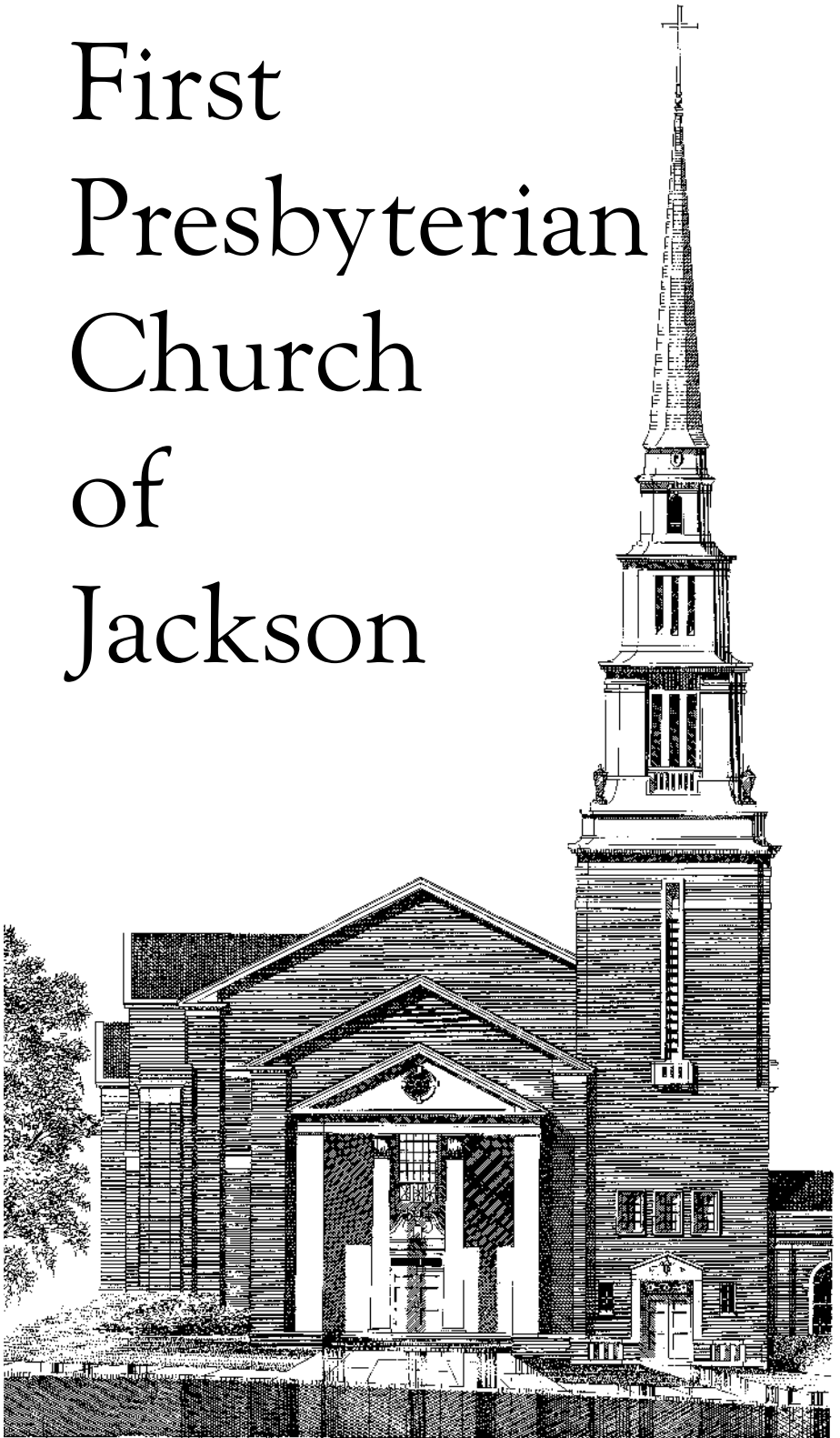


The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"

THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirtieth 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. Gary W. Sinclair — FPDS Chaplain

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Pastoral Symphony" (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel
The String Quartet

The Introit — "Worthy Is the Lamb" (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel

The Call to Worship — I Peter 1:3-5

The Hymn No. 12 — "Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

**Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail Redeemer, hail! for Thou hast died for me.
Thy praise shall never, never end throughout all eternity.**

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis
The Introduction of New Members
The Questions of Membership
The Sacrament of Baptism (11 a.m.)
The Prayer
The Declaration
The Blessing

The Offering

The Offertory — "For He Shall Give His Angels" (*Elijah*)....Felix Mendelssohn
For He shall give His angels charge over thee,
That they shall protect thee in all the ways thou goest;
That their hands shall uphold and guide thee,
Lest Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.

The Hymn No. 691 — "It Is Well with My Soul"

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Romans 8:18-25 (pew Bible page 944)
Revelation 21:1-26 (pew Bible page 1041)

The Sermon — Heaven: The Future of HeavenDr. Strain

The Hymn 700 (stzs. 1-4) — “Come, We That Love the Lord”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
We’re marching through Immanuel’s ground
to fairer worlds on high.**

The Postlude — “Bourree” (*Sonata Op. 1 No. 5*)..... G. F. Handel



GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

This week we have the happy occasion to receive 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.

What are the questions for membership? The first three of five questions seek to show to us our hellish plight before God, bring us to a point of desperate need for the person and work of Jesus, and rely upon the life-giving power in none but the Holy Spirit alone. We would do well to bring these grand truths of the gospel in our prayers every day. While the first three questions speak of our relation to each person of the Godhead, the next two questions speak of our relation to the Church of God which the Father loves, the Son died and rose to save, and the Spirit now indwells. Since each Person of the Trinity is interested and invested in the Church, we who are called by His name must do likewise. May we who are members of the covenant community pray for the welfare of the Church and of First Presbyterian Church. May we seek to live lives in which the gospel has pervaded every sphere. May we be growing disciples seeking to learn more of our God, His great majesty, and His magnificent Fatherhood. May we grow as committed members by regularly worshiping and seeking to gather with our family as often as opportunities provide us. May we be humble followers submitting to the wise leadership and discipline of those who care for our souls. May we grow to love the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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?

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our fellowship on January 22, 2023 and are being presented to the congregation during the morning worship services today. Please welcome them warmly.

Frances Carroll
*Campbell Hardy
*Sam Henson
*Timothy Jordan
*Mary Harr Payne
Josh Peaster
Lucie Peaster
*Lydian Peipon
Kale Radichel
George Rozina
Linda Rozina
*Cooper Smith
*Harry Thomas
*Cecilia Turnage
*Peyton Woods
*Ellie Yerger

*Covenant child joining as a communing member

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered during the 11 a.m. service to

Jeremy "Kale" Radichel

JOIN FPC!

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that the next date to join is June 4, 2023. New member forms can be found online at fpcj.ms/membership or in the greeting courtyard outside the sanctuary. Forms are due by May 24. If you have any questions about the membership process at FPC, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.

FPC THIS WEEK

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.)

Monday, May 1, 2023

9:30 a.m.	WIC Council Meeting	PH
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Tuesday, May 2, 2023

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Library
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Wednesday, May 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.	VBS Volunteer Craft Work Day.....	PH
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.	Adults' Missions in May.....	MH
6:00 p.m.	Children's Missions in May	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Sixth Grade Fellowship	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior High D Groups	YH

Friday, May 5, 2023

6:00 p.m.	Father Daughter Dinner	MH
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Saturday, May 6, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
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Sunday, May 7, 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 Lowry Home (4144 Oakridge Dr.)

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.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

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

The Prelude — “He Leadeth Me”.....Bradbury/Wymond
Thomas Waters, Trumpet

The Call to Worship — Psalm 96:7-9

The Hymn — “Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”..... (hymn sheet)

The Invocation

*The Greetings

The Offering

The Offertory — “Rock of Ages”.....James Ward
Betsy Ball and Wells Jordan

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 20:17-38.....(pew Bible page 929)

The Sermon — The Elders’ Call..... Dr. Strain

The Order of Installation

The Questions to the Candidates Mr. David Felker
The Questions to the Congregation..... Mr. David Felker
The Charge Mr. Wiley Lowry
The Laying on of Hands..... Dr. David Elkin
The Prayer of Ordination and Installation
The Declaration of Ordination and Installation..... Mr. Crane Kipp

The Hymn (stzs. 1-3) — “In Christ Alone”..... (hymn sheet)

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life’s first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.**

The Postlude — “Now Praise We God, the Almighty”..... Vincent Lubeck

*Children age four through third 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.

THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

Tonight is very special in the life of our congregation. We have the solemn and joyful privilege of ordaining and installing new elders; shepherds of the flock, pastors, guides, disciples, teachers of the Word.

NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

Hall Bailey

Ken Ball

Parker Ellison

Dave Fulcher

Matt Graves

Rob Jones

Stephen Kruger

Doug McDaniel

John Neill

Phillip Parker

TO THE CANDIDATES

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder, and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles him?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Adair Evans – Adair serves among the refugees in Germany.

Anne Michal & Grant Carter – Anne Michal serves as a member of the campus staff with Reformed University Fellowship at Mississippi College.
email: annemichal.carter@ruf.org

FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER — MAY 5

This Friday night will be a special evening designed for Dads and daughters, and Grandfathers, or other mentors are welcome to come if Dad can't attend! Join us from 6-7:30 p.m. for an evening packed with tacos, 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. The registration deadline is Monday, May 1, at fpcj.ms/parenting. Don't forget to send a picture of Dad and daughter(s) for the slideshow by Tuesday, May 2 to discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

CPC LIFE WALK — MAY 6

The Center for Pregnancy Choices Life Walk will be held Saturday, May 6, at Trustmark Park. Registration is at 8 a.m., and the walk begins at 9 a.m. There will be food trucks, coffee trucks, family activities, and a live concert! Register at cpcmetrofriends.org/lifewalk or contact Shannon Landrum at 559-589-3342. Run, walk, skip to support CPC!

EVENING WORSHIP AT TWIN LAKES — MAY 21

On May 21 our evening worship service will be held at Twin Lakes. The casual service will begin at 5 p.m., but we encourage you to come early for a time of play and fellowship before the service. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., we will have games in the games field and ice cream and treats to enjoy! Dress comfortably and come to enjoy a service surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. If you prefer not to drive to Twin Lakes, we would love to provide a ride for you. Please contact Emily Eastman at ccare@fpcjackson.org to let us know if you need a ride.

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 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.

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. The cost is \$400, and a \$50 deposit is due at registration. For more information and to register visit 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! The trip costs \$400 and is open to rising 10th graders through rising freshmen in college. Registration will close on May 8. Register online at fpcj.ms/youth.