

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Eighth 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. David L. Felker  
Executive Minister

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 5:13-18

<sup>13</sup> “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.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> “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. <sup>18</sup> 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 — “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” ..... Paul S. Jones  
Bonnie Brown, Violin; Rae Shannon, Piano

The Introit — “Sing Choirs of Angels” ..... Wilberg/Wymond

The Call to Worship — Isaiah 2:1-5

The Hymn No. 194 — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Invocation

The Doxology

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 196 — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Scripture Reading — Isaiah 40:1-11.....pew Bible page 599

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

**The Offertory — “Was Not Christ Our Savior” ..... Barlow Bradford**

Was not Christ our Saviour sent to us from God above,  
Not for our good behavior, but only of His mercy and love?  
If this be true, as true it is, truly indeed;  
Great thanks to God to yield for this than had we need.

This did our God for very troth, to train to Him the soul of man,  
And justly to perform His oath to Sarah and to Abraham,  
That through his seed, all nations should most blessed be.  
And in due time performed, He would all flesh would see.

Which wondrously is brought to pass, and in our sight already done,  
By sending as His promise was (to comfort us) His only Son,  
Even Christ, I mean that Virgin’s child in Bethlehem born that Lamb of God,  
That Prophet mild, with crowned thorn, that Lamb of God, with crowned thorn.

For this glad news, this feast doth bring, to God, the Son and Holy Ghost,  
Let man give thanks, rejoice and sing, from world to world, from coast to coast,  
For other gifts in many ways, for other gifts that God doth send:  
Let us in Christ give God the praise, Till life, till life shall end.

Then was not Christ our Savior sent to us from God above.

## **HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**The Prayer for Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading — John 1:4-9.....pew Bible page 886**

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

**The Hymn No. 208 (stz. 1-3)— “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**The Postlude — “Joy to the World” ..... 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  
**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](https://fpcj.ms/events).



# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

**The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey**  
Minister of Congregational and Pastoral Care

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

**The Prelude** — “Once in Royal David’s City” ..... Gauntlett, Arr. Libscombe  
Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

**The Call to Worship** — Isaiah 6:3

**The Hymn No. 213** — “What Child Is This”

**The Invocation**

**The Hymn No. 203** — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**The Greetings**

**The Evening Prayer**.....Mr. Ben Roberson, Ruling Elder

**The Offering**

**The Offertory** — “The Night the Savior Was Born” ..... Steven Newbold  
Paul Bowden, Tenor; Rebekah Libscombe, Piano

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

Q43. Can anyone be saved through the covenant of life? **A. No. No one can be saved through the covenant of life.**

Q44. Why can’t anyone be saved through the covenant of life? **A. Because all have broken it and are condemned by it.**

Q45. How did you break the covenant of life? **A. Adam represented all people, and so I fell with Adam in his first sin.**

\* The Meditation & Prayer .....Mr. Grant Carter, Students & Families Intern

**The Hymn No. 211 (stz. 1–3)** — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Acts 28:16–31..... pew Bible page 937

**The Sermon** — **Going to Rome: Chained and Unhindered** ..... Mr. Lowry

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:  
and went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**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 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.	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 Barbour Home (2208 Culleywood Rd.)

## Monday, December 9, 2024

Various	Circles Meet This Week.....	See Announcements Panel
10:30 a.m.	Caregivers Support Group .....	WH 202B

## Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Various	Circles Meet This Week.....	See Announcements Panel
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study .....	WH 305
11:30 a.m.	Women's Christmas Luncheon .....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class .....	PH

## Wednesday, December 11, 2024

	No Midweek Activities or Dinner	
5:50 pm.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS

## Friday, December 13, 2024

6:00 p.m.	Carols at Belhaven Town Center .....	BTC
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## Saturday, December 14, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast .....	PH
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## Sunday, December 15, 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.	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

## JANUARY INTENSIVE: THE LORD REIGNS

The Book of Daniel is filled with some of the most recognizable stories in the Bible. From the lion's den to the fiery furnace, these stories are imprinted on our minds at the earliest ages. But, in reading the text of Daniel, it quickly becomes clear that there are many parts of this prophetic book that are hard to understand. If we come to the text expecting to find the exciting adventures of our childhood Bible books, we may be surprised to find it full of strange imagery and complicated symbols. Still, Daniel was not written to confound, but to encourage God's suffering people. It is honest about the challenges of living for God in a hostile culture. And it shows us the Lord's faithfulness to His people, His sovereignty over history, and His grand design to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

That's a message we all need to hear, which is why, for our annual Intensive this coming January, David Strain will lead us through Daniel's twelve chapters on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Wednesday nights. Come and get a better grasp on this inspiring book. Better still, come and be comforted amidst a dark and chaotic world, and emboldened to stand firm in your faith as Daniel reminds you that "The Lord Reigns."

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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](https://fpcj.ms/events).

## 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 handwritten invitation as a neighborly outreach. Please be praying about whom you may invite to join you at one of our gatherings!

## FAMILIES COUNT

Our next Families Count class, held during the Midweek time slot, 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](mailto: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 final deadline to register is January 3. Register online at [fpcj.ms/winter-retreat](https://fpcj.ms/winter-retreat).

## PERU MISSION TRIP — JUNE 2025

Join us June 20–28, 2025, for the Cajamarca trip. Drs. Danny Story and Craig Flowers will lead a team of 40. The cost per person is \$3,300. FPC pays 50% for church members on their first mission trip and 25% for past participants. Apply at [fpcj.ms/go](https://fpcj.ms/go).

## 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](https://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.

## 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, BRETHERN, 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](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Ricky & Arely Kroeger** – Ricky serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico as a Bible translator in the Zapotec language. Email: [ricky\\_kroeger@wycliffe.org](mailto:ricky_kroeger@wycliffe.org)

**Ro and Anna Taylor** – Ro serves as Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Delta State University. Email: [ro.taylor@ruf.org](mailto:ro.taylor@ruf.org)

**Lifeline** – Supported through Mission to Jackson, Lifeline is a Christian agency that serves women in crisis pregnancy, supports families through adoption, assists families in crisis through partnering with local churches for hosting and support of vulnerable children. email: [john.noblin@lifelinechild.org](mailto:john.noblin@lifelinechild.org)

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are from the wedding of Catherine Jones and De Graeber and are given in loving memory of Delmar Leon “Billy” Simmons, Jr. and Elizabeth Lockett “P’nut” Simmons, William Hilliard Jones and Martha Dianne Gingles Jones, and John Michael Roskos and Judith Gail Roskos, grandparents of the bride and groom.

## LOVE’S PURE LIGHT

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!”

## WOMEN’S MINISTRY CIRCLES — MEETING THIS WEEK

Joining a Circle is a wonderful way to get involved in the life of the church and make a big church feel like family. Circles are groups of women who meet monthly (September – May) for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and to learn of opportunities for service and missions within our church. To register, contact Lisa Oswald at 769-333-5802 or [lisao@fpcjackson.org](mailto:lisao@fpcjackson.org).

### *Monday, December 9*

Circle 8 9:30 The Orchard  
Circle 2 10:00 Karan York’s Home  
Circle 3 10:00 Westminster Hall 204  
Circle 4 10:00 Parlor  
Circle 5 10:00 Laura Husband’s Home

Circle 14 12:00 Miller Hall  
Circle 6 6:30 Beth Archer’s Home

### *Tuesday, December 10*

Circle 11 10:00 Frenchie Graham’s Home  
Circle 12 10:30 St. Catherine’s

## 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](http://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, speaking on Psalm 110: **God’s Messiah: King, Priest, and Warrior**. There will be no cost for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

## 2025 MISSIONS CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATE

February 23 – March 2