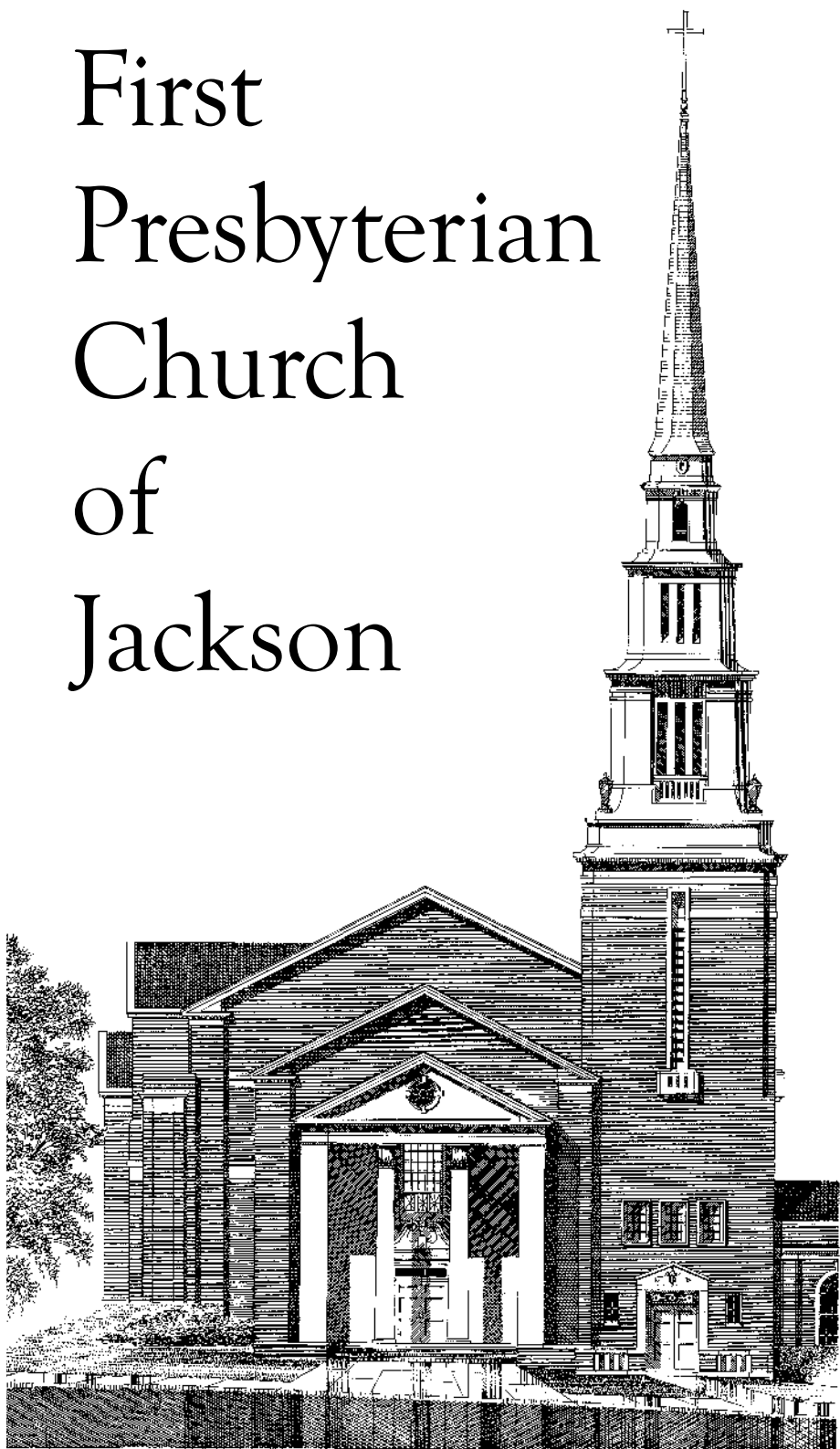


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. James C. Peipon
Minister of Missions

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 — "Messiah Overture" (*Grave*) G. F. Handel
Bonnie Brown, Violin I Ausra Jaseniviciute, Viola
Mary Rogers, Violin II Nancy Bateman, Cello
Rae Shannon, Harpsichord

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

The Call to Worship — Adapted from John 1 and Isaiah 9

All things were made through Him,
without Him was not anything made that was made

In Him is life, and that life is the light of men

The light has shone into the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

We that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon us hath the light shined

Praise be to God, the zeal of the LORD of Hosts has performed this

Let us worship God.

The Hymn No. 194 — "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Offertory — "And the Glory of the Lord" (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

And all flesh shall see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

The Hymn No. 196 — "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 12:2-6..... (pew Bible page 576)

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Reading — Luke 1:46-55 (pew Bible page 856)

The Sermon — The Magnificat Mr. Peipon

The Hymn No. 202 (stzs. 1-3) — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

The Postlude — “Messiah Overture” (*Allegro*) G. F. Handel

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

The Reverend Mr. Scott H. Miller

Young Adults & College Minister

Mr. William H. Skinner

Senior Minister's and Discipleship Intern

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

The Prelude — “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”arr. Dan Forrest
Dr. David Synder, Piano

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 203 — “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The Invocation

The Children's Choirs Christmas Musical Offering

“Knock, Knock, Knock”

The Four and Five Year Old's Choir

Kristi Jordan, Director; Joy Graves, Accompanist

“Joy to the World”

The First and Second Grades Choir

Dr. Margaret Wadsworth, Director

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

The Boys' Choir

Daniel Bunting, Director; Lydian Peipon, Accompanist

“On Christmas Night”

The Girls' Choir

Lauren Randle, Director; Caitlin Vickery, Accompanist

The Greetings

The Evening PrayerMr. Stephen Kruger, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Dom Paul Benoit
The Student Choir, Rebekah Lipscombe, Accompanist

The Hymn (stzs. 1 & 2) — “Before the Throne of God Above” (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Hebrews 9(pew Bible page 1005)

The Sermon — Our Coming Messiah: The Great High Priest..... Mr. Miller

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness,

The Great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His blood!

**My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and My God.**

The Postlude — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice!”

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

5-8 p.m.

DEC

10

SENIOR HIGH
CHRISTMAS DINNER

7:30 p.m.

DEC

12

YOUNG ADULTS
ADVENT FELLOWSHIP

7 p.m.

DEC

16

BOOKSTORE
OPEN HOUSE

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

DEC

17

MUSIC OF
CHRISTMAS

4 & 6 p.m.

DEC

18

COLLEGE
CHRISTMAS PARTY

6:30 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, 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.	New Members Received	PH
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.)

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

9:00 a.m.	Sew & Sow	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Library
11:30 a.m.	Women's Christmas Luncheon	MH
5:00 p.m.	Junior High Progressive Dinner.....	Various Locations
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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

Friday, December 8, 2023

11:30 a.m.	Brister Ware's Retirement Celebration.....	MH
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Saturday, December 9, 2023

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
5:00 p.m.	Carols at Belhaven Town Center	Manship Street

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.)	

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

CAROLS AT BELHAVEN TOWN CENTER — DECEMBER 9

Our Carols in the Park event is moving to Belhaven Town Center this year! We will have live music, Christmas carols, a message from David Strain, activities for the children, and free hot chocolate. There will be food trucks so bring your family and invite your neighbors. Our activities will begin at 5 and end at 8 p.m. We hope to see you there!

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.!

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.

Kurt & Jill P – Kurt works with Mission to the World among South Asians in Europe.

Ben & Marianna Shaw – Ben serves as a church planter with Christ Community Church in St. Francisville, LA. email: benshaw12@gmail.com

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are from the wedding of Leigh Faires McGee and Nicholas Walker Winters and are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clarence Dixon McGee and Dorothy Thorburn McGee, grandparents of the bride and Wanda Jean Walker and Alvin John Winters, Jr., grandparents of the groom.

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, manglers, 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.

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 emilye@fpcjackson.org.

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.

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.