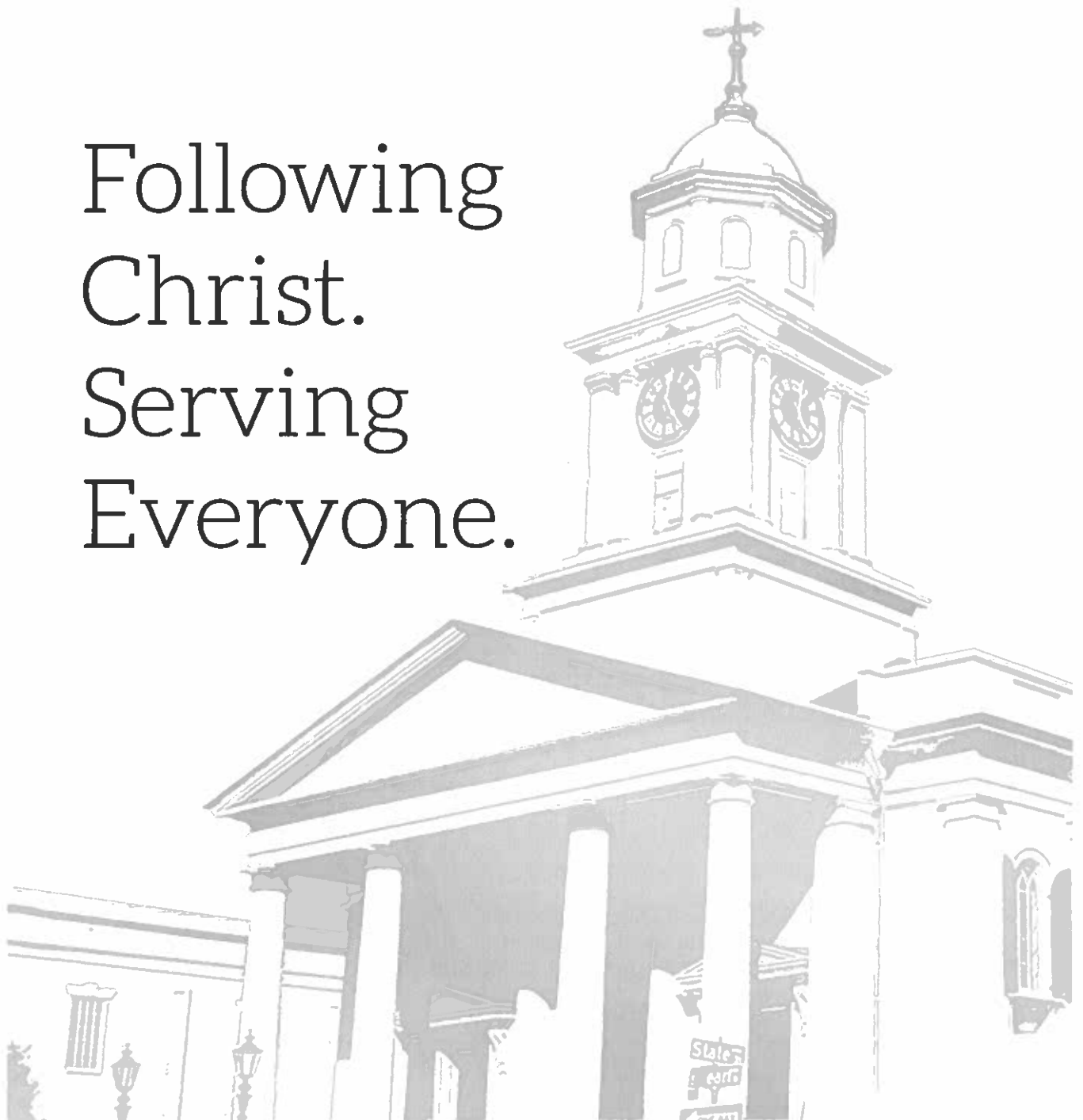




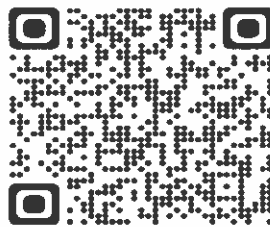
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



Welcome!

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MORNING WORSHIP

January 12, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister

The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister

Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!

THE GATHERING

Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to worship.

Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude

Adoration from Sonata Pascale

Jacques Lemmons

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:2-3

Sing, and bless God's name.

Tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Proclaim God's glory to the nations.

Tell of God's marvelous deeds to all the people.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised. Amen.

*Processional Hymn 463, verses 1, 2, 3, & 5:

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

Responsive Prayer

O Christ of glory, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all of our days.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sin, making us children of your Father. Give grace to all who seek you.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you sanctified creation and opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you revealed to us the glorious Trinity when the voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son," and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove. Renew a heart of worship within all the baptized.

Lord, have mercy.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us a part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied by ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage.

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

Time for Silent Confession

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Greeting and the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

All: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer for Illumination

Sammy Gore, reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Pew Bible Page 822

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 29

Pew Bible Page 621

Reading from Acts: Acts 8:14-17

Pew Bible Page 153

*Gospel Hymn 282: *Come Down, O Love Divine*

DOWN AMPNEY

282 Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“When the Heavens Open”

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory

Offertory Anthem

Christ Hath a Garden

Text: Robert Bridges

Music: Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a Paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n, and bear their sweetest perfume through the air:
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;
That he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

*Response Hymn 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

*Hymn 485: *We Know That Christ is Raised*

ENGELBERG

*Benediction

*Postlude

March from 'Scipio'

G. F. Handel

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Bob Meason and Bob and Sue Meason by their family.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is the restful *Adoration* from *Sonata Pascale* by French composer Jacques Lemmons (1823-1881). The Anthem at the Offertory is a setting of an Old English folk song melody, here set for choir as *Christ Hath a Garden* by American composer Gerald Near (b. 1942). The text is by Robert Bridges after Sir Issac Watts. The Postlude is the regal *March from 'Scipio'* by G. F. Handel (1685-1759).

We Know That Christ Is Raised 485

Capo 3: (D) (Asus) (A) (A/G) (D/F#)
 F Csus C C/B^b F/A

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D) (A) (D) (E7) (A)
 F C F G7 C

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am) (D) (G) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm F B^b Gm Dm

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3 4
 (Em) (D) (Asus) (A) (Em) (D)
 Gm F Csus C Gm F

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Beginning with an allusion to Romans 6:9, this exuberant baptismal hymn unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The text was written to fit this expansive tune by a distinguished British composer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Development Committee: This committee will meet Monday, January 13, at 11 a.m., in the church library.

Pastor's Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible study will meet Tuesday, January 14, at 11 a.m. The scriptures for January 14 are Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

Session: The Session will meet Monday, January 13, at 5 p.m. in the library.

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon: The PW luncheon will be Wednesday, January 15, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Gandy will install the officers and present the program, "A Common Calling." Baby items will be collected at this time for the Nursery Mission at Merit Hospital.

Fill the Freezer: Our selection of foods for those we serve in times of need is getting slim! Will you share your soup, stew, or casserole? Place a container for one or two servings of your best foods in the TLC freezer located near the back door of the education building. Thank you!

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group will meet Wednesday, January 15, at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Wednesday Youth Group: Wednesday Youth Group will meet at 4:15 in the youth room.

Wonderful Wednesday: Wonderful Wednesday will meet on January 15 beginning at 5:15 p.m. for supper and Bible study afterwards.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at 6 p.m. January 15.

Third Thursday Book Club: The Third Thursday Book Club meeting date has been changed to Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 5 p.m., due to a conflict with a large annual meeting of the Historic Natchez Foundation. Please plan to come Thursday, January 23, at 5 p.m. to discuss the book: *The Oceans and the Stars*, by Mark Helprin.

Annual Officer Retreat: Elders and Deacons, mark your calendars for the annual retreat; Fellowship Hall, January 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Medicine Bottle Ministry: Thank you again for your excellent response to your mission committee's request for used pill bottles with labels removed. This past week, we sent another large box of these containers on its way to third world countries so that people may have a more secure way of taking their medicine home. A gracious volunteer has offered to remove labels. Drop the bottles in the baskets with labels still on if you prefer.

Sunday School: Adult classes on Sunday morning meet with Sammy Gore in the Westminster Room 9:15-10; with Chuck Borum in the parlor 9:15-10; or with Rev. Chase Caldwell upstairs in Stratton Chapel 9-9:45.

Acolyte Formation: Acolytes meet with Rev. Gandy on Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. Young people ages 9 to 16 are invited to attend.

Monday Prayer: Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with others for people and things that are on each heart.

Pickleball at FPC: The FPC Fellowship Hall Pickleball Court is available to use Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The court must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance for 1 hour. To make a reservation, visit or call the church office at 601-442-2581. All users must check-in with the church office prior to play.

New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

Photo Gallery Docents: Natchez in Historic Photographs is a favorite destination! Viking Cruise Line has included the photo gallery in their "Best of Natchez" tours, which are happening on Tuesdays. Are you available to serve as a docent, welcoming and giving a few words of explanation about the church and photographs? Please consider donating a couple of hours any day of the week, but especially on Tuesdays. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

Brazil Mission Trip Interest Meeting: First Presbyterian is actively exploring and praying about possibilities for a mission trip to Brazil during late May and early June of this year. If you are at all interested in participating, please plan to attend a brief interest meeting in the parlor on Sunday, February 2, immediately following the service. We will share information about dates, costs, itinerary, and planned efforts and activities at that time.



A Presbytery of MS
Youth Gathering



Come and be fed at...

A BIGGER TABLE

"THEN PEOPLE WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST, FROM NORTH AND SOUTH, AND WILL EAT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD." - LUKE 13:29

When?

MLK Weekend

Saturday, January 18, 2025

10:00-1:00

Where?

J.J. White Presbyterian Church

110 Third Street

McComb, MS 39649

For who?

Any older child or youth in your church that wants to attend.

Tentative Schedule:

10:00 Gather - Games & Singing

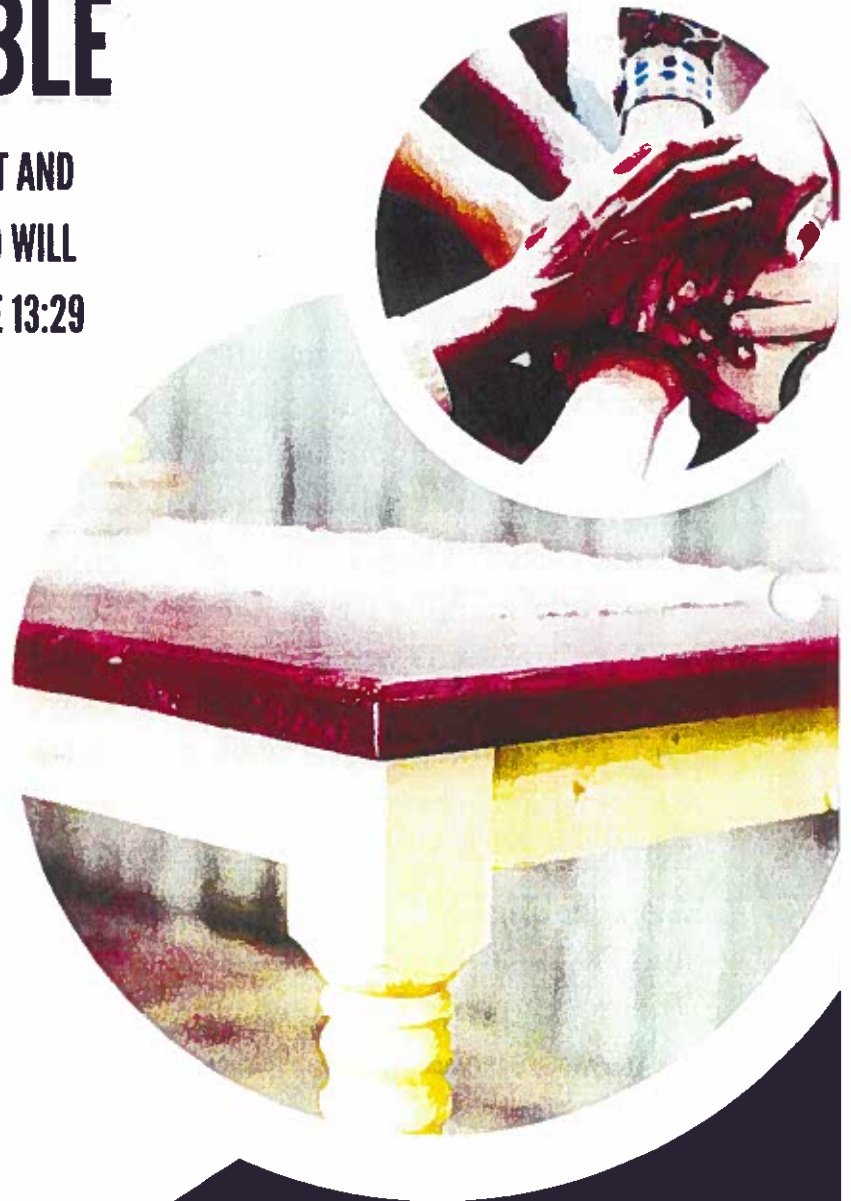
11:00 Serve- Mission Project

12:00 Break Bread

12:30 Closing Worship

w/Communion

1:00 Depart



RSVP and Questions to:

Christopher Crowell

601-584-7574

Christopher@WPCHattiesburg.com

JAN 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			NEW YEARS DAY Church offices and Playschool Closed		Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA	Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
<u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Deacons 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class 10 Rebekah Circle Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir		Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA	Kristen Abney and Kevin Graham Wedding
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance Com. 5 Session 7 Boy Scouts	11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class 10 Food Boxes Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir		Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA	Youth Gathering at J. J. White Presbyterian in McComb, MS
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	Martin Luther King Day Church Offices and Playschool Closed	11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir	5 Book Club	Noon AA PW Winter Retreat Camp Wesley of the Pines, Gallman, MS	PW Winter Retreat Camp Wesley of the Pines, Gallman, MS
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir		Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA	

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

Class of 2027: Bobby Meason, George Bates, Danna Mooney, and Ralph Loe

Clerk of Session: Rosemary Hall

Assistant Clerk of Session: Danna Mooney

DEACONS

Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Class of 2027: Kristen Abney, Hubert Smith, and Sharon Williams

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, Slade Gagnard, Robert Seyfarth, and Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 South Pearl Street

(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)

Natchez, Mississippi 39120

601-442-2581

www.fpcnatchez.org

fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

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