

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourth Day of August Two Thousand Twenty-Four
MORNING WORSHIP
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

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

The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker
Executive Minister

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Open My Eyes" Charles Callahan
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "Worthy Is the Lamb"

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 310 — "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Offertory — "How Much I Owe" J. Hudson
Kathryn Edwards, Piano

When this passing world is done, when has sunk yon glaring sun,
When I stand with Christ on high, looking ov'r life's history:
Then, Lord, shall I fully know...not til then how much I owe.

Chosen not for good in me; wakened up from wrath to flee;
Hidden in the Savior's side; by the Spirit sanctified;
Teach me, Lord, on earth to show, by Thy love, how much I owe.

On the nights of sorrow reign weeping, sickness, sighing, pain;
But, when fear is at the height, Jesus comes, and all is light;
Blessed Jesus! Bid me show doubting saints how much I owe.

When I stand before the throne, dressed in beauty not my own.
When I see Thee as Thou art, Love Thee with unsinning heart,
Then, Lord shall I fully know... not til then how much...
Not til then... not til then... how much I owe.

The Hymn No. 598 — “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S WORD

The Old Testament Reading — Nehemiah 8:1–12.....pew Bible page 403

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:12–22....pew Bible page 988

The Sermon — **Blameless at His Appearing:** Practical Church Life... Dr. Strain

The Hymn 361 (stz. 1–3) — “O Praise Ye the Lord” (Psalm 149)

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**For this is His word: His saints shall not fail,
but over the earth their power shall prevail;
All kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway,
to God give the glory and praise Him for aye.**

The Postlude — “Kelvingrove” Denis Bedard

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

Mr. Stephen A. Biggs
Director of Students and Families

Mr. George W. Herndon
Students and Families Intern

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

The Prelude — “Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners” Prichard / arr. Lipscombe
Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

The Call to Worship — Judges 5:3; Psalm 20:5

The Hymn No. 441 — “Jesus Shall Reign”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder” hymn sheet

The Greetings

The Missionary Report Dr. Julian Bacon, Mission to the World Belgium

The Evening Prayer..... Mr. Jack Crawford, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Be Still, My Soul”Sibelius / arr. Rounsavall
Debbie Dempsey, Flute; Paul Forster, Flute

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

Q6. Is there more than one true God? **A. No. There is only one true God.**

* The Meditation & PrayerMr. Peyton Gunter, College & Young Adults Intern

The Hymn (stz. 1-4) — “A Debtor to Mercy Alone” hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — 2 Samuel 24..... pew Bible page 277

The Sermon — Responding to Mercy Mr. Biggs

The Closing Prayer

The Congregational Response

**My name from the palms of Your hands, eternity will not erase,
Impressed on Your heart it remains in marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end will endure, until I bow down at Your throne,
Forever and always secure, a debtor to mercy alone.**

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 the Tree House.

THE CHURCH STAFF

THE MINISTERS

David Strain
Senior Minister

David Felker
Executive Minister

Billy Dempsey
Minister of Congregational Care

Wiley Lowry
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

Scott Miller
Minister of Young Adults and College

Jamie Peipon
Minister of Missions

Gary Sinclair
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

Charlie Wingard
Minister of Shepherding

THE MINISTRY & SUPPORT STAFF

Ford Mosby
Executive Director

Mary Ball
Communications Department

Kristina Barnes
*Staff Accountant and
Database Manager*

Boopie Beard
Bookstore

Stephen Biggs
*Students and Families
Director*

Elizabeth Bush
Hostess and Head Chef

Harold Clardy
Maintenance

Anna Kathryn Clarke
Receptionist

Haley Cushing
*Accounting and Human
Resources Director*

Chris Dill
Head of Security

Donna Dobbs
*Women and Children's
Director*

Emily Eastman
*Administrative Assistant for
Congregational Care, Pastoral
Care, and Shepherding*

Sam Edwards
Facilities Manager

Barbara Eichelberger
*Human Resources
Coordinator*

Debbie Goelz
*Executive Minister's and
Discipleship Ministry
Administrative Assistant*

Owen Hallbach
Missions Fellow

Wes Hodges
Maintenance Manager

Rupert Hunt Taylor
Discipleship Director

Erin Johnson
Assistant Chef

Maclain Kennedy
Student Ministry Assistant

Jo Lynn Mayfield
Missions Coordinator

Mary Helen McGee
*Students and Families
Ministry Coordinator*

Margaret McPhillips
Communications Director

Mikayla Nelson
Children's Ministry Assistant

Deborah Oakley
*Women's Ministry
Coordinator*

Rose Ohnstad
*Young Adults Female
Coordinator*

Lisa Oswalt
*Women and Children
Administrative Assistant*

Mark Phillips
Sanctuary Sound Technician

Trey Porter
TV Ministry Producer

Jenny Sanders
Creative Director

Rae Shannon
Organist

Kenneth Smith
TV Ministry Assistant

Ruth Smith
Wedding Coordinator

Kimberly Sumrall
Children's Choirs Director

Tian Teh
TV Ministry Assistant

Victoria Thomas
Assistant Chef

Beth Threadgill
Senior Minister's Assistant

Annie Watkins
Student Ministry Assistant

Kimberly Wilkins
Children's Director

Chase Wynn
*Giving and Stewardship
Director*

THE INTERNS

Grant Carter
Students and Families Intern

Jennings Duncan
Congregational Care Intern

Elliot Farris
Young Adults Intern

Peyton Gunter
College Ministry Intern

George Herndon
Students and Families Intern

William Skinner
*Senior Minister's and
Discipleship Intern*

Tim Tumutod
AV/IT Intern

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 4, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
5:00 p.m.	New Members Meeting	PH
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group	WH 202A
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 Box Home (5316 Red Fox Rd.)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	WH 302

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

	No Midweek Dinner or Activities	
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS

Thursday, August 8, 2024

	FPDS First Day of Classes	
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore

Saturday, August 10, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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Sunday, August 11, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
5:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Group	WH 202A
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)
7:00 p.m.	Reception for Stephen Biggs	Miller Hall

LH—Lowe Hall MB—Main Building MH—Miller Hall MS—Music Suite
PH—Patterson Hall SC—Study Center WH—Westminster Hall YH—Youth House

SANCTUARY GUIDELINES

To help ensure the safety of our congregation, backpacks and large bags are not allowed in the sanctuary. If you come to church with a large bag, you will be asked to leave it in the Deacon's Closet in the sanctuary foyer and may retrieve it following the service. Also, please do not bring food or drinks (including travel mugs, water bottles, etc.) into the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK KICKOFF — AUGUST 14

There will be no Midweek this week, August 7. Plan to join us next week for our fall Midweek Kickoff on Wednesday August 14 on the church grounds. This event is well loved by our congregation each year as a time for eating good food, catching up with our church family, playing games, and marking the start of a new semester at Midweek. This is an ideal event to invite a friend, coworker, or neighbor. For more information visit fpcj.ms/midweek.

REGISTER NOW FOR A FALL D GROUP!

The fall semester of Midweek begins August 21 and is a great time to join a D Group! Each group will be working through a book of the Bible or a book study together, and there is a strong emphasis on fellowship and prayer for one another. If you've been wondering how to build deeper relationships in our large church, a D Group might be the place to start! Email discipleship@fpcjackson.org, and we'll be glad to connect you with one of our groups.

GRIEFSHARE MINISTRY — BEGINNING AUGUST 21

GriefShare is a ministry of support and encouragement for those grieving the death of a loved one. Using the Bible and the shared experience of others, participants will discover how to navigate the profound difficulties of bereavement. Our next 13-week GriefShare course will begin Wednesday, August 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. To register, please contact Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 or emilye@fpcjackson.org.

MOMS BIBLE STUDY

We hope you'll join us for MOMS this fall! This year we will have two options: one meeting every Wednesday morning and one meeting two Tuesday nights each month. MOMS is a Bible study for expectant moms, those who hope to become moms, and those whose youngest child is in the sixth grade or below. This semester, led by church member Jane Wiggins, we will study the first eleven chapters of Genesis. The book of Genesis reveals our beginnings, and the first eleven chapters answer some of our deepest questions. These chapters lay the foundation for our understanding of the rest of the Bible. Our study will reveal many doctrinal themes such as Creation, Sin, Marriage, the Sabbath, and Worship, among others. Our focus will be on our Creator God who is transcendent and personal and who has revealed His plan for our redemption in these opening chapters of Genesis. A nursery and homeschool room is available, but space is limited. Registration is available on the church website or app beginning August 1 at fpcj.ms/women. For more information, email moms@fpcjackson.org or momsatnight@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDIES

This year, we will have two Thursday Bible study options. One will begin September 12 studying the book of Hebrews. The other will begin on September 19 studying the stories of Ruth and Esther. A nursery is available by request at registration. Register online at fpcj.ms/women.

Hebrews: Jesus Is Better

In the book of Hebrews, God gives us a clear understanding of why Jesus is better—better than every possible thing you could put in His place. It warns us against the dangers of drifting from our first love and exhorts us to faithfulness and endurance by grounding us firmly in the supremacy of Christ as man's Way to God and as God's Word to man. This will be a small group discussion and large group lecture led by Melissa Abraham, Helen Lewis, Carol Ann Miconi, and Ella Payne.

Our Sovereign God: Ruth and Esther

Ruth and Esther were two very ordinary women who experienced God's amazing love and mercy in His sovereign work in their lives. This fall, we will study Ruth, and in the spring we will study Esther. The Book of Ruth is profoundly human, down to earth, and one we can all identify with at some point. It is the story of being battered by life's tragedies, calling to mind our own struggles and heartaches. But it is also a reminder of God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Ruth's loyalty, courage and faith make us want to be like her and live a life of faith, no matter what. This large group lecture will be led by Laura Husband.

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.

Josh & Liz Johnson – Josh serves as a church planter with MTW in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. email: josh.johnson@mtw.org

Ian & Katrina Clarke – Ian serves as an intern with RUF International at Northwestern University. email: ian.clarke@ruf.org

Jackson Leadership Foundation – JLF, supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, is a Christ-centered ministry seeking spiritual, social, and economic transformation in Jackson’s under-resourced communities through the empowerment of leaders, development of ministries, and networking of volunteers and donors.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betsy Rosenblatt by her husband, Steve, and their daughters and their families.

MISSIONARY REPORT — TONIGHT

In the evening service tonight, we are grateful for the opportunity to hear from Julian Bacon, who is serving with MTW in Belgium as a church planter. He is a part of the team under Daniel Brink. Come and hear how God is at work in Belgium!

CHURCHWIDE TEACHING THEME OPENING SESSION — AUGUST 18

Each year all our teaching and programs center around one theme in an effort to build unity of purpose in our large church and every department of our ministry. The theme is the central message and focus for the various ages and stages of our church, and we have been excitedly preparing to launch the 2024–2025 churchwide teaching theme! Make plans to join us Sunday, August 18, for the Opening Session of our new churchwide teaching theme! During the Sunday School hour, join us in Miller Hall for a special fellowship time. We’ll gather together to watch a video presentation on the theme, listen to remarks from David Strain, and receive information about the programs and initiatives we can look forward to in the coming teaching year. Children’s Sunday School classes (through fifth grade) will meet in their regular classrooms.

STEPHEN BIGGS ORDINATION & RECEPTION — AUGUST 11

Please make plans to join us for a special worship service as our Director of Students & Families, Stephen Biggs, will be ordained on Sunday, August 11, in the evening worship service. A reception will follow in Miller Hall.

MACLAIN KENNEDY — STUDENT MINISTRY ASSISTANT

We are pleased to welcome Maclain Kennedy to our full-time youth ministry staff. Maclain grew up in Jackson. For past five years she has studied at Ole Miss, first as an undergraduate student and then working on a master’s degree in Social Work. While studying for her master’s, Maclain also worked for a campus ministry called Cru.

SENIOR ADULTS LUNCHEON — AUGUST 16

Senior Adults, you are invited to a trivia lunch, August 16, at 11:30 a.m. in Patterson Hall. Join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and a lot of fun! We will start off with lunch, followed by an exciting game of trivia, and the preaching of God’s Word. The cost is \$5, to be paid at the event. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 or emilye@fpcjackson.org.

SERVE DAY 2024 — SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date for the third annual FPC Serve Day: October 12. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend the day with your church family serving our community!