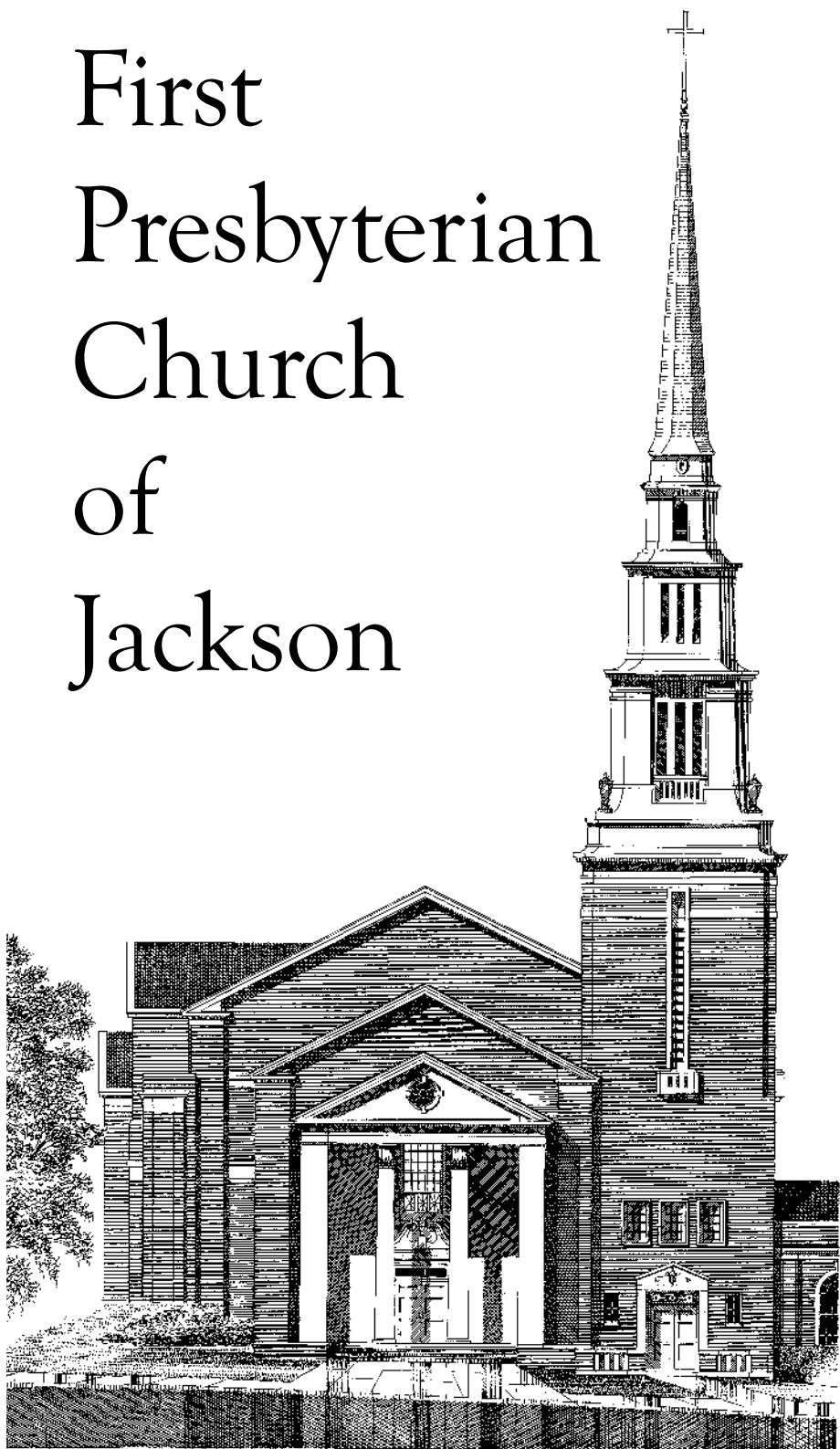


# The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventeenth 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. Gary W. Sinclair

Assistant Minister and FPDS Chaplain

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "What Child Is This"..... arr. Walter Pelz

Bonnie Brown, Violin I

Ausra Jaseniviciute, Viola

Emily Williams, Violin II

Nancy Bateman, Cello

The Introit — "Joy to the World"..... arr. Kuykendall

The Call to Worship — Adapted from Isaiah 9, Ephesians 3, and Revelation 5

To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

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

To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!

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

Let us Worship God.

The Hymn No. 218 — "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

**Hail the Heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**

**Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.**

**Mild he lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.**

**Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth,**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."**

The Solo — "Sweet Little Jesus Boy".....Robert MacGimsey

Hillary Watkins, Soprano

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis

The Introduction of New Members

The Questions of Membership

The Prayer

The Declaration

The Blessing

**The Offering**

**The Anthem** — “Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing” ...arr. Mack Wilberg  
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?  
Never the like did come ablowing, Shepherds, from flowery fields in May.  
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?  
What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes?  
Never so bright the daystar waking, started to climb the morning skies!  
What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes?  
Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away.  
Run ye, with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Savior born today.  
Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away.

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

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The New Testament Reading** — Matthew 1:18-25 ..... (pew Bible page 807)

**The Sermon** — The Name.....Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 201 (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** — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” .....English Carol

**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.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

This week we have the happy occasion to receive new members into our church family during the morning worship service.

## QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope, save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our fellowship on December 3, 2023, and are being presented to the congregation during the morning worship services today. Please welcome them warmly.

John and Kristina Barnes

Karen Beasley

Jutta Devenish

Stephanie Good

Joy and Mason Graves  
(Melody)

Austin Hobbs

Bonnie Hoole

Anna Grace Ladd

Cole and Elise Lawler

Tia Le Mahieu

Gaius Matthews

Allyse Metcalf

Olivia Neill

Reagan Read

Tim Sanduleac

Johnathan Smith

Nick and Leslie Thompson  
(Lena & Teddy)

( ) Children joining as non-communing members

## JOIN FPC!

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that the next date to join is February 18, 2024. New member forms can be found online at [fpcj.ms/membership](https://fpcj.ms/membership) or in the greeting courtyard outside the sanctuary. Forms are due by February 7. As a part of the joining process, new members must attend the Foundations Class, which will take place from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Sundays from January 7 to February 11. If you have any questions about the membership process at FPC, please email [ccare@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ccare@fpcjackson.org).

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

AT FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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.

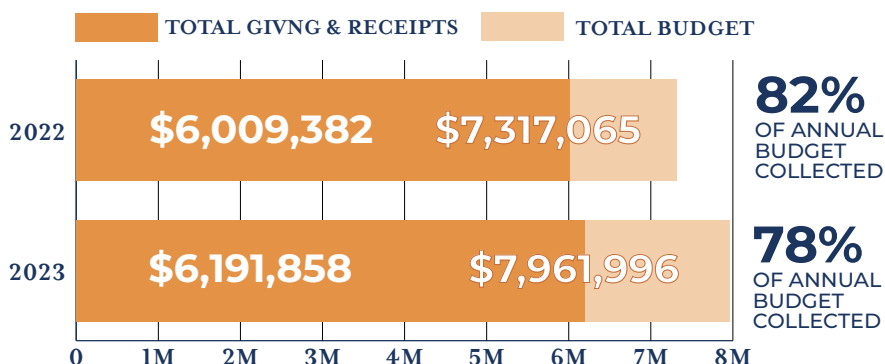


# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

DECEMBER 10, 2023

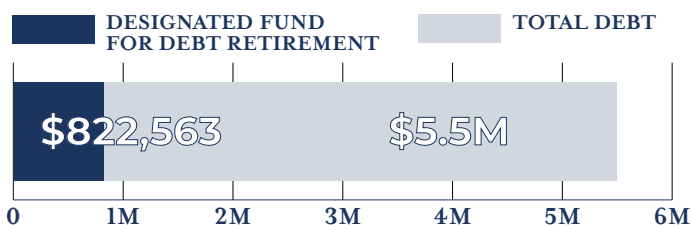
Below you will see where giving towards the church's budget stands through Sunday December 10. Between now and December 31, FPC prayerfully hopes to receive approximately \$1,770,000. Our church is seeing encouraging growth in our congregation and in our ministry. Please join us in minding the growing needs of our church body and our kingdom-work as you plan your giving throughout the rest of this year.

## GIVING THROUGH DECEMBER 10 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](https://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](mailto:businessoffice@fpcjackson.org).

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# FPC THIS WEEK

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## 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

## Tuesday, December 19, 2023

9:30 a.m. French Camp Quilters ..... Bookstore

## Wednesday, December 20, 2023

No Midweek Dinner or Activities

## Saturday, December 23, 2023

7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting ..... WH 202

## Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship ..... Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service ..... 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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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](mailto: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. Child care is provided for siblings below sixth grade upon request. To register or for questions, contact Kimberly Wilkins at [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org).

## FOUNDATIONS CLASS

We will offer the Foundations Class during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m., beginning January 7. 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. The class will be taught by David Felker and Charlie Wingard. To sign up, please email [ccare@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ccare@fpcjackson.org).

## 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!

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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 [jolynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Fred & Sheila Reid** – Fred serves in Japan with the college ministry along with church planting. email: [fred.reid.alive.again.japan@gmail.com](mailto:fred.reid.alive.again.japan@gmail.com)

**Patrick & Regina Lennox** – Patrick & Regina serve with Occom Ministries, a ministry to Native Americans, First Nations, and American Eskimo in the US and Canada. email: [lennoxletters@gmail.com](mailto:lennoxletters@gmail.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Ellen Miller Morgan — November 30, 2023  
Mr. Jack W. “Bouncer” Robertson — December 8, 2023  
Mrs. Norma Flora Bowen — December 8, 2023

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Denny Terry by his family.

## THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — TONIGHT!

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 tonight at 4 and 6 p.m. A nursery will be available for children age four and younger.

## CHRISTMAS AT GATEWAY

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.!

## 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](mailto:ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org) or [cwingard@fpcjackson.org](mailto: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](https://fpcjackson.org/giving).

## 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.