

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Eighteenth 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. William E. Dempsey  
Congregational and Pastoral Care

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:1–12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Prelude — “Adagio” ..... Joseph Hector Fiocco  
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “The Lord Reigns” ..... Dale Wood

The Call to Worship — John 4:23–24

The Hymn No. 2 — “O Worship the King” (Psalm 104)

The Invocation

The Doxology .....tune: *Azmon*  
To God all glory, praise and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above the church in earth and heaven.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 527 — “The Beatitudes”

The New Testament Reading — Matthew 5:1–12.....pew Bible page 809

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “Be Still, My Soul” .....Jean Sibelius/Mack Wilberg, arr.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
in every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 48:9–11 .....pew Bible page 609

The Sermon — Devoted: Learning to Live for God's Glory ..... Dr. Strain  
Part I: God's Devotion to Himself

The Hymn No. 101 (stz. 1–3)— “Come, Thou Almighty King”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.**

The Postlude — “Prelude in Classic Style” ..... Gordon 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

**The Reverend Mr. Scott H. Miller**  
Young Adults and College Minister

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

The Prelude — “All Creatures of Our God and King” ...arr. Gail Ann Wasson

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 701 — “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!”

The Invocation

The Greetings

The Offering

\*The Offertory — “My Jesus I Love Thee” .....Adoniram Gordon

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 18:23–19:10..... pew Bible page 927

The Sermon — **Going to Rome: No Leap, but Faith**..... Mr. Lowry

The Hymn — “Before the Throne of God Above” ..... hymn sheet

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 (stz. 1–3) — “Here Is Love” ..... hymn sheet

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**In Your truth You still direct me, by Your Spirit, through Your word,  
And Your grace my need is meeting, as I trust in You my Lord.  
Of Your fulness You are pouring Your great love and power on me,  
Without measure, full and boundless, drawing out my heart to Thee.**

The Postlude

\*Children ages 4 to 3rd grade will be dismissed for a Children's Devotional after the offertory. Parents may pick them up in room 133 at the conclusion of the service.

“YOU SHALL BE HOLY,  
FOR I THE LORD YOUR GOD AM HOLY.”  
- LV. 19:2

# DEVOTED

LEARNING TO LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY

CHURCHWIDE TEACHING  
THEME 2024-2025



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
*Jackson, Mississippi*

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, August 18, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Churchwide Teaching Theme Opening Session .....	Miller Hall
9:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School .....	Regular 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)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight .....	the Ketchum Home (1073 Manship St.)

## Tuesday, August 20, 2024

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

## Wednesday, August 21, 2024

9:30 a.m.	GriefShare .....	Parlor
5:00–6:00 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.	Adult Midweek Programs	
	Devoted to God in a Digital Age with Dr. John Fesko.....	PH
	Membership Class.....	WH 204
	D Groups.....	Various
	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study .....	Session Room
	Don't Waste Your Life: Take Risks for Christ .....	WH 202B
	College D Group .....	Intern Suite
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs.....	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Junior High & Senior High D Groups.....	YH & Baird Center Gym

## Thursday, August 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
6:30–8:30 p.m.	Young Adults Kickoff .....	Belhaven Town Center

## Saturday, August 24, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast .....	PH
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## Sunday, August 25, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School .....	Various Locations
4:00 p.m.	Student Choir Kickoff .....	MS
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 Rutledge Home (101 Ridge St.)

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 FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN THIS WEEK

### *Devoted to God in a Digital Age with Dr. John Fesko*

Our first elective of this year's church-wide teaching theme will help us navigate how the challenge to live for God's glory applies in an increasingly online world.

### *Membership Class*

This 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.

### *D Groups*

This fall, each D 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.

### *Prayer Meeting & Bible Study*

Join this group in the vital practice of praying together for our church body and its ministries, our community, and our mission.

### *Don't Waste Your Life: Take Risks for Christ*

In this Evangelism 101 elective, you will learn to make the most of every opportunity to share Jesus with others.

### *College D Group*

College students, join us for dinner 5–6 p.m. and a small group gathering at 6 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Midweek Dinner is free for any college student involved in one of our Midweek programs. Any other college student can eat for \$4.

### *Children's Choirs*

Believing that music is very important in God's design of worship, our children's choirs teach children to love to sing and be able to sing comfortably and intelligently in worship all their lives.

### *Student Ministry D Groups*

Our Youth Ministry Midweek programs meet in the Youth House as well as the Baird Center Gym for Bible study and hang out time.

## 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. A nursery and homeschool room is available, but space is limited. Register on the church website at [fpcj.ms/women](http://fpcj.ms/women). For more information, email [moms@fpcjackson.org](mailto:moms@fpcjackson.org) or [momsatnight@gmail.com](mailto:momsatnight@gmail.com).

## WOMEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDIES

This year, we 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 online at [fpcj.ms/women](http://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 small group discussion and large group lecture will be led by Melissa Abraham, Helen Lewis, Carol Ann Miconi, and Ella Payne.

### *Our Sovereign God: Ruth and Esther*

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](mailto:jollynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Graham & Emily Guo** – Graham serves with MTW as the Campus Minister at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. email: [graham.guo@mtw.org](mailto:graham.guo@mtw.org)

**James & Missy Ritchey** – James serves as a church planter at River City Reformed in Little Rock, Arkansas. email: [jamesritchey28@gmail.com](mailto:jamesritchey28@gmail.com)

**Pioneer Ministries** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, this ministry prepares boys and girls spiritually, educationally and emotionally to serve Christ in their communities as contributing citizens. Pioneer also envisions helping married couples to acquire relationship skills that will produce stable homes in a fast-changing world. email: [pminis3659@aol.com](mailto:pminis3659@aol.com)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Mrs. Jane M. Baird — August 5, 2024

Ms. Peggy Blake — August 11, 2024

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Gwenette and Jack Robertson by their family.

## **EVENING COMMUNION — TONIGHT**

Communion will be observed in the evening worship service tonight. Please begin prayerfully preparing your hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Professionally prepared, gluten-free elements are available on the table on the south wall of the Greeting Courtyard.

## **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](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## **YOUNG ADULTS KICKOFF — AUGUST 22**

Young Adults, join us as we kick off the fall semester, Thursday, August 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Terrace at the Belhaven Town Center.

## **STUDENT CHOIR KICKOFF — AUGUST 25**

Sixth–twelfth graders, please join at our beginning of the year Student Choir kickoff, Sunday, August 25, at 4 p.m., in the Music Suite. Please join us, old and new, to fellowship together in song! The afternoon will conclude with dinner and dessert, to be served prior to the evening service. We hope to see you there. Please do bring a friend!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 1**

Sunday, September 1, all children's Sunday School classes will be promoted to their new grades. During Sunday School, children from two-years old through sixth grade will sing, hear a Bible lesson, and learn Bible and Catechism memory work. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 10:40 a.m. If you would like to volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Kimberly Wilkins at [kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kimberlyw@fpcjackson.org) or 769-230-3626.

## **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!