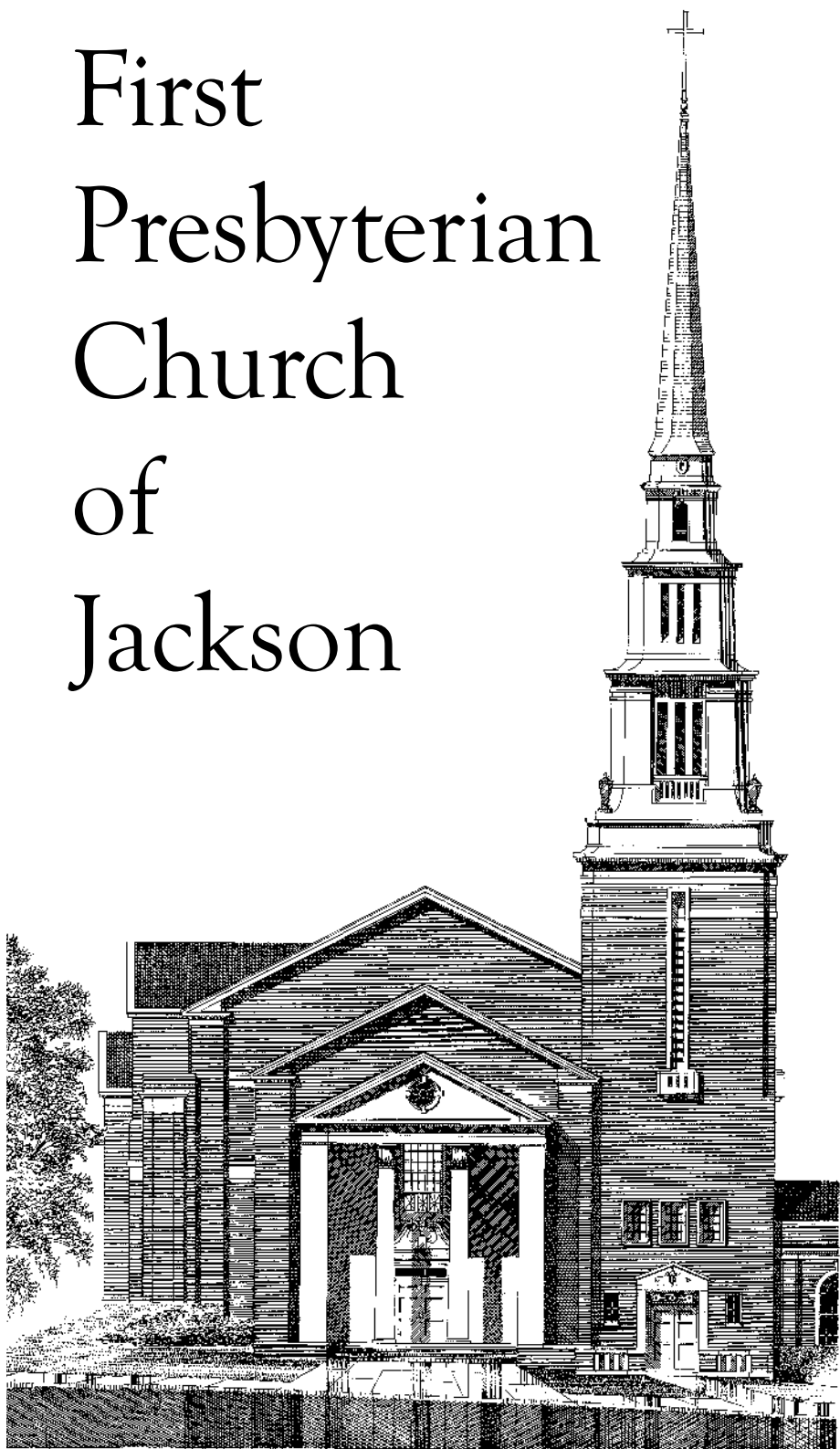


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Tenth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

Senior Minister

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III

Minister of Teaching & Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Brian Buda
Dr. Grace Schumaker, Piano

The Introit — "Sing Choirs of Angels" Mack Wilberg

The Call to Worship — Adapted from Psalm 136 and Isaiah 9

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

For Unto us a Child is Born, unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulders.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Of the increase of His kingdom and His government there shall be no end.

Let us Worship God.

The Hymn No. 208 — "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

Gloria in Excelsis Deo,

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The Offering

The Offertory — "Christ Is the Morning Star" John Rutter

Christ is the morning star,

the light of God that shines from afar;

The Son of God in human form revealed,

the wound of Adam's sin forever healed.

For God, who formed mankind of clay,

will bring forth our salvation that day.

When he, who made all things since time began,

will send His Son, to live on earth as man.

And when he comes, a child on earth,

the sun and stars will shine at His birth,

to light a world that long in darkness

lay, the light of God, the gift of Christmas Day.

Christ is the morning star

And when he comes again as King,
then heaven and all creation shall sing;
with saints in glory seated round His throne
we'll see His face, and know as we are known.
Christ is the morning star

The Hymn No. 230 — “Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor”

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Reading — Matthew 1:1–17 (pew Bible page 807)

The Sermon — The FamilyDr. Strain

The Hymn No. 213 (stzs. 1 & 2) — “What Child Is This”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
come, peasant, King, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born;
the babe, the son of Mary.

The Postlude — “Joy to the World”Wilbur Held
Rae Shannon, Organ

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.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

Mr. Stephen A. Biggs

Director of Students & Families

The Reverend Mr. Scott H. Miller

Young Adults and College Minister

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

The Prelude — “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Polish Carol
The FPC Strings

The Call to Worship — Psalm 20:6–7

The Hymn No. 224 — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 214 — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Mr. Mark Baird, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “We Three Kings” J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

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

Q101. What is the eighth commandment? A. **The eighth commandment is
“You shall not steal.”**

Q102. What does the eighth commandment teach you? A. **Not to take
anything that belongs to someone else.**

The Meditation & Prayer..... Mr. Wiley Lowry, Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

The Hymn No. 210 (stzs. 1–3) — “Silent Night”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Isaiah 9:2–7..... (pew Bible page 573)

The Sermon — Our Coming Messiah: The Promised King Mr. Biggs

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King:
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

The Postlude — “While by the Sheep, We Watched at Night” German Carol

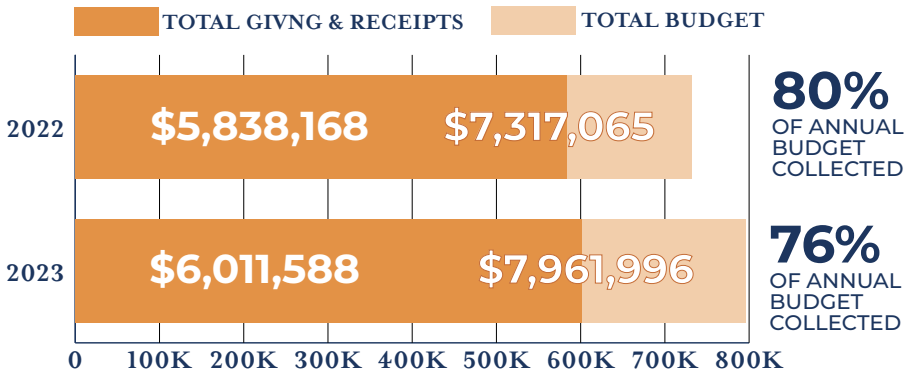
*Children age four through third grade will be dismissed to a children's devotional and can be picked up after the service in room 133, just outside the sanctuary doors.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

DECEMBER 3, 2023

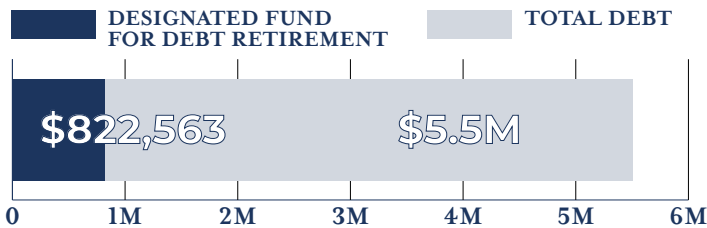
Below you will see where giving towards the church's budget stands through Sunday December 3. Between now and December 31, FPC prayerfully hopes to receive approximately \$1,950,000. Our church is seeing encouraging growth in our congregation and in our ministry. Please join us in minding the growing needs of our church body and our kingdom-work as you plan your giving throughout the rest of this year.

GIVING THROUGH DECEMBER 3 2022 AND 2023



GIFTS DESIGNATED TO DEBT RETIREMENT 2023

FPC has incurred \$5.5 million dollars in debt for the construction of the gymnasium, for the space reorganization project, and for operational needs of Twin Lakes. This debt is to be paid through designated gifts to the Debt Retirement fund:



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.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 10, 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
10:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
4:00 p.m.	Adult 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 Christmas Dinner... Forster Home (4616 East Cheryl Dr.)	

Monday, December 11, 2023

5:30 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting	PH
6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting	MS

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Bookstore
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH
7:00 p.m.	Young Adults Advent Fellowship	Hutton Chapel

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

	No Midweek Dinner or Activities	
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS

Saturday, December 16, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Bookstore Open House	Bookstore

Sunday, December 17, 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
4:00 & 6:00 p.m.	Music of Christmas	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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CIRCLES MEET THIS WEEK

A Circle is a group of women who meet monthly (September–May) for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and to learn of opportunities for service and missions within our church. To register, contact Lisa Oswalt at 601-973-9115 or lisao@fpcjackson.org.

Monday, December 11

9:30 a.m.	Circle 8	The Orchard
10:00 a.m.	Circle 2	Home of Holly Buchanan
10:00 a.m.	Circle 3	Westminster Hall 204
10:00 a.m.	Circle 4	Parlor
10:00 a.m.	Circle 5	Home of Janis Miller
6:30 p.m.	Circle 6	Home of Beth Archer

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 a.m.	Circle 9	Westminster Hall 204
10:00 a.m.	Circle 11	Home of Frenchie Graham
10:30 a.m.	Circle 12	St. Catherine's

CHURCH-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

More than 700 of you responded to our recent church-wide survey. Thank you! We are so thankful to have had so many responses. The results are being reviewed and we will share some take-aways with you in the coming weeks. Thank you in particular for your comments and feedback to our open-ended questions. Though the survey was completely anonymous, we would like to be able to respond to some of the personal feedback we received. If you would like to meet individually with a minister or staff member, please let us know by emailing ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org or cwingard@fpcjackson.org.

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 info 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.

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 every other Tuesday night. This semester, our MOMS at Night will continue their study of the book of James, led by Jane Wiggins. On Wednesday mornings, David Strain will lead us through an overview of a personal Bible study. What does it mean to regularly, individually read the Bible? Why should this be a priority for us? And how can we be successful in making this a regular part of our lives? A nursery is available, but space is limited. Registration is available on the church website or app beginning Jan 1. For more information, email moms@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.

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.

Doug & Masha Shepherd – Doug serves with MTW as the team leader in Ukraine. email: ukrainetexas@gmail.com

Olivia Bedenbaugh – Olivia serves with RUF as an intern at Belhaven University. email: olivia.bedenbaugh@ruf.org

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are from the wedding of Jordan Lee Davis and James Anthony Cutrer and are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby DeWayne Smith, Mrs. Richard Clark Davis, Mrs. Douglas Magruder Byrd, Jr., and Mrs. Jean Meisenheimer Beasley, grandparents of the bride; and Mr. and Mrs. James Harold Clark and Dr. and Mrs. Edward Anthony Cutrer, Sr., grandparents of the groom.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — TODAY

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. this morning, 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.

Children in the nursery through third grade may remain in their classrooms, and parents are asked to pick them up after the meeting concludes. Children in fourth through sixth grade will be dismissed to attend the meeting with their parents. Parents are asked to please pick up their children from Sunday School promptly at 10:20 a.m. so that teachers may also attend the meeting.

CHRISTMAS AT GATEWAY

FPC will serve lunch to the men of Gateway Rescue Mission on Wednesday, December 13. We're asking for donations of homemade goodies/pick-up desserts to serve that day. Please drop off on Tuesday, December 12, in Patterson Hall between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Contact Cheryl Crawford (601-918-4953) or Margaret Tohill (601-668-0068) for more information.

On Monday, December 18, FPC will lead the evening chapel service at Gateway. We'll sing together, hear a brief gospel message, and visit with the men to offer encouragement and show them the love of Christ. All are welcome to join at 5:15 p.m.!

YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT FELLOWSHIP — DECEMBER 12

Young Adults, we hope you will join us for a special Advent gathering Tuesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. in Hutton Chapel. We will hear a message from David Strain, sing carols, and eat holiday treats!

BOOKSTORE OPEN HOUSE — DECEMBER 16

Stop by the FPC Bookstore during your Christmas shopping on Saturday, December 16, from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. We will have free gift wrap and refreshments!

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 age four and younger.