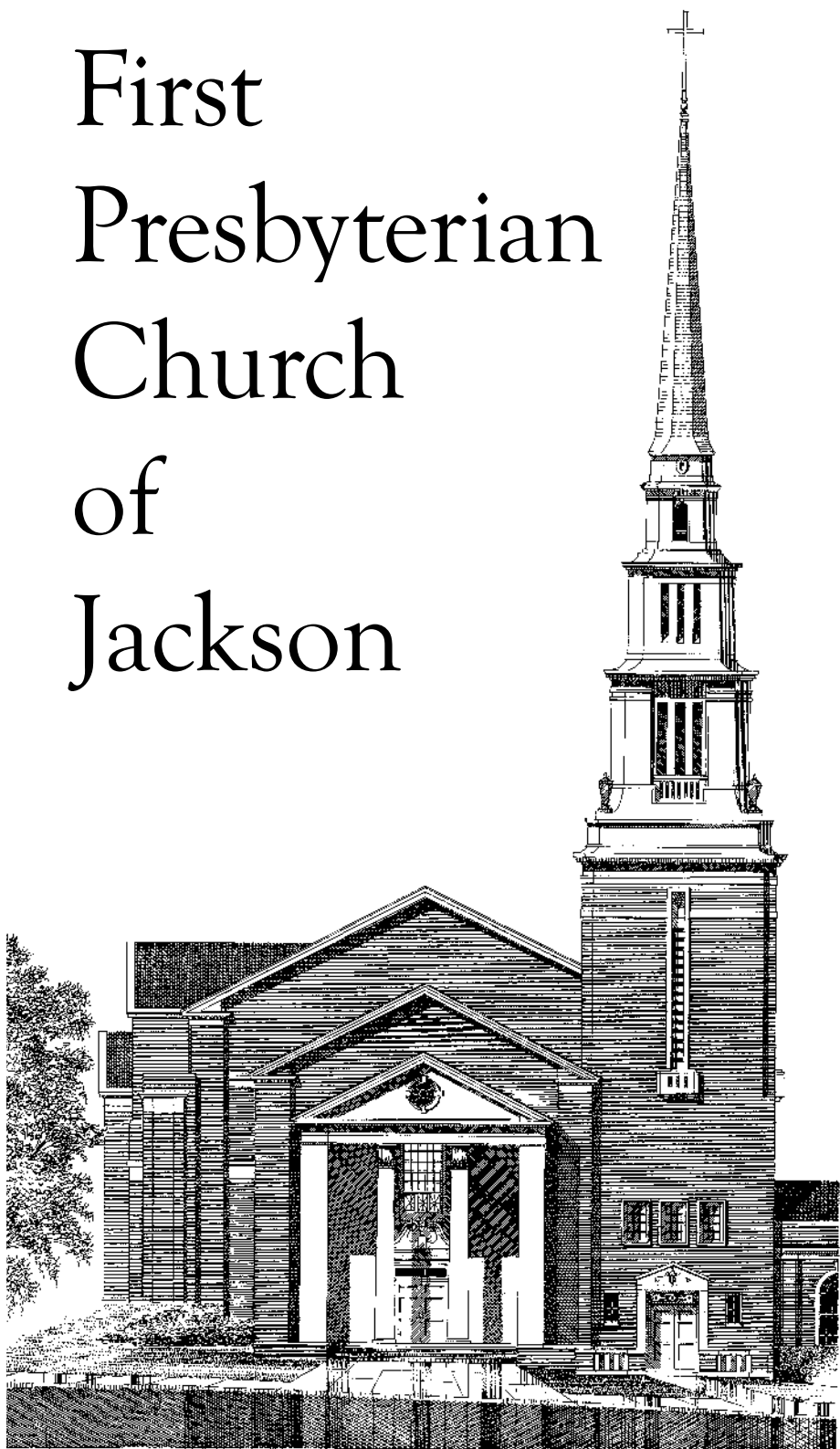


The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Fifteenth 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. Scott H. Miller
Young Adults and College Minister

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

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 Friendly Beasts/Away in a Manger” arr. Dan Forrest
Dr. Grace Shumaker, Piano

The Introit — “Joy to the World”

The Call to Worship — Psalm 89:1–5

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

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heav’n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

WELCOMING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis
The Introduction of New Members
The Questions of Membership
The Baptism (11 a.m.)
The Prayer
The Declaration
The Blessing

The Hymn No. 211 — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

The Offering

The Offertory — “Silent Night” arr. Dan Forrest

Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at birth.
Silent night, Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend Thy light,
with the angels let us sing, “Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior is born!”

HEARING GOD’S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Reading — John 1:10–13.....pew Bible page 886

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

The Hymn No. 203 (stz. 1–2) — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

The Postlude — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Denis Bedard
Rae Shannon, Organ

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.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. James C. Peipon
Minister of Missions

Mr. Jennings L. Duncan
Congregational Care Intern

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

The Prelude — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” ... 13th Century/arr. Lipscombe
Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

The Call to Worship

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

The Invocation

The Greetings

The Thailand Missions Report Mr. Josh Hollingsworth, Team Member

The Evening Prayer..... Mr. Cal Wells, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Moultrie/arr. Butler
The FPC Student Choir
Sarah Little, Director; Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

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

Q46. How, then, can you be saved? **A. By the Lord Jesus Christ through the covenant of grace.**

Q47. Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace? **A. His elect people.**

Q48. How did Christ fulfill the covenant of grace? **A. Christ obeyed the whole law for His people, and then suffered the punishment due for their sins.**

Q49. Did Jesus ever sin? **A. No. He lived a sinless life.**

* The Meditation & Prayer Mr. Wiley Lowry, Minister of Teaching & Pastoral Care

The Hymn No. 210 (stz. 1-3) — “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading— Luke 2:7-20..... pew Bible page 857

The Sermon — Glory Mr. Peipon

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend Thy light.
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born.**

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.

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 December 1, 2024, and are being presented to the congregation during the morning worship services today. Please welcome them warmly.

Haley Cushing

Blake and Allison Cruse
(Eleanor, Cooper, and Gwendolyn)

William and Sarah Edwards
(Emily and Susanna)

*Jackson Hall

Daniel Kim

Maclain Kennedy

Brad and Ellen Wilson
(Harper, Emily, and David)

() Children joining as non-communing members
*Covenant child joining as a communing member

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered during 11 a.m. service to Ava Kate Cushing, daughter of Haley and Drake Cushing

JOIN FPC!

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that the next date to join is January 26. New member forms can be found online at fpcj.ms/membership or in the greeting courtyard outside the sanctuary. Forms are due by January 15. If you have any questions about the membership process at FPC, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.

FPC THIS WEEK

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)

Monday, December 16, 2024

6:30 p.m.	College Christmas Party	The Lowry Home
-----------	-------------------------------	----------------

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
-----------	---------------------------	-----------

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

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

Saturday, December 21, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Pop Up Nursery.....	Nursery
9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Bookstore Open House	Bookstore

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 Christmas	Sanctuary (nursery available for age three and under)

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 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."

GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2024

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Some of the Bible's richest teaching on giving comes from II Corinthians 8 and 9, in which Paul describes generosity, along with many other parts of a believer's life, as aspects of our worship towards God: "[T]hey gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us... as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also." (2 Corinthians 8:5, 7)

FPC MINISTRY

	NOVEMBER 2024	YEAR TO DATE
BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$ 693,333	\$ 7,697,268
ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 646,658	\$ 7,456,566
GIVING	\$ 768,188	\$ 6,210,959
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$ 121,530	(\$ 1,245,607)

MISSIONS

	NOVEMBER 2024	YEAR TO DATE JAN-NOV 2024
EXPENSES	\$ 85,167	\$ 959,721
GIVING	\$ 73,189	\$ 853,912
NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	(\$ 11,978)	(\$ 105,809)

GIVING TOWARD DEBT RETIREMENT

NOV 2024	YEAR TO DATE
\$ 4,481	\$ 140,800

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.

Jackie & Paul – Jackie & Paul serve with World Outreach planting churches in Central Asia.

Danny & Carlye Ruth – Danny serves as a church planter at Steen’s Creek Presbyterian Church in Florence, MS. email: dannyaruth@gmail.com

Jackson Leadership Foundation – Supported through Mission to Jackson, JLF is a Christ-centered ministry seeking spiritual, social, and economic transformation in Jackson’s under-resourced communities through the empowerment of leaders, development of ministries, and networking of volunteers and donors.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Johnny H. Hall, Jackson Hall’s grandfather, on the special occasion of becoming a communicant member.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY — DECEMBER 16

College Students, for those who have been away this semester welcome home! We would love to see you at our College Christmas Party, December 16, at the Lowry home. Come see old friends, eat good food, and connect with our College & Young Adults staff.

BOOKSTORE OPEN HOUSE — DECEMBER 21

The FPC Bookstore is one of the best-kept secrets in Jackson for Christmas shopping! Stop in for refreshments and free gift wrap while you shop on Saturday, December 21, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

POP UP NURSERY — DECEMBER 21

We will have a Pop Up Nursery here at FPC on December 21, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., for ages three and under. We would like to give you some time to shop, run errands, wrap gifts, or get a cup of coffee! Sign up online at fpcj.ms/events.

MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — DECEMBER 22

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.

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.