

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirty-First Day of August, 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

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Meditation on St. Thomas"Mary Beth Bennett
Ms. Liz Goff, Organist

The Introit — "Gloria, Amen" Walton

The Call to Worship — Hebrews 10:19-25

The Hymn No. 295 — "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

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 — Psalm 51 adapted from the *Scottish Psalter* (1595)
Father of All Mercies, who does not delight in the death of a sinner, have compassion upon us. Wash us from all our sins that we have committed against Your holy majesty. Create in us a clean heart, and strengthen us continually with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Being truly consecrated to Your service, may we praise and worship You, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 59 — "Forever Settled in the Heavens" (Psalm 119:89-97)

The Scripture Reading — Ruth 4:1-22.....pew Bible page 224

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

The Lord, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are giv'n.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your heart! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — 1 Timothy 2:1-7pew Bible page 991

The Sermon..... Dr. Strain
Life in the Household of God: The Gospel Roots of Prayer

The Hymn No. 353 (stz. 1-5) — “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response
Sure as Thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be giv'n
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heav'n.

The Postlude — “Jubilate Deo” (Psalm 100)..... Denis Bedard

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 into the church.

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 — “The Lord’s My Shepherd” Dr. David Snyder, Piano

The Call to Worship — Lamentations 3:40, 41

The Hymn — “Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”hymn sheet

The Invocation

The Hymn — “Song of Zechariah”hymn sheet

The Greetings

The Mission Report Mr. Mark Kuo
Riverside Reformed Presbyterian Church, Yilan County, Taiwan

The Evening Prayer..... Mr. Alan Walters, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Oh, How Good It Is” Ms. Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

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

Q105. What is the tenth commandment? **A. The tenth commandment is “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”**

Q106. What does the tenth commandment teach you? **A. To be content with whatever God chooses to give me.**

Q107. Can you keep the Ten Commandments perfectly? **A. No. Since the fall of Adam the only One who has been able to do this is Jesus.**

Q108. Of what use are the Ten Commandments to you? **A. They teach me what is pleasing to God, and how much I need a Savior.**

* The Meditation & Prayer Mr. Owen Hallbach, Missions Fellow

The Hymn 32 (stz. 1-2) — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Lamentations 3pew Bible page 688

The Sermon.....Mr. Lowry

When the Foundations Are Shaken: Hang in There

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

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.

We hope our 2025 quarterly giving updates highlight for you the church's finances and needs in three areas: FPC Ministry, Missions, and Debt Service.

FPC MINISTRY

Your faithful giving fuels all of FPC's ministry: preaching and teaching God's Word, caring for our congregation and community, discipleship through our ministries and departments, and stewarding this building where we worship each Lord's day. Planned ministry expenses (our "budget") for 2025 total \$9.5 million. Below is an update on giving through July 2025.

FPC Ministry Year to Date through July 2025

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,430,649
Actual Expenses	\$ 5,189,217
Giving	\$ 3,718,729
Net Giving Over (Under) Actual Expenses	(\$ 1,470,488)
2025 Giving Goal / Planned Ministry Expenses	\$ 9.5 Million

FPC MISSIONS

Your gifts to missions fuel our \$1.2 million goal for 2025, enabling FPC to support over 60 global missionaries, 20 North American church plants, and 15 RUF campus ministries. Below is an update on giving toward our separate missions budget through July 2025.

Missions Year to Date through July 2025

Expenses (Missionary support)	\$ 589,495
Giving	\$ 570,087
Net Giving Over (under) Actual Expenses	(\$ 19,408)
2025 Missions-Giving Goal	\$1.2 Million

DEBT SERVICE

Between 2020 and 2023, FPC borrowed funds to complete major ministry projects (the Jim Baird Center, Welcome Center, space reorganization for the church and FPDS, and capital needs at Twin Lakes) totaling \$8.7M. You have already given \$3.6M, leaving a loan balance of \$4,949,900. While minimum payments are budgeted through regular giving, \$3.6M will still be due or refinanced when the loan matures in 2030. Extra gifts to FPC Debt Service help reduce this balance sooner and free resources for future ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

Now is a great time to get connected with a Women's Ministry Bible Study. We have several different group sizes and meeting times. Register at fpcj.ms/women. With questions, please contact Deborah Oakley at deboraho@fpcjackson.org.

- MOMS and MOMS at Night Bible Study — Beginning September 10 & 16
- Women's Thursday Bible Studies — Beginning September 18
 - Exodus: The God Who Makes Himself Known
 - Romans: The Constitution of the Christian Faith
- Women's Ministry Circles — Beginning September 8
- Women's Bible and Prayer Time at We Will Go — Beginning September 3

INTERNATIONALS — AMERICAN PARTNERS NEEDED

The Internationals Class meets most Tuesday nights in Patterson Hall, welcoming people from around the world with Christian love, English help, and the gospel. Last year, participants from 18 countries received Bibles and built friendships with American Partners. An orientation for new Partners will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, in Patterson Hall. Learn more at www.InternationalsClass.org, call 601-668-7422, or email InternationalsClass@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS — TWO SIX-WEEK OFFERINGS

There are two upcoming offerings of the Membership Class. The first will begin September 7 and will meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in M123. The second will begin October 15 and will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Westminster Hall 204. 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. Contact Emily Eastman at emilye@fpcjackson.org to register or to ask for more information.

STUDENT CHOIR — BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7

Students in grades six-twelve are invited to join us for Student Choir! We rehearse Sunday afternoons 4:30-5:15 with supper to follow. Students will develop and practice basic musical skills, lead worship in one Sunday night service a month, and enjoy meaningful fellowship with other student choir members, mentors, and staff. For questions, email Levi Henkel at LeviH@fpcjackson.org.

CAREGIVERS MINISTRY — SEPTEMBER 8

The Caregivers' Support Group will meet Monday, September 8, in Westminster Hall 202B from 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. The purpose of our Caregivers' Ministry is to gather similarly situated caregivers who desire to learn, share stories, and grieve as we walk together through the valley of a loved one's suffering with dementia and dementia-related illness. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Fairly at 601-941-5004.

RYM LOCAL — SEPTEMBER 25-26

RYM Local is coming to Jackson, MS! This event, which will be hosted by FPC Jackson is designed to equip and encourage churches, parents, youth leaders, and volunteers as they disciple the next generation of the Church. Keynote speakers for the event are: Kelly Kapic, Julie Lowe, and Brent Corbin. The event will focus on "Cultivating Resilient Youth," a response to rising challenges such as anxiety, depression, and spiritual disengagement among today's youth. Gain insights into guiding young people in building lasting faith and strength in Christ. Register for the event at www.rym.org/local. The event costs \$99 for couples or \$59 for individuals.

JUNIOR HIGH FALL RETREAT — OCTOBER 17-19

Join us for the Junior High Fall Retreat 2025, October 17-19, at Timber Creek Camp in Pulaski, MS. This is a great weekend full of games, shared meals, and fellowship with other students. We will spend time meeting in small groups led by staff members, singing together, and listening to Jermaine Van Buren, RUF campus minister at Jackson State University, teach on Neighborly Love. Register by September 26 and pay the early bird price of \$95. The full price is \$120, and registration closes on October 10. Register online at fpcj.ms/events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kruger by their children Stephen and Jessica, Andrew and Christina, Peter and Bess, Philip and Morgan and grandchildren Glenn, Hazie, Alice, Sperry, Sam and Kelley.

ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING — TONIGHT

If you are considering adoption or would like to learn more about the process, please join us tonight at 5 p.m. in the FPC Conference Room for an Adoption Information Meeting hosted by Lifeline Children's Services. We will walk you through the steps, answer your questions, and provide guidance on how you can begin or continue your adoption journey. For questions or to register, email john.noblin@lifelinechild.org.

MISSION REPORT — TONIGHT

Join us tonight during the evening worship service when we will hear a report from Mark Kuo, church planter in Taiwan.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 7

A congregational meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church will be held on September 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary to consider and act on the recommendation of the Session that the congregation elect up to 10 additional elders. Following approval of the resolution, we will proceed immediately with the nomination, training, and election process, with the election to be held on February 1.

While children age two and under may remain in the nursery, parents are asked to please pick up their older children from Sunday School promptly at 10:20 a.m. so that teachers may also attend the meeting.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Our 2025-2026 churchwide teaching theme, The Household of God, reminds us that the Church is not merely a building or an institution but the living family of God, an organism filled with life and love. Drawing from the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Timothy, we are reminded that Christians are truly members of God's household, where we may bring our wounds, disappointments, and failures to the throne of the Lamb and experience healing and reunion. Although the Church exists within a sinful world and often falls short, we do not turn away from it or deconstruct it. Rather, we renew our commitment to the Church as the bride of Christ, seeking to see her shine brightly. This year's teaching theme calls us to look inward at our relationship with God, to look around at our church family and consider how we may show true brotherly love, and to look outward toward the mission of our congregation in Jackson, within the Presbyterian Church in America, and in the global task of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD RECOMMENDED READING

This year, as a church family, we are exploring what it means to belong to the Household of God. To help us think deeply and live faithfully in light of this truth, we've prepared a recommended reading plan that pairs with our churchwide teaching series. These books have been thoughtfully chosen to encourage, challenge, and equip us. You can participate at your own pace. We encourage you to read at least one book from each section listed at fpcj.ms/household, or you may read them all! We will have informal meetings to discuss selected books from the reading list throughout the year.

SENIOR HIGH LOCAL RETREAT — SEPTEMBER 6

Students, grades 9-12, you are invited to a Local Retreat, September 6, at FPC. Join us for a day for fun, fellowship, and a deep dive into God's Word. We will have two sessions, a lunch outing, and a fun evening in Lost Rabbit. Register at fpcj.ms/events.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 31, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
5:00 p.m.	Adoption Information Meeting	Conference Room
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)

Monday, September 1, 2025

All day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

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 Meeting	PH
7:00 p.m.	Internationals American Partner Orientation	PH

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

9:30 a.m.	GriefShare	Parlor
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner	MH
5:00 p.m.	Families Count	PH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Programs for Adults	
	I Love Thy Church, O God	MH
	D Groups	Various Locations
	College D Group	WH 302
	Evangelism Training	WH 204B
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	The Session Room
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Rise: Sixth Grade Fellowship	SC 211
6:00 p.m.	Junior High & Senior High D Groups	YH & Baird Center Gym

Saturday, September 6, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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Sunday, September 7, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
9:45 a.m.	Membership Class	M123
10:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
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 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Russ Home (2337 Twin Lakes Cir.)

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

PRAY FOR SUPPORTED MINISTRY PARTNERS

For detailed prayer requests and contact information for our supported missionaries and ministry partners, please contact Jo Lynn at jolynnm@fpcjackson.org.

Mark & Jane Kuo – Mark is serving as a church planter in Taiwan under Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church, Simpsonville, SC. Email: markchkuo@gmail.com

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

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: mlott@gatewaymission.org or 601-353-5864, ext. 207