids have a greater retention and memorization rate when there are visuals to aid them, but theological concepts are often hard to illustrate, so this resource uses the full text of each question in the First Catechism along with an illustration of one aspect from

each question as a learning anchor. Characters and illustrations repeat throughout the series as a reminder that these concepts build on each other. Additionally some prereading words are in a larger font - words that are highly repeated throughout scripture and are important to recognize on sight.

### Ashley's tips for adding catechism memory to your day:

- Begin with small steps to add in one or two questions a week,
- Choose a time when the family is already gathering together like a meal or devotional time.
- Attach a reward for memorization mastery. Begin by rewarding each question, and as they grow, increase the required memorization as well as the incentive.
- Don't get discouraged if you stop for awhile. Pick up where you left off and begin again!

## Volunteer!

Assist with the livestream, television, and radio outreach ministries of the church.

No experience is necessary!

Contact Trey Porter at [tvroom@fpcjackson.org](mailto:tvroom@fpcjackson.org) for details.



## How Shall They Hear? How Can I Help?

The mission the Lord gives His people to “Lift High the Cross” remains unchanged despite all the uncertainties we face on a daily basis through wars, civil unrest, and health crises. Now that the mission conference is finished, we are left thinking, “What now? How can I help the world hear?” Here are specific answers from the Mission and Outreach department.

First, dedicating our prayers and finances is vital. Pick up the World Watchlist book, keep the Mission Conference booklet that was mailed to your home, and add missionary families and projects to your daily prayer life. Form a prayer group with people from your Sunday school class or D Group. Add to that a financial pledge to the FPC mission budget because it is specifically designed to support men and women who proclaim Christ in countries where their identities must be protected from many who would harm them.

Internationally, look for upcoming partnerships with the church in Scotland. The annual Peru trip is on hold due to Covid restrictions, but team leader Danny Story is eager to enter the area again with medical, dental, and educational ministries. Foreign missions can happen now within our own building and homes through the Internationals class!

“We became members of the Internationals class over 20 years ago,” says Steve Edwards, “and estimate that about 700 internationals from 50 different countries (mostly China) have come to our church over that time.” Most internationals who come to the class are in the US as students, both graduate and undergraduate. Others are

trained medical experts and come to UMMC to conduct research regarding cancer, heart disease, dentistry, etc.

On the local mission front, jump in now! One ministry supported by the FPC Mission to Jackson committee is the PEARSON Foundation. PEARSON is an acronym: People Employing Available Resources to Strengthen Our Neighborhoods. The foundation president/CEO, Jarvis Ward, provided the following list of current needs:

### PEARSON Foundation Needs

- Office work – four hours a week, mostly remote
- After-school tutors/mentors
- Summer Learning Institute volunteers for Bible lessons, music, recreation, sports & games
- Maintenance help on a Saturday morning
- Sponsor expenses:
  - internet for one year
  - snacks for one month
  - gas for van for one month
  - cost for 10 students to participate in Summer Youth Leadership trip to Oregon in July
  - replace old recreation equipment

If you would like to subscribe to our semi-monthly list of prayer requests for our missionaries, please email [jolynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org) or call 601-973-9128.

**“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”**  
-Romans 10:15b

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THEN YOU WILL CALL UPON ME AND COME AND PRAY TO ME AND I WILL HEAR YOU. - JEREMIAH 29:12