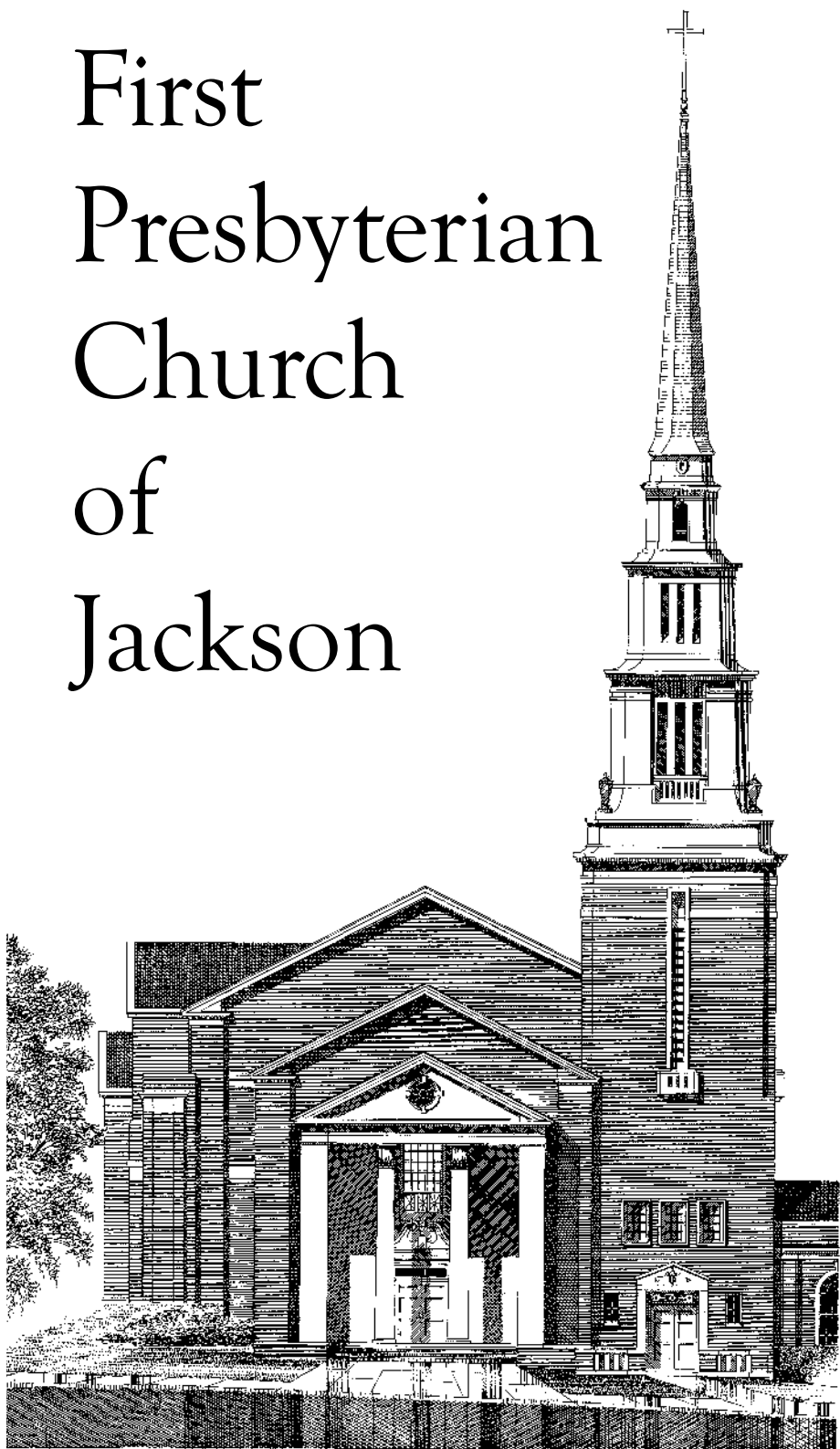


The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventh Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-Four
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Iver Martin
Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain
Senior Minister

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — “Fanfare Prelude: To God Be the Glory” arr. Andrew Miller
FPC Brass Ensemble; Dr. Nathan Oakley, Director

The Introit — “Come! Join Our Cheerful Song” Dale Wood

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 301 — “Join All the Glorious Names”

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology — “All Praise We Sing to God” tune: *Darwall*
All praise we sing to God; the Holy Trinity.
We praise the Father, Son and Spirit joyfully.
Creator God, our Shepherd, Savior, Lord and King,
To Thee we sing!

The Corporate Prayer of Confession....Richard Baxter (modernized language)
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.

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Offertory — “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”Barlow Bradford

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
The Lord, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

The Hymn No. 472 — “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Wretched”

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Genesis 22:1–14 (pew Bible page 16)
Hebrews 11:8–12, 17–19 ...(pew Bible page 1007)

The Sermon — Abraham’s Faith in Three Fragrances.....Mr. Martin

The Hymn (stzs. 1–2) — “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer’s blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us night Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Unto the grave, what shall we sing? “Christ, He Lives: Christ, He Lives!”
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing Hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing Hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death!

The Postlude — “O Rejoice, Ye Christians”.....Johann Sebastian Bach

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!

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

The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

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

The Prelude — “Jesus, Name Above All Names”.....arr. Mark Hayes
Dr. Grace Shumaker, Piano

The Call to Worship — Ephesians 2:8-10

The Hymn No. 389 — “This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”..... (hymn sheet)

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Dr. David Elkin, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Lift High the Cross”

Third – Fifth Grade Choir
David Bunting, Director; Caitlin Vickery, Accompanist

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

Q124. What is the sixth petition? (of the Lord's Prayer) A. **The sixth petition is, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”**

Q125. What does it mean to pray, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”? A. **We are asking God to keep us from being tempted and to make us strong enough to resist when we are tempted.**

The Meditation & Prayer..... Mr. Stephen Biggs, Director of Students & Families

The Hymn (stz. 1-4) — “Who Are These Like Stars Appearing” (hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 15:1-33..... (pew Bible page 923)

The Sermon — To the Gentiles: Saving Grace Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**These, like priests, have watched and waited Offering up to Christ their will,
Soul and body consecrated, Day and night to serve Him still;
Now, in God's most holy place, Blest they stand before His face.**

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.

FPC THIS WEEK

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	MH
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.)

Monday, April 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.	Caregivers Support Group	WH 202B
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Tuesday, April 9, 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.	Joint Officers Meeting.....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

8 a.m.-Noon	VBS Craft Workshop	WH 204
9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study.....	MH
5:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner.....	MH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground
5:30 p.m.	Families Count	PH
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Adult Programs	
	D Groups	Various Locations
	New Testament Survey with Guy Waters.....	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 11, 2024

8 a.m.-Noon	VBS Craft Workshop	WH 204
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, April 12, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Senior Adults Trip to Columbus	Pinehurst St. Parking Lot
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Saturday, April 13, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting	WH 202
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Sunday, April 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
4:30 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)5:00
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Boyd Home (2693 Lake Circle)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CPC LIFE WALK — MAY 4

First Presbyterian Church will have a team of walkers at the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Center for Pregnancy Choices. We would love to have you on our team as walker or a sponsor! As of now, we have four on our team, Janie (captain) and Stuart Clarke, Tami Hawes, and Jo Lynn Mayfield. If you would like to register as a walker or sponsor one (or all four), please go to cpcmetrofriends.org/lifewalk.

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 or Kimberly Wilkins at kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org.

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 — NURSERY COORDINATOR

We are 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.

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.

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 jollynnm@fpcjackson.org.

Brian & Mandy – serving with MTW in Southeast Asia

Way & Amy Rutherford – Way, serving with RUF, is the Campus Minister at Baylor University in Waco, TX. email: wrutherford@ruf.org

GUEST MINISTER — IVER MARTIN

Iver Martin was brought up in Paisley, Scotland, and studied electronics at Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen, Scotland. After 12 years as a process engineer in the microelectronics industry, he studied theology at the Free Church College (now Edinburgh Theological Seminary) in preparation for ministry in the Free Church of Scotland. While studying in Aberdeen he met his wife, Mairi. They have six children and eight grandchildren. Mr. Martin was minister of two congregations: Bon Accord Free Church, in Aberdeen, for six years, and Stornoway Free Church, in Stornoway, Scotland, for 12 years, before being appointed as Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary in 2015. As well as fulfilling the administrative responsibilities at ETS, Mr. Martin teaches Scottish Church History.

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 talk 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.

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.

MEN'S MINISTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT — APRIL 25

Men, it is time for the annual Men's Ministry Golf Tournament at Lake Caroline! The day begins with lunch at 11:30 a.m. with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Tickets for lunch are \$10, and it is \$50 per person to play. You may register individually or as a four person team online at fpcj.ms/events.

MATCHING GIFT TO SUPPORT OUR FPDS TEACHERS

Join us in celebrating a generous matching gift made by an anonymous donor for the benefit of FPDS teachers. **Between now and May 31, any gift given to First Presbyterian Day School and designated to benefit teacher retention and appreciation will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000.** Every school day, more than 600 children come into the church building, learning academic skills *and* the wisdom of God's Word. They also see godly character modeled for them through our dedicated and gifted teachers at FPDS. If you would like to assist FPDS in its priority of retaining and showing appreciation to these teachers, our partners in ministry, you may give online at fpcj.ms/give, selecting the fund “FPDS — Teachers,” or via check with “FPDS — Teachers” noted on the memo line.