

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Eighteenth Day of May Two Thousand Twenty-Five

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

Senior Minister

The Reverend Mr. Stephen A. Biggs

Minister of Students and Families

## ADORING THE COVENANT LORD

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

The Scripture Memory Passage — Matthew 7:24–29

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” <sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The Prelude — “Adagio in A Minor” ..... Antonio Tartinelli

Bonnie Brown, Violin I

Thorburn McGee, Viola

Emily Williams, Violin II

Nancy Bateman, Cello

The Introit — “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

The Call to Worship — Psalm 146:5–10

The Hymn No. 1 — “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (Psalm 100)

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology — “Gloria Patri” ..... tune: *Greatorex*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, Amen.

## RECEIVING THE COVENANT SIGN

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Words of Institution

The Introduction of the Covenant Children and Their Families

The Biblical Promise

The Questions to the Parents and Congregation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Baptism

The Baptismal Benediction

The Hymn No. 521 — “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

**The Offering**

**The Offertory** — “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” ..... J. S. Bach  
 Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright.  
 Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.  
 Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned.  
 Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

**HEARING THE COVENANT WORD**

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading** — Leviticus 25 ..... pew Bible page 103

**The Sermon** — **Devoted to God: Holy Stewardship** ..... Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 358 (stz. 1-5)**— “For All the Saints”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,  
 Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
 Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Postlude** — “Bishops’ Promenade” ..... Norman Coke-Jephcott  
 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. 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** — “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

**The Call to Worship** — Revelation 5:13, 14

**The Hymn** — “Before the Throne of God Above” .....hymn sheet

**The Invocation**

**The Greetings**

**The Offering**

**The Offertory** — “Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”  
FPC Student Choir; Reed Hairston, Director

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading** — 3 John ..... pew Bible page 1026

**The Sermon** — **Truth and Love: Love for Strangers** .....Mr. Lowry

**The Hymn No. 420** — “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

**The Lord’s Supper**

The Words of Institution  
The Invitation  
The Prayer of Consecration  
The Communion with Our Lord Jesus Christ and His People  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**The Hymn No. 264 (stz. 1–3)** — “Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

**The Postlude**

## THE VOWS OF BAPTISM

In order for the congregation to participate in the sacrament of baptism and to refresh our own commitment to these vows, they are included below:

### TO THE PARENTS

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on (his) behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for (his) salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before (him) a godly example, that you will pray with and for (him), that you will teach (him) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring (him) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, as a congregation, undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO

Withers Plumley Davis  
son of Paul and Maren Davis

Elizabeth Alva Edwards  
daughter of Sam and Laura Beth Edwards

Olivia Allan Hawes  
daughter of Evan and Casey Hawes

Jacob Richmond Moss  
son of Matt and Charlotte Moss

Jefferson Pinckney Wilkerson Skelton III  
son of Wilkes and Melina Skelton

The next baptism date is July 20.

Spaces are available for the 11 a.m. service only.  
Please email [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org) to reserve a place.

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, May 18, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services.....	Sanctuary
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.	New Member Meeting.....	PH
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 Forster Home (4616 E Cheryl Dr.)

## Tuesday, May 20, 2025

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
9:30 a.m.	Sew & Sow .....	WH 302
10:00 a.m.	Circle 11 .....	Frenchie Graham's Home
12:00 p.m.	Weekday Prayer .....	PH

## Wednesday, May 21, 2025

5:00–6:00 p.m.	No Midweek Dinner or Activities (Midweek resumes June 11)	
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS

## Saturday, May 24, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast .....	PH
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## Sunday, May 25, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School .....	Various
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime (for age 3 and 4 by Sept. 1) .....	M135
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions.....	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service .....	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd 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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENIOR ADULTS LUNCHEON — JUNE 13

Join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun on June 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland (422 Post Rd., in Ridgeland). We will start off with a lunch followed by a short program. The cost of the event is \$3 per person plus \$5 for parking per vehicle. We ask all attendees with the last name starting with letters A–N to bring a side, and those with O–Z to bring a dessert. The main dish will be provided by the church. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by contacting Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 or [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## SUMMER LOCAL MISSIONS TRIP — JUNE 17–19

FPC is building a local missions team to serve at We Will Go this summer from 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17 through Thursday, June 19. Families are welcome, and projects include helping We Will Go campers with summer reading assignments and serving in the food pantry. For questions about joining this team, please contact Carol Anne Miconi at [carolannem@fpcjackson.org](mailto:carolannem@fpcjackson.org) or 601-506-5033. Register online at [fpcj.ms/go](https://fpcj.ms/go).

## CENTER FOR PREGNANCY CHOICES TRAINING — JUNE 20–21

The CPC is holding a quarterly volunteer training for both men and women on June 20–21. This training opens doors to engaging in relational ministry with women and men in our city when they come to seek guidance and support in a time of need. For more information or to sign up, visit [fpcj.ms/cpc-training](https://fpcj.ms/cpc-training).

The Center for Pregnancy Choices has volunteer ministry opportunities throughout each week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., along with teaching opportunities outside of these hours. Contact Carol Anne Miconi at [carolannem@fpcjackson.org](mailto:carolannem@fpcjackson.org) for more information.

## RYM SUMMER CONFERENCE 2025

RYM (Reformed Youth Ministries) is a youth conference that brings together students from across the country. At RYM the gospel is taught, friendships are deepened, and Mega Rec abounds! Sign up online at [fpcj.ms/events](https://fpcj.ms/events). Contact the Youth House staff with any and all questions at [youthhouse@fpcjackson.org](mailto:youthhouse@fpcjackson.org).

### *Junior High RYM*

Dates: June 23-27  
Rising 7 through 9 Grade  
Cost: \$450

### *Senior High RYM*

Dates: July 8-13  
Rising 10-12th Grade/College Freshmen  
Cost: \$475

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Check out FPC's 2024 Annual Report. This report summarizes how monetary giving to the church is ultimately used and the ministry impact of your generosity. Access it online at [fpcj.ms/annual-report](https://fpcj.ms/annual-report). Limited physical copies are available in the Welcome Center for pick up. If you prefer that a physical copy of the report be mailed to your home, please contact Chase Wynn at [chasew@fpcjackson.org](mailto:chasew@fpcjackson.org).

## THE FIRST WORD

The First Word is our weekly emailed newsletter featuring sermon notes and audio, missionary reports and prayer requests, event information, and announcements. Manage your subscription at [fpcj.ms/email-list](https://fpcj.ms/email-list). Or with questions or for more information, you may email [communications@fpcjackson.org](mailto:communications@fpcjackson.org).

## 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

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of the sixth grade graduates of the First Presbyterian Day School.

## EVENING COMMUNION — TONIGHT

Communion will be observed in the evening worship service tonight. Please begin prayerfully preparing your hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Professionally prepared, gluten-free elements are available on the table on the south wall of the Greeting Courtyard.

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Olivia Neill — May 10, 2025

## SERVE AS AN USHER!

Men of FPC, ushering at FPC is a wonderful way to serve the church and get to know your church family. Ushers serve one month at a time on a rotating schedule at any of the three services. Contact Josh Hollingsworth at [jdhollin13@gmail.com](mailto:jdhollin13@gmail.com) to join our team.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS — BEGINNING JUNE 1

The next offering of the Membership Class will begin June 1 and will meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.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 distinctiveness 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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — JUNE 2-6

At VBS 2025, we are READY TO RUN! Our theme this year builds on the life of Paul as we learn how to faithfully run with endurance and look to Jesus! Also, adult volunteers are needed in a variety of roles: table teachers to teach Bible lessons, craft leaders to get creative with our children, recreation leaders who play fun games and outdoor activities, musicians to lead our children in worship through song, and more! Sign up at [fpcj.ms/vbs](http://fpcj.ms/vbs).

### *VBS Supplies Needed*

Help us prepare for VBS! We are in need of school-size spiral notebooks, small flashlights with batteries, 16 oz plastic reusable water bottles (NOT the ones already filled with spring water), and ink pens. We need 200 of each to fill drawstring bags for Camp Pioneer. Items may be dropped off in the donation box under the stairs by the Pepsi machines.

## PRAY FOR SUPPORTED MINISTRY PARTNERS

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).

**Virginia** – Virginia serves in China as a theological educator.

**Ian & Katrina Clarke** – Ian serves as an intern with RUF International at Northwestern University. Email: [ian.clarke@ruf.org](mailto:ian.clarke@ruf.org)

**Pioneer Ministries** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, Pioneer is a ministry whose purpose is to prepare boys and girls spiritually, educationally, and emotionally to serve Christ in their communities as contributing citizens. They also help married couples acquire the relationship skills that will produce stable homes in a fast-changing world.

Email: [pminis3659@aol.com](mailto:pminis3659@aol.com)