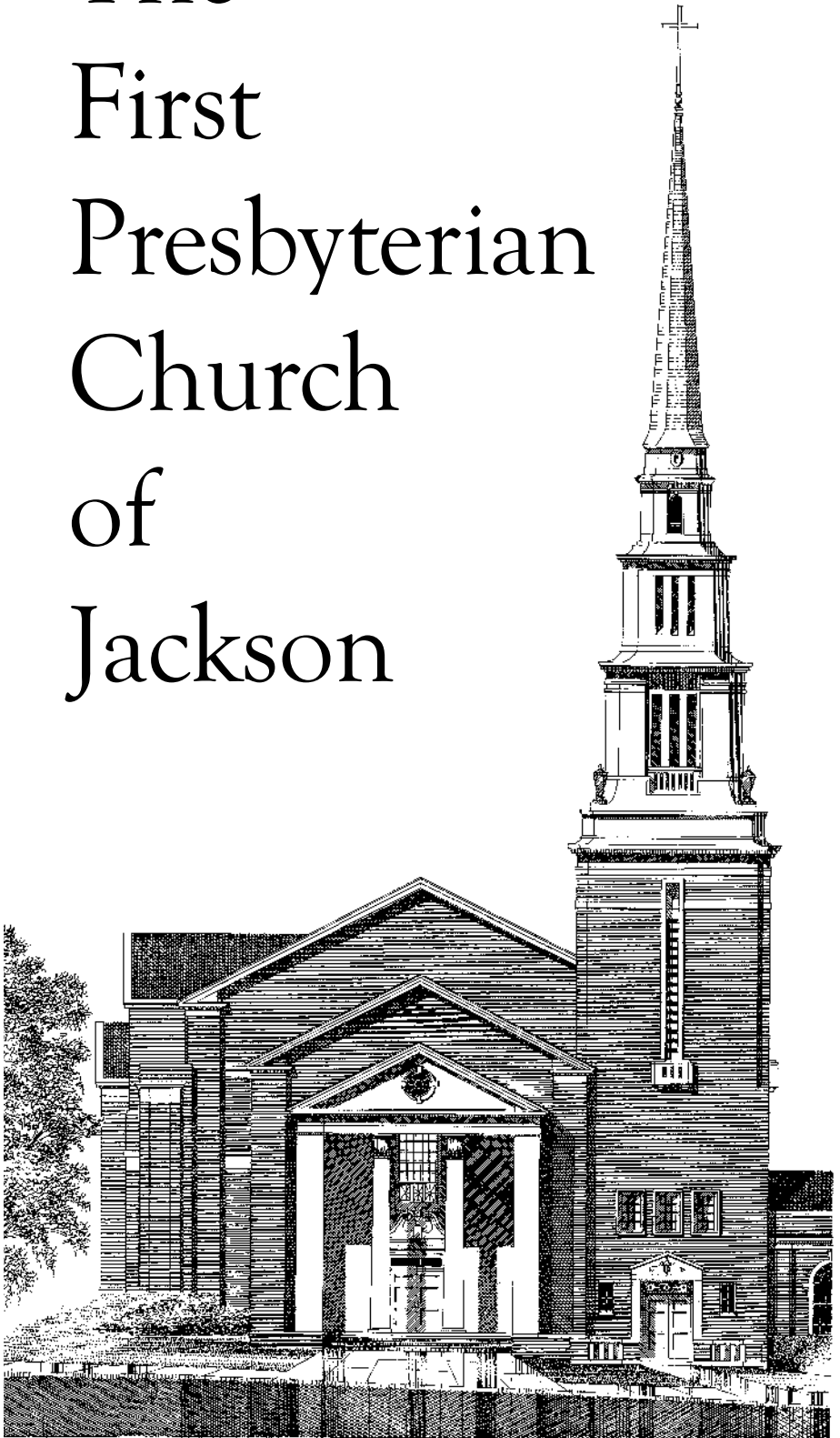


The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirtieth Day of March Two Thousand Twenty-Five

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

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

The Reverend Dr. Charles M. Wingard  
Minister of Shepherding

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

The Prelude — “Bridegroom” .....Mary Beth Bennett  
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “Behold Now, Praise the Lord” .....Everett Titcomb

The Call to Worship — Psalm 95:6-7

The Hymn No. 2 — “O Worship the King”

The Invocation

The Doxology — “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

tune: *Old Hundredth*

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. 644 — “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

The Scripture Reading — James 1:16-27 ..... pew Bible page 1011

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — “O Word of God” ..... Craig Courtney

Kathryn Edwards, piano

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;  
We praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.  
O Word of God, O Word of God.

The church from You our Savior, received the gift divine,  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored;  
It is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.  
O Word of God.

The scripture is a banner, before God's host unfurled;  
It is a shining beacon above the dark'ning world.  
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to you, O Christ will guide.

O make Your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
to bear before the nations Your true light as of old.  
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.  
Amen, amen, amen, amen.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Leviticus 19-20.....pew Bible page 97

The Sermon — Devoted to God: Holy Relationships..... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 455 (stz. 1-4) — “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.  
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

The Postlude — “The Kingsfold Trumpet” ..... Alfred Fedak

## 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.

# GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## FEBRUARY 2025

Throughout 2025, we hope these Giving Updates highlight for you the church's finances and needs in three areas: FPC Ministry, Missions, and Debt Service.

### FPC MINISTRY

First and foremost, FPC Ministry: your faithful, regular giving to FPC drives all the ministry you see around you: the preaching and teaching of God's Word; the pastoral care, shepherding, and discipling of our congregation and our larger community; numerous disciple-making ministry programs and departments; the good stewardship of the building where we worship—and countless other ways. Below, you will find giving towards FPC and its expenses for February and through 2025 so far:

|  | FEBRUARY<br>2025    | YEAR<br>TO DATE     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>                       | <b>\$ 771,271</b>   | <b>\$ 1,678,619</b> |
| <b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>                         | <b>\$ 759,247</b>   | <b>\$ 1,581,726</b> |
| <b>GIVING</b>                                  | <b>\$ 591,578</b>   | <b>\$ 1,074,631</b> |
| <b>NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) ACTUAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>(\$ 167,669)</b> | <b>(\$ 507,095)</b> |

### MISSIONS

Second, Missions: your gifts to Missions, over and above your gifts to FPC itself, drive our support of global and national missions. With these separate gifts to Missions, FPC is able to directly support over 60 missionaries worldwide, 20 church plants across North America, and 15 RUF campus ministries. Below, you will find giving towards Missions as well as Missions spending for February and through 2025 so far:

|   | FEBRUARY<br>2025 | YEAR TO DATE<br>2025 |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>EXPENSES (MISSIONARY SUPPORT)</b>    | <b>\$ 79,653</b> | <b>\$ 155,734</b>    |
| <b>GIVING</b>                           | <b>\$ 98,190</b> | <b>\$ 172,839</b>    |
| <b>NET GIVING OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$ 18,537</b> | <b>\$ 17,105</b>     |

### DEBT SERVICE

Third, FPC Debt Service: between 2020 and 2023, FPC advanced several important ministry projects by borrowing money for which we are currently serving debt. Those projects include the Jim Baird Center gym and auditorium, the FPC Welcome Center, space reorganization for both the church and FPDS, and capital needs of Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. As of this update, the remaining balance of that loan is \$4,949,900. Though FPC budgets for minimum required payments from your regular FPC Ministry giving, if only the minimum payments are made, the remaining \$3.6 million will be due or need to be refinanced when this loan matures in 2030. Any extra gifts made especially to FPC Debt Service will help us pay down this debt faster and allow us to freely pursue more ministry in the future.

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O’Clock

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

**The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair**  
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

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

The Prelude .....Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano  
“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

The Call to Worship — 1 Peter 1:13-16

The Hymn No. 302 — “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 32 — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer..... Dr. David Elkin, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory .....Gena Everitt, Soprano; John Howard, Piano  
“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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

Q58. What must you do to be saved? **A. I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.**

Q59. How do you repent of your sin? **A. I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.**

Q60. Why must you hate and forsake your sin? **A. Because sin displeases God.**

\* The Meditation & Prayer .....Mr. Stephen Biggs, Minister of Students & Families

The Hymn (stz. 1-4) — “Come, Ye Sinners” .....hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — 1 John 3:11-24..... pew Bible page 1022

The Sermon — Truth and Love: Our Brother’s Keeper.....Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Lo! Th’incarnate God, ascended, pleads the merit of His blood;  
Venture on Him, venture wholly, let no other trust intrude:  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus, can do helpless sinners good.**

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, March 30, 2025

|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Services                           | Sanctuary  |
| 9:45 a.m.         | Membership Class                                   | M123   |
| 9:45 a.m.         | Sunday School                                      | Various  |
| 11:00 a.m.        | Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1) | M135   |
| 12:15 p.m.        | College Lunch                                      | The Cotten Home (2202 Culleywood Rd.)  |
| 4:30 p.m.         | Student Choir Rehearsal                            | MS   |
| 5:00 p.m.         | Prayer Meeting for Global Missions                 | Parlor   |
| 6:00 p.m.         | Evening Worship Service                            | Sanctuary<br>(age four through third grade dismissed for children's classes) |

## Tuesday, April 1, 2025

|            |                             |             |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 6:30 a.m.  | Men's Breakfast Series      | MH          |
| 9:30 a.m.  | French Camp Quilters        | Bookstore   |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Sew & Sow                   | WH 302      |
| 10:00 a.m. | Men's Bible Study           | WH 305      |
| 12:00 p.m. | Weekday Prayer              | PH          |
| 12:00 p.m. | FPCYM Parents' Prayer Lunch | Whole Foods |
| 6:30 p.m.  | MOMS at Night Spring Social | MH          |
| 6:45 p.m.  | Internationals Class        | PH          |

## Wednesday, April 2, 2025

|                |   |                       |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.      | MOMS Bible Study                                  | MH                    |
| 5:00-6:00 p.m. | Midweek Dinner                                    | MH                    |
| 5:30 p.m.      | Brass Ensemble Rehearsal                          | Parlor                |
| 5:30 p.m.      | Children's Playtime                               | Playground            |
| 5:45 p.m.      | Don't Waste Your Life: Take Risks For Christ      | Methodist Rehab       |
| 5:50 p.m.      | Adult Choir Rehearsal                             | MS                    |
| 6:00 p.m.      | Programs for Adults                               |                       |
|                | Law School: Dusty Case Law for Devoted Christians | PH                    |
|                | College D Group: Dear Wormwood                    | WH 302                |
|                | D Groups  | Various Locations     |
|                | Go? Exploring the Call to Missions                | WH 202                |
|                | 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 |

## Thursday, April 3, 2025

|            |  |    |
|------------|--|----|
| 9:15 a.m.  | Women's Bible Study - Hebrews                | PH |
| 9:45 a.m.  | Women's Bible Study - Esther                 | MH |
| 11:30 a.m. | Men's Golf Tournament (shotgun start 1 p.m.) | MH |

## Friday, April 4, 2025

|                |                                     |                      |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1:00-7:00 p.m. | Disaster Response Chainsaw Training | Raymond Pres. Church |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|

## Saturday, April 5, 2025

|                  |                                   |                      |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 7:30 a.m.        | Men's Prayer Breakfast            | PH                   |
| 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. | Disaster Response Bobcat Training | Raymond Pres. Church |

## Sunday, April 6, 2025

|                   |  |                                  |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship Services                           | Sanctuary                        |
| 9:45 a.m.         | Membership Class                                   | M123                             |
| 9:45 a.m.         | Sunday School                                      | Various                          |
| 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 Meeting for Global Missions                 | Parlor                           |
| 5:00 p.m.         | New Member Meeting                                 | MH                               |
| 6:00 p.m.         | Evening Worship Service                            | Sanctuary                        |
| 7:30 p.m.         | Senior High Insight                                | the Boyd Home (2693 Lake Circle) |

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BODY TALK — APRIL 9

### *A Biblical Frame for Viewing & Talking about Bodies*

Mothers and daughters (sixth through twelfth grade), you are invited to join us Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m. in Westminster Hall 204. We'll discuss the unique pressures and stress on our bodies as women. What does God say about our body, and how can the way we speak about our body honor (or dishonor) Him? Whether you're a mother or daughter, you have a story with your body. Mary Kathryn Evans, Licensed Counselor, will offer insights on how to think about our bodies as God-honoring vessels and gifts for our time on this earth.

## YOUNG ADULTS PICKLEBALL — APRIL 12

The Young Adults ministry will host a pickleball tournament on Saturday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. We will have burgers on the grill for lunch. Come to play or come to hang!

## EXPERIENCE EASTER: A FAMILY EVENT — APRIL 13

We have a special event planned for families with elementary-aged children. Come experience the Easter story in this interactive activity on Palm Sunday, 4:45-5:45 p.m. Come and go at your own pace and enjoy this activity together with your children.

## CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Invite a neighbor, coworker, family member, or friend to join us on Easter weekend at First Presbyterian Church. For those new to our church, we will have an informational meet and greet at 9:45 a.m. on Easter in the Welcome Center.

Good Friday Worship Service — April 18, 6 p.m.

Easter Morning Worship Services — April 20, 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Sunday School to be held at 9:45 a.m.

Easter Evening Worship Service — April 20, 6 p.m.

## JOIN OUR TEAM — WE'RE HIRING

### *Director of Facilities*

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a new Director of Facilities. This critical role provides comprehensive leadership, oversight, and strategic management for the facilities operations of First Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Day School, and Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. This individual ensures that all physical facilities, mechanical systems, and shared-use spaces function effectively and efficiently to support the ministry, educational, and operational goals of each entity. The Director of Facilities manages facilities budgets across these areas, ensuring excellent stewardship of resources while aligning facilities operations with the church's broader mission: to glorify God by making disciples in our neighborhood, our communities, and the world. To read the full job description and to apply, [visit fpcj.ms/employment](https://fpcj.ms/employment).

### *Women's Ministry Director*

The Director of Women's Ministry is to support our church's mission by teaching, mentoring, training, and equipping women, and so promoting a ministry that trusts God's Word to do the work of converting and growing disciples of Jesus. The search committee requests that resumes be submitted by April 15. Find out more and apply at [fpcj.ms/employment](https://fpcj.ms/employment).

### *Twin Lakes Maintenance Technician*

Twin Lakes is in search of a Maintenance Technician to manage both day-to-day repairs and long-term plans to prevent maintenance problems. The technician will need to be able to do basic carpentry, electrical work, painting, HV/AC work, landscaping and other assigned tasks. If you are interested in applying or know someone who would be good for this position, please email Sam Edwards at [same@fpcjackson.org](mailto:same@fpcjackson.org).

### *FPDS Early Childhood Director*

First Presbyterian Day School is seeking a dedicated and passionate Early Childhood Director to lead our Early Childhood Development program, serving children from birth to 36 months. If you or someone you know is interested in this leadership opportunity at FPDS, visit [fpds.org/employment](https://fpds.org/employment) and follow the link under "Additional Open Positions" to apply.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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](mailto:jolynn@fpcjackson.org).

**Jon & Olya Powell** – Jon serves as the University Student Pastor with the church plant in Lviv, and Olya serves as a part of the student ministry along with team finances and administration. Email: [jon.powell@mtw.org](mailto:jon.powell@mtw.org)

**Andrew & Vanessa Chesebro** – Andrew serves as a church planter in Brighton, MI. Email: [andrew@pathwaypca.com](mailto:andrew@pathwaypca.com)

**The Center for Pregnancy Choices** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, CPC offers alternatives to abortion for women experiencing crisis pregnancies, while declaring the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with an emphasis on abstinence education and presenting adoption as a loving option.

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary from the wedding of Ann Clardy Byrd and Matthew Alexander Burrow are given in loving memory of Alice Elizabeth Peaster, niece of the bride; Mrs. Douglas Magruder Byrd, junior, grandmother of the bride; and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dye Burrow, junior and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Golden Sones, grandparents of the groom.

## COLLEGE LUNCH — TODAY

College students, you are invited to a free lunch today hosted by the Cotten Family following the 11 a.m. worship service. Want more information or need a ride? Text Peyton at 205-613-1059.

## WEEKDAY PRAYER — TUESDAYS AT NOON

Spurgeon said that the prayer meeting is the engine room of the church. Please join us to intercede for the needs of the church and our community at a new weekly prayer meeting each Tuesday at noon in Patterson Hall. The meeting will be informal, last 45 minutes, and focus solely on prayer. Feel free to bring your lunch and join us for all, or only a part, as your schedule allows.

## MIDWEEK — FOURTH QUARTER BEGINS WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, April 2, begins a new Midweek quarter with many new options for adults. Making Midweek a priority is a great opportunity to break up the weekly schedule & join your church family for a refreshing evening of fellowship & spiritual formation between Sundays. What's new in addition to our ongoing programs (D Groups, Prayer Meeting, Evangelism Group, College D Group, Children's Choirs, and Student Ministry D Groups):

### *Law School: Dusty Case-Law for Devoted Christians*

What should New Testament believers do with laws about sheep stealing, sorcery and seduction? In this elective, Dr. Charlie Wingard will guide us through Moses' application of the 10 Commandments.

### *Go? Exploring the Call to Missions*

Every year at the Missions Conference we talk about praying, giving, and going. But how do you know God is calling you to long-term missions? And what should you do about it? Jamie Peipon and Owen Hallbach will lead this six-week series as we consider these important next steps of the Lord's call to proclaim the gospel to the nations.

## MEN'S MINISTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT — APRIL 3

Men, join us this week for this fun, annual event at Lake Caroline Golf Club on April 3. Prices are listed on the registration form, including lunch which is available at 11:30 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. and you don't want to miss it! Register at [fpcj.ms/golf](http://fpcj.ms/golf), and we'll see you on the green!