



# *Easter* **SUNDAY**

THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MARCH  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirty-First Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Four

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

Senior Minister

The Reverend Dr. Charlie Wingard

Minister of Shepherding

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Let All Things Their Creator Bless" ..... Alfred V. Fedak  
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "Easter Fanfare" ..... Ferguson

The Call to Worship — from Revelation 5:12

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia!**

The Hymn No. 277 — "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology — "Doxology" ..... tune: *Old Hundredth*  
All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell,  
Come ye before Him and rejoice. Amen!

The Corporate Prayer of Confession... from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1552  
(modernized version)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from Your grace, there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and Earth:  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;  
the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Offering**

**The Offertory** — “Fanfare for Easter” ..... Marshall

**The Hymn No. 286** — “Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

**The Old Testament Reading** — Psalm 16.....(pew Bible page 453)

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The New Testament Reading** — Luke 24:13-35 .....(pew Bible page 885)

**The Sermon** — The Road to Emmaus.....Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 297** (stzs. 1-5) — “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 at His feet may fall!  
We’ll join the everlasting song,  
and crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him, and crown Him Lord of all!

**The Postlude** — “Festival Flourishes” .....Ovid Young

**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. Wiley P. Lowry III**  
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

**Mr. Stephen A. Biggs**  
Director of Students & Families

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

The Prelude — “O Lord Most Holy” .....Caesar Franck  
Isabel Sutherland, Flute

The Call to Worship — Galatians 4:4-7

The Hymn No. 267 — “The Day of Resurrection!”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand” ..... (hymn sheet)

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer ..... Mr. Tim Threadgill, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “This Joyful Eastertide” .....arr. Charles Wood  
Ben and Amanda Roberson, Ryan and Erin Miller

\*The Young Children’s Devotional — The *Children’s Catechism*

Q122.What is the fifth petition? (of the Lord’s Prayer) A. **The fifth petition is,  
“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”**

Q123.What does it mean to pray, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our  
debtors”? A. **We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ’s sake,  
and to make us willing to forgive others.**

The Meditation & Prayer..... Mr. Jennings Duncan, Congregational Care Intern

The Hymn (stz. 1 & 2) — “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”..... (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 14 ..... (pew Bible page 923)

The Sermon — To the Gentiles: An Out-and-Back Gospel..... Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss;  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

The Postlude

\*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.

# SERVICE GUIDE

## WHY DO WE HAVE A PRAYER OF CONFESSION?

The Christian is one who has been given truth to confess. The heart of our confession is the good news that God has come in the flesh to redeem helpless sinners from our natural state of sin and misery. But it is the bad news of our natural sin and misery that makes the good news intelligible. This is why it is necessary and truly beneficial that we, as God's people, corporately confess our sins in worship. Corporate confession is one way that we reorient ourselves to the shocking reality of the kindness, mercy, and inestimable love of God—"for even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Our confession of sin also reminds us that we are ever dependent on His grace, because, in this life, we are ever struggling with the darkness of our own sinful hearts. The Bible is crystal clear that even though we've been justified by the blood of Christ, as long as we are on this earthly pilgrimage, we will always be at war with our sin (Col. 3:5). When we confess our sins together, we stop hiding, and we allow the light of God's grace to expose our deeds. And it is in this act of confession that His mercy renews us, fixes our eyes once again upon Christ, and cleanses our consciences to serve the Lord with gladness, joy, and hope—hope that even we can be made clean by the precious blood of Christ!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

This brief affirmation of basic Christian belief is called the Apostles' Creed, not because one or several of the Apostles of the New Testament were its author, but because it expresses the faith the Apostles taught. So, it is "Apostolic" in the sense that it affirms and preserves the faith which they learned from Jesus. You will notice that we use the traditional translation of the Creed which retains both a beauty of language and some unfamiliar words: "Ghost" is employed where we would use "Spirit," the word "quick" where we would use "living," and "catholic" where we would use "universal." Also, when we say that Christ "descended into hell," we are not saying that upon His death, Jesus actually went into hell; instead, we are affirming that Jesus suffered all the pains and torments of hell as He endured the unmitigated wrath of God.

### Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:4–14:26)

C. A.D. 46–47

Barnabas and Paul first visited Barnabas's home region of Cyprus before sailing to the southern region of Asia Minor. When they reached Perga in Pamphylia, John Mark left the group and returned to Jerusalem. Making their way to Antioch (in Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, Paul and Barnabas were driven out of each city by jealous Jewish religious leaders. Later they returned by the same route, strengthening the new churches as they went. From Attalia they set sail for their home in Antioch of Syria.



### Itinerary of Paul's First Journey

City	Province/Region	Reference
Antioch	Syria	13:1–3
Seleucia	Syria	13:4
Salamis	Cyprus	13:5
Paphos	Cyprus	13:6–12
Perga	Lycia (region of Pamphylia)	13:13
Antioch	Galatia (region of Pisidia)	13:14–52
Iconium	Galatia	14:1–6
Lystra	Galatia (region of Lycaonia)	14:6, 8–19
Derbe	Galatia (region of Lycaonia)	14:6, 20–21
Lystra	Galatia (region of Lycaonia)	14:21–23
Iconium	Galatia	14:21–23
Antioch	Galatia (region of Pisidia)	14:24
Perga	Lycia (region of Pamphylia)	14:24–25
Attalia	Lycia	14:25
Antioch	Syria	14:26–28

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, March 31, 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
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal .....	MS
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions .....	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship .....	Sanctuary
	(age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes)	

## Monday, April 1, 2024

12:00 p.m.	WIC Counsel Meeting .....	PH
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## Tuesday, April 2, 2024

6:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Series.....	MH
9:00 a.m.	Sew and Sow.....	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters .....	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study.....	WH 305
6:00 p.m.	MOMS at Night .....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class .....	PH

## Wednesday, April 3, 2024

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study.....	MH
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 Adult Programs	
	D Groups.....	Various Locations
	Compass Class (last meeting) .....	WH 202
	New Testament Survey .....	Miller Hall
	Prayer Meeting.....	Session Room
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
7:15 p.m.	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary

## Thursday, April 4, 2024

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Isaiah: The Lord Saves.....	PH
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## Friday, April 5, 2024

6:00 p.m.	Delighting & Digging Deep in the Word with Jen Wilkin.....	MH
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## Saturday, April 6, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting .....	WH 202
8:30 a.m.	Delighting & Digging Deep in the Word with Jen Wilkin.....	MH

## Sunday, April 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
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal .....	MS
5:00 p.m.	New Members Received .....	PH
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group .....	WH 202 A
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions .....	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship .....	Sanctuary
	(age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes)5:00	
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight .....	the Forster Home (4616 E 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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## VBS CRAFT WORKDAYS — APRIL 10 & 11

Your help is needed to prepare for VBS on April 10 & 11 in Westminster Hall 204 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. No special skills are required. We will be cutting paper, painting boxes and blocks, writing Bible verses, cutting sandpaper and string, and ripping pages out of magazines. These are small tasks with a big impact for our children at VBS. You can come and go or grab a bag of things to do and take it with you.

## VBS DONATIONS NEEDED

### Operation Christmas Child

This year's VBS is scheduled for June 3-7, and we are partnering with Operation Christmas Child! Throughout the week, sixth graders will be packing shoeboxes, and the offering collected by our children during VBS will go toward mailing our shoeboxes. Suggested (new) items include: stuffed animals, balls, brushes, combs, toothbrushes, washcloths, school supplies, socks, flip-flops, chalk, jump ropes, and stickers.

### VBS Craft Supplies

- Newspapers of any sort, black-and-white or color
- Five- to six-inch long branches or sticks that are about one-fourth-inch in diameter

Items for Operation Christmas Child or craft supplies may be dropped off in the donation box in the Welcome Center. Please no food or liquids.

## VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Planning for VBS 2024 is underway. If you are willing to volunteer, we have a place for you. There is a need for: table guides (who lead children to their various activities and encourage them with their scripture memory verses), craft volunteers, song leaders, music accompanists, and general floaters. If you are interested email Mary Jordan Lamar at [mmcdill88@gmail.com](mailto:mmcdill88@gmail.com) or Kimberly Wilkins at [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org).

## ONLINE OR NON-TRADITIONAL GIVING CARDS

Because the Offering is a meaningful part of our worship services at FPC, we want to enable those who give online or in a non-traditional way to actively participate in that part of our worship service along with those who put their checks or cash in the offering plate as it is passed. In 2023, nearly 30% of gifts to First Presbyterian Church were made through either online giving on FPC's website and app or through ACH transfers or other electronic means. We praise the Lord and thank you for all of these gifts to FPC! No matter the means you use to support FPC financially, you should be able to participate in the Offering portion of the Sunday worship service. So, beginning today "Online or Non-Traditional Giving Cards" are available in the tract racks located outside the sanctuary doors. We invite our online givers (or anyone making a gift to the church outside of the worship service) to take one of these cards and to place it in the offering plate when it is passed as part of your worship and as a tangible expression of your gift to the church. Thank you for supporting First Presbyterian Church in its work and worship!

## 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.

## PLEASE NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE SANCTUARY

Please do not bring food or drinks (including travel mugs, water bottles, etc.) into the sanctuary.

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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).

**Matt & Maria** – serving in Asia training national pastors

**Danny & Carlye Ruth** – Danny serves as a church planter at Steen’s Creek Presbyterian Church in Florence, MS. Email: [dannyaruth@gmail.com](mailto:dannyaruth@gmail.com)

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers in the foyer, from the wedding of Anna Kathryn Clarke and Timothy James Hoehner, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ms. Gretchen Jahncke Clarke and Mr. Holden Mast Clarke, grandparents of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nevins Cottrell, Mr. James Arnold Hoehner, and Mrs. Janice Leigh Duley, grandparents and aunt of the groom. The flowers are given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dale Linton, grandparents of the bride, and Mrs. Sharon Ann Hoehner, grandmother of the groom.

## **TWIN LAKES FELLOWSHIP — YOU’RE INVITED!**

The Twin Lakes Fellowship is a ministerial fraternal devoted to the encouragement of gospel ministry and ministers and to the promotion of healthy biblical church planting and is a ministry of the Session of our church. TLF meets once a year over three days at Twin Lakes Conference Center with the aim of spiritual refreshment, mutual encouragement, worship, workshops, and presentations relating to church health and growth and the work of church planting. FPC church members are invited to attend the worship services each night during the conference: Monday, April 1, at 7:20 p.m.; Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

## **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP — APRIL 8**

The Caregivers’ Support Group will meet Monday, April 8, in Westminster Hall 202 from 11 a.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. The meeting will provide a safe and friendly forum to vent with others who understand the toils of caregiving for the cognitively impaired. Ultimately, we’ll leave each participant with the promise of the gospel and the hope and rest we find in Christ Jesus our Savior. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Fairly at 601-941-5004.

## **TWIN LAKES CAMP — NOW HIRING CAMP COUNSELORS**

Do you want to make an impact this summer? Do you know someone who would make a great addition to our Twin Lakes Camp staff? Counselor applications for ages 18-22 are now open! Our counselors are at the heart of the ministry, serving campers and fellow staff within the beautiful backdrop of the Lord’s creation. By sharing and living out the Gospel, our counselors are a part of Kingdom work and changed forever. Join us in the joy of camp! Apply online at [twinlakescamp.org](http://twinlakescamp.org).

## **WE’RE HIRING — NURSERY COORDINATOR**

We looking for a full-time Nursery Coordinator who will serve the mission of the church by leading the nursery ministry. This includes recruiting, training, and leading the nursery staff, as well as serving and shepherding the families and children of the church. For more information and to apply, visit [fpcj.ms/employment](http://fpcj.ms/employment).

## **SENIOR ADULTS DAY TRIP TO COLUMBUS — APRIL 12**

Experience a day of fellowship and enjoy all that Columbus has to offer. As part of the itinerary, we will tour the home of our state’s famous author, Tennessee Williams, as well as the Southside Historic District. We will wind down over a delicious lunch at Harvey’s on Main Street. We will depart from the church campus at 7:30 a.m. and depart from Columbus by 4 p.m. To register, please email the Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care, Emily Eastman, at [ccare@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ccare@fpcjackson.org), or call her office at 601-326-9243. The cost is \$25. Please plan to bring money for your meal.