

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



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

# THE LORD'S DAY

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

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

The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker  
Executive Minister

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Greetings and Announcements

The Prelude — “Man of Sorrows” ..... Brian Büda  
Dr. Grace Schumaker, piano

The Introit — “Rise Up! Arise!” ..... Mendelssohn and Wymond  
Rise up, arise, rise and shine! For the glory of the Lord is upon thee.

The Call to Worship — Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,**

Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word,  
obeying the voice of His word.

**Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers who do His will!**

Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

The Hymn No. 235 — “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

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 heav'nly host;**

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

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 551 — “How Blest Is He Whose Trespass” (from Psalm 32)

The Scripture Reading — Ezra 7 ..... pew Bible page 393

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

**The Offertory** — “Greater Love Hath No Man” ..... John Ireland

Mrs. Kim Porter, soprano; Mr. Daniel Kim, baritone

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.  
Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who His own self bare our sins in His own Body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you  
out of darkness into His marvellous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies  
a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading** — 2 Timothy 2:14-19 ..... pew Bible page 995

**The Sermon** — **Keep the Faith: An Approved Worker** ..... Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 141 (stz. 1-4)** — “God, in the Gospel of His Son”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**O grant us grace, almighty Lord,  
to read and mark your holy Word;  
its truths with meekness to receive,  
and by its holy precepts live.**

**The Postlude** — “March in C Major” ..... Daniel Ficarrri

Mr. Aaron Patterson, organist

## 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. James C. Peipon  
Minister of Missions

## The Greetings and Announcements

The Prelude — “Amazing Grace” ..... Mr. Owen Hallbach, saxophone

The Call to Worship — Psalm 116:5-7

The Hymn No. 170 — “Fairest Lord Jesus”

## The Invocation

The Hymn — “Before the Throne” ..... hymn sheet

## The Greetings

The Evening Prayer ..... Mr. David Cleland, Ruling Elder

## The Offering

The Offertory — “It Is Well with My Soul” ..... The Men's Quartet

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

Q1. Who made you? **A. God.**

Q2. What else did God make? **A. God made all things.**

Q3. Why did God make you and all things? **A. For His own glory.**

Q4. How can you glorify God? **A. By loving Him and doing what He commands.**

Q5. Why are you to glorify God? **A. Because He made me and takes care of me.**

The Meditation & Prayer ..... Mr. George Herndon, Senior Minister's Intern

The Hymn No. 261 (stz. 1-2) — “What Wondrous Love Is This”

## The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Mark 3:1-19 ..... pew Bible page 838

The Sermon — There Remains a Sabbath Rest ..... Mr. Lowry

## The Benediction

## The Congregational Response

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on!

## 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.

# 2026 GIVING UPDATE

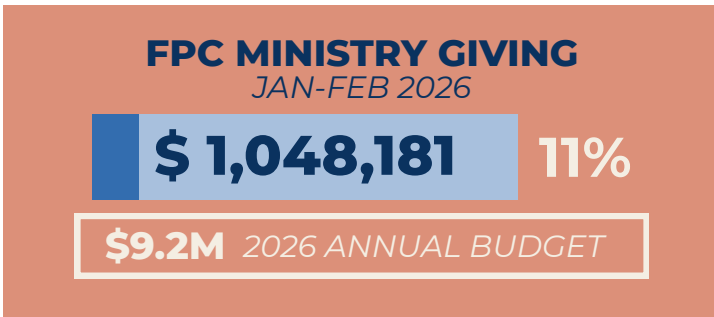
## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Throughout 2026, we hope these Giving Updates highlight for you the church's financial needs in two areas: **FPC Ministry** and **FPC Missions**.

### FPC MINISTRY GIVING

This year's annual budget for FPC's ministry is \$9.2 million (a \$300,000 decrease from last year's ministry budget). Giving to FPC's budget encompasses all the ministry activity you see throughout the year:

- the preaching and teaching of God's Word
- the pastoral care, shepherding, and disciple-making ministry programs and departments
- the good stewardship of the building where we worship
- countless other ways we live out our mission through your giving



### FPC MISSIONS

Your gifts to Missions drive our support of global and national missions. This year's mission giving goal is \$1.2 million. When you make an additional gift designated to Missions, FPC is able to directly support over 60 missionaries worldwide, 24 church planters across North America, six partners in evangelism and discipleship, and 19 RUF campus ministries.



### DEBT RETIREMENT

Between 2020 and 2023, FPC advanced several important ministry projects by borrowing money for which we are currently servicing debt. Those projects include the Baird Center gym and auditorium, the FPC Welcome Center, space reorganization for both the church and FPDS, and capital needs of Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center. The total cost of all these projects was \$8.7 million, and the debt for those projects is currently **\$3.9 million**. FPC is able to make payments towards the retirement of that debt thanks to generous gifts made specifically for Debt Retirement. If you are interested in making a gift or commitment towards this project, please contact Chase Wynn, Director of Giving and Stewardship, at 662-397-0579.

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, March 29, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
9:45 a.m.	Membership Class	MB 123
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, March 30, 2026

6:30 p.m.	Bound Together Book Club	WH 202
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## Tuesday, March 31, 2026

9:30 a.m.	Sew & Sow	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	Quilters	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	WH 305
12:00 p.m.	Weekday Prayer Meeting	PH
3:45-6:00 p.m.	Gateway Chapel	Gateway Rescue Mission
6:00 p.m.	MOMS at Night Bible Study	MS
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

## Wednesday, April 1, 2026

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study	MH
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner	MH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Adult Programs	
	Ordinary Agents	PH
	Engaged & Newlywed Class	WH 202
	D Groups	Various Locations
	Evangelism Training	WH 304
	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Session Room
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Rise: Sixth Grade Fellowship	SC 211
6:00 p.m.	Student Ministry D Groups	YH & Baird Center Gym

## Friday, April 3, 2026

All Day	Church Office Closed	
6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary

## Saturday, April 4, 2026

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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## Sunday, April 5, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
9:45 a.m.	Membership Class	MB 123
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for 3 and 4 year olds	M135
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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENIOR ADULTS DAY TRIP — APRIL 17

Senior Adults, join us on a tour of Mississippi's Presbyterian history with Dr. David Irving on Friday, April 17. We will depart from the church campus at 8 a.m. and arrive back by 4:30 p.m. Along the way we will enjoy a delicious, southern lunch. The cost for the trip is \$30, in addition to the cost of lunch. To register for the event, please email Emily Eastman at [emilye@fpcjackson.org](mailto:emilye@fpcjackson.org) or call 769-572-3535.

## YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT — APRIL 18-19

Young Adults, we're heading back to Twin Lakes for a weekend to rest and refocus with teaching from Jermaine Van Buren, April 18-19. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## CHOIR AND ORGAN FESTIVAL — APRIL 25

Our adult choir will participate in the American Guild of Organists' Choir and Organ Festival on April 25 at FPC, and we are inviting all singers to join us! The program of classic sacred anthems and congregational hymns will feature 12 local conductors and organists. If you are interested in singing, please contact Levi at [levih@fpcjackson.org](mailto:levih@fpcjackson.org) for more information. The 5 p.m. concert is free and open to the public.

## RYM — SUMMER 2026

This summer, our church will send junior high students (June 22–26) and senior high students (June 29–July 3) to Reformed Youth Ministries (RYM), a national youth conference where the gospel is taught, friendships are deepened, and Mega Rec abounds. To register, visit [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## MEN'S TRIP TO ST. LOUIS — SUMMER 2026

Men, join Billy Dempsey and Stephen Biggs on a summer adventure to St. Louis! Bring a child or grandchild to witness great baseball as the Cardinals and Cubs play. We will travel in late July (dates to be finalized). The cost is \$350/person, not including meals and St. Louis sightseeing. Register online at [fpcj.ms/cardinals](http://fpcj.ms/cardinals).

## TWIN LAKES CAMP — SUMMER 2026

The Aerial Adventure and Rock wall aren't just about climbing higher — they're about stretching, growing and challenging yourself. Campers learn perseverance, teamwork, and how to trust God when things feel uncertain or overwhelming. These moments foster confidence that lasts long after summer ends. Don't miss your chance to be part of a summer that shapes hearts. Register at [www.twinlakescamp.org](http://www.twinlakescamp.org).

## WE'RE HIRING!

First Presbyterian Church seeks an experienced Staff Accountant to serve the church, First Presbyterian Day School, and Twin Lakes. The Staff Accountant executes the day-to-day accounting operations for FPC, FPDS, and TL. This full-time role maintains the general ledger, executes the monthly close process, performs reconciliations, and prepares internal financial reports to ensure reliable and timely financial data. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please apply online at [fpcj.ms/employment](http://fpcj.ms/employment).

## 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).

**Fred & Sheila Reid** – Fred serves as a church planter in Japan.

Email: [fred.reid.alive.again.japan@gmail.com](mailto:fred.reid.alive.again.japan@gmail.com)

**Bentley & Sarah Love Crawford** – Bentley serves as the RUF Campus Minister at Belhaven University. Email: [bentley.crawford@ruf.org](mailto:bentley.crawford@ruf.org)

**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](mailto:lthigpen@missionfirst.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EASTER WEEKEND

Join us at FPC this Easter to worship our Risen Lord! If you are visiting or new to our church, please stop by the Welcome Center for light refreshments and a meet & greet at 9:45 a.m. on Easter. Nursery is available for children age three and younger. Children's Churchtime is during the 11 a.m. service and is for children ages three and four.

- Good Friday Worship Service — April 3, 6 p.m.
- Easter Morning Worship Services — April 5, 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School to be held at 9:45 a.m.
- Easter Evening Worship Service — April 5, 6 p.m.

## BOUND TOGETHER BOOK CLUB — MARCH 30

### *Living in Fellowship*

Join us Monday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m., for the next meeting of our Bound Together Book Club. The discussion of *A Place to Belong: Loving the Local Church* by Megan Hill, will be led by Tricia and Alan Walters and Allison and Brad Jeffries. Each book club meeting is independent, so all are welcome even if you missed previous book clubs. Desserts and coffee are provided; nursery is available upon request. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## GATEWAY CHAPEL — MARCH 31

FPC will lead Gateway's evening chapel service on Tuesday, March 31. Please come at 3:45 p.m. if you'd like to help serve the meal. Chapel will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will include a message and singing with all being finished by 6 p.m. or before.

## MIDWEEK FOURTH QUARTER — APRIL 1-MAY 13

On Wednesday evenings, we gather between Sundays for a shared meal, teaching, and fellowship. Our fourth quarter electives begin Wednesday, April 1. If you are new to Midweek or have been out for a while, now is the perfect time to jump back in. Join us for dinner in Miller Hall (5-6 p.m.) and programs for all ages at 6 p.m.

### *Ordinary Agents (New Elective)*

What do I have to do with Christ's World-wide Mission? What part does the ordinary believer play in this extraordinary work? It is far too easy for us ordinary Christians to leave the concern for world-missions in the hands of those "Super Christians"—world travelers, street evangelists, and frontier fighters. But reaching the world is not just their mission, it's actually yours! Join us this spring as we study God's heart for world-mission, and learn to align our loves with His—in giving, praying, and going.

### *Engaged and Newlywed Class (New Elective)*

Whether you are preparing to make your vows or are already walking through the joys and trials of married life, the Engaged and Newlywed Class is designed to equip you with wisdom, grace, and practical tools for marriage. Join us Wednesdays, beginning April 1, at 6 p.m. for a six-week class covering many topics most commonly addressed in premarital counseling. Register by emailing [discipleship@fpcjackson.org](mailto:discipleship@fpcjackson.org) or simply text Scott or Rose!

## JUNIOR HIGH SPRING RETREAT — APRIL 10-12

Sixth-Eighth graders are invited to join us for the Junior High Spring Retreat 2026, April 10-12, at Twin Lakes Camp. The deadline to register is April 1. Register online at [fpcj.ms/spring-retreat](http://fpcj.ms/spring-retreat).

## DEBUT ORGAN RECITAL — APRIL 16

You are cordially invited for the debut recital of Aaron Patterson, organist, Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. The recital will feature works from Bach, Kreisler, and Vierne. Aaron, who recently joined the staff at FPC as organist, holds organ performance degrees from the Juilliard School and Curtis Institute of Music.