



MARCHING FORWARD IN THE MASTER'S MISSION!

Christ Brings Good NEWS through FPC's Members, Ministries, and Mission Outreach, Powerfully Impacts Our Community, MSU, ... and the World.



Dear Church Family and friends,

As I write this update at the close of February and looking ahead to March 2020, I am more than ever amazed at the expanding ways Jesus brings Good News and transforming impact to Starkville, MSU, our region, and His Church around the world through this congregation's members, ministries, and mission partners. First, let us thank God for an amazing final week of February, including:

(1) Ben & Allison Jackson's leading our group of eight students from our University Ministry to attend the faith-inspiring CCO Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh- with the largest portion of our group's travel, registration fees, and lodging generously covered by regular and special giving from the Lord's stewards at FPC. [See the photo below, at right, of Audrey Thompson and all at Jubilee, the photo top right of our group in a Jubilee worship service, and the group photo on Page 2.]]

(2) On February 25, Nancy Lifer – President and Chairman of the Family Selection Committee of FPC's Mission Partner, Starkville Habitat for Humanity – brought great news to the city and county with the unprecedented announcement that SHH had approved not just one or even two but three families as potential homeowners. Nancy was joined in this record-breaking news other leaders of SHH, including FPC's Joel Downey (Executive Director), Amanda Henry, and Lynn Zimmerman.

(3) On February 27-28, other members of FPC's Outreach Team and I welcomed for a brief visit to Starkville The Rev. David Meredith, Mission Director of another of our Mission Partners, The Free Church of Scotland. God blessed us with very productive mission planning discussions, and David – as before – loved his time in Starkville, including attending an MSU Women's Basketball game.

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Now, we march forward in March 2020 with great plans for further outreach. Those plans include:

(1) Hosting on March 1 in our 11 a.m. worship service Carol Lee, Executive Director of another of our Mission Partners, the Starkville Pregnancy Center. In turn, I will be joining several other FPC members, including members of our Outreach Team, on Thursday evening, March 5, for SPC's Annual Fundraising Dinner, at which I will be leading the gathering in prayer.

(2) This month, I will also be joining another of our Mission Partners, The Rev. Jeff Kim, in France, to assist in a very important and potentially groundbreaking meeting. Our goal is to help make the way for a new mission and church planting alliance between our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the most significant Biblically-faithful evangelical Reformed/Presbyterian denomination in France – ***l'Union Nationale des Eglises Protestantes Réformées Évangéliques de France (UNEPREF)***. Specifically, I will join Jeff in hosting and facilitating meetings and discussions on March 20-21 between Phil Linton, Director of World Outreach for the EPC, and Jean-Raymond Stauffacher, President of UNEPREF. Then, Dr. Stauffacher has asked me to stay with his family in Montpellier for a couple more days, so that I can visit the ***Jean Calvin Seminary*** (where Dr. Stauffacher is a faculty member) and then to meet, worship with, and speak to the Presbyterian congregation he pastors in Montpellier on Sunday, March 23.

(3) Finally, Dr. Craig Aarhus is coordinating a major music outreach opportunity for FPC on March 27-28. With Craig's leadership, FPC joins the MSU Music Department in co-hosting Mary MacDonald – one of the most prolific and influential Christian music composers of the past several decades – for a residency that will include her preparing and leading our Chancel Choir and others in special music for the 11:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, March 28, and then a 5:00 p.m. concert in the FPC Sanctuary by a joint choir that Sunday evening. Plan to attend and to be blessed by this musical outreach!

Your pastor and friend in Jesus,
Martin



Photo above, right: Our Feb. 21-23, 2020 CCO Jubilee Group at the Conference in Pittsburgh – Sam Buckley, Hannah Covington, Sarah Hobbs, Mattie Van Mason, Kelsy Minga, Audrey Thompson, Emily Thornberry, Tanner Thurman, Allison Jackson, and Ben Jackson.

Photo below: Some of our leaders and participants for the Youth Confirmation Retreat prepare to depart FPC for French Camp on Feb. 28.



FPC's VIPs (Very Important Presbyterians) Enjoyed a Festive Celebration on Valentine's Day, including classic songs played and sung by Jennifer Blackburn and Johnny & Betty Ann Folsom.



Calendar for Upcoming VIP Activities in 2020

April 21 - Starkville Academy Senior Citizen Tech Class 8:30-10:30 a.m. (more information coming)

May - Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library/Museum and Templeton Music Museum on MSU campus

June - Lunch at Lake Tiak O'Khata **August** - Back to School Activity with children of the church

October - Operation Christmas Child packing party **December** - Christmas Party

More information to come on each of these activities as the dates near, but please join us if you are 65+ or if you just feel so led! The more the merrier! Please see Amy Aarhus or Peggy Branch if you have questions or suggestion for future VIP activities.

A Message from Amy Aarhus about Opportunities to Help Throughout the Year with FPC's Provisions for Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child Mission:

Every year, when October rolls around, and we are all racing to fill shoeboxes for this wonderful ministry, I have people ask if we can pack boxes as a church family. This can be a fun and intergenerational activity, but it will take everyone's help EACH MONTH to help us prepare for this fun churchwide event.

This is how you can help: Each month, I will list items that we are collecting in the fellowship hall, bulletin and newsletter. I have compiled these lists with the help of others who have done this activity before, and they are hopefully things you can find on sale each month! ☺ Each month, if you so feel led, please donate a few things to the boxes that will be in the Fellowship Hall. We will collect these throughout the year, and then when it is finally time to pack shoeboxes, we have all of the items needed! Ideally, we should've started collecting items in January. This year we are a little behind schedule, but we can still be successful. Below is the list of the items we will be collecting each month. Again, feel free to donate as you feel led. Every item is appreciated.

Also, feel free to donate things even if they are not specified for the current month! For instance, if you see stuffed animals on sale, but it is a month that says we are collecting toothbrushes, please turn them in! We are gathering LOTS of things, and the monthly suggestions are just to help us remember various items. Please remember, though, NO liquids, NO war like toys, and NO candy or gum. Have fun shopping!

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| Jan. - Toothbrushes, soap & washcloths (*NO toothpaste) | Feb. - Small stuffed animals |
| Mar. - Socks, flip flops, mittens, hats & t-shirts | Apr. - Combs, brushes, hair items |
| May - Small toys, puzzles & games for boys (*no war related toys or guns) | June - Small toys, puzzles, games & jewelry for girls |
| July - School supplies, notebooks & coloring books | Aug. - Small plastic (reusable) cups, bowls, spoons & water bottles |

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator

The Women's Ministry Coordinating Team will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3, Noon, in the Johnson Room of the Church Office Building.

March Mission Focus - Missionary Support for a Child of the Church (now adult and serving the Lord)

Bible Lesson - Lesson 5, Overwhelmed, Ephesians 2:1-10

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 Assitant** 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
- Kirk Kinard, Co-Director of Youth Ministry** kirkkinard@gmail.com
- Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Co-Director of Youth Ministry** reidrob97@gmail.com
- Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist** jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com
- Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director** katherinemcgill@hotmail.com
- Noa Hardin, Communications & Social Media Facilitator** noahardin@gmail.com

Youth Ministry News:

Thank God for Blessing a Faith-Building and Fun Confirmation Retreat at French Camp (February 28-29), and please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to bring to saving Gospel of Jesus Christ into the hearts and lives of our Youth.



Scout Troop 14 at FPC:

Remember, also, in your prayers the boys and leaders of Scout Troop 14, which FPC for decades has hosted on our campus and helped. We were blessed to welcome many of the leaders and boys from Troop 14 in worship on February 23. [See photo at right.]



Welcome New Members John and Bev Kelley!

Thank God for calling to our church family new members John and Bev Kelley. If you have not yet personally greeted and introduced yourself to John and Bev, please do so on a Sunday morning this month.



Remember to *Spring Forward* an hour on your clocks Saturday night & Sunday morning (March 7-8).

The close of the 1st weekend of *Spring Break* also begins Daylight Saving Time.

Spring Forward Sunday Morning, March 8 – Moving Up an Hour!

