

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 24, 2017**

**PRELUDE** *Still, Still, Still* arr. Wagner  
Jennifer Blackbourn

**WELCOME**

\***INTROIT** (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

\***CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The John and Jennifer Rush Family

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND PRAISE**

\* **ADVENT HYMN 202** *How Great Our Joy* JÜNGST

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION, PETITION AND INTERCESSION**

**INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE PRAYER (UNISON):**

Father of all grace, You love us so much that You gave *THE GIFT* – your Son – to save us from our sin. Yet we confess our lack of love for You.

We each further confess: I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind, time, resources, and efforts. I also have not loved my neighbor as I love myself. Please forgive me, deliver me from the worship of self, and sanctify me to share in your Communion tonight.

We ask all this, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

**SILENT PRAYERS**

**GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE**

\***HYMN 183** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* IN DULCE JUBILO

**ANTHEM** (Chancel Choir) *Sing We Now of Christmas* Arr. Larson

**ADVENT GOSPEL FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES** Martin Lifer

\***AFFIRMING OUR FAITH: THE (WESTMINSTER) SHORTER CATECHISM Q. & A. 22**

Pastor: *How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?*

**ALL: Christ, the Son of God, became man by assuming a real body and a reasoning soul. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to Him; yet He was sinless.**

\* **RESPONSIVE HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY**

\***GIVING TO GOD: TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND FIRST THINGS FIRST PLEDGES**

\***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**OFFERTORY** *Gesu Bambino* arr. McDonald  
Jennifer Blackbourn

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

**Deacon of the Week:** Brien Henry  
**Today's Ushers:** Billy Harrington; Sam Myers  
**Today's Greeters:** Brenda Harrington; Ashley Myers; Natalie Morgan

**THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

**SERMON SERIES**

*Glory to God!*

**SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 2:1-6**  
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 857)

**Sermon** *When the Roll Was Called Down Yonder* Martin Lifer

**INVITATION TO FAITH**

**PRAYERS OF TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE, AND PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)**

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.

\***HYMN 181** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come God* ANTIOCH

\***BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

**POSTLUDE** Jennifer Blackbourn

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

**Visiting with Us?**

We warmly welcome you to our worship of God. We hope you can visit our other ministries and be back in worship with us on upcoming Sundays. Please speak to Pastor Martin Lifer following today's service (outside the front entrance), ... or contact him at the church office or via email (mwlfifer3@gmail.com). Let us know of any special prayer requests, and learn more about growing in your faith or, specifically, about joining our church family.

**JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION  
HERE AT FPC - TONIGHT AND NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE  
TONIGHT, 5:00 p.m. (Sanctuary),  
with childcare provided in the Christian Education Building**



**Dec 31 8:30 & 11 a.m. CHRISTMAS SEASON SUNDAY WORSHIP (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Christmastide)**

**Friend-making Fellowship & Bible Study on Sunday Morning!**

Guests and members – *If you are not already in a Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group* – join us for one of the following:

**Adult Sunday School Fellowship Groups, 9:45-10:30 a.m.**

**Crusader Class**

(led by Jack Forbus, Ernie George, and other teachers – in the Fellowship Hall)

**Discovery & Young Adult Joint Class**

(led by Bob Daniels - in the Johnson Room of the Church Office Bldg.)

**Faith for Life**

(led by Martin Lifer and others – in the Chapel, behind the Sanctuary Chancel)



The Faith for Life Class (photo from last Sunday in the Chapel) is a newly-forming group, currently led by Pastor Lifer, for members and guests not already in another class.

**Joy Class**

(led by Phil Gruchy – in the Parlor, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Bldg.)

**New Covenant Class**

(led by Jim Beaty – in the Main Room behind Sanctuary Balcony)

**Women in the Word**

(led by Nancy Lifer – in Room S-6, main Sanctuary Floor)

**FURTHER MISSION MINISTRY NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES:**

Again this year, our **Christmas Missions Blessings Offering** is being directed toward additional FPC support of the following: **Starkville Habitat for Humanity; Helping Hands (of Starkville/Oktibbeha County); the Palmer Home Mission;** as well as two "Children of the Church" working overseas – **Aretta Zitta** (Director of Young Life/Club Beyond Ministry to children living on US military bases overseas) and **Chip Bobbitt**. Checks should be made to FPC Starkville, but please designate in the check's Memo line "Christmas Blessings Mission Offering" or simply "Christmas Blessings."

**TEJERAS MEAL SPONSORS** (Mission meal for children in Tejeras, Honduras)  
December 27 – In Honor of Dero and Adelaide Ramsey by Jordan, Saunders, and Ryan Ramsey  
December 29 – In Honor of Dero and Adelaide Ramsey by Pat and Sandy Ramsey

**CASSEROLE KITCHEN MISSION MEAL HOSTS AT FPC THIS WEEK**  
Dec 26 – Rex Buffington      Dec 28 – Richard and Jennifer Blackbourn

**Week of December 17, 2017**

<b>SUNDAY:</b>	8:30a.m.	Worship Service
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
<b>MONDAY:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts Building)
	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (Ed. Bldg)
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	7:30 a.m.	No Friends & Family until Jan 17, 2018
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	6:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Christian Education Bldg.)

**Prayer List**

Thomas Guest (Charlie and Rubye Guest's grandson)  
 Hawkins Murdock  
 Robert McDavid  
 Mary Jo Wallace and Family  
 Rusty Bouchillon  
 Diane Daniels, together with her sister, Delores Irvin, and Sarah Helen McCloskey (Daniels' family friend) -PA  
 Jane Zitta  
 Sylvia Love  
 Marjorie Malone  
 Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware  
 Eleisha G. Reynolds (Anita Reynolds' daughter-in-law) Montrose, CO  
 Marie Tubb and John Gassaway (Anna Ray Gasaway's sister-in-law & brother-in-law)  
 Dawn Allen (Nell Hartness' granddaughter) - Starkville  
 Billy and Brenda Harrington  
 Cattie Taylor  
 Carol Clark (Albert Clark's sister)  
 Brenda Pratt, Cheryl Kay Linder (Beth Ann Dunlap's stepmother & sister)  
 Bessie Montgomery  
 Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)  
 Carl Ivey, Sr. – Dukedom, Kentucky  
 Anderson Ivey (Carl and Paula Ivey's grandson) – Birmingham, Alabama  
 Marshall McReynolds (Sherylan Webb's nephew) – Tupelo  
 Craig Wolf (Paula Elliott's son-in-law) – Huntsville, Alabama  
 Danny Carlisle (Loren Zimmerman's friend)  
 Frances Ellis, Christopher A. Cook, and Brett Horton (Ellen Mauldin's sister, grandson – U.S. Army-Poland – and her brother Leslie's grandson)  
 Billy Ray Ball (Dolph Bryan's Uncle) – Tuscaloosa  
 Madeline Bell (Greta Bryan's great niece) – Vienna, Virginia  
 Jack Boren & family, Ryan Carrithers, Tonia McLendon, and Sue Salley (friends of Dolph & Greta Bryan)

**Health Care / Assisted Living Prayer List**

Jane Lusk – The Claiborne  
 Jetta Kuykendall – The Grove, Columbia  
 Kathleen Smithson Lawson – Vicker's Personal Care Home  
 Lu Graham (Jane Zitta's sister) – The Hermitage, Richmond, Virginia  
 Frances Oakley – Sunnybrook Estates, Madison  
 Marie Tramel – Beau Ridge, Ridgeland  
 Maxine Eastland – Franklin, TN  
 Elizabeth Duffey – Presbyterian Village, GA  
 Jewel Jacobs (Cindy Walker's mother) – Montgomery Garden  
 Thelma Gentry – Vicker's Personal Care Home

**2017**

Larry Anthony  
 Jim Beaty  
 Charlie Guest  
 Loren Zimmerman

**2018**

Myles Carpenter  
 Jack Forbus  
 Randell Foxworth  
 Allen Johnson  
 Janice Kinard  
 Perry Rackley

**2019**

Dolph Bryan  
 Harold Clark  
 Cecelia Cook  
 Bob Daniels  
 Orly Hardin  
 Edward Kemp

**Elder Emeritus** – Dero Ramsey

The Session's next Stated Meeting is January 21, 12:30 p.m. / Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Randell Foxworth, Clerk

**Deacons**

**2017**

Wesley Ferguson  
 Brien Henry

**2018**

Ellen Boles  
 Jay Cook  
 Michelle Jones  
 John Rush

**2019**

Peggy Branch  
 Vivian Cade  
 Joel Downey  
 Jimbo Hearnberger  
 Jason Ryder

The Diaconate meets Sunday, Jan. 7, 12:15 p.m. / Wesley Ferguson, Chair / Joel Downey, Secretary

**Session and Diaconate Ministry Committees**

(\*Current Elder, \*\*Current Deacon)

**Worship & Music**

\*Larry Anthony, Chair

**Missions**

\*Dolph Bryan, \*Loren Zimmerman, Co-Chairs

**Children's & Youth Ministry**

\*Janice Kinard,  
 \*Orly Hardin, Co-Chairs

**Fellowship & Hospitality**

\*\*Jay Cook, \*\*Joel Downey,  
 \*\*Jason Ryder, Co-Chairs

**Shepherding**

\*Janice Kinard

**Budget & Finance**

\*Bob Daniels, Chair  
 \*Jim Beaty, Treasurer

**Adult Discipleship Education**

\*Allen Johnson, Chair

**Communications & Outreach**

\*Orly Hardin, Nancy Lifer,  
 Co-Chairs

**Childcare Board of Directors**

Zack Harrington (Chairman)  
 Cecelia Cook  
 Amanda Henry  
 Will Rackley  
 Sarah Ryder

**Personnel**

\*Perry Rackley, Chair

**Property**

\*Myles Carpenter,  
 \*Edward Kemp Co-Chairs

**FPC Women's Ministry** – Caitlin Rackley, *Moderator*

Circles meet 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month (7:00 pm Circle meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

**Circles, Meeting Places, and Leaders**

Sunday 8:00 am, Parlor – Lynda Forbus	Tuesday 6:00 pm, Nancy Lifer's Home – Orly Hardin
Monday 1:30 pm, Parlor– Kay McReynolds	Monday 7:00 pm, location TBA – Amy Aarhus

**Men of the Church (MOC) Officers** – Andrew Fountain, *President*,

Will Rackley, *Vice President*, Charlie Weatherly, *Treasurer*

**The Ministry of Music**

On Wednesdays - Chancel Choir, 6:00 p.m./ Children's Choirs at 5:50 p.m.

**FPC and FPCC Ministry Team**

<b>Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer</b> , <i>Pastor</i>	mwlifer3@gmail.com
<b>Rita Usher</b> , <i>Pastoral Secretary</i>	info@fpcstarkville.org
<b>Ashleigh Murdock</b> , <i>Children's Ministry Coordinator</i>	aabmurdock@gmail.com
<b>Dr. Craig Aarhus</b> , <i>Music Director</i>	aarhus@bellsouth.net
<b>Jennifer Blackburn</b> , <i>Organist</i>	jenniferblackburn@hotmail.com
<b>Kathy McGill</b> , <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	katherinemcgill@hotmail.com
<b>Alexis Thibodeaux</b> , <i>Student Assistant for Youth Ministry</i>	alexis.nicole.thibodeaux@gmail.com
<b>Ellen Mauldin</b> , <i>Church Librarian</i>	mem3@bellsouth.net
<b>Amanda Corley</b> , <i>Child Care Director</i>	fpcdirector@fpcstarkville.org

# First PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE

**A Congregation in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church –  
 A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians**



## DECEMBER 24, 2017 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Sunday School | 9:45 a.m.**

**Fellowship Gathering | 10:30 a.m.**

**Worship Service | 11:00 a.m.**

Visit Our Website for Ministry Resources and News  
**www.fpcstarkville.org**

**Church Office**

307 University Drive  
 Starkville, Mississippi 39759

**Phone | 662-323-1994**

**Fax | 662-323-1999**

**Office Hours**

**Mon. - Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.**