

# JOYFUL PROMISE

Then the people *rejoiced*, because they had given willingly,  
for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD.

*1 Chronicles 29:9a*



## HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL NOVEMBER 2019

*A Month of Thanksgiving and  
Joyful Promise*



The LORD's Joy is the strength of his people [*Nehemiah 8:10c*]. This autumn, God has already lavished his Joy upon all at FPC who've been so wonderfully faithful each week in worship, giving, and serving. *What a season of Spiritually renewing Sundays!* God inspires all who come each Sunday with open hearts – not only in our primary Lord's Day Services [*see the photo above right, as Beadle Jack Forbus and J.B. Griffith help lead Reformation Sunday worship*] but also in FPC's new Worship Gathering for Children & Youth each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. [*see the photo below, as Reid Roberson leads our children and teenagers singing "In Christ Alone"*], as well as with many special Sunday fellowship ministries for children, youth, University students, and adults [*see the photo above left, of Mary & Anne Elise Hearnberger -- face-painted by Madeleine Roberson during our Harvest Festival*].

This month, God's Joy during Harvest Season on the Hill continues, with special Sundays of Thanksgiving and Joyful Promise. May you know a November of Thanksgiving and Joyful Promise! Specifically, I invite you to know God's pleasure, and you trust and thank Him through making your heartfelt Stewardship Joy Promises for the upcoming Year of 2020. Be sure to join us for the **JOYFUL PROMISE STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCH on November 10**, and for all other celebrations of God's Joy this month – as we glorify and thank Him through our Joyful Promises to Worship, Give, and Serve.

Your pastor and friend in Christ,

*Martin*





## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In October, we rejoiced at the birth (on October 4) of Thomas and Anne Marie Gregory's first child, James Thomas Gregory. *[See the photos below, at left, of Thomas and Anne Marie holding James, and of Pastor Lifer, holding James, at OCH on October 5.]* We also gave thanks for the birth on October 30 of Blake Henry Jackson *[see the photo middle photo below.]* Blake is the third child of Ben & Robin Jackson, the grandson of FPC's Mike & Sandy Jackson, and great-grandson of FPC's Janet Jackson. In addition, we celebrated on Reformation Sunday the baptism of Harrison Lane Simmons *[see the photo below, at right, top photo]*, and the engagement of FPC's Noa Hardin to Boston Hampton *[see their photo, below, bottom right, taken at the Harvest Festival]*. Noa and Boston have begun planning for a FPC wedding in October of 2020.

At the same time, though, our church family and ministry staff continued to prepare for the departure of beloved Pastoral Secretary Rita Usher. Rita will move to Mobile on November 15, to be with her husband, Dr. John Usher, who began his new work as Dean at the University of South Alabama this summer. *We will miss Rita!* We are also blessed, however, to welcome Cheryl Ewing as FPC's new part-time Church Financial Secretary. Cheryl joins us after moving to Starkville from Greenwood; prior to her move, Cheryl worked for nearly 30 years in the church office of FPC Greenwood. We also welcome our new part-time Communications Intern, MSU student Katherine (Kat) Moore.



*God has truly blessed our church family, the Lifer family, and all of our ministry staff through Rita Usher over the past two years. We will miss Rita, but she will always be our beloved sister in Christ. Be sure to join us in sharing prayers and best wishes for Rita.*





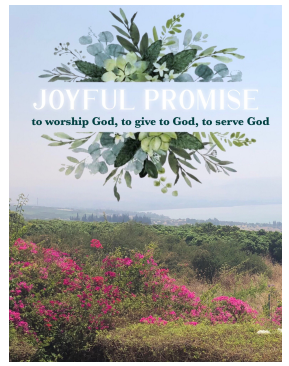
# FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

All members, visitors, and other guests of FPC:  
Remember to join us  
Sunday, November 10, 2019, 12:15 p.m.,

for our *Joyful Promise*

**Thanksgiving Stewardship Season Celebration Luncheon!**

**WE THANK GOD FOR FPC'S ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL, WHICH GLENDA CLARK AND HER TEAM HOSTED ON OCTOBER 27 ON FPC'S MAIN CAMPUS (INCLUDING THE HILL, THE EASTSIDE COURTYARDS, AND THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. SEE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHT PHOTOS BELOW ON THIS PAGE 3 AND CONTINUING ON PAGE 4.**





**FELLOWSHIP NEWS (CONTINUED):**  
**PHOTOS FROM FPC'S OCTOBER 27 HARVEST FESTIVAL FELLOWSHIP – CONTINUED BELOW:**





## FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS

In the week of October 14-20, FPC's Scotland Mission Team (Elder Jack Forbus, Pastor Martin Lifer, and Youth Ministry Directors & Graduate Students Kirk Kinard & Reid Roberson) ministered with, and brought mission support from FPC to: the Free Church of Scotland; the historic congregations of St. Columba's Free Church in Edinburgh (sponsor congregation for the new Haddington Community Church) and St. Peter's Free Church in Dundee (sponsor congregation for the new Charleston Church Plant mission); and the new church missions – the Haddington Community Church, and the Charleston Church mission in the "Charleston" housing project area of Dundee.





## FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS (continued from Page 5)

The photos below are of Mission Team members Jack Forbus, Kirk Kinard, and Reid Roberson in ministry and fellowship at the mission center of the Charleston Church Plant.



### Annual UK Partnership Meeting

In the following week of October 21-25, FPC's Elder Jack Forbus, Pastor Martin Lifer, together with Reid Roberson Youth (Dr. Lifer's Pastoral Ministry Intern and Reformed Seminary student) joined in the meeting and mission of the United Kingdom (Presbyterian Mission) Partnership – including in meetings with church leaders in Oxford, Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow. This was the annual meeting in England and Scotland of the UK Partnership (the joint mission in which FPC is a partner, which is seeking to revitalize Christian faith and outreach to the predominantly non-Christian people of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century United Kingdom.





## FPC OUTREACH MISSION NEWS (continued from Page 6)

### FPC's CCO/University Ministry

The news includes exciting updates from October, including those noted in the following letter from FPC's University Minister, Ben Jackson, and Allison Jackson, giving thanks and sharing prayer requests:



LOCATED AT ROBINSON LAKE // 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
CCO is providing food and fun for all. Whether you are a meat lover, gluten free, or vegan, we will have something for you! Join us at no cost for some quality fellowship.  
Check out our Instagram for more specific directions to Robinson Lake (Cokeville)



To our First Presbyterian Church family,

Wow! What a month! Our October was quite full--so full that we are a tiny bit delayed in getting this letter to you. It was a month full of rich ministry opportunities and we are excited to share with you.

At our first **Monday Night Hospitality** of October, Allison was reminded by a student exactly why sharing food around a table in a home is vitally important. One of our newer students, who we will call F, has been exploring the questions we all face at some point in life: who am I? Do I matter? Is there a God? What am I supposed to do with my life? It has been a privilege to come alongside F and provide a welcoming space and a home within our community. When F sat down next to Allison that night, her words were these, "I wasn't going to come tonight because of this major exam tomorrow, but I decided I needed to come and I can already tell I was right. *When I parked my car and began walking up to your house, I breathed a sigh of relief because I knew it would be okay. I would be welcomed here.*" Friends--this is why we do what we do. Allison cannot tell that story without getting tears in her eyes because we all want to feel welcomed and invited in. What an honor we have to be able to give Mississippi State students a taste of what Heaven will be.

On Sunday, October 6th we held our **first annual CCO/FPC Jubilee Cookout**. Our six student leaders and a few volunteers labored diligently to pull off this event and it was spectacular. Bo cooked incredible tasting meat! We were deeply appreciative of the congregation's support in showing up. It was the first time that we have had an even split between congregants and students and it was really wonderful to watch conversation develop and new relationships form. We had the privilege of welcoming 9 new students to our community at the cookout as well!

The following weekend, October 11th-13th, we took a group to the **CCEF National Conference**. Our group consisted of Ben and Allison, Faith, Madeleine, Emma, Madison, Sam, and Marcus. CCEF is a Biblical counseling organization that has deeply influenced Ben and Allison's categories of thinking and their national conference this year was on Anxiety. It was a full conference and we learned about how God says "Hi. I'm here, it's me. Don't be afraid," in the midst of our anxieties. It was a great dive into what Scripture says about anxiety in general, as well as the specific ways we can address people as bodies and souls as they (and we) face panic attacks, trauma, wayward relatives, and more. One really neat thing was that we were able to meet up with our friends at Clemson University and their CCO crew. It was awesome getting to know them. Thanks to the generosity of our members here at FPC, our group of students and congregants got to experience the CCEF conference without the worry of money and that was a true gift to us all.

After the conference, we had a couple of days of turnaround before heading to Philadelphia, PA for a **support raising trip**. We were able to spend a week with our community in the Philadelphia area and we were richly blessed by that time. Allison put in quite a few hours at her workplace in person, taking advantage of the opportunity since she typically works remotely. We are thankful for our time there and the relationships that we rely on to continue to propel our ministry here in Starkville forward.

With a trove of new books from the CCEF Conference's bookstore, hearts nourished by community, and hearts full with the hope of ministry, we welcome in November. Thank you for joining us in our ministry in prayer and many practical ways. This month, please join us in the following **invitations and requests**:

--You are welcome to join us in our weekly rhythms--eat with us on Monday Nights at 6 pm at the Jacksons or join us for Bible study on campus in the Union Cafeteria on Wednesdays at 3.

--Join us for a special Monday Night Hospitality on November 18th for Friendsgiving, our 2nd Annual CCO/FPC Thanksgiving meal.

--We want to thank Madeleine Roberson for hosting Monday Night Hospitality at their house while we were away.

--Thanks-for-giving: we will be inviting students to help us thank the many people who keep our ministry going through prayer and financial gifts. Please pray that this blesses our students and the people whom we thank.

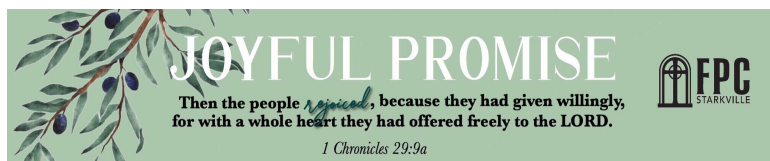
--Adopt a Dawg: we are seeing fantastic growth in our mission for church members to adopt students into their families. We need more congregants to participate. Please talk with Ben if you are interested in Adopting or Mentoring a Dawg.

--Please pray: for continued healing of Allison's ankle and body, for more student Adoptions, for Ben as he balances support raising with student ministry, and for several of our students: Ellen, Madison, Tanner, Sarah, Mattie, Jonah, Tonia, Elexxus, Aireal, Sage, Clara, Billy, Bo, Sam, Emma, Audrey, and Marcus.

In Christ's wondrous love, Ben and Allison Jackson



**HAPPENINGS  
ON THE HILL  
NOVEMBER 2019**



First Presbyterian  
Church  
307 University Drive  
Starkville, MS 39759

Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Rita Usher in the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to Office@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

**Rev. Joe Nasvytis, Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries** jwnasvytis@yahoo.com

**Ben Jackson, Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach** bdjackson8@gmail.com

**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

**Rita Usher, Pastoral Administrative Assistant** office@fpcstarkville.org

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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC) WOMEN'S' MINISTRY NEWS**

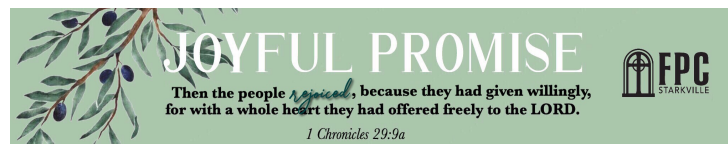
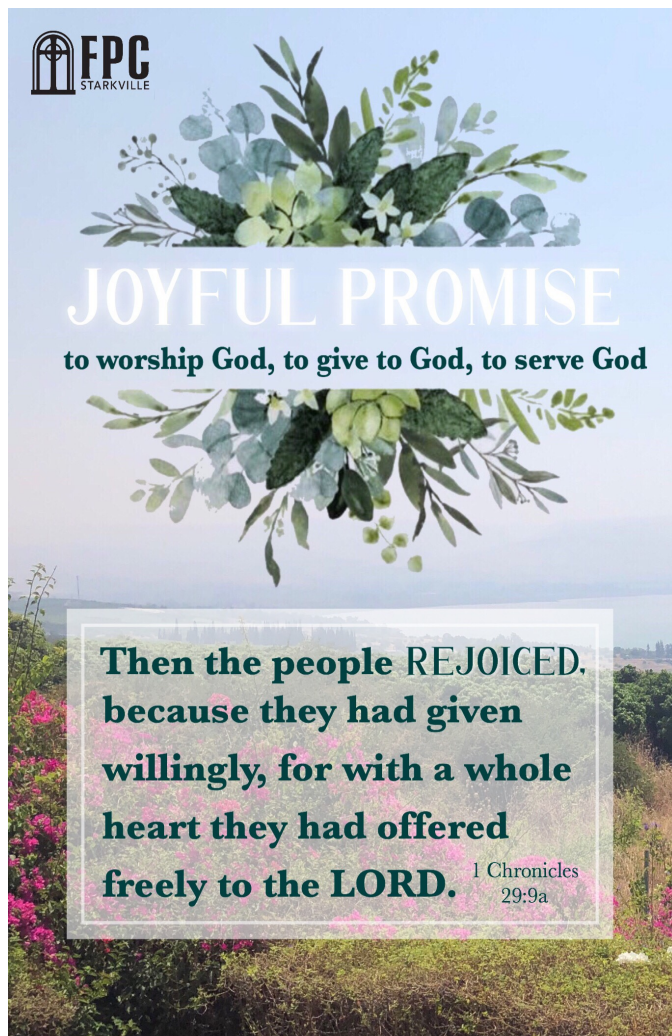
WMCT will meet Tuesday, November 5 @ noon at the church office.

Circles will meet as follows:

Sunday, 11/10 @ 8 am, location: Parlor; Monday, 11/11 @ 1:30 pm, location: Parlor;

Tuesday 11/12 @ 6 pm, location Home of Michele Rackley, and Monday, 11/18 @ 7 pm, location [tbd]

Bible Study "Stuck" Lesson 3: MAD, read James 1:19-17 Mission: Child of the Church Missionaries (2 candidates)



**All members, visitors, and other guests of FPC:**

**Remember to join us**

**Sunday,**

**November 10, 2019, 12:15 p.m.,**

*for our*

*Joyful Promise*

**Thanksgiving Stewardship Season  
Celebration Luncheon!**

**November 10, beginning at 12:15 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.**

