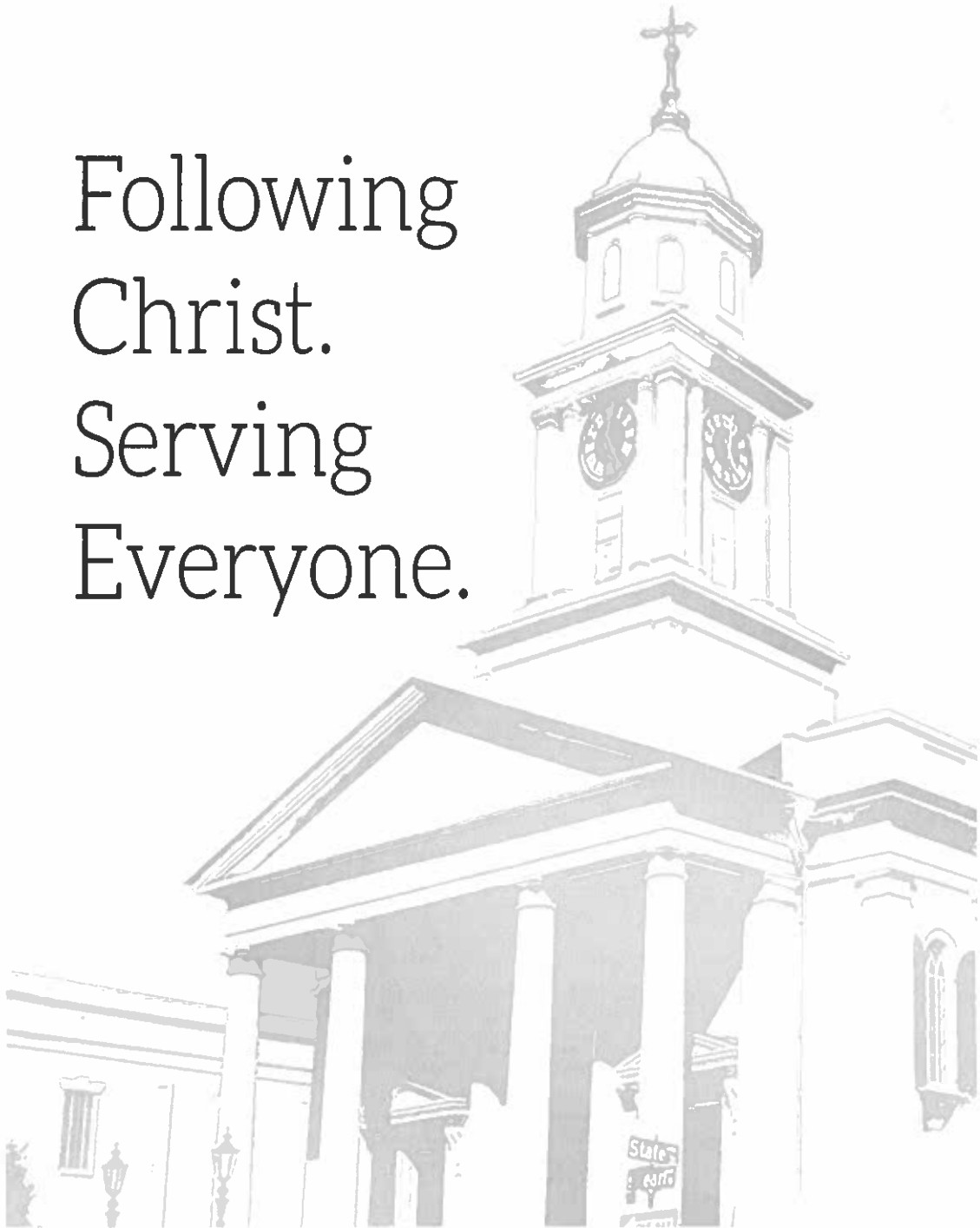




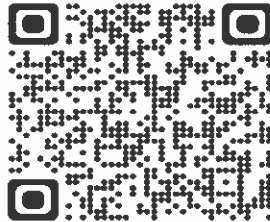
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

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
CELEBRATING EPIPHANY
MORNING WORSHIP
January 5, 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

WELCOME 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 *Prelude on 'Bread of Heaven'* Noel Rawsthorne

Responsive Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God, Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Alleluia!

O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place where the Word of life is not yet received. Draw the whole creation to yourself that your salvation may be known through all the earth.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Savior and Lord, extend your church to every place.

Make it a place of welcome for people of every race and tongue.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Ruler of rulers, direct the leaders of nations that they may seek justice, and further peace and freedom for all.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Master of all, support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted, strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen. Watch over the lonely and those in danger. Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith of the persecuted.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, light made manifest as the true light of God, gladden our hearts on the joyful morning of your glory; call us by our name on the great Day of your coming; and give us grace to offer, with all the hosts of heaven, unending praise to God, in whom all things find their ending now and forever. Amen.

*Processional Hymn 156: *Sing of God Made Manifest*

SALZBURG

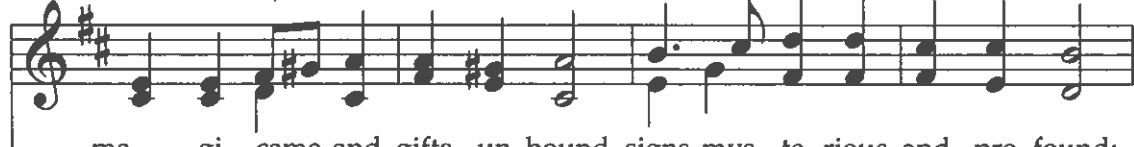
Sing of God Made Manifest 156



- 1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
- 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
- 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
- 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in the Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession. After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Time for Silent Confession

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

Kyrie



Declaration of Forgiveness

*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

The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

And also with you.

THE WORD

A Time for Young Disciples

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

Prayer for Illumination

Danna Mooney, reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible Page 844

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Pew Bible Page 656

Reading from the Epistles: Ephesians 3:1-12

Pew Bible Page 235

*Gospel Hymn 744: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.



Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 CIA Publications, Inc

FESTAL SONG
 SM

(this tune in a lower key, 815)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible Page 2

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Gifts That We Bring”

Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Apostles’ Creed

Traditional

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

Brightest and Best

Text: Reginald Heber

Music: Richard Shepard

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;

Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!
Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?
Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The minister continues in prayer.)

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(The minister continues in prayer)

As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All sing: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Meal

THE SENDING

*Hymn 150: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

*Benediction

*Postlude

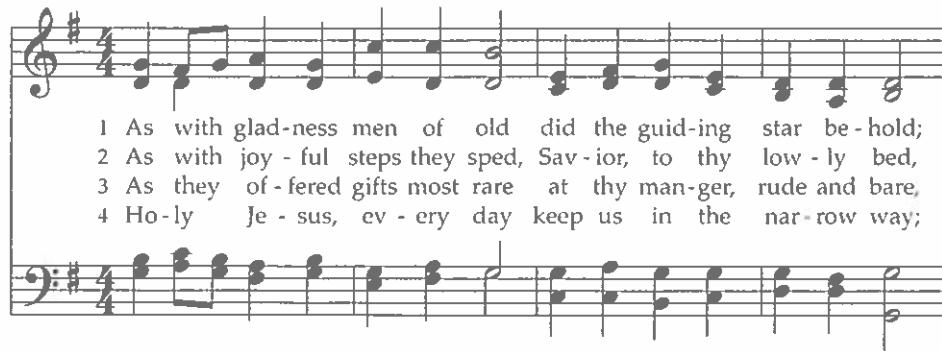
Fantasia

John Lee

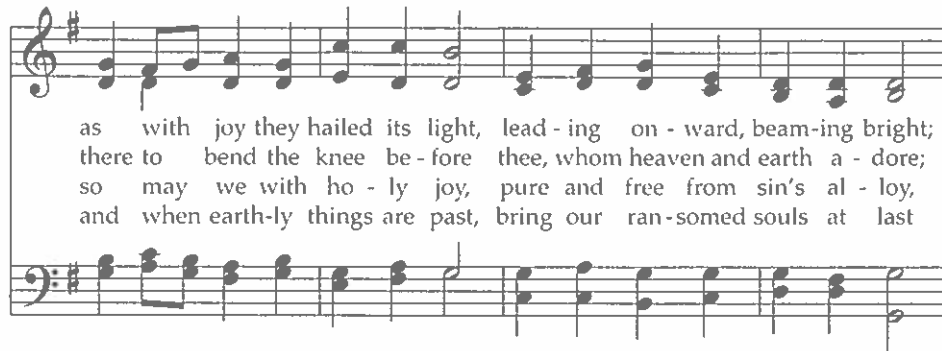
The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Caroline Benoist, Rebekah Benoist, and Jack Benoist by Doris Ann Benoist, and Julia Green and family.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is a setting for organ of *Bread of Heaven* by British composer Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019). The anthem at the Offertory is *Brightest and Best*, and Epiphany anthem for choir by British composer Richard Shapard. The Postlude is the rousing *Fantasia* by Canadian organist and composer John Lee (1908-1990).

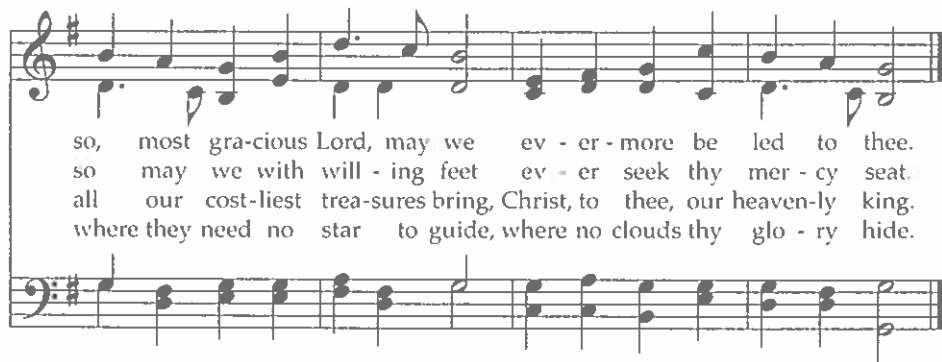
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1818; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor's Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible study will meet Tuesday, January 7, at 11 a.m. The scriptures for January 7 are Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Deacons' Meeting: The deacons will meet Monday, January 6, at 5 p.m. in the library.

Rebekah Circle: The Rebekah Circle will meet Wednesday, January 8, at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group will meet Wednesday, January 8, at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Wonderful Wednesday: Wonderful Wednesday will meet on January 8 beginning at 5:15 p.m. for supper and Bible study afterwards.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at 6 p.m. January 8.

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

Third Thursday Book Club: The Third Thursday Book Club will meet January 16, 2025, at 5 p.m., to discuss the next book: *The Oceans and the Stars*, by Mark Helprin.

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon: The PW luncheon will be Wednesday, January 15, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Gandy will present the program, "A Common Calling."

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.



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 Crotwell
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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