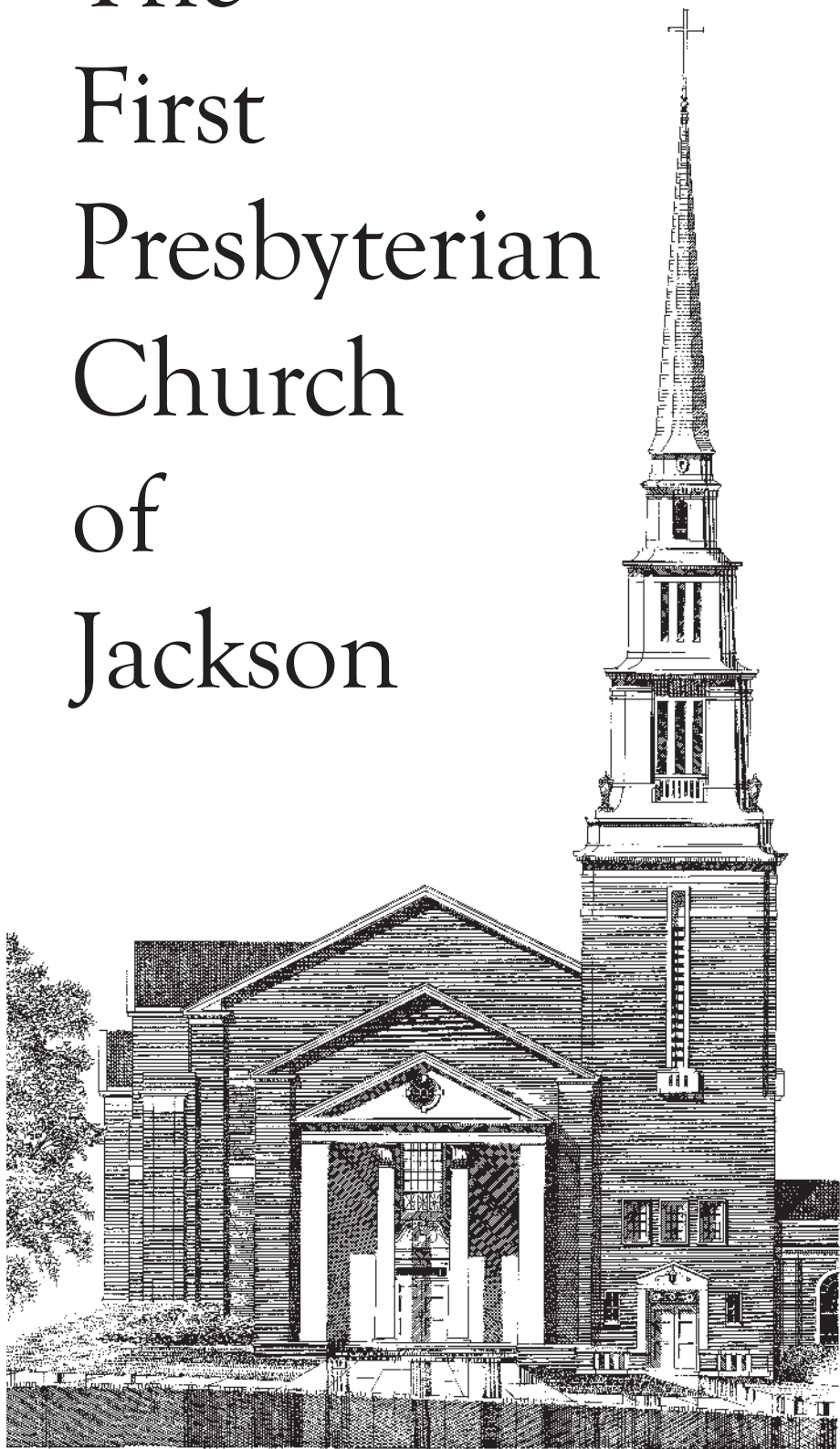


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-Sixth Day of November, Two Thousand Twenty-Three
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

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

The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey
Minister of Congregational & Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Recognition of the Shorter Catechism Recitation (8:30 a.m.)

The Prelude — "Let Us Give Thanks".....arr. Ron and Linda Sprunger
Dr. Grace Shumaker, Piano; Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "We Come, O Christ, to You"

The Call to Worship — Psalm 96:1-4

The Hymn No. 342 — "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology(Tune: *Old 100th*)
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 Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Confession of Faith — Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Offering

The Offertory — “Lead Kindly Light” arr. Mack Wilberg
Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom; Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home; Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene—one step enough for me.
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou shouldst lead me on,
I loved to choose and see my path; but now, Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will.
Remember not past years.
So long Thy power hast blest me, sure it still will lead me on o’er moor and fen,
O’er crag and torrent, till the night is gone. And with the morn those angels smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile! Lead Thou me on!

The Psalm 119-97-104.....(Tune: *Dundee*)
97. O how I love Your holy law! I think on it all day.
98. It makes me wiser than my foes; its precepts with me stay.
99. It gives me insight more than all my teachers understand.
100. It gives me wisdom more than all the elders can command.
101. I’ve kept my feet from evil paths. I’ve kept Your word always.
102. You’ve taught me, Lord, Your precious truths; from them I will not stray.
103. How sweet Your words are to my taste, like honey in my mouth.
104. They give me understanding, Lord. Wrong paths I’ll disavow.

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The New Testament Reading — Matthew 7:24-29 (pew Bible page 812)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 119:97-104 (pew Bible page 514)

The Sermon.....Dr. Strain
A Lamp to Our Feet: Desirable for Making Wise, and Good for Food

The Hymn No. 98 — “Now Thank We All Our God”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future, My live is worth the living,
Just because He lives.

The Postlude — “Now Thank We All Our God” Albert C. Travis

SHORTER CATECHISM RECITATION

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”
Psalm 119:11

Catechism memory work begins at First Pres with the Children's Catechism in three-year-old Sunday School. That study continues throughout children's Sunday School and the Catechism Class on Sunday Evenings. The Catechism is a summary of what the Bible teaches in systematic question and answer form. Committing it to memory is invaluable in the life of a believer, as it helps to build a solid foundation for a life of faith.

This morning, Phoebe Kruger will receive her Bible for recitation of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, which consists of 107 questions and answers.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

The Reverend Dr. Charlie Wingard
Minister of Shepherding

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

The Prelude — “O God, Our Faithful God”S. Karg-Elert

The Call to Worship — Psalm 98:1-2

The Hymn No. 363 — “We Gather Together”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “Here Is Love, Vast as the Ocean” (hymn sheet)

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Mr. Mark Baird, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Evening Meditation” Dom Paul Benoit

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

Q99. What is the seventh commandment? A. **The seventh commandment is “You shall not commit adultery.”**

Q100. What does the seventh commandment teach you? A. **To be pure in heart, language, and conduct, and to be faithful in marriage.**

The Meditation & Prayer Mr. Jamie Peipon, Minister of Missions

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

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Isaiah 61:1-2; Deut.18:15-19; John 12:44-50

The Sermon — Our Coming Messiah: Our Prophet Mr. Sinclair

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

I take, O cross of Jesus 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 — “Now Thank We All Our God”S. Karg-Elert

*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.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

NOV
28

MOMS AT NIGHT
CHRISTMAS DINNER

6-8 p.m.

NOV
29

MOMS
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

9-11 a.m.

NOV
30

MEN'S
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

12 p.m.

DEC
5

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

DEC
5

JUNIOR HIGH
PROGRESSIVE DINNER

5-7 p.m.

DEC
9

CAROLS
AT BELHAVEN
TOWN CENTER

DEC
10

SENIOR HIGH
CHRISTMAS DINNER

7:30 p.m.

DEC
16

BOOKSTORE
OPEN HOUSE

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

DEC
17

MUSIC OF
CHRISTMAS

4 & 6 p.m.

DEC
24

MORNING WORSHIP
SERVICE

10 a.m.

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE

4 p.m.

DEC
31

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 and 11 a.m.
6 p.m.



FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 26, 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 Fesko Home (108 Charlestowne Square)

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Sew & Sow	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Library
6:00 p.m.	MOMS at Night Christmas Dinner	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Christmas Brunch.....	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.	Q&A with David Strain.....	MH
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs.....	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Sixth Grade Fellowship	Playground
7:10 p.m.	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Thursday, November 30, 2023

12:00 p.m.	Men's Christmas Lunch	MH
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Saturday, December 2, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
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Sunday, December 3, 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 Brown Home (615 Old Agency Rd.)

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" 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLES FOR CHRISTMAS

The FPC Prison Ministry is raising money to purchase Bibles for the children of the inmates at Rankin County Detention Center. The Bibles will be given to our ministry partner, All Things New, who will package the Bibles together with toys or personal necessities. If you are interested in contributing to this project, you may drop a check off at the Bookstore or call Boopie Beard (601-353-8316) during Bookstore hours to purchase Bibles with a credit or debit card. Bookstore Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The children's Sunday School offering for the months of November and December will also be given to support this effort.

BRISTER WARE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION — DECEMBER 8

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun as our church family gathers in Miller Hall on December 8 at 11:30 a.m. to honor Brister and Marian Ware on his retirement from active ministry. Following our lunch together, we'll enjoy a time of celebration and testimony remembering Brister's years of faithful service here at FPC. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Emily Eastman at 601-326-9243 or emilyle@fpcjackson.org.

CAROLS AT BELHAVEN TOWN CENTER — DECEMBER 9

Our Carols in the Park event is moving to Belhaven Town Center this year! We hope you will invite your neighbors and friends to this neighborhood event. More information to follow!

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — DECEMBER 17

Invite your friends and neighbors for our beloved 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.

FPDS ACORN FUND

We invite you to invest in the mission of FPDS: to plant seeds of Christlikeness into the hearts of children. A gift to the FPDS Acorn Fund is your opportunity to partner with FPDS as we help grow our children from acorns of faith into "oaks of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:3). Please consider supporting the ministry of the school through the FPDS Acorn Fund as you plan your year-end giving. For more information visit fpcjackson.org/giving.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT 2024

Mark your calendar for our annual Winter Retreat at Alpine Camp, January 12-15, 2024. Our speaker, Brian Cosby, will teach on embracing the entirety of the Bible, even the hard to understand or difficult to accept passages and ideas. Contact youthhouse@fpcjackson.org with questions. Register online at fpcjackson.org/events.

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.

YEAR-END GIVING

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 2023 tax year. The Business Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 29. On Saturday and Sunday, December 30 and 31, security will be on site to receive any contributions. Additionally, you may give online through midnight on December 31 at fpcj.ms/give or via the church app.

Any gifts received in person or postmarked after December 31 must be applied to the 2024 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.

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.

O-Chan & Asami Odate – O-Chan serves in Japan as a pastor and church planter. email: praisingguitarist@gmail.com

Jeff & Dominique Jordan – Jeff serves as the RUF Campus Minister at Mississippi College. email: jjordan@ruf.org

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gwenette Robertson by her family.

MIDWEEK Q&A — NOVEMBER 29

This Wednesday, November 29, during Midweek, we will have a time of question and answer with David Strain. This time has been set aside to delve into any questions that you may have from the Bible Reading Plan. Please submit questions in advance to ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org.

MEN’S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS LUNCH — NOVEMBER 30

Men, join us Thursday, November 30, at 12 p.m. We’re looking forward to kicking off the Christmas season together with a festive lunch, followed by a message from guest speaker Rev. Claude McRoberts III, Senior Pastor of Cahaba Park Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. Register online at fpcjackson.org/events.

BELHAVEN SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE

FPC will once again be a part of Belhaven University’s Singing Christmas Tree which is the oldest singing Christmas tree tradition in the United States. This is the 91st year, and we would love for you to join us either as a spectator or a volunteer. We will provide free hot chocolate for those attending and a card with the program on one side and our FPC December events on the other side. If you are willing to volunteer to help pass out the cards, please contact Jo Lynn at 601-973-9125 or email jolynnm@fpcjackson.org.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 5

The Word Became Flesh

Most of us know the Christmas story backwards and forwards. We can probably recite some of the scriptures about inns, mangers, and shepherds. But what does it really mean that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”? Join us Tuesday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m. as Ronjanett Taylor, Associate Site Administrator for the Reformed Theological Seminary Jackson Campus, helps us to contemplate the necessity for and the hope of the incarnation of Christ. The cost of the meal is \$8 and will be paid at the door. There is a nursery available. We will also be collecting items for the food pantry at Gateway Rescue Mission. If you would like to participate, please bring a non-perishable food item. Register online at fpcjackson.org/events.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — DECEMBER 10

A meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church is to be held in the sanctuary of the church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 10, for the following purposes:

- To consider and act on the recommendation of the Session that the congregation elect additional deacons and proceed immediately with the nomination, training, and election process.
- To consider and act on the recommendation of the Session that the congregation elect David Felker to the position of Associate Minister of First Presbyterian Church.

There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, November 29 at noon to answer any questions about the items to be considered. Lunch will not be provided by the church but you are welcome to bring your own lunch.