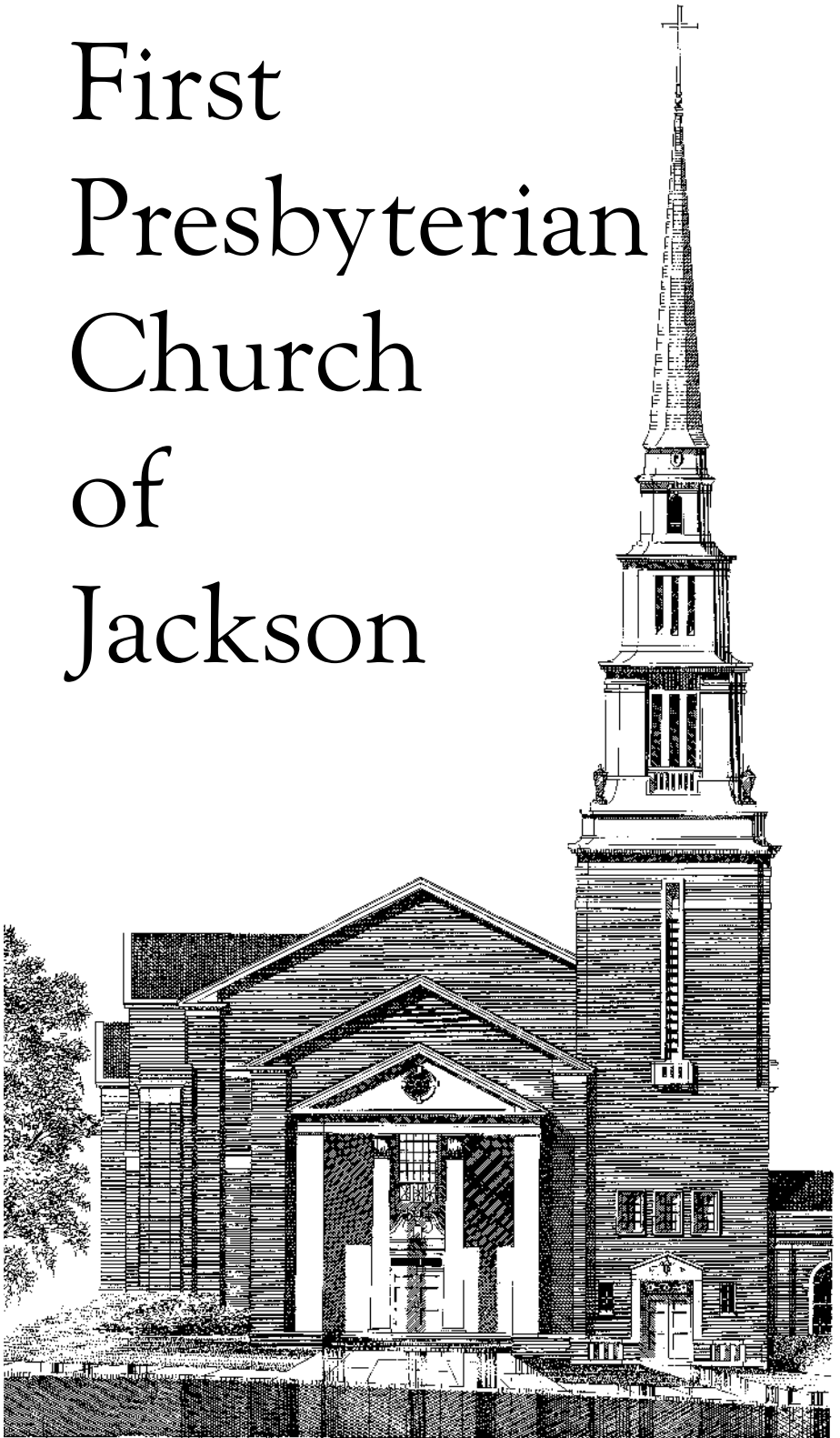


The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-Third Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Three  
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister  
The Reverend Mr. Scott H. Miller — Young Adults & College Minister

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — “May Love Be Ours” ..... Mary Beth Bennett  
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “Let Thy Holy Presence” ..... Paul Tschnesnokff  
Jeff Brown, Guest Director

The Call to Worship — Psalm 30:4-5

The Hymn No. 115 — “All Creatures of Our God and King”

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**  
**Praise Him all creatures here below.**  
**Praise Him above ye heavenly host.**  
**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Offering

The Offertory — “Nearer My God to Thee” .....arr. Barlow Bradford  
With Kathryn Edwards, Piano

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
Even though it be a cross that raiseth me.  
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God to Thee.  
Nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.  
Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.  
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God to Thee.  
Nearer, my God to thee, nearer to Thee!  
Then with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,  
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,  
and still all my song shall be nearer, my God to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

# HEARING GOD'S VOICE

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — 2 Corinthians 5:1–10... (pew Bible page 966)

**The Sermon** — **Heaven: The History of Heaven**.....Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 378** — “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

**The Lord's Supper**

The Words of Institution

The Invitation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Communion with Our Lord Jesus Christ and His People

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**The Hymn No. 296 (stzs. 1, 2, & 4)** — “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**O that with yonder sacred throng**

**We at His feet may fall;**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown Him Lord of all;**

**We'll join the everlasting song,**

**and crown Him Lord of all.**

**The Postlude** — “The Kingfold Trumpet” ..... Alfred V. Fedak

# GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

This Lord's Day is a special occasion as we have the joy of partaking of the Lord's Table together. The sacrament of the "Lord's Supper" was instituted by Christ for the church in every age. Augustine, one of the early church fathers, referred to the sacrament as "a visible word" because it proclaims to us "the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). As we come to the Table today, it may help you to prepare your hearts by pondering the significance of the Lord's Table.

## THE LORD'S TABLE

The phrase itself conveys something very important about what is taking place during this component of our worship service. First, it is a table and not an altar. An altar is a place where sacrifices are offered to God. Christ has "offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, [and] he sat down at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12). Again, "for by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). We have no need of an altar because the cross of Christ is the only altar of God. Second, it is the table of the Lord. He is the host of the meal and, hence, possesses the prerogative to invite us to meet and sup with him. Therefore, as the term "Communion Service" denotes, it is a fellowship meal of Christ with His people.

It is oftentimes easy to miss the significance of Church architecture, but in reality, our sanctuary is designed to speak to us about the grace, beauty, and majesty of God. And the Lord's Table beautifully communicates this. Our communion table sits in the front of the sanctuary on the floor with the congregation in order to remind us that it is in Christ's sacrificial death that we are truly united to Him and also to one another. The table remains on the floor to show us that the body and blood of Christ are for the entire covenant community.

## CHRIST'S PRESENCE

Another important question to ask when thinking on this sacrament is, "In what way is Christ present within it?" Sincere Christians throughout the ages have struggled to answer this question because within the ordinance there is certainly an aura of mystery. But we must remember that while the elements remain bread and wine, the presence of Christ is truly among us by His Spirit. The Spirit alone is able to make the sacrament of the Lord's Supper beneficial to our souls by penetrating our hearts and stirring our affections for Christ. Hence, let us be prepared to feast at the Lord's Table by asking the Spirit of God to convict us of sin, to supply grace to truly repent, and to savor Christ more and more. As we partake the emblems of Christ's suffering, let us remember that God confirms the benefits of His suffering: pardon, reconciliation, and eternal life through this covenant meal. Let us in turn reaffirm our covenant privileges and responsibilities to God as we anticipate His return.

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. James C. Peipon — Minister of Missions  
Mr. James R. Post — College Ministry Intern

The Greetings and Announcements (5:55 p.m.)

The Prelude — “Petite Ballade”..... Oscar Rieding  
Dominica Sanduleac, Violin; Svetlana Sanduleac, Piano

The Call to Worship — Psalm 34:1-3

The Hymn — “We Will Feast in the House of Zion”..... (hymn sheet)

The Invocation

The Hymn — “With Great Gentleness”..... (hymn sheet)

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer ..... Mr. Alan Walters, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
“Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim”

The Third-Fifth Grade Choir; Lauren Randle, Director; Caitlin Vickery, Accompanist

\*The Young Children's Devotional — The *Children's Catechism*

Q41. What is this change of heart called? A. **The new birth, or regeneration.**

Q42. Who can change a sinner's heart? A. **The Holy Spirit alone.**

The Meditation & Prayer ..... Mr. Chris Moody, Discipleship Intern

The Hymn (stzs. 1-3) — “My Jesus, I Love Thee”..... (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Jeremiah 38:1-13 ..... (pew Bible page 666)

The Sermon — Servant of the King..... Mr. Peipon

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus 'tis now.**

The Postlude — “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

\*Children age 4 through 3rd grade will be dismissed to a children's devotional and can be picked up after the service in room 133, just outside the sanctuary doors.

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, April 23, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	See signs in Greeting Courtyard for locations
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for age 3 and 4	MB 135
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group	WH 202A
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Henson Home (4 Pond Side Dr.)

## Tuesday, April 25, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Sew & Sow	SC 211
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Library
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

## Wednesday, April 26, 2023

5:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner	MH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Adult Programs	
	D Groups	Various Locations
	Evangelism Training	WH 202 B
	Growth Class	WH 204
	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Library
	Women's Bible Study	WH 202 A
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Sixth Grade Fellowship	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior High D Groups	YH

## Thursday, April 27, 2023

11:30 a.m.	Men's Ministry Golf Tournament	Lake Caroline Golf Club
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## Saturday, April 29, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
8:30 a.m.	Serve Day	

## Sunday, April 30, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	See signs in Greeting Courtyard for locations
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for age 3 and 4	MB 135
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group	WH 202A
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Rutledge Home (101 Ridge St.)

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — JUNE 5-9

Registration is open! Come join us this summer as we see how “God Revives His People.” Sign up online at [fpcj.ms/vbs](http://fpcj.ms/vbs) by May 14 to guarantee a t-shirt.

If you are willing to volunteer, we have a place for you. Volunteers serve as Table Guides (leading children to their various activities and encouraging them with their scripture memory verses), craft volunteers, song leaders, music accompanists, and general floaters. If you would like to help with various pre-VBS tasks or help the week of VBS, please contact VBS Director Joanna McNeel at [joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.b.mcneel@gmail.com).

We are also collecting supplies for VBS. If you have paper towel tubes, vegetable cans (rinsed with the labels removed), or magazines (gardening, outdoor life, home decor, craft, or sewing), please deposit in the craft donation bin near the Pinehurst St. entrance.

## JUNIOR HIGH RYM — JUNE 26-30

This summer FPCYM will be taking a group of Junior High students (rising seventh through rising ninth) to RYM, June 26–30. RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) is a youth conference that brings together students from across the country. At RYM the gospel is taught, friendships are deepened, and Mega Rec abounds. The cost is \$400, and a \$50 deposit is due at registration. For more information and to register visit [fpcj.ms/youth](http://fpcj.ms/youth).

## JONI & FRIENDS — SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP — JULY 3-9

We are so excited to be able to offer a new service-oriented senior high trip this summer! This year, in the place of Senior High RYM, our students have the opportunity to serve with Joni and Friends Family Retreat in Navasota, TX! Joni and Friends, a long-supported ministry of our church, puts on family retreats throughout the year at different camps around the country and needs volunteers to make the week run smoothly for the campers. That’s where we come in!

The cost of the trip will be \$400. Per First Presbyterian Church’s Missions policy, any church member can have half of his or her first mission trip paid for by the Missions Department, bringing the cost of the trip to \$200 for those who want this trip to qualify as their first mission trip. This trip is open to rising 10th graders through rising freshmen in college. Registration will close on May 8. Register online at [fpcj.ms/youth](http://fpcj.ms/youth).

## 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.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

For detailed prayer requests and contact information for our supported missionaries and ministry partners, please contact Jo Lynn at [jolynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Brian & Mandy** – Brian and Mandy serve with MTW in Southeast Asia.

**Wright & Elizabeth Busching** – Wright serves as a church planter with the Florida Church Planting Network in Tampa, FL. email: [wbusching@gmail.com](mailto:wbusching@gmail.com)

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Long.

## COMMUNION — TODAY

Communion will be observed in the morning worship services today. Please begin prayerfully preparing your hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Professionally prepared, gluten-free elements will be available to pick up on the table on the south wall of the Greeting Courtyard.

## THE FIRST WORD

The First Word is our weekly emailed newsletter featuring sermon notes and audio, missionary reports and prayer requests, event information, and announcements. Manage your subscription at [fpcj.ms/subscribe](https://fpcj.ms/subscribe). Or with questions or for more information, you may email [communications@fpcjackson.org](mailto:communications@fpcjackson.org).

## SERVE DAY — APRIL 29

Serve the church together! Register online at [fpcj.ms/serve](https://fpcj.ms/serve) to let us know if you can participate in Serve Day Spring 2023. We will have projects for all ages and all levels of skill, and we are specifically looking for skilled chainsaw operators, skilled weed eater operators, and anyone who can clean out spaces here at the church and at Twin Lakes.

## FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER — MAY 5

Dads and daughters, don't miss this fun, fiesta-themed dinner designed just for you! The evening will be packed with great food, fun crafts and games, and some time to deepen this important relationship. The cost is \$30 per father and daughter, age four through sixth grade, and \$6 for each additional daughter. Registration is available at [fpcj.ms/parenting](https://fpcj.ms/parenting). For questions, please contact [discipleship@fpcjackson.org](mailto:discipleship@fpcjackson.org).

## RETIREMENT SOCIAL FOR THE PATTERSONS — MAY 9

All Senior Adults are invited to join us on May 9 at 11:30 a.m. in Miller Hall for a light lunch and fellowship as we celebrate the many years of ministry and the retirement of Jim & Mary Alice Patterson, who served with MTW and Wycliffe in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Columbia and most recently the Wycliffe training and support facility known as JAARS. The cost of the meal is \$5 per person. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting Emily Eastman at 601-326-9243 or [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## EVENING WORSHIP AT TWIN LAKES — MAY 21

Save the date for an evening worship service at Twin Lakes Camp & Conference Center, Sunday, May 21. More information to follow.