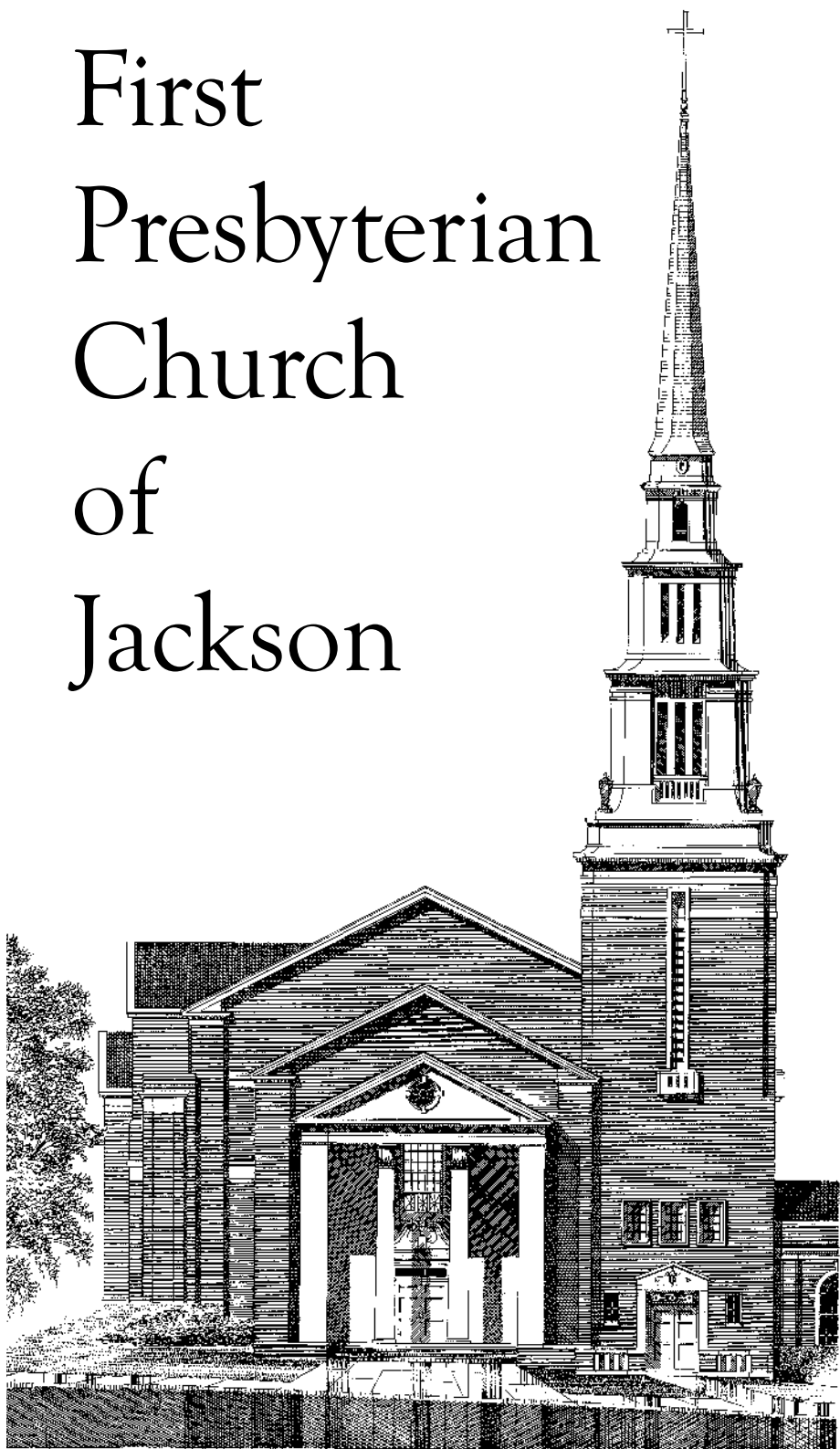


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventh Day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Four
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 and Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Be Thou My Vision" Paul S. Jones
Bonnie Brown, Violin; Rae Shannon, Piano

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

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 100 — "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

O Father, You are sovereign in all the worlds You made;
Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the ocean's shore,
Sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

The Offering

The Offertory — "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring"

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Romans 1:1-17 (pew Bible page 939)

The Sermon — Who, How, Why Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 378 — "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

The Lord's Supper

The Words of Institution
The Invitation
The Prayer of Consecration
The Communion with Our Lord Jesus Christ and His People
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Hymn No. 296 (stzs. 1-4) — “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
We’ll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all;
We’ll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.**

The Postlude — “Let Us Break Bread Together”arr. James Michael Stevens

GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

This Lord's Day is a special occasion as we have the joy of partaking of the Lord's Table together. The sacrament of the "Lord's Supper" was instituted by Christ for the church in every age. Augustine, one of the early church fathers, referred to the sacrament as "a visible word" because it proclaims to us "the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). As we come to the Table today, it may help you to prepare your hearts by pondering the significance of the Lord's Table.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The phrase itself conveys something very important about what is taking place during this component of our worship service. First, it is a table and not an altar. An altar is a place where sacrifices are offered to God. Christ has "offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, [and] he sat down at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12). Again, "for by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). We have no need of an altar because the cross of Christ is the only altar of God. Second, it is the table of the Lord. He is the host of the meal and, hence, possesses the prerogative to invite us to meet and sup with him. Therefore, as the term "Communion Service" denotes, it is a fellowship meal of Christ with His people.

It is oftentimes easy to miss the significance of Church architecture, but in reality, our sanctuary is designed to speak to us about the grace, beauty, and majesty of God. And the Lord's Table beautifully communicates this. Our communion table sits in the front of the sanctuary on the floor with the congregation in order to remind us that it is in Christ's sacrificial death that we are truly united to Him and also to one another. The table remains on the floor to show us that the body and blood of Christ are for the entire covenant community.

CHRIST'S PRESENCE

Another important question to ask when thinking on this sacrament is, "In what way is Christ present within it?" Sincere Christians throughout the ages have struggled to answer this question because within the ordinance there is certainly an aura of mystery. But we must remember that while the elements remain bread and wine, the presence of Christ is truly among us by His Spirit. The Spirit alone is able to make the sacrament of the Lord's Supper beneficial to our souls by penetrating our hearts and stirring our affections for Christ. Hence, let us be prepared to feast at the Lord's Table by asking the Spirit of God to convict us of sin, to supply grace to truly repent, and to savor Christ more and more. As we partake the emblems of Christ's suffering, let us remember that God confirms the benefits of His suffering: pardon, reconciliation, and eternal life through this covenant meal. Let us in turn reaffirm our covenant privileges and responsibilities to God as we anticipate His return.

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. David T. A. Strain
Senior Minister

Mr. Stephen A. Biggs
Director of Students and Families

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

The Prelude — “At Eventide”.....Charles V. Stanford
William Wymond, Organ

The Call to Worship

The Hymn — “Lo, He Comes”..... (hymn sheet)

The Invocation

The Vision Trip Report.....Mr. Nathan Oakley

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Mr. Alan Walters, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Elevation” Dom Paul Benoit

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

Q103. What is the ninth commandment? A. **The ninth commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”**

Q104. What does the ninth commandment teach you? A. **Never to lie, but to tell the truth at all times.**

The Meditation & Prayer.....Mr. Grant Carter, Students & Families Intern

The Hymn (stzs. 1-4) — “Come, Ye Sinners”..... (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Romans 1:18-3:20(pew Bible page 939)

The Sermon — Sin and Misery Dr. Strain

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Let the incarnate God ascended, pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture on Him wholly, let no other trust intrude;
None but Jesus, None but Jesus, can do helpless sinners good.**

The Postlude — “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” Max Reger

*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.

FPC THIS WEEK

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 (age four through third grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:00 p.m.	Reception for Brister & Marian Ware.....	MH
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight.....	the Biggs Home (4025 Crane Blvd.)

Monday, January 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.	Caregivers' Support Group	WH 202B
12:00 p.m.	WIC Council Meeting	PH

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:00 a.m.	Sew & Sow	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Library
5:30 p.m.	Deacon's Meeting.....	MH
6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting	MS
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

10:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study.....	SC 213
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.	Midweek Romans Intensive	MH
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs.....	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Sixth Grade Fellowship	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Junior and Senior High D Groups	YH

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Isaiah: The Lord Saves.....	PH
9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Covenant: God's Amazing Grace	MH

Friday, January 12, 2024

3:30 p.m.	Senior High Winter Retreat Check-In	YH
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Saturday, January 13, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
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Sunday, January 14, 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 (age four through third grade dismissed for Children's Classes)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW WEEKDAY ACCESS AND BADGING POLICY

Over the past few years, we have worked to improve security at FPC, both on the weekends at service times and during the week, when students and teachers are here. As you may remember, one reason for the space reorganization project that we went through last year was to streamline access to the building and focus our weekday entry points on two main entrances: one for FPC and one for FPDS. The policy below reflects months of work on the part of our Diaconate Security Committee and our security staff. It has been put together in coordination with FPDS and has been approved by the Diaconate.

- Regular access to FPC and FPDS facilities during normal “business” hours (M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) will be limited to the FPC Welcome Center entrance (the Pinehurst Ramp) and the FPDS Study Center entrance respectively. All other entrances will be locked outside of exceptions discussed below.
- All members, visitors, parents, etc. should check in at FPC or FPDS reception and wear a temporary name badge while visiting the property. Temporary badges will clearly indicate whether they were issued by FPC or FPDS. FPC members may wear their permanent name tag; however, they should still check-in at the FPC reception desk.
- Visitors to the property for FPC business should check in at the Welcome Center only. (Pinehurst Street Entrance)
- Visitors to FPDS should check in at the FPDS office only. (Belhaven Street Entrance)
- All FPC, FPDS, and SEJ staff will wear their permanent ID badges while on property. Short-term contractors should also wear badges coordinated through the director of facilities.
- Individual gatherings, meetings, or events with 30 or more participants are exempt from the badging requirement and may request an additional entrance to be temporarily unlocked within a reasonable timeframe before and after the event begins. The department requesting the exception is required to provide at least one greeter at the additional entrance in order to welcome participants and communicate with security in the event of a concerning individual entering the premises.

****Note:** This policy does not change current protocol for regular ministry gatherings outside of M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. such as Sunday morning worship, Sunday school, Sunday evening worship, and Wednesday evening midweek ministry.**

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 now available on the church website or app at fpcjackson.org/events. For more information, email moms@fpcjackson.org.

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 38th 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.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregivers' Support Group will take place again this Monday, January 8, in WH 202B from 11a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The purpose of our Caregivers' Ministry is to gather similarly situated caregivers who desire to learn, share stories, and grieve as we walk together through the valley of a loved one's suffering with dementia and dementia-related illness. For more information, please contact Ken Fairly at 601-941-5004.

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.

Apam & Pamleiphy – serving as a director with the Trinity Missionary Training Centre

Wright & Elizabeth Busching – serving as a church planter/pastor of University Presbyterian Church, of the Southwest Florida Presbytery; email: wright@upctampa.com

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Henry Williams by his wife, Ann.

Flowers from the memorial service for Judy Terry have been placed in the Greeting Courtyard by Covenant Sunday School Class, which Judy and her husband, Denny, were involved in establishing in the early eighties. Thanks be to God for their presence in our lives and in this church.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Julia JoAnn (Judy) Terry — December 28, 2023

Mrs. Janet Quayle — December 30, 2023

Mrs. Bettie Johnson — December 31, 2023

Dr. Andy Brown — December 31, 2023

COMMUNION TODAY

Communion will be observed in the morning worship services today. 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.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BRISTER & MARIAN WARE — TODAY

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

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.

CHURCH-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

We are so thankful to have had over 700 responses to our recent survey. 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, let us know by emailing ministersoffice@fpcjackson.org or cwingard@fpcjackson.org.

FATHER SON RETREAT — JANUARY 19-20

Registration is now open at fpcjackson.org/events for the 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 is \$65 per father and son; additional sons are \$30.