

Visiting with Us?

Please complete a **FIRSTConnect Card** and place it in the Offering ... or in a **FIRSTConnect Box** in the entranceways.



Happy New Year! Welcome to our worship of God on this first Lord's Day of 2020. Please join us again on upcoming Sundays – **not only for worship but also for Sunday Bible Study** (please see the Bulletin Insert for Adult Class offerings) and for our Fellowship Gathering (10:30-10:50 a.m. downstairs in the Fellowship Hall – below the Sanctuary).

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry and Childcare Information:

We provide loving and safe Christian Childcare for infants and toddlers of families at FPC [for newborns through Age 3] from 8:15 a.m. through 12:15 p.m. on the Main Floor of the Christian Education Building, which is the building immediately northeast of the Sanctuary.

We also provide the TLC Ministry for children Age 3 through 1st Graders during the 11 a.m. Service – which the children attend following the Children's Message at the 11 a.m. Service. Sunday School time is 9:45-10:30 a.m. We have a number of Sunday School groups for youth and children (Age 3 and older), but all children and teenagers begin on Sundays on the 3rd Floor of the CE Building, 9:45-9:55 a.m., with a Worship Gathering of Music, Prayer, and Catechism.

To learn more about growing in faith in Jesus Christ, church membership and/or about ways you can learn and serve at FPC – then please speak to Pastor Lifer or Assistant Pastor Nasvytis, call the church office, or send an email message to Pastor Lifer via (mwlfifer3@gmail.com).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

JANUARY 5, 2020
EPIPHANY AND NEW YEAR SUNDAY

PRELUDE

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

arr. McConnell
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME

Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

***RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD'S WORD** from Psalm 90:1-5,10-12 Joe Nasvytis
Minister: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

ALL: You turn man back into dust And say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Minister: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning.

ALL: The years of our life are seventy or – even by reason of strength – eighty. Yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Minister: Who considers the power of your anger and wrath – according to the fear of You?

ALL: So teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

*INVOCATION

*HYMN 122

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ashleigh Murdock (11:00)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – from The (Westminster) Larger Catechism [EPC Modern English Version] Reid Roberson
Question: What is the highest and primary purpose of human beings?

ALL: The primary and highest purpose of human beings is to glorify God and to enjoy Him completely forever.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 670 - THE GLORIA PATRI

*ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir)

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Having trouble hearing the service? We have portable units that are connected directly to our sound system for optimum audio. Please see an usher about using one of these devices during the service.

Deacon of the Week: Johnny Fair

Today's Ushers: (8:30) – Gary Bardwell; (11:00) – Larry Anthony, Brien Henry

Today's Greeters: (8:30) – Janet Bardwell; (11:00) – Wanda Anthony, Amanda Henry

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & PETITION

Prayer of Confession (Unison): Merciful Father, before You, and before our sisters and brothers, we confess our sin. Please forgive us for the ways in the past year that we followed our fears, selfishness, and pride, instead of following You and your Word. O Lord, please lead us to true repentance by your Holy Spirit: we pray to turn away from our old ways of sin and to turn to You. This New Year, please strengthen us with the joy of knowing that we belong to You, that we are purified by Jesus' blood, and that your grace is fully sufficient to bring us growth this year in fruitful witness, prayer, worship, giving, and mission. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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

*GIVING - GOD'S TITHE, JOYFUL PROMISE PLEDGES, AND FURTHER OFFERINGS

*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Hayes
Jennifer Blackburn

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:16-19; Psalm 119:18,105
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 976, 512, 514)

SERMON

*Having the Eyes of Your Heart Enlightened:
20/20 for the 2020s*

Martin Lifer

RESPONDING IN FAITH TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 83

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

New Dawn, New Day

Smith
Jennifer Blackburn

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

SERMON NOTES

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones described "cultural" [club] church members who are not actually born-again believers: They know enough about Christianity to spoil their enjoyment of the world, but they do not know the joy of those who live in Christ. ...***They say the words of seeing, and yet they do not see.***

The essence of sin is a refusal to believe God, whereas salvation is conversion to a new life of obedience to God's Truth. The New life begins when the light of Christ tears away our false religion of glorifying our personal autonomy and reveals our desperate need to depend on the Savior. The gospel changes everything and gives the Christian a new heart overflowing with joy in God's love.

The proof of salvation flows from a heart of passionate affection for God and in a life of daily obedience to God's Word.

The Eyes of Your Heart Enlightened: 20/20 for the 2020s



1. ...The Father of glory may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

The Spirit of Wisdom:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Who considers the power of your anger and wrath – according to the fear of You?

So teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:11-12

Martin Luther: The OT passages speak of *filial fear*.

The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him; He makes known to them his covenant. Psalm 25:14

That the Father of glory may GIVE you the Spirit of Wisdom:

Solomon's Prayer [1Kings 3] - "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, **yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in....** So **GIVE** Your servant ***an understanding heart*** to judge Your people: ***to discern between good and evil.***

God was pleased with Solomon's prayer for his New Reign and said to him [1Kings 3]:

"Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word.

Behold, I GIVE you a wise and discerning mind.

so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days."

We see clearly, 20/20 when: (a) we know the Father of glory gave to us any wisdom, faithfulness, productiveness, and blessings we have; and (b) we glorify Him 100% for it.

2. Having the eyes of your heart enlightened/

Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

That the Father of glory give you the Spirit ... of revelation in the knowledge of Him:

Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders who were seeking to kill Him [John 5:38-40]:

"...nor does his Word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One He sent. You study the Scriptures diligently, because you think that in them you have eternal life; but it is they that bear witness about Me. Yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

For God, Who said, ***"Let light shine out of darkness,"*** made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

The Supreme Commandment of the Torah, *"that you may fear the LORD your God,"* and your children & grandchildren may fear the LORD –the *Shema* [See Deuteronomy 6]: ... "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children,** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

PARENTS: You shall teach them diligently to your children, ... when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

3. That you may know the hope to which He has called you,... the inheritance in the saints,...the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, ... but **his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. ... [from Psalm 1]

I have stored up your Word in my heart, so that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

Week of January 5, 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
MONDAY- FRIDAY:	9 a.m. – Noon, 1-4 p.m.	Church Office Open
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice
THURSDAY:	1-2:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Friends & Family Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Bible Studies, and Youth & Children's Ministries begin NEXT Wednesday, January 15.

Prayer List

Billy and Brenda Harrington
Boswell Kennard
Sylvia Love
Paula Elliott
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
Jimmie Brown
John Clark Packer
Bruce and Betty Latimer
Roxene Atkinson
Wells Beaty
Greta Bryan
Randell Foxworth
Marjorie Malone
Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)
Sean and Morgan Clark Schnurr & Family
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)
Sherry Siler (BrynTaylor's sister)
Ross Collins, Madison Collins (son of Ross and Margaret Collins)
Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
Cindy Stewart (friend of George and Jane Vemer)
Aspen Reynolds (Anita Reynold's granddaughter)
Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison's mom)
Carl Ivey, Sr. (Dukedom, Kentucky), Michael Belcher (friend 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)
Bill and Tan Chapman
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade), and Hazel Davis (Wallace Cade's aunt)
Diane Daniels and Delores Irvin (Diane's sister)
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)
Larry Melton (Kathy Wright's father)

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 Officers

Next Sunday, January 12, at our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, we will ordain and install the following Elders-Elect and Deacons-Elect:

Session Class of 2022

Harry Bell
Scotty Crawford
Wesley Ferguson
Susan Gamel
Brien Henry

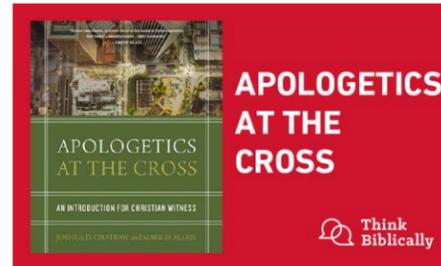
Diaconate Class of 2022

Jack Atkins
Rebecca Banzhaf
Janet Bardwell
Lee Weiskopf

New Wednesday Night Adult Studies – Beginning January 15:

The Acclaimed New Bible Study Course for Men and Women Comes to FPC,
Facilitated by Rev. Joe Nasvytis on Wednesday Nights:

Apologetics at the Cross: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN WITNESS
Dr. Joshua Chatraw and Dr. Mark Allen Equip Christians to Think Biblically in How to (a) Introduce Christian Faith, and (b) Respond to Concerns, Questions, and Objections Often Raised. In other words, this class helps Christians "Give the Reason for Our Sure Hope."



Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study: Women, join us in the New Year/spring semester as we study together on Wednesday nights during the Friends and Family program. We will begin the semester with **Priscilla Shirer's 5-session study *Breathe***, embracing the concept of Sabbath and how it can change our lives! Please sign up through the church office or contact Orly Hardin to order your study journal. *Looking forward to our women's Wednesday night group being back together on Wednesday evenings in 2020!*

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator

WMCT will meet Tuesday, January 7 @ noon at the church office.

Mission for the month – FPC Children's Ministry

Lesson 4: Discontent, Prepare and Read Romans 12:9-21

Sun, 1/12 @ 8:00 am, location: Parlor Tues, 1/14 @ 6:00 pm, location: TBA
Mon, 1/13 @ 1:30 pm, location: Parlor Mon, 1/20 @ 7:00 pm, location: home of Ashleigh Murdock

Further FPC Bible Studies for Women in this New Year:

The *Women in the Word* Sunday Bible Study & Fellowship Group.

Led by Nancy Lifer, this group meets each Sunday in Room S-6 (on the main Sanctuary Floor, around the corner from the Chapel).

The group includes women of all generations and backgrounds – single and married, from college students & young adult through VIP-age members. The group is currently **studying the New Testament Book of James**.

For more information, speak to Nancy Lifer, or email her at nnlifer@gmail.com.

Thursday Women's Bible Study Group Begins New Series THIS THURSDAY, (Jan. 9): *To Live Is Christ* by Beth Moore is an 11-Session, in-depth study of the life and ministry of Paul.

Exploring the life of Paul will, *among other things*: deepen our understanding of God's grace; demonstrate God's ability to use anyone who is willing to serve Him; demonstrate the impact one surrendered life can have; encourage us to remain strong and steadfast during times of suffering; and *most of all*, increase our passion to know Christ!

Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The study guide costs approximately \$16.00. **Please contact the church office to order your guide, or contact Susan at mizsuz2000@yahoo.com or 662- 312-6052.**

Attention, 5th-Grade Students and Parents of 5th-Graders:

Our Christian Education Ministry has opened enrollment this month (through January 22) for COVENANT, BREAD, AND CUP – our class focused on: (a) teaching our 5th-Graders about a Biblical & Reformed (Presbyterian) understanding of God's covenant with his people and of Christian worship and sacraments; (b) preparing baptized 5th graders to partake of the Lord's Supper later this spring [provided that the students are baptized and have parental consent to partake]; and (c) helping equip our 5th Graders to be better prepared for their future participation as Youth in our Confirmation Program for Middle School and High School students. The class will meet each Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. Worship service – beginning January 26 and concluding in March. In addition, class students will assist in the 11:00 a.m. Service during Sundays in March. Janice Kinard will be the lead instructor, and other church officers and/or ministry staff will join Janice on various Sundays during the class. *Prior to Holy Week in April, all children faithfully participating will – provided parental consent – be approved by the Session to receive Communion (the Lord's Supper).*

To register your 5th-Grade child for the class, please contact Kathy Wright in the church office by January 22 at 323-1994 or by email at info@fpcstarkville.org.



Starkville's Church
That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*
and

That is Part of the EPC –

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches



EPIPHANY SUNDAY/ NEW YEAR SUNDAY

JANUARY 5, 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

Church Office

307 University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Phone | 662-323-1994

Fax | 662-323-1999

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:

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