

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

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

The Reverend Dr. Rupert Hunt Taylor
Discipleship Director

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:6-12

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

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

The Prelude — “Sing Praise to Our Creator” Kevin Norris
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “With a Voice of Singing”

The Call to Worship — Psalm 29:1-2

The Hymn No. 184 — “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The Invocation

The Doxology

Glory be to the Father. Glory be to Christ the Son.

Glory to the Holy Spirit One in Three and Three in One

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to the Trinity.

The Prayer of Confession

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.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 30 — “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

The Scripture Reading — Matthew 5:21–26.....pew Bible page 810

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “God Thou Art Love” Robert Browning/Craig Courtney

If I forget, yet God remembers. If these hands of mine cease from
their clinging, yet the hands divine hold me so firmly I cannot fall.
And if sometimes I am too tired to call for Him to help me,
then He reads the prayer unspoken in my heart and lifts my care.

I dare not fear since certainly I know that I am in God's keeping,
shielded so, from all that else would harm, and in the hour of
stern temptation, strengthened by His power.

I tread no path in life to Him unknown; I lift no burden, bear no pain, alone;
My soul, a calm, sure hiding place has found; the everlasting Arms my life surround.

God, Thou art love! I build my faith on that, I know Thee who has
kept my path, and made light for me in the darkness, tempering sorrow
so that it reached me like a solemn joy.
It were too strange that I should doubt Thy love.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Leviticus 3:1–17.....pew Bible page 82

The Sermon — Drawing Near to God: Peace..... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 247 (stz. 1–2) — “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

The Postlude — “Song of Zechariah”arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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. Jennings L. Duncan — Congregational Care Intern

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

The Recognition of the Children's Catechism Recitation

The Prelude — "Take My Life and Let It Be".....Malan / arr. Wolaver
Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 343 — "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 457 — "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Dr. Jimmy Moore, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — "Give Me Jesus" arr. Rouse

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

Q19. What else did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?

A. He gave them souls that will last forever.

Q20. Do you have a soul as well as a body?

A. Yes. And my soul is going to last forever.

Q21. How do you know your soul will last forever?

A. Because the Bible tells me so.

* The Meditation & PrayerDr. Charlie Wingard, Minister of Shepherding

The Hymn (stz. 1-2) — "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Acts 20:17-38 pew Bible page 929

The Sermon — Going to Rome: Clouds on the Horizon..... 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 nor loss,
My sinful self, my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

The Postlude

*Children ages 4 through 3rd 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.

CATECHISM RECITATION

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." -Psalm 119:11

This evening, James Myer Sumrall and Morgan Lee Sumrall will receive their Bibles for recitation of *The Children's Catechism*, which consists of 150 questions and answers.

Catechism memory work begins at FPC with the *Children's Catechism* in three-year-old Sunday School. That study continues throughout children's Sunday School and the Catechism Class on Sunday Evenings. The Catechism is a summary of what the Bible teaches in systematic question and answer form. Committing it to memory is invaluable in the life of a believer, as it helps to build a solid foundation for a life of faith.

GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

AUGUST 2024

As we consider First Presbyterian Church's teaching theme of Devoted, please consider incorporating this stewardship thought into your daily prayers: "Lord, help me today to use my gifts, talents, time, energy, relationships, experience, and enthusiasm for the glory of Your name and for the good of others in making disciples for You."

As you can see below, 2024 has been a year of strong giving so far — to FPC Ministry, to Missions, and to FPC's Debt Retirement Fund. Thank you so much for your faithful acts of devotion to God through giving!

FPC MINISTRY

	AUGUST 2024	YEAR TO DATE
GIVING	\$597,505	\$4,308,429
EXPENSES	\$631,632	\$5,406,495
BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$690,109	\$5,601,995
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(\$34,127)	(\$1,098,066)

MISSIONS

	AUGUST 2024	YEAR TO DATE JAN-AUG 2024
GIVING	\$78,787	\$670,266
EXPENSES	\$123,150	\$673,385
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(\$44,363)	(\$3,119)

FPC DEBT RETIREMENT UPDATE

Between 2020 and 2023, FPC invested in several ministry priorities: the construction of the Baird Center Gym and auditorium for the use of both the church and FPDS; the construction of the church Welcome Center and space reorganization project for both the church and FPDS; and planning for ministry-operational needs of Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. Since 2020, over \$3,600,000 has been given specifically for these projects! Thank you so much for your self-sacrificial generosity, over and above your regular offerings, in support of these ministry priorities.

FPC is continuing to service the indebtedness for the loan that was used to fund these initiatives. Our current debt stands at \$5,224,900. This loan has a maturity date of August 2030. This debt is presently serviced through gifts specifically designated for the FPC Debt Retirement Fund, which has a current balance of \$695,713, of which \$72,000 has been given thus far in 2024. The church is using these funds to make principal and interest payments. When and if the balance in this fund is fully utilized, the church will be required to make debt service payments from funds provided in the annual budget. Any gift to the FPC Debt Retirement Fund minimizes the financial impact of debt service on future budgets of the church.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 22, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
11 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 202A
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship (age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes)	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Donna Dobbs Retirement Reception	MH
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Jordan Home (9 Pond Side Dr.)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

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

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study	MH
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	MH
	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	WH 302
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Junior High & Senior High D Groups	YH & Baird Center Gym
7:10 p.m.	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Thursday, September 26, 2024

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Hebrews: Jesus Is Better	PH
9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Ruth & Esther: Our Sovereign God	MH
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Bookstore

Saturday, September 28, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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Sunday, September 29, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
11 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 202A
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship (age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes)	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Ball Home (418 Hampton Ct.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACORN FUND

It is the start of a new school year for First Presbyterian Day School, a ministry of our church! Please be in prayer for the 600 students who fill the halls of our building each school day, and as you are able, consider a gift to the FPDS Acorn Fund. The Acorn Fund is our school's new annual fund and another way you as a church member can support the ministry of the school. Gifts to the Acorn Fund benefit each and every student, as the school uses your gifts to recruit and retain the best teachers, provide academic excellence, and keep tuition competitive. Most importantly, a gift to the Acorn Fund is your opportunity to partner with FPDS as we grow our children from acorns of faith into "oaks of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:3). A gift to the Acorn Fund can be made at fpds.org/give, through the church app by selecting "Acorn Fund," or by mailing a check made payable to First Presbyterian Day School—Acorn Fund to 1390 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST SERIES

FPC men are invited to join us this fall semester for our Tuesday Men's Breakfast, which meets through October 22, at 6:30 a.m. Join us for a big breakfast and fellowship across age and stage, followed by a study of the Sermon on the Mount in conjunction with our churchwide teaching theme, Devoted: Learning to Live for God's Glory, led by David Strain. Sign up online at fpcj.ms/men to pay for breakfast and buy breakfast for your guest!

SMART GIVING WORKSHOP — OCTOBER 3

FPC is excited to host a Smart Giving Workshop in partnership with the PCA Foundation on October 3 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. with dinner provided. The PCA Foundation's mission is to enable Christians to give more and more effectively to advance the Kingdom. FPC is hosting this seminar in order to equip members of our congregation with information on effective ways to support gospel-ministry, both in the long-term and the short-term. At this workshop, an experienced gift strategist will provide an introduction to estate planning concepts and tools, and show participants how to maximize how much they can give for Kingdom impact by employing tax efficient giving strategies. Register at fpcj.ms/events.

SENIOR ADULTS DAY TRIP – OCTOBER 18

Senior Adults, experience a day of fellowship and enjoy all that New Orleans has to offer. As part of the itinerary, you can expect a tour of The National WWII Museum. Then, wind down over a delicious lunch. We will depart from the church campus at 7 a.m. and depart from New Orleans by 5:30 p.m. To register for the event please email the Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care Emily Eastman at ccare@fpcjackson.org or call her office at 769-572-3535. The cost is \$25 and is payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please plan to bring money for your meal.

FPDS PRIORITY ENROLLMENT

Priority registration for FPDS siblings and First Presbyterian Church Jackson members ends on October 15. This applies to NEW students who will be in grades K3 through 6th in the 2024–2025 school year. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. If you have questions, contact Camille Hassell at chassell@fpds.org. To apply visit fpds.org/admissions/apply-now.

Applications for the Early Childhood program are accepted at all times, with FPDS siblings and FPCJ members receiving priority when spots become available. We are grateful to have a large amount of excitement surrounding our program. If you would like to join the waitlist or would like to learn more about the Early Childhood program, please contact Swayze Pentecost at spentecost@fpds.org.

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 Deacons' 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

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.

Laura Chinchen – Laura serves with ABC Christian Academy as the Director of Ministry and the superintendent of the school. email: chincentribe@hotmail.com.

Wright & Elizabeth Busching – Wright serves as the church planter/pastor at University Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida. email: wright@upctampa.com

Gateway Rescue Mission – Supported through Mission to Jackson, Gateway offers life-changing hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ to homeless men, women and children through programs to deliver food, shelter, counseling, and discipleship.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Richard “Dick” Johnson — September 10, 2024

FLOWERS

Today’s sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of William and Diane Carroll by the Flower Committee of First Presbyterian Church.

DEVOTED: LEARNING TO LIVE FOR GOD’S GLORY

This year, our churchwide teaching theme calls us to devote our hearts to the only One who is worthy of our worship and praise, to the One who is before all things and in whom all things are held together. The Bible teaches us that we were created to glorify God. Every aspect of our lives, from the big moments to the mundane daily tasks, should be directed to the glory of our Creator and Lord. That is our life purpose! We are called to “take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ” and pursue holiness in every endeavor. This is not a pursuit of perfect performance but a response to the grace we have been shown by the One who is truly holy. For more information, to watch the Devoted video, read Devoted prayers, and to get started with the Devoted reading list, visit fpcj.ms/devoted.

COLLEGE LUNCH — TODAY

College students, join us for a free lunch today after the 11 a.m. worship service hosted at the home of David & Sheena Strain. Contact Peyton for more information or if you need a ride at 205-613-1059.

DONNA DOBBS RETIREMENT RECEPTION — TONIGHT

Please join us tonight following the evening worship service in Miller Hall as we celebrate with Donna Dobbs as she prepares to retire after 37 years of ministry at FPC.

SERVE DAY 2024 — REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration is now open for the third annual FPC Serve Day: October 12. The morning will start at FPC at 7:30 for breakfast, fellowship, and a commissioning. We will have projects for all ages and all skill levels. Register online at fpcj.ms/events and let us know your top three choices of service projects.

MTJ SUNDAY — OCTOBER 13

We are excited to announce our first ever MTJ Sunday. MTJ, or Mission to Jackson, refers to the local ministries that FPC supports financially. MTJ Sunday will be a day to learn how we can glorify God through the work of local missions. Our partners from around the city will be here to tell us about how the Lord is working through the ministries our church supports and share hands-on ways we can serve. We will have updates from ministry partners in the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services, and the Sunday School hour will be focused on local ministry as well. Each of our supported ministries will have an information table set up at our ministry fair in the Welcome Center. We look forward to learning more ways to share the gospel in our community and serve our neighbors.