

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

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

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:13–18

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

The Prelude — “God’s Time Is Best” J.S. Bach
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “Almighty God of Our Fathers” Will James

The Call to Worship — Psalm 135:1–2, 19–21

The Hymn No. 168 — “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

The Invocation

The Doxology (tune: *Old Hundredth*)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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. 257 — “Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

The Scripture Reading — Matthew 6:1–4.....pew Bible page 811

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed” Dan Forrest

Alas and did my Savior bleed? And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty maker died for man, the creature's sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love, beyond degree.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Leviticus 8:1–36.....pew Bible page 86

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

The Hymn No. 242 (stz. 1-2)— “Not All the Blood of Beasts” (tune: *St. Thomas*)

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice, and sing His bleeding love.

The Postlude — “Now Thank We All Our God” Albert L. Travis

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.

GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

OCTOBER 2024

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Faith in God reorders the priorities of our life—once you begin to see that theme, you find it threaded throughout Scripture. Consider how the author of Hebrews holds up Moses as an example of a man who treasured the eternal over worldly riches: “By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.” (Hebrews 11:24–26)

FPC MINISTRY

| | OCTOBER 2024 | YEAR TO DATE |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| BUDGETED EXPENSES | \$ 705,244 | \$ 7,003,935 |
| ACTUAL EXPENSES | \$ 721,653 | \$ 6,823,503 |
| GIVING | \$ 620,763 | \$ 5,442,771 |
| NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) ACTUAL EXPENSES | (\$ 100,890) | (\$ 1,380,732) |

MISSIONS

| | OCTOBER 2024 | YEAR TO DATE JAN-OCT 2024 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------|
| EXPENSES | \$ 72,649 | \$ 874,554 |
| GIVING | \$ 62,487 | \$ 780,723 |
| NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES | (\$ 10,162) | (\$ 93,831) |

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY TOWARDS DEBT RETIREMENT!

FPC was thankful to receive over \$60,000 towards debt retirement in the month of October! These gifts, along with any made specifically towards the “FPC Debt Retirement Fund,” are used to pay down our church’s debt sooner than planned and will enable us in boldly planning future ministry! Thank you so much for your self-sacrificial generosity towards these important priorities.

The church’s debt is reflective of several recent projects taken on by FPC since 2020: 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 for both the church and FPDS; and planning for ministry-operational needs of Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. Since their commencement, \$3,693,288 has been given specifically for these projects! The current remaining debt stands at \$5,224,900, and the loan has a maturity date of August 2030.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

Mr. William Grant Carter
Students and Families Intern

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

The Prelude — “Sanctus” F. Schubert, Arr. Sanduleac
Tim Sanduleac, Piano

The Call to Worship — Isaiah 43:1–3

The Hymn — “I Will Glory in My Redeemer” hymn sheet

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 53 — “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Mr. Marcus Wilson, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “What Grace Is Mine” Getty
Aly Davis, Soprano; Tim Sanduleac, Piano

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

Q36. Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of life? **A. No. He represented the whole human race.**

Q37. What effect did the sin of Adam have on you and all people? **A. We are all born guilty and sinful.**

Q38. How sinful are you by nature? **A. I am corrupt in every part of my being.**

Q39. What is the sinful nature that we inherit from Adam called? **A. Original sin.**

Q40. Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature? **A. No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.**

* The Meditation & Prayer ...Mr. William Skinner, Senior Minister’s & Discipleship Intern

The Hymn (stz. 1–3)— “O, Church Arise” hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 27 pew Bible page 936

The Sermon — Going to Rome: A Perfect Storm Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, retelling triumphs of His grace,
we hear their calls, and hunger for the day when with Christ we stand in Glory.**

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.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 24, 2024

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Services..... | 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 202A |
| 5:00 p.m. | Prayer for Global Missions..... | Parlor |
| 6:00 p.m. | Evening Worship Service | Sanctuary (age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes) |
| 7:30 p.m. | Senior High Insight | the Fesko Home (108 Charlestowne Sq.) |

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

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| 10:00 a.m. | Men's Bible Study | WH 305 |
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Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Church Office Closed
No Midweek Activities or Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 2024

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| | Church Office Closed | |
| 11:00 a.m. | Thanksgiving Service..... | MH |
| 11:45 a.m. | Thanksgiving Dinner..... | MH |

Friday, November 29, 2024

Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 30, 2024

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| 7:30 a.m. | Men's Prayer Breakfast | PH |
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Sunday, Decemer 1, 2024

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|-------------------|--|--|
| 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Services..... | Sanctuary |
| 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School | Various Locations |
| 9:45 a.m. | Step into Scripture: Live Nativity | Belhaven St. Field |
| 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 Member 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 Service | Sanctuary (age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes) |
| 7:30 p.m. | Senior High Hymn Sing..... | Highlands Presbyterian Church |

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

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM FPC

Christmas events provide a winsome opportunity to welcome friends and neighbors to interact with our church family and hear (and even sing!) the good news of Jesus with us. Christmas Cards with FPC Christmas events printed on the back are available in the Welcome Center for you to send a hand-written invitation as a neighborly outreach. Please be praying about whom you may invite to join you at one of our gatherings!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 10

Waiting for the Morning

We know that the Christian life is not one guaranteed to be free from pain and suffering; scripture tells us that. Bookstores are filled with volumes that are supposed to help us with our grief and sadness, but there is only one place that we can go for help and healing. Join us on Tuesday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m., as Janis Miller takes us on her journey of great loss and grief and the deeper relationship with Christ that came as a result. The cost of the meal is \$10 and will be paid at the door. A nursery is available. Please register online at fpcj.ms/events to help us plan!

MEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH — DECEMBER 11

We hope you'll plan now to join us for our annual Men's Ministry Christmas Lunch on December 11, at 12 p.m. in Miller Hall. We are grateful to host Ligon Duncan, Chancellor/CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary, as our guest speaker. There will be no cost for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

CAROLS AT BELHAVEN TOWN CENTER — DECEMBER 13

Mark your calendars for Carols at the Town Center on December 13 from 6-8 p.m. This will be a neighborhood Christmas gathering with free hot chocolate and sweets, live music, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and fun! While there, please be on the lookout to welcome unfamiliar faces to be a part of our festivities. For more info, visit fpcj.ms/events.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

At VBS this past summer, our children packed approximately 250 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. During the months of November and December, our Children's Sunday School offering will go towards the shipping costs of these boxes.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT — JANUARY 17-20

Senior High students, don't miss the annual Winter Retreat to Alpine Camp for Boys, January 17-20. We will hear from Ben Griffith as we give our students a weekend to relax and focus on God's Word, in a beautiful setting. The Early Bird deadline to register is December 6 and the final deadline to register is January 3. Register online at fpcj.ms/winter-retreat.

2025 MISSIONS CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATE

February 23 – March 2

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.

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, BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US...”

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

Jonathan & Maggie I – Jonathan serves as the International Director for MTW Asia-Pacific.

Davis & Ashleigh Morgan – Davis serves with Reformed University Fellowship as the Campus Minister at the University of Southern Mississippi. email: davis.morgan@ruf.org

PEARSON Foundation – Supported through Mission to Jackson, PEARSON provides mentorship and discipleship to students through in-school mentoring, faith-based community mentoring in cooperation with the Rankin County Juvenile Court, after school activities and summer learning & enrichment. email: pearson39208@gmail.com

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Jo McAnally by her family.

THANKSGIVING GATHERING

Don't have plans on Thanksgiving? We would love to have you join us for Thanksgiving Dinner! Our deacons are hosting a Thanksgiving gathering for anyone who is able to come! Join us for an informal Thanksgiving service at 11 a.m. in Miller Hall, followed by Thanksgiving Dinner at 11:45 a.m. 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 come along. They'll be more than welcome!

LOVE'S PURE LIGHT — BEGINNING DECEMBER 1

Join us for our Advent sermon series, Sunday mornings, December 1–22, and December 24 (at 4 p.m.). Senior Minister, David Strain, will delve in to the first chapter of the Book of John as we see the advent of Christ as “Love's Pure Light.” Make plans to be with us as we prepare to celebrate the advent of the “light of the world!”

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE — DECEMBER 1

Children are invited to Step into Scripture and experience the Christmas Story with a live animal nativity, Sunday, December 1, during the Sunday School hour, 9:45–10:30 a.m., at the Belhaven Street field, next to the Belhaven Street parking lot.

SENIOR HIGH HYMN SING — DECEMBER 1

Senior High students, please join with students from area churches for a hymn sing at Highlands Presbyterian Church on December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

ALL THINGS NEW TOY AND BIBLE DRIVE

Share the love of Christ this Christmas season by providing a gift for the child of an inmate with our ministry partner, All Things New. As you are out Christmas shopping, pick up an extra toy to give through this ministry. You may purchase a Bible from the Bookstore at the wholesale price of \$10. Drop off your gifts in the bin located outside the Bookstore by December 6.

GATEWAY CHRISTMAS PARTY — CALLING ALL BAKERS

FPC will celebrate Christmas and serve lunch to the men of the “New Life” program of Gateway Rescue Mission on Monday, December 9. We're asking the congregation for donations of homemade goodies/pick-up desserts or savory snacks to serve that day. Please drop off on Friday, December 6 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. OR on Sunday, December 8, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The drop-off will be located on the first floor of the Study Center, under the stairs near the drink machines.