

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-Second 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. James C. Peipon
Minister of Missions

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 — “The Angel Gabriel” Robert Lau
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Call to Worship — Zephaniah 3:14–17

The Hymn No. 214 — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Invocation

The Doxology tune: *Regent Square*
All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ the new-born King.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 204 — “Away in a Manger”

The Scripture Reading — Micah 5:2-5.....pew Bible page 779

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob”Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.

With might destroying, princes and cities,

There shall a star come out of Jacob,

As bright the star of morning gleams.

So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.

Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting gives salvation,

Thine be praise and adoration!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — John 1:14-18.....pew Bible page 886

The Sermon — Love's Pure Light: Grace Dr. Strain

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

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 — “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” arr. John Rutter



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Jackson, Mississippi

The *Music of Christmas*

A Christmas Service of
Lessons & Carols

TONIGHT

December 22 — 4 and 6 p.m.
Choir & Symphony Orchestra

THE CHURCH STAFF

THE MINISTERS

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

David Felker
Executive Minister

Stephen Biggs
Minister of Students and Families

Billy Dempsey
Minister of Congregational and Pastoral Care

Wiley Lowry
Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care

Scott Miller
Minister of Young Adults and College

Jamie Peipon
Minister of Missions

Gary Sinclair
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

Charlie Wingard
Minister of Shepherding

THE MINISTRY & SUPPORT STAFF

Ford Mosby
Executive Director

Mary Ball
Communications Department

Kristina Barnes
Staff Accountant and Database Manager

Boopie Beard
Bookstore

Elizabeth Bush
Hostess and Head Chef

Harold Clardy
Maintenance

Anna Kathryn Clarke
Receptionist

Haley Cushing
Accounting and Human Resources Director

Chris Dill
Head of Security

Emily Eastman
Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care, Pastoral Care, and Shepherding

Sam Edwards
Facilities Manager

Barbara Eichelberger
Human Resources Coordinator

Debbie Goelz
Executive Minister's and Discipleship Ministry Administrative Assistant

Mikayla Hallbach
Children's Assistant

Rupert Hunt Taylor
Discipleship Director

Wes Hodges
Maintenance Manager

Erin Johnson
Assistant Chef

Maclain Kennedy
Students and Families Ministry Coordinator

Jo Lynn Mayfield
Missions Coordinator

Mary Helen McGee
Students and Families Ministry Coordinator

Margaret McPhillips
Communications Director

Carol Anne Miconi
Director of Local Outreach

Tina Oates
Nursery Director

Deborah Oakley
Women's Ministry Coordinator

Rose Ohnstad
Young Adults Female Coordinator

Lisa Oswald
Women and Children Administrative Assistant

Mark Phillips
Sanctuary Sound Technician

Monica Pittman
Nursery Coordinator

Trey Porter
TV Ministry Producer

Jenny Sanders
Creative Director

Rae Shannon
Organist

Kenneth Smith
TV Ministry Assistant

Ruth Smith
Wedding Coordinator

Kimberly Sumrall
Children's Choirs Coordinator

Tian Teh
TV Ministry Assistant

Beth Threadgill
Senior Minister's Assistant

Victoria Thomas
Assistant Chef

Annie Watkins
Student Ministry Assistant

Kimberly Wilkins
Children's Director

Chase Wynn
Director of Giving and Stewardship

THE INTERNS AND FELLOWS

Grant Carter
Students and Families Intern

Jennings Duncan
Congregational Care Intern

Elliott Farris
Young Adults Intern

Peyton Gunter
College Ministry Intern

Owen Hallbach
Missions Fellow

George Herndon
Students and Families Intern

Tim Sanduleac
Music Ministry Intern

William Skinner
Senior Minister's and Disc. Intern

Tim Tumotod
IT/AV Intern

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22, 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
4:00 & 6:00 p.m. The Music of ChristmasSanctuary
(nursery available for age three and under)

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

all day Church Office Closed
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.....Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

all day Church Office Closed
No Midweek Activities or Dinner

Saturday, December 28, 2024

7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast..... PH

Sunday, December 29, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Services.....Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Family Hymn Sing Miller Hall
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service.....Sanctuary

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 upcoming January Intensive, David Strain will lead us through Daniel's twelve chapters on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and 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."

Daniel ESV Scripture Journal

Beginning January 5, we will have copies of a Daniel Scripture Journal available for you to use throughout the January Intensive. Drop by the Welcome Center or Greeting Courtyard to pick up a copy for you and your family.

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. **Known volunteer needs for the upcoming class include childcare from 7 p.m. until close to 8 p.m. for a one-year-old child.** It is possible that additional children will be signed up in the next few weeks as well. If you have an interest in loving on these families in this way, 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 final deadline to register is January 3. Register online at 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.

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 jolynn@fpcjackson.org.

Jeff & Katie Saunders – Jeff serves with Mission to the World as a RUF campus minister and the pastor of their church in Japan. email: jeff.saunders@ruf.org

Way & Amy Rutherford – Way, serving with RUF, is the Campus Minister at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Email: wrutherford@ruf.org

Mission First – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, Mission First is an inner-city mission organization that seeks to meet the tangible needs of individuals as an avenue to engage their paramount spiritual needs. email: lthigpen@missionfirst.org

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jeff Brown for his faithfulness and leadership to the choir during this interim period.

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — TONIGHT

Invite your friends and neighbors to our beloved annual service of Christmas lessons and carols led by the FPC Choir and accompanied by a symphony orchestra, December 22, at 4 and 6 p.m. A nursery will be available for children three years and younger.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Set aside a moment for this special service at the beginning of your Christmas celebrations. Bring the whole family to this carols service December 24, at 4 p.m., as we take time to reflect on the true meaning of the season: Christ, His birth, death, and resurrection.

FAMILY HYMN SING — DECEMBER 29

Join us on Sunday, December 29 for a Family Hymn Sing during the Sunday School hour! We will gather as a church family in Miller Hall and sing carols and hymns to close the holiday season. No other Sunday School classes will meet that day.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no Sunday evening programs for children (Covenant Kids & Catechism Crew) tonight, Sunday, December 22, and for the next two weeks, December 29 and January 5. Also there will be no children’s churchtime in the 11 a.m. service on December 29. For more information, please contact womenandchildren@fpcjackson.org.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Contributions must be received by FPC on or before December 31 or postmarked by December 31 in order to be deductible for the 2024 tax year. The Business Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 31. After hours on December 31, security will be on site to receive contributions. Additionally, you may give online through midnight on December 31 or via the church app. Any gifts received in person or postmarked after December 31 must be applied to the 2025 tax year.

For information about how to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church, please contact the Business Office at 601-620-2357.