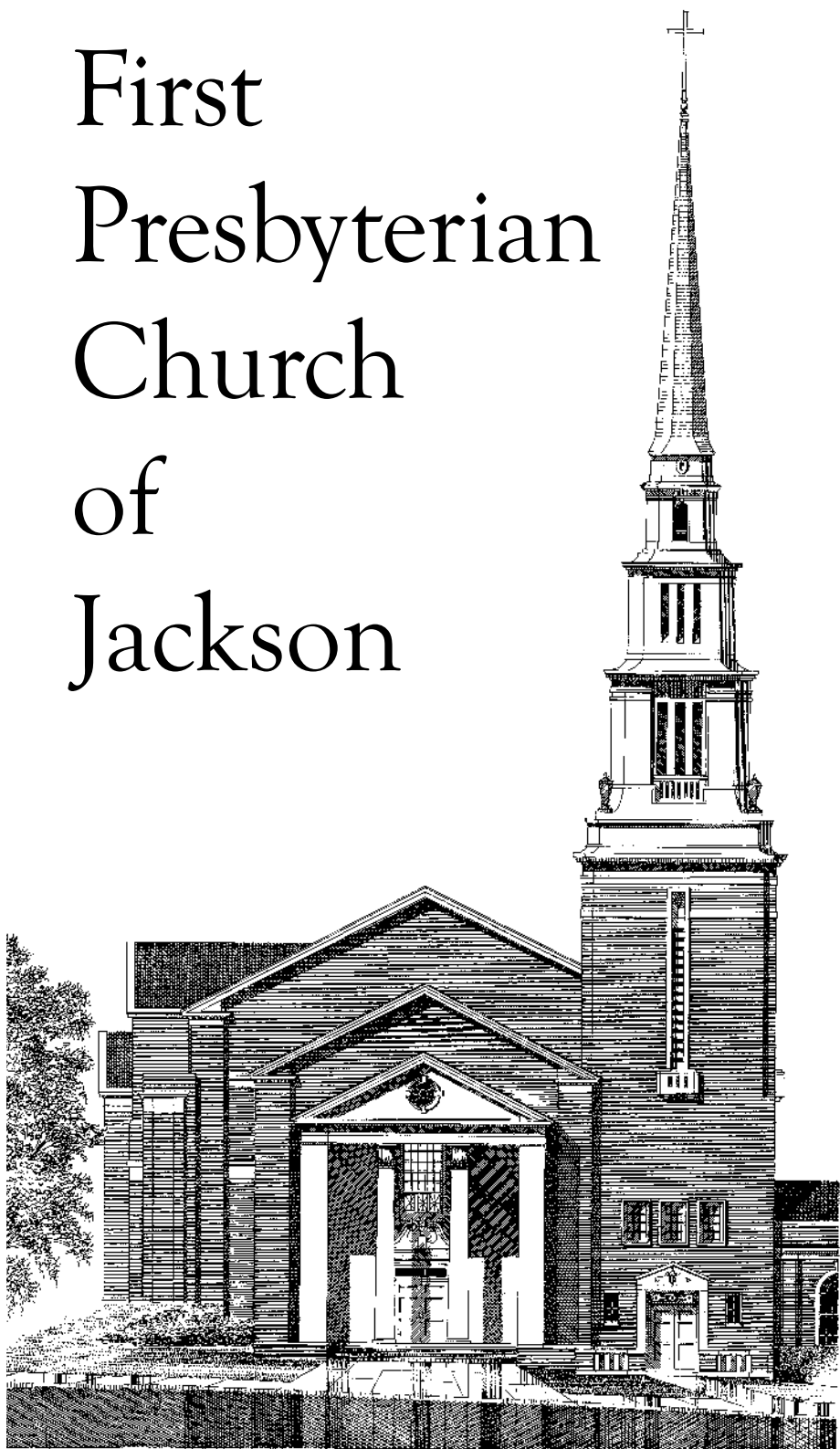


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III
Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary

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

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "The Angel Gabriel"..... Robert Lau
Rae Shannon, Organ

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 who 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. 196 — "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

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 Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Offertory — "Stand the Storm"arr. Tim Amukele
Zachary Thaggard, Soloist

Stand the storm, it won't be long you will anchor, by and by;

Your ship is on the ocean, you will anchor by and by;

Your heading for the kingdom where you'll anchor by and by;

Stand the storm, it won't be long you will anchor, by and by.

The Hymn No. 647 — "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 43:3-4..... (pew Bible page 470)

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Reading — Luke 2:22-35 (pew Bible page 857)

The Sermon — My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation Dr. Duncan

The Hymn No. 195 — “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

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,
and life is worth the living,
just because He lives.

The Postlude — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” Wilbur Held

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 Dr. Charles M. Wingard

Minister of Shepherding

The Reverend Mr. James C. Peipon

Minister of Missions

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

The Prelude — “Invocation” (Opus 27)S. Karg-Elert

William Wymond, Organ

The Call to Worship — Psalm 124:8

The Hymn No. 175 — “A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus, My Lord”

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 629 — “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “If with All Your Hearts”..... Felix Mendelssohn

The Hymn 642 (stzs. 1-4) — “Be Thou My Vision”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Psalm 1:1-6(pew Bible page 448)

The Sermon — Delight in the Word!.....Dr. Wingard

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

The Postlude — “Festival Hymn”..... Carl Putti

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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior
in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Church-wide Hymn Sing.....	MH
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1)	M135
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

No Midweek Dinner or Activities

Saturday, January 6, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
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Sunday, January 7, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Various Locations
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1)	M135
4:45 p.m.	Communicant Class.....	MH
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group	WH 202 A
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Reception for Brister & Marian Ware.....	MH
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight.....	the Biggs Home (4025 Crane Blvd.)

LH—Lowe Hall MB—Main Building MH—Miller Hall MS—Music Suite
PH—Patterson Hall SC—Study Center WH—Westminster Hall YH—Youth House

COMMUNION — NEXT WEEK

Communion will be observed in the morning worship services next week. Please begin prayerfully preparing your hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Professionally prepared, gluten-free elements will be available to pick up on the table on the south wall of the Greeting Courtyard.

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

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BRISTER & MARIAN WARE

Please join us on Sunday, January 7, in Miller Hall, following the evening service as we gather together to honor Brister and Marian Ware on his retirement from active ministry.

FATHER SON RETREAT — JANUARY 19-20

Save the date, as we begin planning for our next Father Son Weekend, January 19-20, at Twin Lakes! Join us for what we hope is a deeply formative camping weekend for dads and sons, with a lodging option. The cost will be \$65 per father and son; additional sons are \$30. Watch for more details and registration information, coming soon.

MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY — FEBRUARY 2

Each year, First Presbyterian Church hosts the Mid-South Men's Rally, an evening of praise, worship, and fellowship anchored in the preaching of God's word. Men from across Mississippi and neighboring states attend this event every year, and it has become a multi-generational gathering as fathers, sons, and grandsons participate together. Please make plans to attend the 37th Mid-South Men's Rally on February 2, with speaker Sandy Willson, Interim President of *The Gospel Coalition* and Pastor Emeritus at Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

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. Gifts to the FPDS Acorn Fund will benefit each FPDS student, as the school will use the unrestricted funds to provide academic excellence and sew the gospel into every aspect of our children's education. Your gift will also support keeping tuition competitive by supplementing the school's annual budget. Most importantly, 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.

TWIN LAKES CAMP

Twin Lakes 2024 is open for camper registrations! Camp sessions are available for children ages 5-12 with a Leader-In-Training program for ages 13-15. Register today at twinlakescamp.org or call our office at 601-845-6858 with any questions.

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.

BIBLE PROJECT

The FPC Outreach Committee and the Rankin Jail Ministry Team thank all the FPC members who purchased Bibles through our bookstore for this worthwhile project. The goal of 200 Bibles was shattered, as 457 Bibles were purchased through the generosity of our church members. All Bibles have been delivered to our ministry partner, All Things New and wrapped for Christmas morning. No inmate's teenager in the Rankin County jail system will be without a Bible this Christmas!

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.

Ty and Ginna Nash – Ty serves with a church planting team in Thailand.

Johnathan Smith – Johnathan serves with RUF as an intern at Belhaven University. email: johnathan.smith@ruf.org

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are from the wedding of Sarah Grace Bisson to Jennings Ligon Duncan IV and are given in honor of Patricia McDonald, grandmother of the bride and Marjorie Luther Harley, grandmother of the groom; and in loving memory of Francis Bisson, Paula Bisson, and John McDonald, grandparents of the bride, and Jennings Ligon Duncan Jr., Shirley Ledford Duncan, and William Baxter Harley, Sr. grandparents of the groom.

DEACON ELECTION

On December 10, 2023, our congregation approved a resolution to proceed with the election of new deacons. The nomination period will close on January 10 at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a period of nominee instruction and examination. Nominees will then be approved by the Session and presented to the congregation for prayerful consideration in anticipation of the May 5 election. For more information or to make a nomination, please visit fpcj.ms/deacon-election. We also have paper nomination forms available at the receptionist desk in the welcome center.

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: JANUARY INTENSIVE

For the month of January, First Presbyterian Church will be immersed in an intensive study of the Book of Romans. Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, and Wednesday nights, we will be led through the book. Come experience the book as you never have before!

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT 2024

Join FPCYM for our annual Winter Retreat at Alpine Camp, January 12-15, 2024. Our speaker Brian Cosby will be teaching on embracing the entirety of the Bible, even the hard to understand or difficult to accept passages and ideas. Register online at fpcjackson.org/events or on the church app. Contact youthhouse@fpcjackson.org with questions. Registration ends January 5.

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. A nursery is available, but space is limited. Registration is available on the church website or app beginning Jan 1 at fpcjackson.org/events. For more information, email moms@fpcjackson.org.

COMMUNICANT CLASSES

Communicant Classes will meet in Miller Hall on January 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. with a complimentary Fellowship Meal from 5:30 - 5:50 p.m. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who are interested in learning about the process of becoming a communing member of the church are encouraged to attend. To register or for questions, contact Kimberly Wilkins at kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org.

FOUNDATIONS CLASS

We will offer the Foundations Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., beginning January 7, taught by David Felker and Charlie Wingard. 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. To sign up, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.