

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The First Day of October, Two Thousand Twenty-Three  
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 — "Be Thou My Vision"..... arr. Deborah Govenor  
Dr. Grace Shumaker, Piano; Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "From Earth's Wide Bounds"..... R. V. Williams  
From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl stream in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Call to Worship — Psalm 117

The Hymn No. 117 — "The Spacious Firmament on High"

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology ..... Westminster Abbey  
Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
While unending ages run.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Confession of Faith — Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

The Offering

**The Offertory — “I’d Rather Have Jesus”.....George Beverly Shea**

With Zachary Thaggard, Soloist

I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I’d rather be his than have riches untold;  
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands; I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hands.  
I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause; I’d rather be faithful to His own cause;  
I’d rather have Jesus than world-wide fame; I’d rather be true to His holy Name  
Than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sin’s dread sway.  
I’d rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.  
He’s fairer than lilies of rarest bloom; He’s sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He’s all that my hungering spirit needs. I’d rather have Jesus and let Him lead.  
Than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin’s dread sway.  
I’d rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.

**The Psalm — 119:49-56**

Re - mem- ber what You Prom- ised Lord, it  
 3 gives such hope to me; My com- fort in af-  
 6 flic - tion now, the ground of all my trust.

- 51. Those men whose hearts are filled with pride delight in mocking me.
- 52. But I recall Your ancient laws, and find great comfort there.
- 53. O, frankly, Lord, they anger me those men who hate your word;
- 54. For that same word, my praise, my song, sustains me through the day.
- 55. I rise at night and speak your name, and thank you for that word.
- 56. I have, and promise to the end, to love, and keep Your word.

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

**The New Testament Reading — Acts 16:6-15 ..... (pew Bible page 925)**

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 119:49-56 ..... (pew Bible page 513)**

**The Sermon — A Lamp to Our Feet: How to Be an Alien .....Dr. Strain**

**The Hymn No. 707 (stzs. 1, 2, 3, & 5) — “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”**

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**We rest on Thee – our shield and our defender!  
 We go not forth alone against the foe;  
 Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,  
 We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.  
 Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,  
 We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.**

**The Postlude — “Fanfare” ..... C.S. Lang**

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

**The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III**  
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

**Mr. William H. Skinner**  
Senior Minister's and Discipleship Intern

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

The Prelude..... Marcelo Vieira, Cello

The Call to Worship — 1 Peter 4:12 and 13

The Hymn No. 455 — “And Can It Be”

The Invocation

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

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer ..... Dr. Matt Graves, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory..... Marcelo Vieira, Cello

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

Q84. What is the first commandment? A. **The first commandment is “You shall have no other gods before Me.”**

Q85. What does the first commandment teach you? A. **To worship the true God, and Him only.**

The Meditation & Prayer..... Mr. Peyton Gunter, College Intern

The Hymn (stzs. 1 & 2) — “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”..... (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 5:12-42 ..... (pew Bible page 913)

The Sermon — Beginning from Jerusalem: Of God or of Men ..... Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**I take, O Cross, Your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

The Postlude — “Postlude in Dorian Mode”..... Flor Peeters

\*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 CHURCH OFFICERS

## THE SESSION

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain, Senior Minister

Hall Bailey	George Fair	Jimmy Moore
Mark Baird	Spence Flatgard	John Neill
Kyle Ball	Craig Flowers	Phillip Parker
Ken Ball	Marcy Forester	Bill Payne
Bo Bowen	Dave Fulcher	Tom Rice
David Bowling	Alan Futvoye	Richard Ridgway
Max Bowman	Matt Graves	Ben Roberson
Bud Bratley	Claude Harbarger	Steve Rosenblatt
Sharkey Burke	William Harper	Richard Russ
Donnie Cannada	Sam Hensley	John Lowe Smith
Stuart Clarke	Zeb Henson	Paul Stephenson
David Cleland	Larry Houchins	Bill Stone
Reid Cotten	Paul Hurst	Danny Story
Jack Crawford	Wayne Husband	Tian Teh
Holt Crews	Rob Jones	Tim Threadgill
Bob Cunningham	Harper Keeler	Mike Tramel
Ned Currie	Crane Kipp	Barry Vickery
Arthur Davis	Stephen Kruger	Alan Walters
Steve Edwards	George May	Cal Wells
David Elkin	Doug McDaniel	Marcus Wilson
Parker Ellison	John McVey	Mark Windham
	Hu Meena	

### Elders Emeriti

Buddy Bartling, John Buchanan, Bill Cox, Jr., John Crawford, Doug Dale, Sr., Owen Elder, Bebo Elkin, Ken Fairly, Dick Johnson, Rob Love, Buz Lowry, Robert Mims, Jim Moore, Doyle Moorhead, Lee Owen, Jojo Payne, Bill Penn, Mark Sorgenfrei, Marvin Stockett, Orrin Swayze, Jim Tohill, Noel Toler

## THE DIACONATE

Matt Ballew	Bo Gregg	Jim Poole
Charles Barbour	Anthony Hall	Trey Porter
Will Barbour	Ty Hardy	Jim Prince
Vic Blaylock	Allen Holiman	Jonathan Randle
Walter Brand	Josh Hollingsworth	Weston Russ
Jay Brown	Dallis Ketchum	Bryan Rutledge
Beau Burrow	Rob Lake	Ken Seawright
Glen Bush	Robert Leard	Jeff Skelton
David Case	David Luter	Taylor Smith
Bill Crim	Mike Manning	Cary Spence
T Dale	David Marchetti	Ernie Strahan
Paul Davis	Harrison Matheny	Jeff Sumrall
Price Davis	John McBride	Stewart Swayze
John Davis	Jason McNeel	Ford Terry
Dave Dear III	Read Meadows	Hugh Trussell
Auston Edwards	Doug Morgan	Matthew Turnage
Jamey Elkin	Mike Myers	Will Vise
Bailey Fair	Nathan Oakley	Arthur Wadsworth
Paul Forster	Walt Wofford	Joe Wilkins
Matt Glover	Chris Wyatt	Coles Wilkins Jr
Buddy Graham	Rob Oates	Neil Witherow
Henry Greaves	Lee Owen	Chase Wynn
	Virgil Payne	

### Deacons Emeriti

John Allgood, Lewis Bell, Barry Cannada, John Cox, Paul Cox, Bobby Dye, Larry Edwards, Robert Feild, Gary Herring, Jim House, Carey Johnston, Robert Miller, Walter Newman, Lee Paris II, Cy Rosenblatt, William F. Sneed, Joe Uithoven, Johnny Young

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, October 1, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1).....	M135
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Various Locations
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal .....	MS
5:00 p.m.	Receiving New Members .....	MH
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group .....	WH 202A
5:00 p.m.	Missionary Prayer Time .....	Parlor
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 Drive)

## Tuesday, October 3, 2023

6:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Series.....	MH
9:00 a.m.	Sew & Sow .....	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
6:30 p.m.	MOMS at Night .....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class.....	PH

## Wednesday, October 4, 2023

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study .....	MH
9:30 a.m.	GriefShare .....	Parlor
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 202B
	Foundations Class.....	WH 204
	Old Testament Survey.....	MH
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.....	Session Room
	Women's Bible Study: Luke.....	WH 202A
6:00 p.m.	College Bible Study.....	YH Intern Suite
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
7:10 p.m.	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary

## Thursday, October 5, 2023

9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Covenant: God's Amazing Grace .....	PH
11:30 a.m.	Women's Fall Luncheon: Riches of the Word .....	MH

## Saturday, October 7, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting .....	WH 202
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## Sunday, October 8, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1).....	M135
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Various Locations
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal .....	MS
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group.....	WH 202A
5:00 p.m.	Missionary Prayer Time .....	Parlor
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.)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMMUNICANT MEET AND GREET — OCTOBER 15

Parents of sixth graders, save the date for our Communicant Meet & Greet, October 15. The Communicant Class meets in January and is geared toward sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in becoming communing members of the church. For more information about this process visit [fpcjackson.org/communicant](http://fpcjackson.org/communicant).

## COVERING OUR CHILDREN IN PRAYER 2023-2024

Each year, every Adult Sunday School class at FPC commits to pray for a Children's or Youth Sunday School class. Ask your Sunday school class president for the list of children with whom your class is paired. Over the course of the year, we ask that the adults focus on praying for their assigned children—both in class and at home. For additional information on the children your class is praying for or about the program, contact [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org).

## KIDCHECK — NEW CHECK-IN SYSTEM IN THE NURSERY

At First Presbyterian Church, the safety and security of our children is very important to us! That's why we've chosen KidCheck as our children's check-in solution for the nursery at FPC! If you haven't already created your free account, please do so by going to [go.kidcheck.com](http://go.kidcheck.com) and selecting "Create Your KidCheck Account". Or download the KidCheck Mobile App from the App Store or Google Play Store to create, manage, and update your account right on your mobile device.

## BAPTISM

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, November 19. Spaces are available for both services. To make a reservation, please contact Emily Eastman at [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## CRATES FOR UKRAINE — DUE NOVEMBER 21

The war in Ukraine has now been ongoing for over 18 months, and yet the need for aid remains urgent. Our missionaries and local partners in Ukraine report that they are receiving more requests for aid right now than they have at any point during the war. The aid that they are distributing is the aid that you have sent. Gathering aid will be simpler than it ever has been. We will provide you with a crate and the exact list of items that needs to go into it. We encourage you to think creatively about working together as a family, Sunday school class, neighborhood, or any other group. For more information, please contact [missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org](mailto:missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org). To sign up to adopt a crate, please visit: [fpcj.ms/crates-for-ukraine](http://fpcj.ms/crates-for-ukraine).

## 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](http://fpcj.ms/subscribe) or scan the QR code (right) with your smart phone. With questions or for more information, you may email [communications@fpcjackson.org](mailto:communications@fpcjackson.org).



## 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" 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 [jollynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jollynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Ricky & Arely Kroeger** – Ricky serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico as a Bible translator in the Zapotec language. email: [ricky\\_kroeger@wycliffe.org](mailto:ricky_kroeger@wycliffe.org)

**Anthony & Felicia Forrest** – Anthony serves as the RUF Campus Minister at Jackson State University. email: [Anthony.forrest@ruf.org](mailto:Anthony.forrest@ruf.org)

## A LAMP TO OUR FEET

### *2023-2024 Churchwide Teaching Theme*

Grow with us this year in our familiarity with and love for the Word of God! Pick up a copy of the quarterly book for your family or view it digitally at [fpcj.ms/lamp](http://fpcj.ms/lamp). This week we are continuing the Bible reading plan as well as working toward our Bible memorization goal for the quarter: Psalm 1.

## MIDWEEK SECOND QUARTER — BEGINS OCTOBER 4

This Wednesday we begin the second quarter of our Fall Midweek semester! Our Evangelism, Prayer, and Women's Bible Study electives will continue, but the Doctrine of Scripture and the Engaged & Newlywed classes have concluded. Beginning this Wednesday, we are offering a Survey of the Old Testament, taught by Billy Dempsey and Wiley Lowry, as well as our Foundations Class, led by David Strain. Foundations is the place to begin if you are considering membership at FPC, or would like to know more about our church and the basics of our faith and practice. If you would like more information about either of these options, or would like to join a D Group, email [discipleship@fpcjackson.org](mailto:discipleship@fpcjackson.org).

## FALL MEN'S BREAKFAST SERIES

### *Basic Training: Basic Steps for Studying the Not-So-Basic Word*

This fall, David Strain is teaching through an overview of personal Bible study. What does it mean to regularly, individually read the Bible? Why should this be a priority for men? And how can we be successful in making this a regular part of our lives? Plan to be with us on Tuesday mornings from 6:30-7:30 a.m. and invite a friend to join you! Register at [fpcjackson.org/men](http://fpcjackson.org/men).

## WOMEN'S FALL LUNCHEON — OCTOBER 5

### *Riches of the Word*

The Bible is the very core of the Christian life. We know that it is the way God speaks to us, encourages us, corrects us, and even reveals himself to us. But maybe we've been reluctant to open the book because we wonder, “Can I trust the Bible?” Join us on Thursday, October 5, at 11:30 a.m. as Melissa Kruger, director of Women's Initiatives for *The Gospel Coalition* expounds on the trustworthiness of scripture and riches that await us there. Register online at [fpcjackson.org/events](http://fpcjackson.org/events).

## CAREGIVERS' MINISTRY

The Caregivers' Support Group takes place every second Monday of the month in Westminster Hall 202B from 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. Our next meeting is October 9. This group gathers 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. Ultimately, we leave each participant with the promise of the gospel and the hope and rest we find in Christ Jesus our Savior. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Fairly at 601-941-5004.

## SERVE DAY — OCTOBER 14

One of our favorite days of the year is back! Registration is now open for Serve Day 2023, October 14. At Serve Day, our church family—all ages and stages—teams up to support local ministries and serve the church by working together! Sign up online at [fpcj.ms/serve](http://fpcj.ms/serve) to let us know you're coming!