

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventh 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. Scott H. Miller
Minister of Young Adults and College

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "As with Gladness" James Anderson
FPC Brass Ensemble

The Introit — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Wilbur Chenoweth
O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race;
And the Babe the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

The Call to Worship — Luke 1:68-75

The Hymn No. 320 — "Rejoice, All Ye Believers"

The Invocation

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.

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 194 — "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

The Stewardship Report

The Scripture Reading — Isaiah 35:1-10.....pew Bible page 595

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

The Offertory — "O Magnum Mysterium" Morten Lauridsen
O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ!
Alleluia!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — John 9:1-41pew Bible page 895

The Sermon — Christmas According to Jesus: Sight..... Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 196 (stz. 1-3) — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

The Postlude — “Angels We Have Heard on High”Rob McGregor

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
Mr. Timothy P. O. Tumutod — IT/AV Intern

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

The Prelude — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Mr. Lydian Peipon, piano; Rev. Jamie Peipon, duduk

The Call to Worship — Luke 1:68-70

The Hymn — “Song of Zechariah”hymn sheet

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 193 — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer.....Mr. John Lowe Smith, Ruling Elder

The Offering

The Offertory — “For Unto Us a Child Is Born”

The Student Choir; Ms. Reed Hairston, director

For unto us a child is born, a son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

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

Q133. Who are to be baptized? **A. Believers and their children.**

Q134. Why are we baptized even as little infants? **A. Because God includes the children of believers in covenant and marks them in baptism.**

Q135. What did Jesus say about little children? **A. “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**

Q136. What does baptism call you to be? **A. A true follower of Christ.**

* The Meditation & PrayerMr. Jennings Duncan, Discipleship Intern

The Hymn (stz. 1-3) — “By Faith”hymn sheet

The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Hebrews 12:1, 2..... pew Bible page 1008

The Sermon — The Foundation Holds: The End of Faith.....Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

**By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost,
To deliver captives, and to preach good news in every corner of the earth.**

**We will stand as children of the promise,
we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.**

Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

**By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail.
For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.**

**We will stand as children of the promise,
we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.**

Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

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.

CARE TEAMS

SHEPHERDING OUR CHURCH

Care teams are the vehicle by which our church organizes pastoral ministry. In a church of our size, we are at risk to miss opportunities to minister to one another. Therefore, our church leadership uses these teams to address needs, support, encouragement, and prayer. Each team is led by a group of elders and consists of elders, deacons, and Sunday school class leadership. We want you to know the pastor, elders, and deacons assigned to your class and feel comfortable reaching out to them. We also understand that in some circumstances female members of the church may prefer to approach a woman. Our Women's Discipleship Coordinator, Ella Payne, would love to hear from you. You can contact her at ellap@fpcjackson.org. If you are not a member of a Sunday School class and would like to contact an elder or pastor, please email ccare@fpcjackson.org.

CORNERSTONE

Pastor Wiley Lowry	Deacons Charles Barbour Will Barbour	Deacons Nathan Oakley Rob Oates
Elders Ken Ball Sharkey Burke Matt Graves Zeb Henson	Jay Brown Ty Hardy Michael Hogue Guy McClain Doug Morgan	Weston Russ Bryan Rutledge Neil Witherow

COVENANT

Pastor Billy Dempsey	Elders David Cleland Marcy Forester Rob Jones	Elders John Neill Richard Ridgway Barry Vickery
Deacon Chris Wyatt		

FIRST LADIES

Pastor Billy Dempsey	Elder Reid Cotten	Deacon John McBride
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LAMPLIGHTERS

Pastor Gary Sinclair	Elders Hall Bailey Kyle Ball Max Bowman	Elders Stephen Kruger Bill Stone Cal Wells
Deacons William Griffin Jim Poole Brian Smith Ernie Strahan	Bob Cunningham Ned Currie Arthur Davis Sr.	Mark Windham Marcus Wilson

LIFE LEARNERS

Pastor Gary Sinclair	Elders Doug McDaniel Hu Meena Steve Rosenblatt	Deacons Jesse Browning Brooks Buchanan David Marchetti Mike Myers Hugh Trussell Coles Wilkins
Elders Mark Baird Stuart Clarke Parker Ellison	Deacons Walter Brand	

LIGHT HOUSE

Pastor David Felker	Deacons Price Davis William Denney Gary Dye Bailey Fair Matt Glover David Luter Willem Lamar	Deacons Read Meadows Sanford Moore Lee Thorne Les Triplett Alan Walters Chase Wynn
Elders Craig Flowers Phillip Parker		

LOST AND FOUND

Pastor David Felker	Deacons Josh Hollingsworth Harrison Matheny Matt Peaster Bowen Thigpen	Elders Paul Hurst Rob Jones Danny Story Mike Tramel
Deacons Turner Brown Matthew Burrow Paul Davis		

PILGRIMS

Pastor Jamie Peipon	Elders Max Bowman Craig Flowers Tian Teh	Deacons Rob Lake Ken Seawright
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PROVIDENCE

Pastor Charlie Wingard	Deacons Jamey Elkin Paul Forster Bo Gregg Harrison Hood Alston Ludwig	Deacons Jeff Sumrall Matthew Turnage Arthur Wadsworth Walt Wofford
Elders Jimmy Moore Alan Walters		

SALT AND LIGHT

Pastor Wiley Lowry	Deacons Auston Edwards Anthony Hall Dallis Ketchum Jason McNeel	Deacons Virgil Payne Taylor F. Smith
Elders George May John McVey		

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Pastor Rupert Hunt Taylor	Elders Stuart Clarke Craig Flowers	Deacon Jim Prince
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STEWARDS

Pastor Rupert Hunt Taylor	Elders Ben Roberson Tim Threadgill Dave Fulcher	Deacons Dave Dear Robert Leard Trey Porter Jeff Skelton Stewart Swayze Will Vise
Elders Jack Crawford Holt Crews David Elkin Harper Keeler	Deacons Allen Holiman David Case T. Dale	

YOUNG ADULTS

Pastor Scott Miller	Elders Mark Baird Spence Flatgard Mike Tramel	Deacons Beau Burrow Walt Wofford
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YOUNG SEEKERS

Pastor Billy Dempsey	Elders George Fair Claude Harbarger Wayne Husband Bill Payne John Lowe Smith	Deacons Glen Bush Bill Crim Ford Terry
Elders Bud Bratley Steve Edwards		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY — DECEMBER 15

College students, we'd 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.

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. If you know someone who may be well-suited for this position, please encourage them to 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@c@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.

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.

Trey & Kiki Adams – Trey serves with MTW as the team leader/church planter in Southeast Asia. Email: archadams@gmail.com.

Samuel & Sara Tyson Husband – Samuel serves as the Chaplain at the Schools of Perea and the Director of New City Memphis. Email: shusband@gmail.com

Mission First – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, Mission First is an inner-city mission organization that seeks to meet the tangible needs of individuals as an avenue to engage their paramount spiritual needs. Email: lthigpen@missionfirst.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Gwenette and Jack Robertson by their family.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Wade Creekmore — November 28, 2025

Dr. J. Lee Owen Jr. — November 29, 2025

SENIOR HIGH CHRISTMAS INSIGHT — TONIGHT

Senior High students, grade 9-12, tonight! We'll have s'mores, snacks, and a fun gift exchange as we celebrate Christmas together. Join us at 7:30 at the Oakley home (2006 Douglas Dr.). Bring a wrapped gift (around \$10) if you'd like to participate in the exchange.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CIRCLES — MEETING THIS WEEK

Joining a Circle is a wonderful way to get involved in the life of the church and make a big church feel like family. Circles are groups of women who meet monthly (September–May) for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and to learn of opportunities for service and missions within our church. To register, contact Lisa Oswalt at 769-333-5802 or lisao@fpcjackson.org.

Monday, December 8

Circle 3 9:30 Westminster Hall 204
Circle 8 9:30 The Orchard
Circle 2 10:00 Maury Ball's Home
Circle 4 10:00 Parlor
Circle 5 10:00 Gayla Stone's Home
Circle 14 12:00 Miller Hall
Circle 6 6:30 Beth Archer's Home

Tuesday, December 9

Circle 7 10:00 Blair Hederman's Home
Circle 9 10:00 Parlor
Circle 12 10:30 St. Catherine's

YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT FELLOWSHIP — DECEMBER 9

Young adults, join us on December 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Hutton Chapel for a time of teaching with David Strain, fellowship, and dessert.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 11

Loving the Local Church: Coming Alongside

Join us Thursday, December 11, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., as Jill Dale shares her family's journey through her son Campbell's cancer diagnosis and loss, and how the Lord cared for them through His church. Lunch is \$10 at the door. Register online at fpcj.ms/events.

SENIOR ADULTS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 12

Senior Adults, join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun on December 12 at 11:30 a.m. in Patterson Hall! We'll begin with lunch, followed by a Christmas Cookie Decorating Contest and a time in God's Word. The cost is \$3 per person. To RSVP, contact Emily Eastman at 769-572-3535 or emilye@fpcjackson.org.

CALLING ALL BAKERS FOR CHRISTMAS AT GATEWAY

FPC will celebrate Christmas and serve lunch to the men of Gateway Rescue Mission on Monday, December 15, at 10:30 a.m. We are asking for donations of homemade goodies, pick-up desserts, or savory snacks. Please drop off your items on Friday, December 12, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., or on Sunday, December 14, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at the table on the 1st floor of the Study Center. For questions, please call Lou Ann Flatgard at 601-940-3012.

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.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 7, 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.	New Member Meeting	MH
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 Oakley Home (2006 Douglass Dr.)

Monday, December 8, 2025

Various	Women's Ministry Circles Meet This Week	See Announcements
5:30 p.m.	Diaconate Meeting	PH
6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting	MS

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Various	Women's Ministry Circles Meet This Week	See Announcements
9:30 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Bookstore
12:00 p.m.	Weekday Prayer Meeting	PH
6:30 p.m.	Young Adults Advent Fellowship	Hutton Chapel
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025

11:30 a.m.	Women's Ministry Christmas Luncheon	MH
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Friday, December 12, 2025

11:30 a.m.	Senior Adults Christmas Luncheon	PH
5:30 p.m.	Carols at the Belhaven Town Center	Belhaven Town Center

Saturday, December 13, 2025

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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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

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

CAROLS AT THE BELHAVEN TOWN CENTER — DECEMBER 12

As part of our outreach to the Belhaven neighborhood, we're hosting a Christmas gathering for families and friends at the Belhaven Town Center. You're invited to a festive evening in Belhaven! Join us on Friday, December 12, for a night filled with music, crafts, treats, and Christmas cheer for the whole family.

5:30 p.m. - Live Christmas Music and Crafts

6 p.m. - Children's Story Time

6:15 p.m. - Caroling

Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and come celebrate the beauty of Christmas right here in Belhaven!