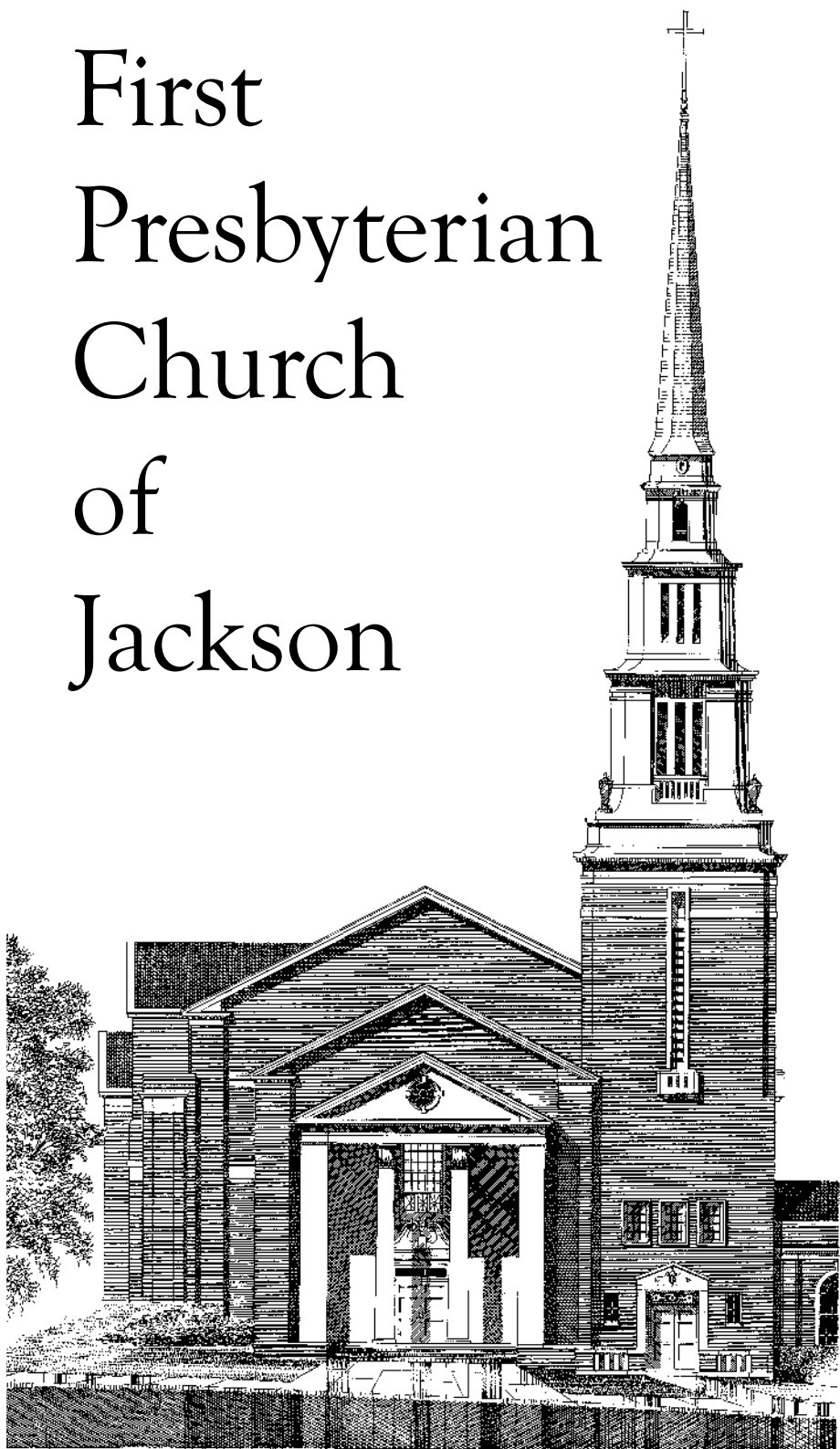


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-Fourth 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 Mr. Gary W. Sinclair
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "There Is a Fountain" Brian Buda
Dr. Grace Shumaker, Piano

The Introit — "Since by Man Came Death" G. F. Handel

The Call to Worship — Psalm 106:1-2, 47-48

The Hymn No. 235 — "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology — "Doxology" (tune: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

O most great, most just and gracious God;
You are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity;
And yet You have promised mercy through Jesus Christ
to all that repent and believe in Him.
We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.
We have neglected and abused Your holy worship.
We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors.
We have not sought first Your kingdom.
You have revealed Your wonderful love to us in Christ
and offered us pardon and salvation in Him;
but we have turned away.
We have run into temptation;
and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed.
Have mercy on us, most merciful Father!
In Your Son is our salvation, in Your promises our hope.
Take us for Your children and give us the Spirit of your Son,
and in the end receive us into Your glory,
through Jesus Christ our only Savior. Amen.

Richard Baxter (modernized language)

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Offertory — “Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs”.....G. F. Handel
Surely, He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows!
He was wounded for our transgressions.
He was bruised for our iniquities.
The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.
(Isaiah 53:4-5)

The Psalm 119:137-144..... (tune: *Hamburg*)
137. O Lord, You are the righteous one; The statutes that You give are just.
138. You lay down laws of righteousness, entirely worthy of our trust.
139. My zeal consumes and wears me out, because my foes forget Your word.
140. Your promises are tried and proved; and your servant loves them, Lord.
141. Though I am lowly and despised, Your precepts I do not forget.
142. Eternal is your righteousness; true is the law that You have set.
143. Distress and trouble press me down, but your commands are my delight.
144. Grant wisdom so that I may live; Your statutes are forever right.

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The New Testament Reading — 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31... (pew Bible page 952)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Psalm 119:137-144..... (pew Bible page 515)

The Sermon — A Lamp to Our Feet: You Are Righteous, I Am Small... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 707 (stzs. 1-4) — “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer.
Heaven’s eternal day’s before thee, God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

The Postlude — “The Kingsfold Trumpet”.....Alfred V. Fedak
Rae Shannon, Organ

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. William Grant Carter
Students and Families Intern

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

The Prelude — “As the Deer” Martin Nystrom
First Presbyterian Day School Strings; Nancy Bateman, Director

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 100 — “Holy, Holy, Holy!”

The Invocation

The Hymn Medley
“Jesus Loves Me”
“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”
“God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Mr. Richard Ridgway, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Largo” Dvorak

***The Young Children's Devotional** — *The Children's Catechism*
Q120. What is the fourth petition? (of the Lord's Prayer) A. **The fourth petition is, “Give us this day our daily bread.”**
Q121. What does it mean to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread”? A. **We are asking God to provide us with all that we really need.**

The Meditation & Prayer Mr. Peyton Gunter, College Intern

The Hymn No. 116 (stz. 1-3) — “For the Beauty of the Earth”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 13:13-52 (pew Bible page 921)

The Sermon — To the Gentiles: Unashamed Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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.

GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024

Below you will see where giving towards the church's ministry expenses stands through February 2024. 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.

GIVING TOWARD FPC MINISTRY EXPENSES

	GIVING TO FPC MINISTRY EXPENSES	MINISTRY EXPENSES	NET GIVING (UNDER) OR OVER EXPENSES
FEB 2024	\$439,515	\$700,566	(\$261,051)
YTD	\$990,455	\$1,399,978	(\$409,523)

Every dollar we use to support global and national missions arrives at the church as a gift designated for missions, separate from our regular giving to support the ministry of FPC. Your missions giving directly supports 60+ global missionaries, 10+ campus ministers, and 15+ North American church planters. Please support the making of disciples around North America and around the world by making a gift to Missions by writing "Missions" on your check or by selecting "Missions" on our online giving platform.

GIVING TOWARD FPC MISSIONS

	GIVING TO DESIGNATED MISSIONS FUND	SPENDING IN SUPPORT OF MISSIONS	NET GIVING (UNDER) OR OVER SPENDING
FEB 2024	\$53,260	\$86,182	(\$32,922)
YTD APR 23-FEB 24	\$720,882	\$924,635	(\$203,753)

Give online or manage your recurring gifts at

FPCJ.MS/GIVE



FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 24, 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
4:00 p.m.	Beth Israel Cemetery Tour	Hutton Chapel
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)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Russ Home (2337 Twin Lakes Cir.)

Tuesday, March 26, 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
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, March 27, 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
	Foundations	WH 204
	Growth Class	Patterson 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, March 28, 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, March 29, 2024

	Church Office Closed	
6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary

Saturday, March 30, 2024

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DELIGHTING & DIGGING DEEP IN THE WORD — APRIL 5 & 6

Women's Ministry Seminars with Jen Wilkin

Jen Wilkin is an author and Bible teacher. Come as she shows us the joy we can experience as we delight in God's word and the ways in which we can dig deep for ourselves. Join us Friday, April 5, 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, April 6, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. You may register for one or both of the sessions at fpcj.ms/delight-in-the-word.

Friday night's session will help us explore the truth that the righteous and the wicked are separated by what they delight in: the one true God of the Bible, or the ways of the world. We will focus on how we can become people who delight in the Word of God. Saturday morning, we will explore what solid Bible study and teaching look like as well as some practical steps to take. This workshop will be designed to sharpen our skills in studying the Bible. It will also be instructive for those already teaching, or hoping to teach, the Bible.

ENCOUNTER RETREAT — APRIL 5-7

Junior High Presbytery-Wide Retreat

Sixth through ninth grade students, join us for a junior high presbytery-wide retreat on April 5-7 at Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, MS. We will join with churches from the Mississippi Valley Presbytery for a great weekend full of games, shared meals, and fellowship with other students. Our speaker Zack Owens will be teaching on the topic Belonging to God. The cost is \$115, and registration closes March 29. Register online at fpcj.ms/events.

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, or call her office at 601-326-9243. The cost is \$25. Please plan to bring money for your meal.

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

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.

WE'RE HIRING

For more information and to apply, visit fpcj.ms/employment.

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.

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.

Aaron & Rachel Halbert – Aaron serves as a church planter with Mission to the World in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. email: honduranhalberts@gmail.com

Lowell & Mae Ivey – Lowell serves as the new Executive Director of Metanoia Prison Ministries. email: livey@pcanet.org

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wirt A. Yerger, jr. by his family.

The flowers in the foyer are given by dear friends in loving memory of Thomas Mark Bland.

EASTER WEEKEND

As we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ together as a church family, we hope you will join us in inviting friends, neighbors, and family members to join us at FPC Easter Weekend. On Friday at 6 p.m., we will have a Good Friday service. On Sunday, March, 31, our services will be held at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; and Sunday schools will meet at 9:45 a.m. For our guests, stop by for refreshments and an informal meet and greet with our pastors in the Welcome Center following the morning services on Easter. For more information visit fpcj.ms/easter.

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!

BETH ISRAEL CEMETERY TOUR — TODAY

Today at 4 p.m., there will be a guided tour of the Beth Israel Cemetery across the street from the church. We hope to have some members of the Beth Israel congregation join us as we learn more about the history of the Jewish community and the history of Jackson. Please come for a brief introduction in Hutton Chapel starting at 4 p.m. before we walk over to the cemetery for the tour. We'll also have a time for coffee and dessert after the tour.

FOUNDATIONS CLASS — BEGINS TODAY

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. During the class we will learn what we share in common with all Bible-believing Christians, as well as about the distinctives of Presbyterianism. We will hear from ministry leaders about what's taking place at First Pres, while providing a great opportunity to meet others who have recently found a home here at FPC. Join us in M123 today at 9:45 a.m.