

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Second Day of February Two Thousand Twenty-Five  
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

<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 — “When in Our Music God Is Glorified” ...Paul Leddington Wright  
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “We Come, O Christ, to You”

The Call to Worship — John 4:23–24

The Hymn No. 53 — “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (Psalm 103)

The Invocation

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 527 — “The Beatitudes”

The Scripture Reading — Matthew 7:7–12.....pew Bible page 812

The Pastoral Prayer

## The Offering

The Offertory — “Joy in the Morning” .....Natalie Sleeth

There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore,  
There'll be peace and contentment evermore,  
Ev'ry heart, ev'ry voice on that day will rejoice  
There'll be peace and contentment evermore.

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord  
Will shine, will shine, shine upon us  
And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord  
Will bring the truth divine.

There'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere,  
There'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere,  
And the way of the Lord will that day be restored;  
There'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere.

There'll be love and forgiveness,  
There'll be peace and contentment,  
There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy...JOY!

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## HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Leviticus 9:1–10:20.....pew Bible page 87

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

The Hymn No. 329 (stz. 1–5)— “Come, O Creator Spirit Blest”...tune: *Germany*

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Show us the Father, Holy One, help us to know th'eternal Son;  
Spirit divine, forevermore You will we trust and You adore.**

The Postlude — “Jubilate” ..... Gordon Young

## 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.

# MIDWEEK SPRING 2025

Beginning Wednesday, February 5, our third quarter Midweek programs will begin, and D Groups will resume. Midweek is an opportunity to break from your usual week-night routine and to join our church family for a refreshing evening of fellowship and spiritual formation between Sundays. We hope you'll make plans to join us! For more information, visit [fpcjackson.org/midweek](http://fpcjackson.org/midweek).

## THE TRINITY: SCRIPTURE, THEOLOGY, AND LIFE

Lead by Dr. Josh Malone  
Assoc. Professor of Systematic Theology at RTS Jackson  
Patterson Hall

Christians are implicitly Trinitarian. We worship the one God: Father, Son, and Spirit. When we think of the doctrine of the Trinity, however, it can seem like a problem to be solved. Often, it is presented that way by skeptics. But what if, in fact, it's the key to unlocking the deep things of God? Over this elective, Professor Josh Malone will take up the biblical teaching on our triune God, discuss its historic confession in the church, and reflect on how that powerfully shapes Christian thought and life.

## D GROUPS

Now is a great time to join a D Group! Each group will be working through a book of the Bible or a book study together, and there is a strong emphasis on fellowship and prayer for one another. If you've been wondering how to build deeper relationships in our large church, a D Group might be the place to start! Email [discipleship@fpcjackson.org](mailto:discipleship@fpcjackson.org), and we'll be glad to connect you with one of our groups.

## DEAR WORMWOOD: LESSONS FROM THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

### College D Group

Westminster Hall 302

College students, jump back into Midweek as we read the classic C.S. Lewis novel *The Screwtape Letters*. We hope you'll join us as we engage with the challenging lessons from this book together. Midweek dinner is FREE for college students involved in one of our Midweek programs. So grab dinner, and then gather with us for discussion and encouragement.

## DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE: TAKE RISKS FOR CHRIST

*Learn to Share the Gospel Conversationally with friends, family, and in mercy ministry opportunities*

Miller Hall

Jesus said to them: "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation," Mark 16:15. Do you want to tell others about Jesus Christ but are not sure where or how to begin? Learn to share Christ for the first time; learn a clear, simple, scripture-based presentation of the gospel; and renew your zeal to share Christ at this elective.

## GRIEFSHARE

M 123

GriefShare is a ministry of support and encouragement for those grieving the death of a loved one. Using the Bible and the shared experience of others, participants will discover how to navigate the profound difficulties of bereavement. Our next 13-week GriefShare course will begin Wednesday, February 5 as a Midweek elective. To register, please contact Emily Eastman at 601-326-9243 or [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Westminster Hall 204

Those interested in membership at FPC, or in learning more about our church are encouraged to attend the Membership Class. During the class, we will learn what we share in common with Bible-believing Christians, as well as about the distinctives of Presbyterianism. We will hear from ministry leaders about discipleship and service opportunities at First Pres. The Membership Class is also a great place to connect with others who have recently found a home at FPC. To register for the class contact [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The Session Room

Becoming a praying church often begins with setting an appointment for prayer. Join this group every week for a time of corporate prayer for our church body and its ministries, our community, and our mission.

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

**Mr. William H. Skinner**  
Senior Minister's Intern

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

The Prelude — “Come, Ye Sinners” ..... Southern Harmony  
Lydian Peipon, Piano

The Call to Worship — John 1:14, 16

The Hymn — “Arise, My Soul” ..... hymn sheet

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 94 — “How Firm a Foundation”

The Missions Report ..... Mr. O-Chan Odate, MTW Japan

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer ..... Mr. Hall Bailey, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Amazing Grace” ..... Newton/arr. Carl Miller  
The FPC Student Choir; Reed Hairston, Director; Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

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

Q50. How could Christ suffer? **A. Christ, the Son of God, became a man so that he could obey and suffer in our place.**

Q51. For whom did Christ obey and suffer? **A. For all whom God the Father gave to Christ.**

\* The Meditation & Prayer ..... Mr. Gary Sinclair, FPDS Chaplain

The Hymn (stz. 1-2) — “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ..... hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — 1 John 1:1-4 ..... pew Bible page 1021

The Sermon — Truth and Love: A Shared Joy ..... Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

The Postlude

\* Children ages four through third 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, February 2, 2025

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
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight .....	the Rutledge Home (101 Ridge Street)

## Tuesday, February 4, 2025

9:30 a.m.	Crafts for Missions.....	WH 302
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 Bible Study.....	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class .....	PH

## Wednesday, February 5, 2025

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study .....	MH
5:00–6:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner .....	MH
5:00 p.m.	Families Count .....	WH 202
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime.....	Playground
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS
6:00 p.m.	Programs for Adults	
	The Trinity: Scripture, Theology, and Life .....	PH
	College D Group: Dear Wormwood .....	WH 302
	D Groups.....	Various Locations
	Don't Waste Your Life: Take Risks For Christ .....	MH
	GriefShare .....	M 123
	Membership Class .....	WH 204
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.....	The Session Room
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs.....	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Sixth Grade Fellowship .....	SC 211
6:00 p.m.	Junior High D Groups.....	YH & Baird Center Gym
7:10 p.m.	Brass Ensemble Rehearsal .....	Sanctuary
7:15 p.m.	Senior High Girls Small Group...Mary Helen's (4016 Hawthorn Dr.)	

## Thursday, February 6, 2025

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Hebrews: Jesus Is Better .....	PH
9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study – Ruth & Esther: Our Sovereign God.....	MH

## Friday, February 7, 2025

5:30 p.m.	Stand 2025 – Dinner.....	MH
7:00 p.m.	Stand 2025 – Main Session with Kevin DeYoung.....	Sanctuary

## Saturday, February 8, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast .....	PH
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## Sunday, February 9, 2025

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
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight .....	the Carter Home (1511 Myrtle Street)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2025 — FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1

*Devoted: Set Apart to Proclaim*

The Global Missions Conference, held each February/March, is one of the high points of our annual calendar at FPC. We set aside this week to focus closely on missions and our church's goals to "make disciples in our neighborhood, our communities, and the world." The conference is also a time for our congregation to consider giving to missions. At FPC, every single dollar we give to missions is given over and above your regular tithe to our specific designation for missions. In other words, every single dollar we send to our missionaries arrives at the church as a gift designated for missions. For more information and to view the full conference schedule visit [fpcj.ms/missions-conference](https://fpcj.ms/missions-conference).

### *Keynote Speakers*

February 23 — Wright Busching  
Church Planter, University Presbyterian Church, Tampa, FL

March 2 — Jason Helopoulos  
Senior Pastor, University Reformed Church, Lansing, MI

### 2025 MISSION TRIPS

We have five trips planned this year to Peru, Honduras (FULL), Belgium, Scotland, and South Africa. For more information and to apply, visit [fpcj.ms/go](https://fpcj.ms/go). The deadline to apply for the Peru trip is February 10 so apply as soon as possible.

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS — FEBRUARY 5

The next offering of the Membership Class will begin February 5 and will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. This is the place to begin if you are considering membership at FPC or would like to know more about our church and the basics of our faith and practice. During the class we will learn what we share in common with all Bible-believing Christians, as well as about the distinctives of Presbyterianism. We will hear from ministry leaders about what's taking place at First Pres, while providing a great opportunity to meet others who have recently found a home here at FPC.

### ENCOUNTER RETREAT— MARCH 28–30

*Junior High Presbytery-Wide Retreat*

Sixth-eighth grade students, join us at the Encounter Retreat at Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, MS. We will join other churches from the MS Valley Presbytery for a week-end full of Bible teaching, new and old friends, fellowship, and fun! Our speaker is Austin Lenox, former FPCYM intern with First Pres and assistant pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Memphis. We are thrilled to have him join us in teaching on Habits of Grace at Encounter this year! The cost is \$125, but sign up by the Early Bird Deadline March 6 and pay \$95. Register online at [fpcj.ms/encounter-retreat](https://fpcj.ms/encounter-retreat).

### SANCTUARY AUDIO FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE

FPC partners with Sanctuary Audio to help improve the listening experience in our sanctuary. The program can be used through earbuds or any bluetooth-enabled hearing aid. Below are the directions for using Sanctuary Audio via your phone or tablet. If you have questions, please contact Tim Tumutod at [Timt@fpcjackson.org](mailto:Timt@fpcjackson.org).

1. Connect your headphones or earbuds to your phone/device.
2. Connect your phone/device to the WiFi network "FPC Guest."
3. Download the app called "Listen Everywhere."
4. Open the "Listen Everywhere" App.
5. Tap "Venue Scan" until the App connects with FPC Jackson.
6. Select "FPC Jackson" channel.
7. Enjoy listening to the Sanctuary audio!

# 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 [jollynm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jollynm@fpcjackson.org).

**J and Y Fischer** – J serves with Action International in the Middle East.

**Children of Abraham** – Bassam Chedid founded the Children of Abraham ministry in 1977 to communicate the saving message of Christ to a largely un-evangelized Arabic community in and beyond North America. email: [chedid@cs.com](mailto:chedid@cs.com).

**Gateway Rescue Mission** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, 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](mailto:rbaker@gatewaymission.org) or [mlott@gatewaymission.org](mailto:mlott@gatewaymission.org).

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of Gina Payne by Kevin, April, Caroline, Will and Cate Nall.

## TRUTH AND LOVE — SUNDAY EVENING SERMON SERIES

Tucked into the end of the Bible are three of the shortest books in the whole of Scripture: 1, 2, and 3 John. In them we find some of the deepest mysteries of time and eternity. John writes about the Triune God, the Incarnation of Christ, propitiation for sin, antichrist, and the assurance of salvation. But he also makes such statements of simple beauty that are foundational to the Christian life, like “God is light”, “God is love”, “Walk in the truth”, “Love one another”. On Sunday evenings this spring, we will study these three books in a new sermon series and see how truth and love are held together in the gospel and how they work together in living the Christian life. Scripture journals are available for purchase the Bookstore to go along with this series.

## CRAFTS FOR MISSIONS

Join us on Tuesday mornings, February 4–March 4 as we hand-craft Christmas ornaments for our missionaries. This ministry is an encouragement to those who are serving away from home. No craft skills required! Meets from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in Westminster Hall 302. Nursery available upon request. Contact Sarah Prewitt for more information at 601-954-3219 or [ssprewitt99@gmail.com](mailto:ssprewitt99@gmail.com).

## YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT — FEBRUARY 15-16

The Young Adults Retreat will be held February 15–16, at Twin Lakes Camp, with speaker, Austin Braasch, RUF Ole Miss. This event is a great time to get away for a night, spend time with others, and sit under the preached Word. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE HOSTS NEEDED

Our annual global missions conference is scheduled for Feb. 23–March 2. Are you interested in hosting one of our honored guests during the conference? We need you! For more information, please contact Janie Clarke, our housing coordinator at 601-953-4991 or [janielclarke6@gmail.com](mailto:janielclarke6@gmail.com).

## STAND 2025 — FEBRUARY 7

### *Building up Mid-South Men in the Gospel*

Our annual conference for men in the mid-south takes place Friday, February 7. This year we will face the challenge of *Courage and Compromise in the Book of Joshua*, led by our guest preacher Kevin DeYoung. Join us for a BBQ meal (5:30–6:30 p.m.), and then as we stand shoulder to shoulder in worship with brothers in Christ from across our region in a worship service (7-8:30 p.m.). There is no charge for this event, but contributions towards our costs are very welcome. Register online at [fpcj.ms/stand-2025](http://fpcj.ms/stand-2025) to help us plan for the BBQ dinner.