

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-First Day of September, Two Thousand Twenty-Five  
MORNING WORSHIP  
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

**The Reverend Mr. Stephen A. Biggs**  
Minister of Students and Families

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

## ADORING THE COVENANT LORD

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

The Prelude — “What Wondrous Love Is This” ..... Gail Ann Wasson  
Ms. Liz Goff, Organ; Mrs. Nancy Bateman, Cello

The Introit — “Let All the People Praise Thee, O God” ..... William Mathias  
Let all the people praise Thee, O God,  
O let all the nations rejoice and be glad!

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 361 — “O Praise Ye the Lord” (from Psalm 149)

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology ..... 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.

## 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. 364 — “Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds” (Psalm 78:1-7)

The Offering

The Offertory — “Grace” ..... Mark Hayes  
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch, a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found; I once was blind, but now I see.  
‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace, my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already safely come;  
This grace hath brought me safe thus far, and surely grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than since the day we first begun.

## HEARING THE COVENANT WORD

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading** — John 15:1-11 .....pew Bible page 901

**The Sermon** — Life in the Vine..... Mr. Biggs

**The Hymn No. 509 (stz. 1-3)** — “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within:  
thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.**

**The Postlude** — “Wondrous Love” ..... Robert Lau

## 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.

## **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**

Charlotte Elizabeth Garrard  
daughter of William and McKenzie Garrard

William "Walden" Garrard, Jr.  
son of William and McKenzie Garrard

Louise Hammond Love  
daughter of Sam and Kelly Love

James Alan Thornton  
son of Andrew and Madeline Thornton

The next baptism date is November 16.  
Spaces are available for both services.  
Please email [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org) to reserve a place.

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O’Clock

**The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey**  
Minister of Congregational and Pastoral Care

**Mr. George W. Herndon**  
Students and Families Intern

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

The Prelude — “Not What My Hands Have Done”  
Ms. Rebekah Lipscombe, Piano

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 400 — “O Bless Our God with One Accord” (from Psalm 134)

The Invocation

The Hymn — “All Glory Be to Christ” .....hymn sheet

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Dr. Danny Story, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “Fairest Lord Jesus/All Creatures of Our God and King”

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

Q113. How many petitions are there in the Lord’s prayer? **A. Six.**

Q114. What is the first petition? **A. The first petition is, “Hallowed be thy name.”**

Q114. What does it mean to pray, “Hallowed be thy name”? **A. We are asking God to help us and others to respect and honor Him.**

\* The Meditation & Prayer ..... Rev. Rupert Hunt Taylor, Discipleship Ministry

The Hymn (stz. 1-3) — “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” ...hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Isaiah 45:1-7 .....pew Bible page 605

The Sermon — What Does God’s Sovereignty Look Like? ..... Mr. Dempsey

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Come behold the wondrous mystery: Slain by death, the God of life;  
But no grave could e’er restrain Him, Praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance; How unwavering our hope:  
Christ in power resurrected, As we will be when He comes.**

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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We use a platform called ShelbyNext to house our church-wide “Digital Directory.” All members have access to the directory. Download the **ShelbyNEXT Membership** smartphone App or visit the ShelbyNext website [fpcjackson.shelbynextchms.com](http://fpcjackson.shelbynextchms.com). With questions or to set up your account for the first time, contact Kristina Barnes at [kristinab@fpcjackson.org](mailto:kristinab@fpcjackson.org).

## FPDS ACORN FUND

As you are able, consider making a gift to the FPDS Acorn Fund, our school’s annual fund and a way that you as a church member can support the ministry of the school. Gifts to the Acorn Fund are used to recruit and retain the best teachers, provide academic excellence, and keep Christian education accessible through competitive tuition. Most importantly, a gift to the Acorn Fund is your opportunity to partner with FPDS as we grow our children from acorns of faith into “oaks of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:3). A gift to the Acorn Fund can be made at [fpds.org/give](http://fpds.org/give), through the church app by selecting “Acorn Fund,” or by mailing a check made payable to First Presbyterian Day School–Acorn Fund to 1390 N. State Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

## VISITING FPC DURING THE WEEK?

When you visit our church during business hours Monday-Friday for a meeting, Bible study, etc., the Security Committee kindly requests that you stop by the receptionist desk in the Welcome Center to sign in and sign out. We ask that all week-day visitors wear a name tag or member badge for the duration of your visit. Day School visitors may be checked in at the FPDS entrance on Belhaven Street. Thank you for helping us keep the building safe for our children and staff during the week!

## 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.

## SERVE AS AN USHER

Men of FPC, we have a pressing need for more ushers. 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. Sign up at [fpcj.ms/usher](http://fpcj.ms/usher) or contact Josh Hollingsworth at [jdhollin13@gmail.com](mailto:jdhollin13@gmail.com) to join our team.

## 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/subscribe](http://fpcj.ms/subscribe). Or with questions or for more information, you may email [communications@fpcjackson.org](mailto:communications@fpcjackson.org).

## PRAY FOR SUPPORTED MINISTRY PARTNERS

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).

**Rachel Hart** – Rachel, who serves with MTW in Ukraine, is the women’s ministry coordinator for the Odesa team. Email: [Rachel.n.hart@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.n.hart@gmail.com)

**Greg & Christie Salazar** – Greg serves as a church planter in Myers Park, North Carolina. Email: [gregsalazaris@gmail.com](mailto:gregsalazaris@gmail.com)

**Little Light House** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, LLH is a tuition-free Developmental Center that for over three decades has been making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children with special needs.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Campbell Grady Dale by his parents, Jill and David Dale, and his sisters, Avery and Stella Grace.

## LOST & FOUND TABLE

Stop by the Welcome Center through October 1 to reclaim your missing Bibles, clothing, sunglasses, etc. Any unclaimed items will be donated during Serve Week.

## 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. The event will focus on “Cultivating Resilient Youth,” a response to rising challenges such as anxiety, depression, and spiritual disengagement among today’s youth. Register for the event at [www.rym.org/local](http://www.rym.org/local).

## SERVE WEEK — REGISTER ONLINE

Register now for Serve Week, Sept. 29-Oct. 5, our week-long initiative connecting our church members with local ministry partners. Serve alongside your church family with teams at Mission First, Gateway, FPC’s Internationals Ministry, The Center for Pregnancy Choices or We Will Go, and join us on Saturday to steward the onsite physical needs of FPC, FPDS, and Twin Lakes! Find out more and register at [fpcj.ms/serve](http://fpcj.ms/serve).

## ONE SUNDAY 2025 — OCTOBER 19

Save the date: October 19 is One Sunday. Our church family will come together for One Sunday: one Sunday school, one worship service, and a church-wide lunch. Don’t miss this special day in the life of our church as we celebrate the work God is doing at First Pres through your giving and generosity!

## 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. 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. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## BOUND TOGETHER: THE HOUSEHOLD BOOK CLUB

*First Meeting: Monday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m.*

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. Our first Household of God book club discussion will be held October 21, at 6:30 p.m. on *Remaking a Broken World* by Christopher Ash. These gatherings are casual opportunities to ask questions, grow in unity, and learn from one another as we reflect on God’s vision for His church. Please let us know you’re coming by registering online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Our 2025–2026 churchwide theme, *The Household of God*, reminds us that the Church is not merely a building but is the living family of God. Though the Church is imperfect, we do not turn away; but we renew our commitment to her 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. Find out more and watch the Household of God theme video at [fpcj.ms/household](http://fpcj.ms/household).

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, September 21, 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
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for 3 and 4 year olds	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 (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Jones Home (4005 Roxbury Rd.)

## Tuesday, September 23, 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 Class	PH

## Wednesday, September 24, 2025

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study	MH
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

## Thursday, September 25, 2025

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study: Exodus	PH
9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study: Romans	MH

## Saturday, September 27, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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## Sunday, September 28, 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
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for 3 and 4 year olds	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 (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Box Home (5316 Red Fox Rd.)