

Visiting with Us?



Please complete a **FIRSTConnect** Card
and place it in the Offering ...
or in a **FIRSTConnect** Box in the entranceways.
To learn more about faith in Christ, church membership and/or ways you can serve at FPC – speak to Pastor Lifer or send an email via mwlfifer3@gmail.com.

Please join us again on upcoming Sundays ***not only*** for worship ***but also*** for Sunday Bible Study (*groups meet from 9:45 through 10:30 a.m.*).
We provide the **TLC Ministry for children Age 3 through 1st Graders during the 11 a.m. Service** – following the Children’s Message at the 11 a.m. Service.
We also provide loving and safe Christian Childcare on the Main Floor of the Christian Education Building - northeast of the Sanctuary -
for infants and toddlers of FPC families & guests - from 8:15 a.m. through 12:15 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE
FEBRUARY 16, 2020
SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
PRELUDE *Fugue in C* Scarlatti
Jennifer Blackbourn

WELCOME & MINISTRY INVITATIONS
CALL TO WORSHIP
INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Dr. Craig Aarhus, Director)

***RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD’S WORD** *from* John 10:14,16 Reid Roberson
Minister: [Jesus said] **“I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know Me.”**
ALL: “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

***INVOCATION**
***HYMN 394** *In Christ There Is No East or West* ST. PETER

THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS FOR OUR CCO JUBILEE CONFERENCE GROUP (PITTSBURGH, FEB. 21-23)
Sam Buckley Hannah Covington Sarah Hobbs
Mattie Van Mason Kelsy Minga Audrey Thompson
Emily Thornberry Tanner Thurman
Allison Jackson Ben Jackson

***ANTHEM** (11:00 – Chancel Choir) *God is Our Refuge*

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH & REPENTANCE; PRAYERS & OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE
AFFIRMING OUR FAITH - *from* The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 87
Pastor: What is repentance unto life?
ALL: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which – being truly aware of his sinfulness – a sinner understands the mercy of God in Christ, the sinner grieves for and hates his sins, and the sinner turns from them to God, fully intending and striving for a new obedience.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION Martin Lifer
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.

GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S GRACE
***HYMN OF RESPONSE 668 - THE DOXOLOGY**
**The congregation is invited to stand.*

***GIVING - GOD’S TITHE AND FURTHER OFFERINGS**
***PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION** Ben Jackson
OFFERTORY *Wayfaring Stranger* arr. Hayes
Jennifer Blackbourn

GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED
SCRIPTURE Mark 7:24-30; Matthew 1:1-6, 15:21-28 [Psalm 87:3-6]
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 843, 807, 821, 494)
SERMON *Israel’s Shepherd Has Other Sheep?* Martin Lifer
Divine “Detours” Demolish Divisions (Part 2)

RESPONDING IN FAITH TO GOD’S WORD; THE CALL TO SERVE
INVITATION TO FAITH AND TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST AND WITNESS TO THE WORLD
SONG OF FAITH RESPONSE *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* Madeleine & Reid Roberson
(*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*)

***RESPONSIVE HYMN 439** (v. 1) *Jesus, I Come* JESUS, I COME
***BENEDICTION** Martin Lifer
***CHORAL RESPONSE** (11:00) *Amen* TRADITIONAL
POSTLUDE *Aspiration* Croisez
Jennifer Blackbourn

Having trouble hearing the service? We have portable hearing assistance units connected directly to our sound system for optimum audio. *Please see an usher about using a unit today.*
February Deacon of the Month: Kristen Skinner
Today’s Ushers: (8:30) – Bill Gamel; (11:00) – Jim Long, Wallace Cade
Today’s Greeters: (8:30) – Susan Gamel; (11:00) – Gloria Cade, Debbie Cooper

The Sanctuary Flowers for this Lord’s Day are given by **Beverly and Nelson Jones to the Glory of God** and *in memory of family members*.

SERMON NOTES
1. DIVINE DETOURS: The Bible teaches us that Jesus leads us on what might seem to be “detours” in our lives, even detours to disquieting places and people.
What is Jesus teaching us with Divine Detours? Discern and Embrace Jesus’ Providential Purposes.

Ask the **WHY(?) question** together with the **WHERE(?)** and the **TO WHOM(?) questions**.

During his brief (3-year) public ministry, the Jewish Messiah led his Jewish disciples on a surprisingly significant number of divine detours.

Mark 7:24 - From there He arose and **went away** to the **region of _____ and _____**.
The **JEWISH MESSIAH “DETOURED”** to **GENTILE/PAGAN REGIONS!!!**
a/k/a “Enemy Territory” - Cultures Hostile to Jews

In these Detours, **what was Jesus teaching** his disciples about **His Kingdom & Mission?**

2. Divine “Detours” Demolish Divisions and Deliver Us into His Delight.
Join in the Lord’s & Outsiders’ Delight as He Saves Many through His Detours!
“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd. (Jn. 10:16)

3. An Extreme Outsider to the Jews Comes to Plead with Jesus:
A Gentile **A Hellenized Gentile**
Living in the Province of Syrophoenicia **In the Region of Tyre & Sidon**

A Canaanite **A Woman**
A Gentile/Canaanite/Syro-Phoenician Woman
A Woman with a Demon-Possessed Daughter!

But The line of the **Son of David** includes _____ (Mt. 1:3) and _____ (Mt. 1:6), as well Moabite Ruth and Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.
... and “Glorious things of you are spoken, O City of God. Among those who know me are Rahab and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush.... The LORD records as He registers the peoples, **“This one was born here!”** [Ps. 87:3-6]

... and Jesus loves and saves women (and men) who come to Him at the end of themselves, who have LOTS of strike against them.

4. The Syrophoenician Woman’s Detour: “Disaster” in her life drove her to Jesus.

AFFLICTION SOMETIMES PROVES A BLESSING TO A PERSON’S SOUL
J.C. Ryle *Expository Thoughts*, on Matthew 15.
“This Canaanite mother no doubt had been sorely tried.... Yet that trouble brought her to Christ, and taught her to pray. Without it, she might have lived and died in careless ignorance, and never seen Christ at all. Surely it was good for her that she was afflicted.” (Psalm 119.71)

5. The Persistent Syrophoenician Mother Comes in Unqualified Humility and Faith, Begging Jesus as LORD to Deliver Her Daughter from the Demon.

- **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.** (James 4:10)
- *[The woman] came and fell down at his feet.* (Mark 7:25)

“Have mercy in me, O Lord, Son of David: my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” (Mt. 15:22)

- **Jesus’ Parable of the Persistent Widow** (Luke 18)
WHERE THERE IS A PRAYING MOTHER, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE!
J.C. Ryle *Expository Thoughts*, on Mark 7.
“Hopeless and desperate as [the demon-possessed girl’s plight] appeared, she had a praying mother, and where there is a praying mother, there is always hope.”

6. Jesus Tests and Approves (and Enjoys Bantering with) the Persistent Syrophoenician Mother, Delighting in Her Faith and Delivering Her Daughter from the Demon.

- **Enjoy Jesus and His Divinely Witty Wisdom, as you actually engage with Him.**
“Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then Jesus answered her: **“O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire!”** [Mt. 15:28]
“For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” [Mk. 7:29]

7. Urgent Gospel Call: Arise, and Go to Jesus!

Yourself **... and in prayer for others.**

Week of February 16, 2020		
SUNDAY:	8:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:30 p.m.	Stated Session Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Youth Depart for Trip to WinterJam Concert
MONDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts Building)
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Bible Study & Prayer Fellowship (Parlor)
WEDNESDAY:	5:15p.m.	Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m.	Women's Wednesday Bible Study Group – Special Fellowship at Home of Jackie Mullen (1103 Robinhood Rd.)
	5:00 p.m.	Nursery
	5:50p.m.	Children's and Youth programs
	6:00p.m.	Co-ed (Men & Women's) Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
THURSDAY:	1-2:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION SERVICES AND SCOUT SUNDAY:



Prepare to Receive the Lord's Supper Next Sunday and Wednesday. Next Sunday morning (Transfiguration Sunday) and next Wednesday Evening (Ash Wednesday), we will share the Lord's Supper with all baptized and affirming believers who are (a) active in fellowship *either* in our congregation *OR* in another evangelical church professing personal faith in salvation through Jesus Christ, *and* (b) prepared in the Holy Spirit to discern and partake of the Body. Therefore, devote yourself this week to focused days of spiritual renewal, in preparation for sharing Holy Communion. God's Word instructs that our preparation should include Spirit-led self-examination, repentance, and reconciliation to God and to others (particularly fellow believers from whom we may have become estranged) – while always trusting in God's grace in all things. *“Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body of Christ eats and drinks judgment on himself.”* [1 Corinthians 11:28-29]

We will also acknowledge NEXT SUNDAY all children, youth & adult leaders in Scouting and in Christian-based Trail Life programs. We'll welcome representatives from BSA Troop 14 that we've hosted for decades at FPC, together with members of our congregation actively involved in Trail Life and the Scout programs. Scout & Trail Life Participants: Plan to wear your uniform, to stand and be prayed for, and – if you would like – to check in with Deacon Kristen Skinner and then to help with greeting or ushering.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION for Wednesday, Feb. 19, Friends & Family Dinner

Wednesday's Dinner (**5:15-5:45 p.m.**): Chicken spaghetti, green beans, corn nuggets, rolls, and red velvet cake. Adults may also choose a Chef Salad . . . or, as always, children may have pizza; just let us know. ***Place your completed reservation in the Offering, or call or send an email to the Church Office. All reservations for Feb. 19 must be received by tomorrow at NOON!***

THIS FRIDAY – Children's Ministry Skate Date! Contact Ashleigh Murdock for more information.



WHAT K4 - 5TH GRADERS

WHERE? SKATE ODYSSEY OF STARKVILLE

WHEN? FEBRUARY 21, DROP OFF/PICK UP FROM 3 PM - 5:30 PM

HOW MUCH? FREE ADMISSION, SKATE RENTAL, AND SNACKS PROVIDED. *BRING MONEY TO PLAY ARCADE GAMES*

BRING YOURSELF AND A FRIEND!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AND STARKVILLE FIRST UMC

Lost and Found: We have several items that have recently been turned in to the Lost and Found including jewelry. Please contact Kathy Wright in the church office to identify: 662-323-1994.

Prayer List

Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
Peggy and Levette Johnson
Jack and Molly Kate Aarhus
Selma Gilmore (Dana Fant's mother)
Boswell Kennard
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
Jimmie Brown
Sylvia Love
Jimmy Dodd
John Clark Packer
Brenda Harrington
Bruce and Betty Latimer
Roxene Atkinson
Greta Bryan
Marjorie Malone
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)
Sherry Siler (Bryn Taylor's sister)
Ross Collins, Madison Collins (son of Ross and Margaret Collins)
Cindy Stewart (friend of George and Jane Vemer)
Aspen Reynolds (Anita Reynold's granddaughter)
Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison's mom)
Carl Ivey, Sr. (Kentucky), Michael Belcher, and Ashley Whitten (friends of the Iveys)
Bob and Dot Forbus, and Staci Moak (brother, sister-in-law, and daughter of Jack Forbus)
Gerlene Lifer
Leslie Drane, Frances Ellis (Ellen Mauldin's brother and sister)
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade), and Hazel Davis (Wallace Cade's aunt)
Diane Daniels, Delores Irvin (Diane's sister), and Bill and Tan Chapman
Sarah Helen McCloskey and Craig D. Campbell (family friends of Bob & Diane Daniels)
John Gassaway and Michael Tubb (Anna Ray Gassaway's brother-in-law and nephew)
David Henderson, Cheryl Kay Linder (Beth Ann Dunlap's stepbrother & sister)
Frances Knoll Waltman and Cissy Knoll Thomas (Libby Gill's sister and mother)

Additional Prayer List for Health Care / Assisted Living

Bessie Montgomery –Montgomery Gardens
Cattie Taylor –Beehive, Starkville
Jane Lusk –The Claiborne
Jetta Kuykendall –The Grove, Columbia
Frances Oakley –Sunnybrook Estates, Madison
Marie Tramel –Plain View, Richland
Maxine Eastland –Franklin, TN
Elizabeth Duffey –Presbyterian Village, GA
Jewel Jacobs (Cindy Walker's mother) –Montgomery Garden
Lu Graham (Jane Zitta's sister) –The Hermitage, Richmond, Virginia
Mary Jo Wallace –The Blake at Flowood
Carolyn Wofford –Heritage at Irene Wood, Memphis, Tennessee

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry, Janice Kinard, Moderator

Circles, Bible Study, Leaders and Mission:
2/17, Monday evening @ 7 pm, Location: home of Amy Weiskopf, 1305 Nottingham Rd.,
Leader: Amy Weiskopf

Mission: FPC Youth Ministry, led by Faith Lifer, Kirk Kinard, and Reid Roberson
Lesson: 4, "Scared." Scripture Matthew 6:25-34, DVD = 8 minutes and 52 seconds

FPC Officers

Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Will Martin, Clerk of Session & Corporate Secretary
Jeff Foster, Corporation President/ Jim Beaty, Treasurer
Elders Emeriti: James (Jim) Long and Dero Ramsey

Elders Serving on Our Session and Board of Directors

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Carl Ivey	Wallace Cade	Harry Bell
Jim Beaty	Jack Forbus	Scotty Crawford
Peggy Johnson	Will Martin	Wesley Ferguson
Jeff Foster	Cal Rackley	Susan Gamel
		Brien Henry

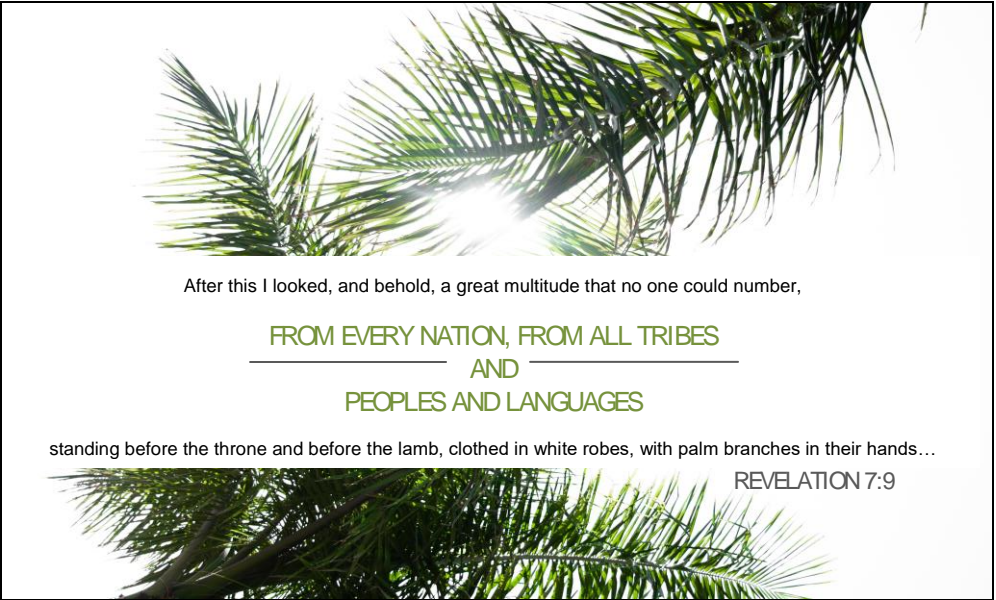
Deacons Serving on Our Diaconate

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Johnny Fair	Glenda Clark	Jack Atkins
Tabor Mullen	Jack Cook	Rebecca Banzhaf
Jeremy Murdock	Peyton Fandel	Janet Bardwell
Kristen Skinner	Robby Holditch	Lee Weiskopf



Starkville's Church
That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*
and
That is Part of the EPC –

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches



FEBRUARY 16, 2020

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 Sermon Podcasts & Ministry News

www.fpcstarkville.org

Subscribe Directly to the FPC Sermon Podcast and access sermons regularly on your phone, pad, or other computer.

Also, Open the Instagram APP, and follow FPC's Instagram account.

Church Office

307 University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Phone | 662-323-1994

Office Admin. Email | info@fpcstarkville.org.

Office Hours

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