

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

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

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

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

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

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

The Prelude — “The Huron Carol” Brenda Portman
Mr. Tim Sanduleac, flute; Ms. Liz Goff, piano

The Introit — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” David Wilcox
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
“Hark!” The herald angels sing “Glory to the new-born King.”

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 195 — “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” (based on Psalm 98)

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Doxology Hymn No. 218 (stz. 5) — “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

WELCOMING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The Public Profession of Faith

The Biblical Basis
The Introduction of New Members
The Questions of Membership
The Prayer
The Declaration
The Blessing

The Offering

The Offertory — “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” Mack Wilberg
Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! Dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing!

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "I-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers!

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — John 6:35-40pew Bible page 892

The Sermon — **Christmas According to Jesus: Security** Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 230 (stz. 1-2) — "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Thou Who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou Who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.**

The Postlude — "Toccatà on *Aberystwyth*" David Bednall

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 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

This week we have the happy occasion to receive new members into our church family during the morning worship service.

QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope, save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed into our fellowship on December 7, and are being presented to the congregation during the morning worship services today. Please welcome them warmly.

Abbie Babaz	Kenzie Jones
Dawn Blanton	Daniel McSwain
Camille Bolen	Wade Meena
Alex and Susan Burrow	Michael and Celia Merchant
Connor and Madeline Carmody	Jim and Marianna Peipon
Alexis Crews	Allie Perkins
Grace Ann Davis	Pete and Denise Reynolds
Anna Russell Earrey	J.D. and Courtney Rimann (Louisa)
Alex and Olivia Facundus	Elliot and Ellie Robertson
Kat Garrison	
Sarah Grafton Irving (Thomas, James, John, and Elisabeth)	

() Covenant child joining as a non-communing member

JOIN FPC!

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that the next date to join is January 25. New member forms can be found online at fpcj.ms/membership or in the greeting courtyard outside the sanctuary. Forms are due by January 14. If you have any questions about the membership process at FPC, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.

EVENING WORSHIP

The Installation Service of Dr. Rupert Hunt Taylor
The Fourteenth Day of December, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five
Six O’Clock

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

The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker
Executive Minister

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

The Prelude — “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Dan Forrest
Dr. David Snyder, piano

The Call to Worship

The Hymn — “Fullness of Grace” hymn sheet

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 253 — “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

The Greetings and Introduction of the Presbytery Commission

The Offering

The Offertory — “Comfort Ye” G. F. Handel
Mr. Paul Bowden, tenor; Dr. John Howard, organ

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Jeremiah 3:15-18 pew Bible page 630

The Sermon — A Shepherd After God’s Heart Dr. Strain

The Order of Installation

The Proceeding of Presbytery Rev. Felker
The Propounding of the Constitutional Questions..... Dr. Wingard
The Installation Prayer..... Mr. Beaton
The Declaration Dr. Wingard
The Charge to the Minister Rev. Felker
The Charge to the Session Dr. Henson

The Hymn No. 642 — “Be Thou My Vision”

The Benediction The Reverend Dr. Rupert Hunt Taylor

The Postlude — “The Rejoicing” Charles Callahan
Dr. Levi Henkel, Organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH FAMILY HYMN SING — DECEMBER 28

Join us for a Hymn Sing as we gather for one, joint Sunday School hour for all ages on Sunday, December 28, at 9:45 a.m. in Miller Hall. This is a joyful opportunity for our whole church family (children, students, and adults) to gather for coffee, hot chocolate, and singing together. We hope you and your family will make plans to be with us. The Hymn Sing will replace all Sunday School classes on December 28. Please note that there will be no separate children's ministry programs that morning.

WE'RE HIRING

We're seeking a faithful and detail-oriented individual to serve as Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister at First Presbyterian Church. This vital role provides high-level administrative and organizational support in close partnership with the Senior Minister, helping strengthen the leadership and ministry of the church. Review the job description and apply at fpcj.ms/employment.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

Contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be deductible for the 2025 tax year. The Business Office will be open 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on December 31, with security available on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours. You may give online through midnight at fpcj.ms/give or through the church app. Gifts received or postmarked after December 31 will apply to 2026. If you are planning to donate stock to FPC before the end of the year 2025, please notify Haley Cushing in the Business Office at haley@fpcjackson.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

If you're struggling with alcohol or chemical dependence, a discreet, weekly group offers friendship, encouragement, biblical reflection, and prayer. Call or text 601-260-1636 for details. Twice a month, a separate, confidential group meets for those with loved ones facing addiction. For meeting information, call or text 601-260-0388.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT — JANUARY 24-25

Young Adults, registration is now open for our retreat, January 24-25. We're heading back to Twin Lakes for a weekend to rest and refocus with teaching from Jermaine Van Buren. Register online at fpcj.ms/events.

STAND 2026 — FEBRUARY 6

Building Up Mid-South Men in the Gospel

Save the date for our annual conference for men in the mid-south: Friday, February 6, led by our guest preacher Randy Pope. Join us for supper, and then worship with your brothers in Christ as we raise our voices together in praise. There is no cost to attend, but contributions to support the event are welcome. Please register online at fpcj.ms/stand-2026 to help us plan for the dinner.

PROVIDE A MEAL OR HOST A MISSIONARY

Missions Conference — February 22-March 1

We are in need of hosts for our upcoming Missions Conference. Help us provide hospitality to our honored guests during the conference! Want to help but can't offer your home? We also need volunteers to provide a meal. For more information, please contact Janie Clarke, our housing coordinator at 601-953-4991 or janieclarke6@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTALLATION SERVICE & RECEPTION TONIGHT

Please join us this evening at 6 p.m. for a special worship service as Rupert Hunt Taylor is installed as our Minister of Discipleship. A reception will follow at 7 p.m. in Miller Hall.

Members of the Presbytery Commission

The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker
Convener, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

Ruling Elder Mr. Scott A. Beaton
Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church, Stevensville, MD

Ruling Elder Dr. Zeb K. Henson
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

Ruling Elder Mr. Robert M. Jones
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

Ruling Elder Mr. CL Pearce
Redeemer Church, Jackson, Mississippi

The Reverend Dr. Allen Stanton
Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

The Reverend Dr. Charles M. Wingard
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi

CHRISTMAS CHAPEL AT GATEWAY — DECEMBER 15

On Monday, December 15, FPC will lead the chapel service for the men in the Gateway “New Life” program and overnight shelter. Come at 4:15 p.m. to help serve dinner, or join the service at 5 p.m. We will sing carols, hear a brief gospel message from David Strain, and spend time encouraging the men. For questions, call Lou Ann Flatgard at 601-940-3012.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY — DECEMBER 15

College students, we would love to see you Monday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakley home (2006 Douglass Dr.)! Come reconnect, eat good food, and catch up with old friends.

BOOKSTORE OPEN HOUSE — DECEMBER 20

The FPC Bookstore is one of the best-kept secrets in Jackson for Christmas shopping! Stop in for refreshments and free gift wrap on Saturday, December 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

POP-UP NURSERY — DECEMBER 20

We will have a Pop-Up Nursery here at FPC on December 20, 8:30-11:30 a.m., for ages three and under. We would like to give you some time to shop, run errands, wrap gifts, or get a cup of coffee! Please sign up online at fpcj.ms/pop-up-nursery so we will be ready for your little one to come play with us.

MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS — DECEMBER 21

You are warmly invited to our annual service of lessons and carols on December 21, at 4 and 6 p.m. Join the FPC Choir, symphony orchestra, and guest soloist Hillary Watkins as we celebrate the story of our Savior’s birth through Scripture and song. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to share in this evening of worship and celebration. A reception to welcome our guests will be available in the Welcome Center after each service. A nursery will be provided for children three-years old and younger.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Set aside a moment for this special service at the beginning of your Christmas celebrations. Bring the whole family to our carol service December 24, at 4 p.m. Please note that there will be no nursery during this service. We encourage families to bring their children to worship together.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14, 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 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.....	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Reception for Rupert Hunt Taylor.....	Miller Hall

Monday, December 15, 2025

4:15 p.m.	Gateway Christmas Chapel.....	Gateway
6:30 p.m.	College Christmas Party....	The Oakley Home (2006 Douglass Dr.)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters.....	Bookstore
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Wednesday, December 17, 2025

5:50 p.m.	No Midweek Dinner or Activities	
	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	MS

Saturday, December 20, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
8:30-11:30 a.m.	Pop-Up Nursery	Nursery
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Bookstore Open House.....	Bookstore

Sunday, December 21, 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 3 and 4 year olds.....	M135
4:00 & 6:00 p.m.	The Music of Christmas	Sanctuary

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 jollynm@fpcjackson.org.

William & Charisa – William and Charisa serve with SIM in North Africa.

Martin & Elizabeth Antoon – Martin serves as the Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Savannah College of Art and Design. Email: martin.antoon@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. Pioneer also helps married couples acquire relationship skills that will produce stable homes in a fast-changing world. Email: pminis3659@aol.com