



Happenings on the Hill July 2020



God Blesses Us to Be *Free* to Open Our Doors for Mission and Worship!

*"For I am the LORD your God, Who takes hold of your right hand, and Who says to you,
'Do not fear! I will help you.'* Isaiah 41:13

FPC Led the Way in June, Opening Our Doors
for Mission Outreach and Public Worship. In
July Also, Join Us Each Sunday

- **IN-PERSON** (if you are now able to leave your home) ...
- Or **VIRTUALLY** (if you are sheltering in place and not leaving your home): join us for Sunday Worship
- via Our YouTube Channel on TV or via our videos on FPC Starkville Facebook.

Photo at right: We celebrated our first baptism since our congregation's June Return to Public Worship in God's House with the Father's Day, June 21, Baptism of Sadie Grace Massingill, daughter of Allen & Alex Massingill.



Photo below: On June 6 – when Jesus was clearly calling His Church not to hide in fear but to pray and act in D-Day-level courage and leadership – FPC members & friends with a heart for the Lord and Mission joined Pastor Lifer and Rev. Stedman Joiner for our FPC JUNE LOCAL MISSION SATURDAY of Prayer and then Mission Outreach. We shared provisions, the message of grace, and prayers as a gospel outreach to both the Peaceful Protesters *and* Starkville Police on a day when God's Grace & Light were much needed. FPC was the one church in the main downtown area that engaged in Good News Local Mission to the thousands who converged on our city on that historic day.

"Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house." Matthew 5:14

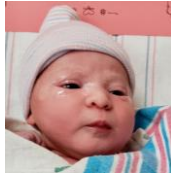


See Page 3 for more local mission photos & notes, ... including your invitation: **Join us for our JULY LOCAL MISSION SATURDAY – July 11.** That Saturday morning, our FPC Youth Ministry Group and ALL Adult Members & Friends interested in serving will help landscape the new Starkville/Oktibbeha **Habitat for Humanity House at 60 Azalea Lane.** [Again, please see Page 3 for more notes, and plan to join our Youth Ministry for our July Local Mission Saturday.]

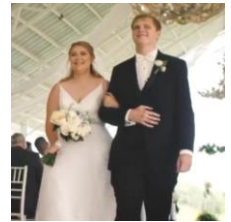
True to Our Mission Heritage, We Choose in 2020 to Live in Faith, not Fear, and We Answer the Lord's Call Not to Hide Under a Basket. In hard and dangerous times of coming to Mississippi in the early 1800s, we were the first Christians to come to this part of the Choctaw Region that is now Oktibbeha County. We were first to dedicate ourselves to Gospel Mission Outreach (1819 & following) and to open our doors for the Public Worship of God (1821 & following). God called us, and we acted in faith, not fear: in 1820/21 and in 2020. Now we thank God for blessing our renewal of worship and outreach this summer.

Additional Church Family & Ministry News:

Adeline James Dunlap was born on June 22, 2020, to Robert and Hannah Dunlap. Adeline is Robert & Hannah's first child.



FPC's Kirk Kinard and Ann Douglass Mashburn were wed June 27. May God bless our newest newlywed couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kinard, as they prepare for their move to Huntsville later this month.



We also thank God for Kirk Kinard's leadership as FPC's Director (2018-2019) and then as Co-Director (2019-2020) of Youth Ministry.

Transitions in FPCCC Leadership and Thanksgiving for Years of Service Given by

- Cecelia Cook (Former Session Liaison to the Board),
- Marcia Black & Debbie Morgan (former Assistant Co-Directors), and
- **Cassie Elmore (FPC's Nursery Care Coordinator, and a former FPCCC teacher and Administrative Assistant).** God blessed FPCCC through the years of service of each of these faithful women. Cecelia Cook has served multiple terms through the past decades on the Board of Directors, most recently as Session Liaison on the Board until her term on Session ended in December 2019; the Session recently recognized the conclusion of Cecelia's term on the Board and gave thanks to God for her multiple terms and years of commitment. Marcia Black and Debbie Morgan, likewise, have each served FPCCC for much of the past two decades, each woman first serving as teacher and, later, becoming an Assistant co-Director. During this season of the FPCCC's ministry being suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic – Debbie recently has chosen to retire, while Marcia has resigned in connection with a pending governmental job. Finally, Cassie – after completing her degree majoring in medical records will this month begin a new job with the Women's Clinic of OCH.
- Please continue to pray for God's wisdom for the FPCCC Board, the Personnel Committee, and the Session - as the Board and Session are addressing how to reopen FPCCC as a viable and safe ministry in 2020, and as the Committee and Board are seeking a gifted and competent Director to lead and develop FPCCC as a Christian preschool.

FPC's Youth Ministry Continues to Be VERY Active This Summer.

June Events Included (1) Weekly Bible Study & Discussion, and (2) Several Fellowship Outings to Robinson Lake and the MSU Campus. [Youth and Mission Notes continued on Next Page.]



FPC Leads in Outreach Mission Ministry This Summer, with a Special Emphasis on LOCAL Mission.

Thank God for opening doors for interested FPC members and friends to be involved in our community outreach, bringing God's Truth and Grace into otherwise turbulent times in our multicultural community.

- *Thanks to all of you who gave time to join us in prayer and in our local mission field in May & June!*

- Thank God for the Outreach/Mission Team and the Personnel Committee in assisting the FPCCC Board in assessing possibilities for a viable and safe ministry plan under which FPCCC might be reopened and in seeking a new Director, without whom no plan can move forward this summer.
- **NOW**, If you are not sheltering in place and have been able to leave your home this summer, then please pray about joining us for another of our Local Mission Saturdays: this one July 12 (8 a.m. - Noon), as our Reid Roberson, other Youth Ministry Leaders, our FPC Youth Group, and Boy Scouts spearhead help to Starkville/Oktibbeha HABITAT FOR HUMANITY in landscaping the yard of the new Habitat Home site at 60 Azalea Lane. Youth and Parents of Youth will meet at FPC at 7:45 a.m., but other adults may simply meet our group at 60 Azalea Lane – whether at 8 a.m. or later, as schedules permit.



Give thanks for FPC's Heart for Local Mission, and give thanks for all who join us in these opportunities. As the Bible says, we are the Lord's ambassadors of his ministry of reconciliation.





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Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Kathy Wright in the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to info@fpcstarkville.org. In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor mwlifer3@gmail.com

Kathy Wright, Pastoral Administrative Assistant info@fpcstarkville.org

Cheryl Ewing, Church Financial Secretary (part-time in office) cheryl@fpcstarkville.org

Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director aarhus@bellsouth.net

Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator aabmurdock@gmail.com

Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Director of Youth Ministry reidrob97@gmail.com

Jennifer Blackburn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

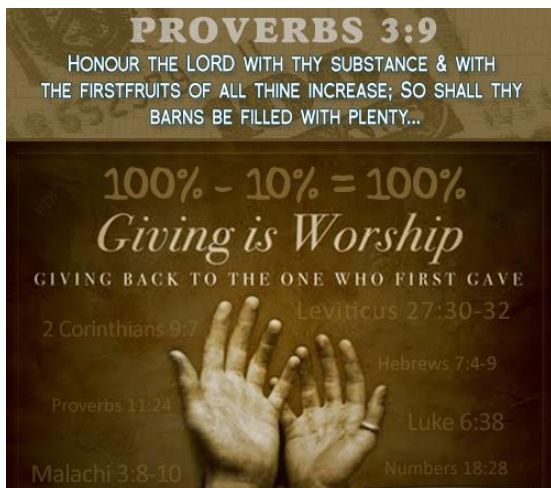
Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

Noa Hardin, Communications & Social Media Facilitator noakhardin@gmail.com



USHERS & GREETERS NEEDED!

If you are no longer sheltering in place and have been able to leave your home for shopping or other interactions with persons outside your home, then join us in-person for worship on Sunday AND please volunteer to Usher or Greet at either the 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Service. To volunteer – contact Kathy Wright in the Church Office via phone or email.



Thank You for Your Faithful Provision of God's Tithe and Further, Additional Offerings.

Giving is Part of Our Worship of God!

In Addition to Bringing or Mailing Your Offering Checks to the Church Office (or via Other Draft or Disbursement Means, You May Now Give God's Tithe or Your Other Offerings ONLINE:

Simply access the FPC Starkville Website Homepage, and select & click the GIVE Icon/Heading. On the Giving Page, select & click the second heading – Click Here to Give Online. Then provide the very basic information; your giving is private and secure via the service FPC has chosen.

FPC's Youth Ministry News (Continued):

See photos (below) of the Youth Group's recent Sunday games afternoon at MSU.

(Speaking of Youth Ministry and MSU) This month, our Youth Ministry Leadership Team welcomes two new part-time staff members: Madison Adcock and Mattie Mason, both rising sophomores at MSU.

