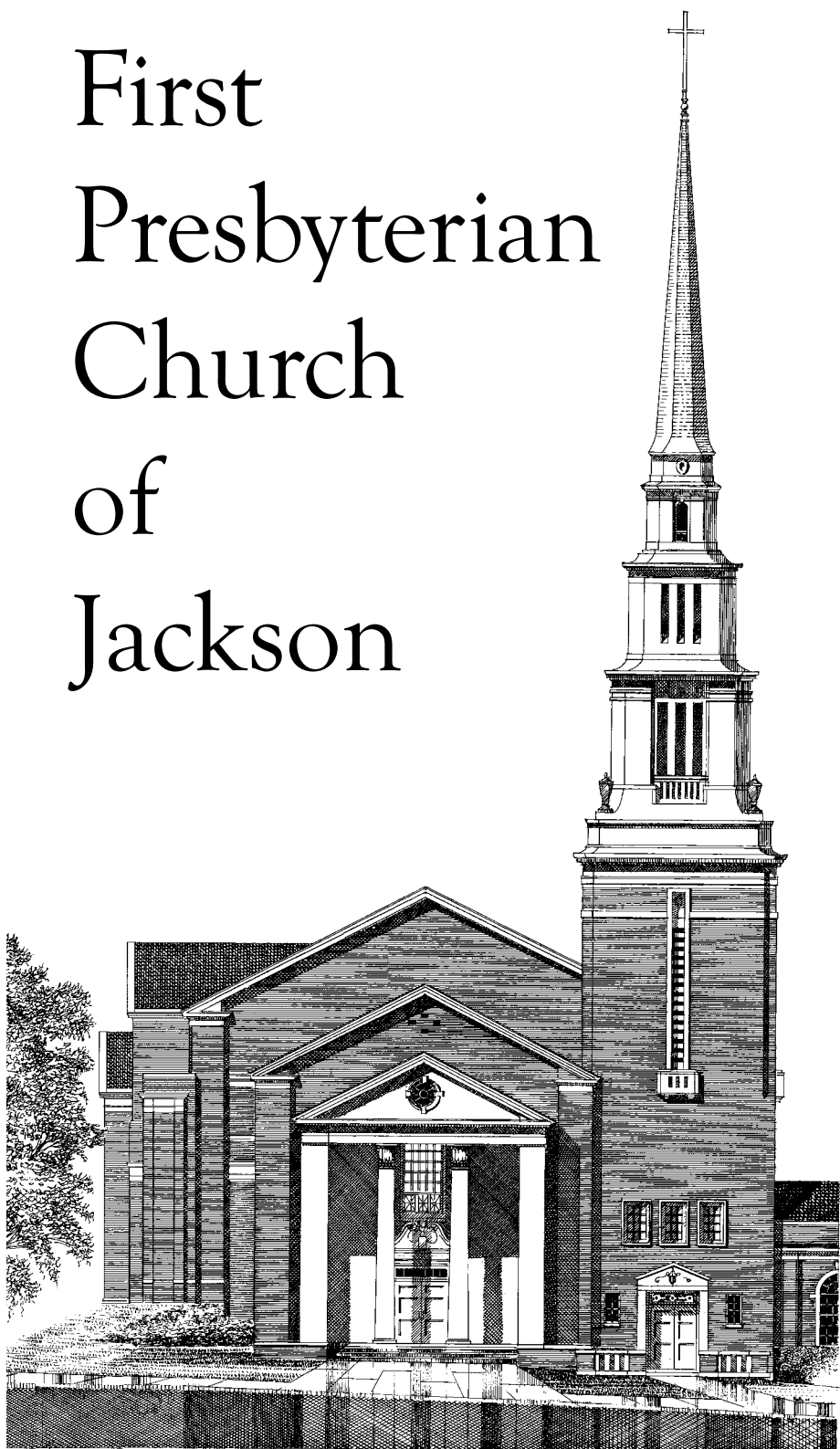


The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Second Day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-One
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 Pastoral Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Charles Callahan
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — “Worthy Is The Lamb” (*Messiah*)G. F. Handel

The Call to Worship — Psalm 95:6–7

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For He is our God
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

The Hymn No. 286 — “Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, You do not change. You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word. You call us to worship You in spirit and in truth, but we confess that we often worship not Your true self but who we wish You to be. We too often ask You to bless what we do, rather than seeking to do what You bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes You into what we want, instead of shaping us into what You want. Help us to meet You here, that we might bow before Your unspeakable majesty and so live for You now and ever in Christ. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Anthem — “Father, Forgive Them”Pepper Choplin
With Kathryn Edwards, Piano

Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.
Forgive them.

The Hymn No. 706 — “Jesus Lives, and So Shall I”

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 111..... (Pew Bible page 509)

The New Testament Reading — Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Pew Bible page 818)

The Sermon — The Seeds Sown along the Path Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 529 (Stzs. 1 and 4) — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

The Benediction

The Postlude — “The Kingsfold Trumpet” Alfred V. Fedak

WELCOME

We welcome all to this service of worship. If you are a Christian visiting with us today, we greet you in the name of our common Lord. If you are not a believer, we greet you as a friend and trust that you will sense the warmth and genuineness of our reception. We invite everyone here to participate with our congregation as we sing, pray, and give attention to God's Word.

VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You can text **fpcjwelcome** to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.

GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

The Prayer of Confession is a response to our singing of the advent hymn in this morning's worship service. It is only by reflecting upon the true nature of God and adoring His faithfulness to us, that we are able to truly contemplate upon the depth, extent, and magnitude of our sin. The Prayer of Confession is made so that we confess our sin and experience true repentance by reflecting upon God's goodness even in our times of straying. Thus, it is through this time of corporate prayer, patterned after the New Testament church, that we are ready to continue in our corporate worship of God.

Why do we have corporate prayer? In preaching on the pilgrimage of the Christian in this life, the eighteenth century pastor-theologian from New England, Jonathan Edwards said, "To go to heaven fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here." The time of corporate worship and, particularly, prayer is its closest semblance on earth since we gather with the saints of God to worship and delight ourselves in God.

What is a prayer of confession? The minister leads us in a Prayer of Confession to remove any human barrier that might come in the way of our blessing from God. We remind ourselves of who we are both in ourselves and in God. We remind ourselves that though we are His sheep, we are like lost sheep. During this time, the minister leads us in confessing the times we have desired the things of this world that are in opposition to the things of God. May we, in joining the minister with heartfelt agreement, confess and repent of the times we have left undone those things we ought to have done and have done those things which we ought not to have done.

Let us join our hearts in prayer in order that the Spirit of Christ may bring conviction for impenitent hearts, encouragement to weary souls, knit us together in a bond of fellowship and praise, and bring us into an intimate communion with our Savior. Let us pray with the goal to enjoy ourselves in bringing honor and glory due His name.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care
The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair — FPDS Chaplain

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

The Prelude — “Meditation” Franz Schubert
Bonnie Brown, Violin; William Wymond

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 455 — “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

The Invocation

The Hymn — “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” (Hymn sheet)

The Greetings

The Prayer Mr. Bill Stone

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

Q7. In how many Persons does this one God exist? A: In three Persons.

Q8. Name these three persons. A: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Q9. What is God? A: God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.

** The Meditation and Prayer..... Cory Brock, Minister of Young Adults & College

The Hymn — “O Church, Arise” (Hymn sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Nehemiah 3.....(Pew Bible page 399)

The Sermon — The People Rose Up and BuiltMr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Response — “O Church, Arise”

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

The Postlude — “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”G. F. Handel

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 2, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary
7:15 p.m.	Senior High Insight.....	MH

Monday, May 3, 2021

9:30 a.m.	WIC Council Meeting.....	MH
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Tuesday, May 4, 2021

6:00 p.m.	Young Adults Small Groups.....	Off-Site Locations
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Wednesday, May 5, 2021

5:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner	MH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground/LH
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Adult Electives	
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	PH
	Evangelism Group: <i>Sharing Christ in a Pandemic II</i>	WH 202
	Women's Bible Study: <i>Seeking Him</i>	WH 204
	D Groups.....	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Children's Missions in May	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Junior High & Senior High D Groups	YH

Thursday, May 6, 2021

11:30 a.m.	Men's Golf Scramble.....	Off-site
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Sunday, May 9, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary

LH—Lowe Hall MH—Miller Hall SC—Study Center
WH—Westminster Hall YH—Youth House

CONNECT WITH US!

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REACH

BUILDING FOR A PURPOSE

REACH UP IN FAITH

SEEKING TO KNOW AND
WORSHIP GOD BETTER.

REACH BACK IN GRATITUDE

AS WE BUILD ON THE FAITHFUL
HERITAGE ENTRUSTED TO US.

REACH OUT IN LOVE

AS WE BRING THE GOOD NEWS TO THE
CITY OF JACKSON AND THE WORLD.

REACH FORWARD

TRUSTING THE LORD JESUS TO LEAD
US IN THIS NEW PHASE OF MISSION.

REACH

BUILDING FOR A PURPOSE

APRIL 18 - MAY 16

REACH CAMPAIGN

SUNDAY, MAY 16

REACH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

FALL 2021

PROJECTED COMPLETION
OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WWW.REACHFPC.ORG

601-353-8316 REACH@FPCJACKSON.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

II THESSALONIANS 3:1 — *“Finally, brethren, pray for us...”*

African Scholarship Exchange – An FPC-supported ministry that partners with African churches to help develop Christian leaders through post-high school. Email: africanscholarshipexchange@gmail.com.

Mustard Seed – Supported through Mission to Jackson, the Mustard Seed is a Christian organization seeking to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

MEN’S MINISTRY GOLF SCRAMBLE

Men, join us for our Third Annual Men’s Ministry Golf Scramble at the Live Oaks Golf Club on Thursday afternoon, May 6. Our tee times are at 12 p.m. The cost is \$35 and you may register as a team of four or as an individual to be placed on a team. Contact discipleship@fpcjackson.org with questions. For more information and to register, visit the church app or website at fpcj.ms/mens-ministry.

BACKYARD BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 — WEEK OF JUNE 7

Registration is open for children and teen helpers for Backyard Bible School at fpcj.ms/vbs. Register your child by May 10 to ensure a free t-shirt. If you would like to volunteer, contact BBS Director Cassie Graves at cgraves7@gmail.com or 601-624-1987. Craft donations may be left at the donation box next to the Info Desk. Items needed: boxes of small glue sticks and eight-count packs of crayons.

CARING MINISTRY

This Women’s Ministry team delivers precooked meals to members of our church who are ill or in need. Please help us be effective in serving our church body by letting us know if you are aware of a congregation member or family in need of a meal due to a difficult circumstance. Contact Cindy Davis (cad-maw@aol.com) or Ruby Ann Walsh (rubyawalsh@gmail.com).

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Join us in welcoming the following ministry staff members who have joined our team in the past year. Due to the restrictions of this unusual year, you may not recognize all of their faces yet, but they all look forward to meeting you. They each play a vital part in accomplishing the vision of First Presbyterian Church to “glorify God by making disciples.”

Margaret McPhillips, Director of Communications
Alli Sayle, Students and Families Ministry Assistant
Josh Shideler, Discipleship Ministry Intern
William Stabler, College Ministry Intern
Daniel Tortorici, Young Adults Ministry Intern
Lee J Webb, Director of Finance and Facilities