

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

The Reverend Mr. Jonathan L. Cruse
Community Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan

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

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:7-12

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 — “Come Ye Sinners” Albert Travis
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

The Call to Worship — Romans 11:33-12:1

The Hymn No. 1 — “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (Psalm 100)

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology W. Wymond

All glory, laud, and honor to You, Redeemer King.
We lift our voice in worship, together praise we sing.
You made the earth, the heavens, the stars, the seas, all things
Now, joyfully, Lord Jesus Christ, our hearts to You we bring.

WELCOMING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis
The Introduction of New Members
The Questions of Membership
The Prayer
The Declaration
The Blessing

The Offering

The Offertory — “It Is Well” Mack Wilberg

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
‘It is well, it is well, with my soul.’

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control;
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
It is well, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well, with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Psalm 130pew Bible page 518

The Sermon — Deep Sin, Plentiful Redemption Mr. Cruse

The Hymn No. 198 (stz. 1-5) — “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” (Psalm 24)

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.**

The Postlude — “Amazing Grace” 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.

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

This week we have the happy occasion to receive new members into our church family during the morning worship service.

QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope, save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our fellowship on October 6, 2024, and are being presented to the congregation during the morning worship services today. Please welcome them warmly.

Emily Alford

Chris and Devin Banchemo (Porter, Shep, and Penelope)

Caroline Bird

Sarah Brister

Miriam Cochran

Richard and Harper Coleman (Sam)

Haley Cushing (Ava)

William and McKenzie Garrard

Paula Greer

Mary Ann Haralson

Hunter and Amelia Manning

Sam and Marjory Slattery (Jackson and Felicity)

Sam Sockett

() Children joining as non-communing members

JOIN FPC!

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that the next date to join is December 1. New member forms can be found online at fpcj.ms/membership or in the greeting courtyard outside the sanctuary. Forms are due by November 20. If you have any questions about the membership process at FPC, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.

GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The idea of giving your “firstfruits” to God is threaded throughout Scripture—in the story of Cain and Abel, in the law recorded in Leviticus, and even in the writings of Paul. The heart of the teaching is this: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce” (Proverbs 3:9). God is teaching us that the first and highest use of our treasure, as with every aspect of our lives, is to bring glory to Him.

FPC MINISTRY

	AUGUST 2024	YEAR TO DATE
GIVING	\$513,578	\$4,822,008
EXPENSES	\$695,355	\$6,101,850
BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$696,696	\$6,298,692
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(\$181,777)	(\$1,279,842)

MISSIONS

	AUGUST 2024	YEAR TO DATE JAN-AUG 2024
GIVING	\$47,970	\$718,236
EXPENSES	\$128,520	\$801,905
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(\$80,550)	(\$83,669)

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, October 27, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age three and four by Sept. 1)	M135
12:30 p.m.	College Lunch.....	The Flatgard Home (214 Silas Trace, Ridgeland)
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.	Reformation Day Worship Service	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Children's Reformation Program....	Dismissed from the Sanctuary (for age four through third grade)

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

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
6:00 p.m.	MOMS at Night Bible Study.....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, October 30, 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	
	Portraits of Devotion	MH
	Engaged & Newlywed 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, October 31, 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

Saturday, November 2, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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Sunday, November 3, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age three and four 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	Sanctuary (age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE SUNDAY — NOVEMBER 17

On November 17, our entire church will come together for One Sunday: one Sunday school, one worship service, and a church-wide lunch. Don't miss this special day in the life of our church as we celebrate the work God is doing at First Pres through your giving and generosity! Save the date and plan to be with us!

One Sunday kicks off Stewardship season at our church, which is a time to reflect on God's abundant provision for us as individuals and as a church family and to look forward to how He will use our gifts and offerings to further His Kingdom here on North State Street, in our communities, and the world.

Church members will receive a Stewardship Guide in the mail in the coming weeks to use as we prepare for One Sunday. The guide contains helpful materials as we plan our giving in 2025. With the Stewardship Guide, you will also find our new One Card. FPC wants to partner with you in planning how you will steward your time, talent, and treasure to FPC Ministry and to Missions in 2025 using the One Card! Return the One Card on One Sunday (or submit it online) as an act of worship so that FPC can partner with you in your personal accountability this coming year!

THANKSGIVING GATHERING

Gather with your church family this Thanksgiving Day! Our deacons are sponsoring a Thanksgiving Dinner for those in our congregation who may be unable to gather with family and loved ones this year. We will gather for an informal Thanksgiving service at 11 a.m. in Miller Hall, followed by the meal at 11:45. The church will provide the meat, and those who attend may bring sides and desserts. Bring a dish that serves at least eight people to ensure that there is enough for everyone. Please call Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 to sign up and let us know what you'd like to bring. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to join us, as well. They'll be more than welcome!

COVERING OUR CHILDREN IN PRAYER

Each year, every Adult Sunday School class at FPC commits to pray for a Children's or Youth Sunday School class. Ask your Sunday School president for the list of children with whom your class is paired. Over the course of the year, we ask that the adults focus on praying for their assigned children – both in class and at home. Covering Our Children in Prayer unites our entire church body from babies to adults through prayer. We are praying that God will bring more of our babies, children, and teens to hear, believe, and obey His gospel.

CRATES FOR UKRAINE

FPC Jackson is once again assembling crates of supplies to be sent to the war relief efforts in Ukraine. Our whole presbytery is involved, and our goal is to send at least 46 crates to Ukraine. Each crate will cost approximately \$2,500. This time, we've made it easier than ever! No purchasing of specific items is required, and you can give to FPC with the memo "Ukraine Relief," and we will take care of making the purchases, packing the crates, and delivering them to Dallas! Give online at fpcj.ms/give.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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, BRETHERN, PRAY FOR US...”

For detailed prayer requests and contact information for our supported missionaries and ministry partners, please contact Jo Lynn at jollynm@fpcjackson.org.

Trey & Kiki Adams – Trey serves with MTW as the team leader/church planter in South East Asia. email: archadams@gmail.com

Mark & Stephanie Horn – Mark serves as a church planter at Hope Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs. email: masthorn@icloud.com

Pioneer Ministries – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, Pioneer is a ministry whose purpose is to prepare boys and girls spiritually, educationally and emotionally to serve Christ in their communities as contributing citizens, and to help married couples acquire relationship skills that will produce stable homes in a fast-changing world. email: pminis3659@aol.com

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret and Bill Cook by their daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth Cook.

COLLEGE LUNCH — TODAY

College students, join us for a free lunch today following the 11 a.m. worship service hosted at the home of Spence and Lou Ann Flatgard (214 Silas Trace in Ridgeland). Contact Peyton for more information or if you need a ride at 205-613-1059.

REFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICE — TONIGHT

First Presbyterian Church and Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church will host a special Reformation Sunday service for the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley, tonight, at 6 p.m. Jonathan Cruse will preach, and we will have a special program for children (age four-third grade).

Jonathan Cruse

Jonathan Landry Cruse is the pastor of Community Presbyterian Church (OPC) in Kalamazoo, MI, where he lives with his wife and children. He also serves as an editor for *Modern Reformation* magazine and is the author of several books, including *Church Membership* and *The Character of Christ: The Fruit of the Spirit in the Life of Our Saviour*.

MEN’S NIGHT AT THE CREEKMORES’ — NOVEMBER 7

Men, plan to join us for our annual tradition, Men’s Night at Creekmores’, on Thursday, November 7 from 6–8 p.m. We look forward to some great food and a relaxed time of fellowship as we gather on this beautiful property. For questions or more details, email discipleship@fpcjackson.org.

BAPTISM — NOVEMBER 10

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, November 10. Spaces are available for both services. To make a reservation, please contact Emily Eastman at emilye@fpcjackson.org.

VETERANS DAY

In honor of our veterans, we will display a slideshow of our past and present veterans in the Welcome Center on Veterans’ Day. If you have a picture that you would like to be included, please email it to ccare@fpcjackson.org with the name of the veteran pictured.

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.