

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"

THE LORD'S DAY

The First Day of December 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
Minister of Congregational and Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:13-18

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 — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”Duane Funderburk
Bonnie Brown, Violin; Nancy Bateman, Cello; Rae Shannon, Piano

The Introit — “Worthy Is the Lamb” G. F. Handel

The Call to Worship — Isaiah 40:9-11

The Hymn No. 193 — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

The Invocation

The Doxology

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 225 — “Once in Royal David’s City”

The Scripture Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7.....pew Bible page 573

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “And the Glory of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:5) G. F. Handel
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Reading — John 1:1-4.....pew Bible page 886

The Sermon — Love’s Pure Light: Word..... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 195 (stz. 1-3)— “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” (Psalm 98)

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love.**

The Postlude — “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Wilbur Held

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.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
FROM

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DEC
1

LIVE
NATIVITY

9:45-10:30 a.m.

DEC
1

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS
EVENING WORSHIP

6 p.m.

DEC
1

SENIOR HIGH
HYMN SING

7:30 p.m.

DEC
3

MOMS AT NIGHT
CHRISTMAS DINNER

6-8 p.m.

DEC
4

MOMS CHRISTMAS
BRUNCH

11:30 a.m.

DEC
5

JUNIOR HIGH
HOUSE HOP

5-7 p.m.

DEC
6

SENIOR ADULTS
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

11:30 a.m.

DEC
10

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

DEC
10

YOUNG ADULTS
ADVENT FELLOWSHIP

7 p.m.

DEC
11

MEN'S CHRISTMAS
LUNCH

12 p.m.

DEC
13

CAROLS AT BELHAVEN
TOWN CENTER

6-8 p.m.

DEC
21

BOOKSTORE
OPEN HOUSE

9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DEC
22

MUSIC OF
CHRISTMAS

4 & 6 p.m.

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE

4 p.m.

DEC
29

FAMILY
HYMN SING

9:45 a.m.

For more information about
all of our events
visit fpcj.ms/events.



EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

The Reverend Mr. Stephen A. Biggs
Minister of Students and Families

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

The Prelude — “Carol of the Bells” arr. Monday
The FPDS Strings; Nancy Bateman, Director

The Call to Worship — Isaiah 9:2

The Hymn No. 201 — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Invocation

The Children’s Choirs Christmas Musical Offering

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Four and Five Year Old Choir; Bubbles Delfin, Director

The First and Second Grade Choir; Caitlin Vickery, Director

Joy Graves, Piano

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Mr. Bill Stone, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Joy to the World”

Third–Fifth Grade Choir; Beth Archer, Director; Jennie Statom, Piano

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

Q41. What is this change of heart called? **A. The new birth, or regeneration.**

Q42. Who can change a sinner’s heart? **A. The Holy Spirit alone.**

* The Meditation & Prayer...Mr. Billy Dempsey, Minister of Congregational & Pastoral Care

The Hymn No. 207 (stz. 1–2)— “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Acts 28:1–15..... pew Bible page 937

The Sermon — **Going to Rome: And to Rome We Came**..... Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice

Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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, December 1, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	WH 305
6:00 p.m.	MOMS at Night Christmas Dinner	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study Christmas Brunch	MH
	No Midweek Activities or Dinner	
5:50 pm.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS

Thursday, December 5, 2024

5-7 p.m.	Junior High House Hop	Pond Side Dr. Cul-de-sac
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Friday, December 6, 2024

11:30 a.m.	Senior Adults Christmas Luncheon.....	PH
7:30 p.m.	Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree	Belhaven

Saturday, December 7, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
7:30 p.m.	Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree	Belhaven

Sunday, December 8, 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)

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 shoe boxes 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.

FAMILIES COUNT

Our next Families Count class, held during the Midweek timeslot, is scheduled to begin January 8, and will run for six weeks. Through Families Count, FPC has been given tools and the opportunity to share the gospel with and walk alongside parents in our community who are seeking to be restored with their children, or are seeking permanency with them. Volunteer needs for the upcoming class include transportation, support, and childcare. We're also seeking to grow our number of trained facilitators for future classes. If you have an interest in learning more, please contact Carol Anne Miconi at 601-506-5033 or carolannem@fpcjackson.org.

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.

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 jolynn@fpcjackson.org.

Coby & Pamela McGinty – Coby serves with MTW at the University of Cape Town in South Africa in various areas of campus ministry (developing leaders, training student workers, discipleship and counseling). email: coby@mcginty.com

Sam Stackler – Sam serves with RUF as an intern at the University of California at Berkeley. Sam served on staff with Twin Lakes for three summers. email: sam.stackler@ruf.org

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. email: rbaker@gatewaymission.org or mlott@gatewaymission.org

LOVE’S PURE LIGHT — BEGINNING TODAY

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!”

CHILDREN’S CHOIRS SINGING TONIGHT

The children’s choirs will be singing in the evening service tonight. The Fours and Fives and the First and Second Grade Choirs will sing “Angels, We Have Heard on High” together. The Third through Fifth Grade Choir will sing “Joy To the World.” We hope you join us to hear our children help lead us in worship!

GATEWAY EVENING CHAPEL — DECEMBER 3

FPC will lead Gateway’s evening chapel service on Tuesday, December 3. Any and all are invited to join us in celebrating our King with men in Gateway’s New Life Program! Please come at 4:15 p.m. if you would like to help serve the meal. Chapel will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will include preaching by Stephen Biggs and singing Christmas carols, with all being finished by 6 p.m. or before.

SENIOR ADULTS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 6

Senior Adults, join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun on December 6, at 11:30 a.m. in Patterson Hall. We will start off with a lunch followed by the judging and awarding of the best Ugly Christmas Sweater and the preaching of God’s Word. The cost of the event is \$3 per person. We are asking all attendees to bring your best Christmas dish! Last names starting with letters A–H bring a dessert and those with G–Z bring a side. The main dish will be honey ham provided by the church. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 or emilye@fpcjackson.org.

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.