

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

THE CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY
NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31, 2017

PRELUDE Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME

INVOCATION ON CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY SUNDAY AND NEW YEAR'S EVE
(8:30 a.m. – Bob and Pricilla Boyd; 11:00 – Martin Lifer)

INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE – THE CHRISTMAS SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY
(8:30) The Al and Kristin Hubbard Family
(11:00) The Matt and Brittney McAfee Family

* ADVENT HYMN 215 *We Three King of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Lucie Lazare Tramel and Elisha William Randell Tramel,
the children of Eric William Tramel and Laura Lorraine Tramel

THE PARENTS' PROFESSIONS OF FAITH & COVENANT COMMITMENTS

*THE CONGREGATION'S COVENANTAL COMMITMENTS & AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Unison*) Elder-Sponsor Randell Foxworth
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.

*BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION *adapted from the Liturgy of the French Reformed Church*
Lucie and Elisha – For you, Jesus Christ came into the world. For you, He went through the agony of Gethsemane and the darkness of Calvary; for you, He triumphed over death; for you, little children, even though you did not know it. But this is what we believe: "We love God, because He first loved us." So welcome to the family of faith!

BAPTISM AND BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIVE SONG (*Unison*)

Children of promise, God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too. We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. Children of promise, God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too.

ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir, directed by Jim Beaty)
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

GOOD NEWS OF EPIPHANY FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Martin Lifer

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Deacon of the Week: Vivian Cade

Today's Ushers: (8:30 – Phil Gruchy; 11:00 – Billy Harrington)

Today's Greeters: 8:30 – Carolyn Coleman; 11:00 – Brenda Harrington

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION, PETITION AND 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.

SILENT PRAYERS

GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE

* RESPONSIVE HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY

*GIVING TO GOD: TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

OFFERTORY 8:30 - Jennifer Blackburn; 11:00 – Laura L. [Foxworth] Tramel

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:1-9
(ESV Pew Bible p. 178)

Sermon *Abiding Presence, Unchanging Mission* Clay Warden

INVITATION TO FAITH; PRAYERS OF TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE

*+ CLOSING HYMN 365 (vv. 1-2, 5) *Song for the Nations* SONG FOR THE NATIONS

*BENEDICTION Martin Lifer

CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

POSTLUDE Jennifer Blackburn

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Pastor Lifer welcomes **Clay Warden** to preach God's Word for us this morning, and we are blessed to welcome home to FPC the Warden family! Clay will begin next month his final full semester of study at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis for his Master of Divinity degree.

+We invite you to place in one of the baskets at the front of the Chancel – *during the closing hymn or following the service* – your **Two-Cents-a-Meal Special Offering** for this month – to be used to (1) defray FPC's costs in hosting the Casserole Kitchen Mission on Tuesday and Thursday nights AND (2) support for FPC's other benevolence missions.

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 (mwlifer3@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.

We thank all church family members and other regular participants and faithful partner-stewards for serving the Lord in his mission through FPC in 2017. What a fruitful year in the Lord's ministry at FPC Starkville. We also especially welcome all of our new members who have joined FPC in 2017, as well as the babies God brought into our church family this year. Now we look ahead together to an exciting year of continuing and new ministries, outreach, and friendships.

Special thanks, as well, to Rita Usher, Beckie Miller, and all who have helped in our church office this year, most notably and recently in the very busy month of December. The church office will be closed tomorrow and Tuesday, January 1 and 2, and will be open regular hours Wednesday – Friday, January 3-5.

Enjoy Friend-making Fellowship & Bible Study Each 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, 1st 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)

Tired of Chasing Perfection?

Turn to Jesus! We Saved You a Seat.

An Invitation for Women: Join us beginning January 2018, on Wednesday nights after Friends and Family dinner in the Parlor for a 7-session DVD driven women's Bible study focused on increasing our capacity for meaningful friendships with other women. **We Saved You a Seat** is a study by Lisa-Jo Baker and friends from (in)courage, that explores our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Nothing shapes us like the impact of a friend - it's how Jesus radically and intimately connects with us. So instead of chasing perfection, overcome your fear of being known and find the courage to connect. To sign up and order a workbook, please contact **Orly Hardin** obh2@msstate.edu

FUTHER MISSION Opportunities:

TEJERAS MEAL SPONSORS (*Mission meal for children in Tejeras, Honduras*)
If you would like to sponsor a Tejeras Meal in 2018, please send a check for \$80 made out to Honduras Agape Foundation to Michele Rackley, PO Box 826, Starkville, MS 39760, or in the church office, or you may place your check in the Offering.
January 3 – Friend-Supporter of Mission Outreach in Honduras

CASSEROLE KITCHEN MISSION MEAL HOSTS AT FPC THIS WEEK

Dec 2 – Loren Zimmerman Dec 28 – Billy Harrington

Week of December 31, 2017

SUNDAY:	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
MONDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts Building)
	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (Ed. Bldg)
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
WEDNESDAY:	7:30 a.m.	No Friends & Family until Jan 17, 2018
THURSDAY:	6:00 p.m.	Casserole Kitchen (Fellowship Hall)
SATURDAY:	12:00 pm	Casserole Kitchen (Episcopal Church)
	6:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Christian Education Bldg.)

Prayer List

Robert McDavid
 Thomas Guest (Charlie and Rubye Guest's grandson)
 Mary Jo Wallace and Family
 Rusty Bouchillon
 Rev. Scott Griffin's father, Rev. Griffin
 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

2018

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

Elders
2019

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

2020

Carl Ivey
 Jim Beaty
 Peggy Johnson
 Jeff Foster

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

2018

Jay Cook
 John Rush

2019

Peggy Branch
 Vivian Cade
 Joel Downey
 Jimbo Hearnberger
 Jason Ryder

2020

Tabor Mullen
 Kristin Skinner
 Johnny Fair
 Jeremy Murdock

The Diaconate meets Sunday, Jan. 7, 12:15 p.m. / Jay Cook, 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 2nd week of each month (7:00 pm Circle meets 3rd 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 FPCCC Ministry Team

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

First PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH,
 STARKVILLE

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



DECEMBER 31, 2017

NEW YEAR'S EVE

AND

THE CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

Worship Service | 8:30 a.m.

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

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 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.