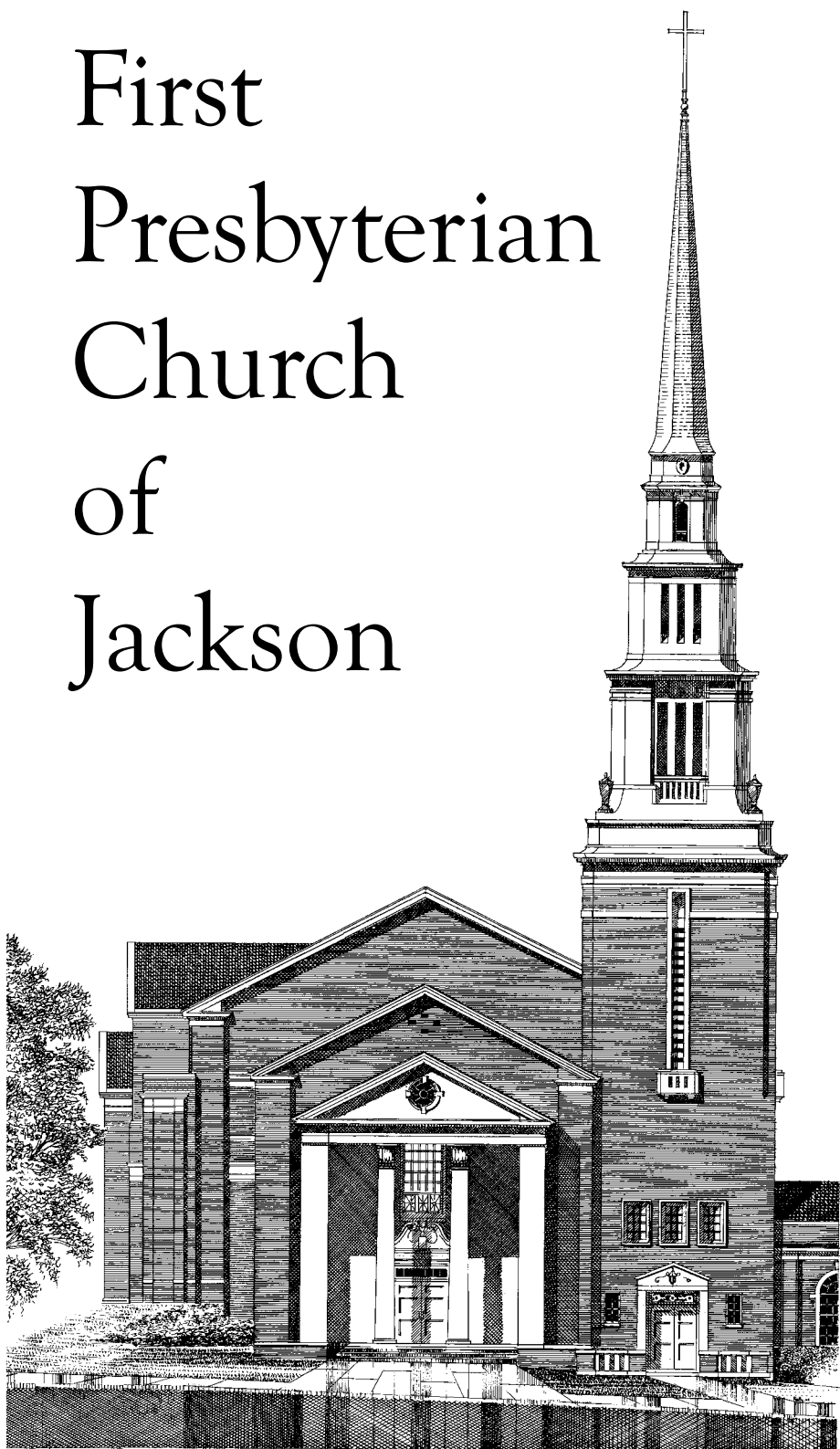


The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Eighteenth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Two  
MORNING WORSHIP  
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister  
The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker — Executive Minister

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Greetings and Announcements (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

The Prelude — "What Child Is This"..... Arr. Walter Pelz  
Shellie Kemp, Violin I, Kate Morgan, Viola  
Bonnie Brown, Violin II, Nancy Bateman, Cello

The Introit — "Sing We Noel!"..... Wm. Wymond

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 211 — "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

The Solo — "The Wexford Carol"..... Arr. Funderburk  
Gena Everitt, Soloist

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God has done; in sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray; to God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn; there was a blessed Messiah born.  
The night before that happy tide; the noble virgin and her guide  
Were long time seeking up and down; to find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things come to pass, from every door repelled, alas!  
As long foretold, their refuge all was but a humble oxen stall.  
With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Saviour, Christ, behold.  
Within a manger he was laid, and by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life, who came to earth to end all strife.

**The Public Profession of Faith**

- The Biblical Basis
- The Introduction of New Members
- The Questions of Membership
- The Baptism (8:30 a.m.)
- The Prayer
- The Declaration
- The Blessing

**The Offering**

**The Anthem** — “And the Glory of the Lord” (Messiah) .....Wm. Wymond

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

**The Old Testament Reading** — Isaiah 11:1–10 ..... (pew Bible page 575)

**The New Testament Reading** — Luke 5:27–32..... (pew Bible page 861)

**The Sermon** — **Christmas According to Jesus: Invitation** .....Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 201** (stzs. 1-3) — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

- O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
- Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
- We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
- O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**The Postlude** — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”..... Arr. David



MERRY  
**CHRISTMAS**  
FROM FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DEC  
**14**  
CAROLS IN  
THE PARK  
5:30-7 p.m.

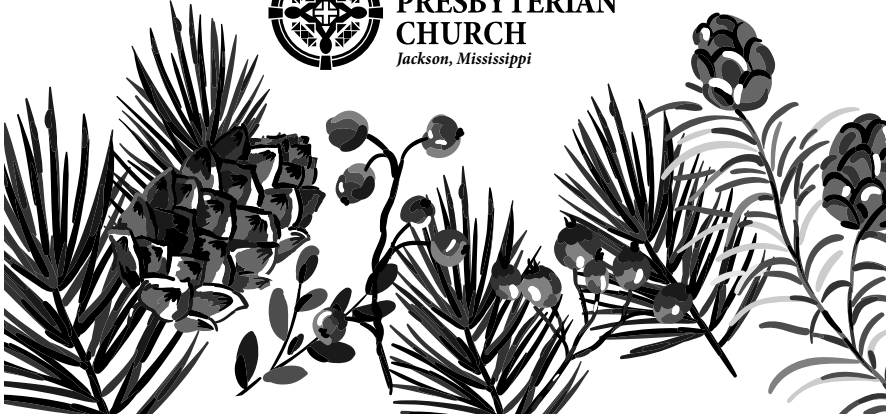
DEC  
**18**  
MUSIC OF  
CHRISTMAS  
4 and 6 p.m.

DEC  
**24**  
FAMILY CAROLS  
SERVICE  
4:00 p.m.

DEC  
**25**  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
SERVICE  
10 a.m.



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
*Jackson, Mississippi*



## A GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

### **The Introduction of New Members**

This week we have the great joy of receiving new members into our church family during the morning worship service.

*Why must we be members of a local church?* The Bible uses metaphors to define “the Church.” The Church is one body in Christ. We are all members of the same body, and we belong to one another (Romans 12:5). The Church is one family. To be a member of any family, we are to be either born in it or adopted into it. Since we are all born as “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), we must be adopted; and God has adopted us into His community of the Trinity. We have one Father, one Savior and elder Brother, and one Spirit of adoption by Whom we are made members of the family (Romans 8:15–17). Therefore, as Scripture repeatedly addresses us, we are brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers to one another. So, why must we become members of a local church? It is because, having been united to Christ, we are necessarily united to all those who are united to Him. Therefore, we are entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church, and other rights and privileges that come with it.

*Who can be a member of the church?* Any person who is called a Christian by having made a credible profession of faith, having been baptized in a Bible-believing church, and having been admitted by the Session (the body of elders) to the Lord’s Table can be a communing member of First Presbyterian Church. Children of believer(s) are, by virtue of their birth in a believing household and in covenant with God, children of the covenant. However, they may not partake of the Lord’s Table as a way to protect them from eating and drinking judgment upon themselves, if they were to do so in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27–29). Hence, our children are called non-communing members of the church. We hope that all our covenant children would embrace the gospel and become communing members. While only the communing members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church, all members of the church family are, however, entitled to the watchful care, instruction, prayers, and government of the church.

### **Questions for Membership**

Having discussed why and who can become members of First Presbyterian Church, let us look briefly at the questions for membership:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope, save in His sovereign mercy?
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?
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?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship .....Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School.....See signs in Greeting Courtyard for locations  
4:00 p.m. The Music of Christmas.....Sanctuary  
6:00 p.m. The Music of Christmas.....Sanctuary

## Monday, December 19, 2022

7:30 p.m. College Social.....Hederman Home

## Tuesday, December 20, 2022

6:00 p.m. MOMS at Night Bible Study .....MH

## Saturday, December 24, 2022

7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting..... WH 202  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Carols Service ..... Sanctuary

## Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service .....Sanctuary

LH—Lowe Hall MB—Main Building MH—Miller Hall MS—Music Suite  
PH—Patterson Hall SC—Study Center WH—Westminster Hall YH—Youth House

## WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. If you are a visitor, we would love to know more about you. Please leave your contact information in the "Welcome Pad" located at the end of your pew. We will follow up with you to introduce ourselves and tell you about ways to get plugged in to the church.

## CONNECT WITH US!

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



[info@fpcjackson.org](mailto:info@fpcjackson.org)



601-353-8316



[@fpcjackson](https://www.instagram.com/fpcjackson)



[@FirstPresJackson](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresJackson)



[@FPCJxnMS](https://twitter.com/FPCJxnMS)



FPC Jackson MS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WINTER GRACE SERVICE — JANUARY 8

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 January 8 for a service of hope and healing for all those who are “bruised and broken by the fall.”

## SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT 2023

Mark your calendar for our annual Winter Retreat this year at Tanglewood Camp, January 14-16, 2023. Stephen Biggs will be speaking on different aspects of Christian identity. Register soon in the app. The cost is \$180 and registration will close January 6. Contact [youthhouse@fpcjackson.org](mailto:youthhouse@fpcjackson.org) with questions.

## GRIEFSHARE MINISTRY

GriefShare is a ministry of support and encouragement for those grieving the death of a loved one. Using the Bible and the shared experience of others, participants will discover how to navigate the profound difficulties of bereavement. Our next 13-week GriefShare course will begin Wednesday, January 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. To register, please contact Emily Eastman at 601-326-9243 or [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## SUPPORT GROUP

If you are struggling with alcohol or other chemical dependence and would like to get together with people who share the same struggles, we have a small and very safe group that meets regularly for just that purpose. This discreet, weekly meeting is one of friendship, encouragement, biblical reflection, and prayer. For more information, please call or text 601-260-1636. Also, twice each month a group of those who have loved ones who struggle with addiction/alcoholism meet for a time of mutual encouragement and Christ-centered counsel. Anonymity is required. For more information concerning the place and time of these meetings, call or text 601-260-0388.

## CAREGIVERS' MINISTRY

The Caregivers' Support Group will take place every 2nd Monday of the month starting January 9 in MH 203A & 203B from 11a.m.–12:30 p.m. The purpose of our Caregivers' Ministry is to gather similarly situated caregivers who desire to learn, share stories, and grieve as we walk together through the valley of a loved one's suffering with dementia and dementia-related illness. The meeting will provide a safe and friendly forum to vent with others who understand the toils of caregiving for the cognitively impaired. We'll provide resources which are available to the caregiver as well as to the loved one for whom care is being provided. Ultimately, we'll leave each participant with the promise of the gospel and the hope and rest we find in Christ Jesus our Savior. To register, please contact Emily Eastman at 601-326-9243 or [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## MOMS BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, we hope you'll join us for MOMS this spring! We will continue to offer two options - one that meets every Wednesday morning and one for working mothers that meets the third Tuesday night of each month. MOMS is a Bible study for expectant moms, those who hope to become moms, and those whose youngest child is in the sixth grade or below. This semester, our MOMS@Night will continue their study of the book of Hosea, led by Jane Wiggins. The Wednesday morning group, led by Shirley Windham, will study what Proverbs teaches us about parenting. A nursery is available, but space is limited. Registration is available on the church website or app beginning Jan 2. For more information, email [moms@fpcjackson.org](mailto:moms@fpcjackson.org).

## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 23 - Closed  
Monday, December 26 - Closed  
Monday, January 2 - Closed

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**II THESSALONIANS 3:1** — *“Finally, brethren, pray for us...”*

**Apam & Pamleiphy** – Serving with Reformed Evangelical Fellowship in India. For more information, please contact the mission department.

**Joe & Kristi Cristman** – Serving as a church planter in Lombard, IL. Email: joecristman@gmail.com.

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**IN MEMORIAM** Mrs. Gustava Cleland — December 11, 2022

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## YEAR END GIVING REMINDERS

### *Support the Work of First Presbyterian Church*

Contributions must be received by FPC on or before December 31 or postmarked by December 31 in order to be deductible for the 2022 tax year. The Business Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 30. On Saturday, December 31, security will be on site to receive any contributions. Additionally, you may give online through midnight on December 31 at [fpcj.ms/give](http://fpcj.ms/give) or via the church app.

Any gifts received in person or postmarked after December 31 must be applied to the 2023 tax year. For information about how to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church, please contact the Business Office at 601-973-9100 or [businessoffice@fpcjackson.org](mailto:businessoffice@fpcjackson.org).

## BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered during the 8:30 a.m. Service to Chengyun “Carina” Tang.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our fellowship on December 4, 2022, and are being presented to the congregation during the morning services today. Please welcome them warmly.

Betsy Baird  
\*Carson Edwards  
Owen Hallbach  
Brad Hancock

Anna Karlson  
Daniel Karlson  
Rebekah Lipscombe

Abbey Miller  
Claire Smith  
Emily Soen

Philip Soen  
Anastasia Soen  
Carina Tang

\*Covenant child joining as a communing member

## ELDER ELECTION

On November 20, 2022, the congregation of FPC approved a resolution to conduct an elder election on April 16, 2023. As outlined in the resolution, the nomination period will last through December 22. Nominations may be made in person at the church reception desk or online via our website at [fpcj.ms/elder-election](http://fpcj.ms/elder-election). Please prayerfully consider the guidelines for the office of Elder provided on the website before submitting a nomination.

## THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — THIS EVENING

**4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary**

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us tonight for our annual service of Christmas carols, lessons, and scripture led by the FPC Choir and accompanied by a symphony orchestra. A nursery will be available for children three years old and younger.

## COLLEGE SOCIAL MONDAY NIGHT

If you are a college student who is still in town or home for Christmas break, you are invited to the Hederman home from 7:30–9:00 p.m. tomorrow night, December 19, for a dessert social. The Youth staff as well as the College and Young Adult staff are excited to reconnect with all who can make it. The Hedermans’ address is 125 Cherry Laurel Cir. Ridgeland, MS 39157. Please text someone on the Youth or College/Young adults staff and we’ll provide the gate code.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS SERVICE

Gather with your church family on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a service of lessons and carols celebrating Christ’s birth. There will be no nursery for this service.

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

**10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Join us for morning worship on Christmas day! There will be no Sunday School, nursery, Children’s Churchtime, or evening worship service, but we will gather for one service at 10:00 a.m. Bring the whole family!