

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*"To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever"*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourth Day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Six  
MORNING WORSHIP  
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

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

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

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Romantic Prelude, Op.17, No. 2" ..... Marcel Tournier  
Ms. Emily Williams, Violin

The Introit — "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" ..... David Evans  
Come, Christians join to sing, "Alleluia! Amen!"  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice!  
Praise is His gracious choice, Alleluia, Amen!

The Call to Worship — Psalm 100

The Hymn No. 4 — "All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

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 hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 662 — "As the Hart Longs for Flowing Streams"  
(based on Psalm 42)

The Scripture Reading — Ezra 4:6-16 .....pew Bible page 391

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — "Nunc Dimittis" ..... Rene Clausen  
Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared for all, for  
all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, a light to Thy servant Israel, to the  
glory of Thy people Israel. Amen.

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — 1 Timothy 5:1-16 .....pew Bible page 992

The Sermon — Life in the Household of God: Mercy and Ministry... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 359 (stz. 1-5) — “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

The Postlude — “Fanfares” ..... Edwin Childs  
Dr. Levi Henkel, 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 into the church.

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O’Clock

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

**The Reverend Dr. Rupert Hunt Taylor**  
Minister of Discipleship

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

The Prelude — “When I Survey” ..... D. Linda McKechnie  
Ms. Rebekah Lipscombe, piano; Dr. Levi Henkel, organ

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 408 — “Day Is Dying in the West”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “I Asked the Lord” ..... hymn sheet

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Mr. Stuart Clarke, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone” (based on Psalm 62)

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

Q137. What sign is used in the Lord’s Supper? **A. Eating bread and drinking wine to remember the suffering and death of Jesus.**

Q138. What does the bread represent? **A. Christ’s body sacrificed for our sins.**

Q139. What does the wine represent? **A. Christ’s blood shed for our sins.**

\* The Meditation & Prayer ... Rev. Wiley Lowry, Minister of Teaching & Pastoral Care

The Hymn (stz. 1-2) — “A Debtor to Mercy Alone” .....hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Haggai 1:1-15 .....pew Bible page 791

The Sermon — **The Unwanted God: A Stirring Word** ..... Mr. Biggs


The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**My name from the palms of Your hands eternity will not erase,  
impressed on Your heart it remains in marks of indelible grace.  
Yes, I to the end will endure, until I bow down at Your throne,  
forever and always secure, a debtor to mercy alone.**

The Postlude — “Fairest Lord Jesus” .....D. Linda McKechnie

\*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.



The  
House  
of  
God

2025-2026 Churchwide  
Teaching Theme

“I am writing  
these things to you so that...  
you may know how one ought to behave  
in the Household of God,  
which is the church of the living God,  
a pillar and buttress of the truth.”

-1 Timothy 3:14-15



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
*Jackson, Mississippi*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BOUND TOGETHER BOOK CLUB — INSTALLMENT TWO

### *Joining the Mission of the Church*

As we continue exploring what it means to belong to the Household of God, our next Bound Together Book Club gathering invites you to dive into the theme of **Joining the Mission of the Church**. This section of our reading plan will extend through January. Find the entire Recommended Reading List online at [fpcj.ms/household](https://fpcj.ms/household).

The book club's featured book for this section is *What Is the Mission of the Church?* by Kevin DeYoung. If you weren't able to attend the previous book club, each meeting is independent, so please join us, Monday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m., led by Dallis and Christy Ketchum. Desserts and coffee will be provided. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](https://fpcj.ms/events).

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS — BEGINNING JANUARY 28

Interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian? Our upcoming Membership Class will begin January 28 and will meet on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in WH 204. Contact Emily Eastman at [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org) to register or to ask for more information.

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 particular tenets 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. Come and find out more about membership at this six-week class!

## 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 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. Register online at [fpcj.ms/stand-2026](https://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](mailto:janieclarke6@gmail.com).

## 2026 MISSION TRIPS

At First Presbyterian Church, short-term missions are one way we live out our mission to make disciples in our neighborhood, our communities, and around the world. Find out more and apply at [fpcj.ms/go](https://fpcj.ms/go).

- January 2-10 to Moldova (full)
- March 7-14 to Honduras (senior high students)
- July 10-18 to Peru
- July 24-August 2 to Thailand

## HEARING ASSISTANCE AT FPC

FPC partners with Sanctuary Audio to help improve the listening experience in our sanctuary. The program can be used through earbuds or any bluetooth-enabled hearing aid. Below are the directions for using Sanctuary Audio via your phone or tablet. If you have questions, please contact Tim Tumutod at [timt@fpcjackson.org](mailto:timt@fpcjackson.org).

1. Connect your headphones or earbuds to your phone/device.
2. Connect your phone/device to the WiFi network "FPC Guest."
3. Download the app called "ListenWIFI."
4. Open the "ListenWIFI" App.
5. Tap "Venue Scan" until the app connects with FPC Jackson.
6. Select "FPC Jackson" channel.
7. Enjoy listening to the Sanctuary audio!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of Ford Mosby for his years of service on our church staff.

## COMMUNION — NEXT WEEK

Communion will be observed in the morning worship services next week. Please begin prayerfully preparing your hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Professionally prepared, gluten-free elements will be available to pick up on the table on the south wall of the Greeting Courtyard.

## WEEKDAY PRAYER MEETING — RESUMES THIS TUESDAY

Weekday Prayer is back! Join us beginning Tuesday, January 6, at noon in Patterson Hall. The meeting will be informal and will focus solely on prayer. Bring your lunch and join us for all, or only a part, as your schedule allows.

## WE'RE HIRING

First Presbyterian Church is currently seeking individuals to serve in key roles that support the life and worship of our congregation. Open positions include an **Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister**, a **Nursery Caregiver** serving a few hours each week in support of young families, and a skilled **Organist** to help lead our congregation in worship alongside the Director of Music. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving the church in one of these ways, we invite you to learn more and apply at [fpcj.ms/employment](http://fpcj.ms/employment).

## SENIOR ADULTS SERVE DAY — JANUARY 12

Senior Adults, join us Monday, January 12, any time between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. as we prepare arts and crafts for PEARSON Foundation's 2026 Spring Break Youth Retreat.

## MIDWEEK MINI-INTENSIVE — BEGINNING JANUARY 14

### *Ephesians: Belonging and Becoming*

Join us this January for our Midweek Mini-Intensive, as David Strain leads us through the book of Ephesians. Over two Wednesday nights, we will explore Paul's great masterpiece on the church: what does it mean to be united to, and to live in, the body of Christ? D groups and electives will resume on January 28.

## FAMILIES COUNT — SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Looking for an opportunity to serve right here in our local community? Our next Families Count class begins January 14 during Midweek. We are seeking volunteers to serve as mentor couples, childcare helpers, or to assist with transportation. Please contact Jo Lynn Mayfield ([jolynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org) or 769-524-5121) to get involved. Families Count equips churches to walk alongside families facing separation due to financial strain, substance abuse, mental health challenges, and other pressures, offering care, guidance, and hope toward restoration.

## BAPTISM — JANUARY 18

The next baptism is scheduled for Sunday, January 18. Spaces are available for both services. To make a reservation, please contact Emily Eastman at [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org).

## YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT — JANUARY 24-25

Young Adults, registration is 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](http://fpcj.ms/events).

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, January 4, 2026

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
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

## Tuesday, January 6, 2026

12:00 p.m.	Weekday Prayer Meeting	PH
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## Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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

## Saturday, January 10, 2026

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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## Sunday, January 11, 2026

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 (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)	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](mailto:jollynm@fpcjackson.org).

**Ricky & Arely Kroeger** – Ricky serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico as a Bible translator in the Zapotec language. email: [ricky\\_kroeger@wycliffe.org](mailto:ricky_kroeger@wycliffe.org)

**Lowell & Mae Ivey** – Lowell serves with Metanoia Prison Ministries as the Executive Director. Email: [livey@pcanet.org](mailto:livey@pcanet.org)

**The Center for Pregnancy Choices** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, the CPC enters into the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy with a woman and walks alongside her, offering personalized and comprehensive support from the time she finds out she is pregnant until long after her pregnancy decision using a holistic approach to meet the needs of the whole woman—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.