

LORD’S DAY SERVICE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE

*JOYFUL PROMISE* Dedication Sunday  
NOVEMBER 10, 2019

PRELUDE *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* arr. Kirkland  
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
OPENING RECOGNITION OF MILITARY VETERANS Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP IN CHRIST’S NAME

INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Dr. Craig Aarhus Directing)

\***Responsive Reading** - *from* Psalm 144:1a & 2a, Psalm 22:4 Ben Jackson  
Minister: Blessed is the LORD, my Rock, Who trains my hands for war...  
He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in Whom I take refuge.  
**ALL: In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.**

\***OPENING PRAYERS OF THANKS & INTERCESSION - FOR MILITARY SERVICE VETERANS AND FOR MEN & WOMEN PRESENTLY SERVING** Ben Jackson

\***HYMN 642** *God of Our Fathers* NATIONAL HYMN

WELCOMING NEW FPC MEMBERS (11:00):  
CHRIS COLEMAN; JOHNNY & BETTY ANN FOLSOM; TOBY HUGHES & KATIE ROSS; AMY LAFLEUR; JOHN CLARK PACKER; JUDY PACKER; JETSON & BRYN TAYLOR, *TOGETHER WITH* CROSBY, JET, AND EMORY TAYLOR; AND DR. JOHN & SUSAN TURNER

GOOD NEWS IN OUR SEASON OF *JOYFUL PROMISE* Jim Beaty; Martin Lifer

DEDICATION SUNDAY ANTHEM (11:00 -Chancel Choir) *Come to the Water*

GOD’S WORD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (*OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD* GIFT BOXES) Amy Aarbus

MORE *JOYFUL PROMISE* THANKSGIVING GIFTS  
MISSION GIFT TO STARKVILLE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER, CAROL LEE, DIRECTOR Jack Forbus, Ernie George  
FURTHER GIFT OF THANKSGIVING Martin Lifer and FPC Officers  
THANKSGIVING PRAYERS Joe Nasvytis

\***HYMN OF RESPONSE 670 - THE GLORIA PATRI**

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

Members of our FPC congregation have given today’s Sanctuary Flowers for the **glory of God** and in thanksgiving for the **safe return of the Scotland Mission Team**.

**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 these devices.

*Visiting with Us?*

We warmly welcome you to our worship of God this Lord’s Day.  
Please **complete a *FIRSTConnect* Card and place it in the Offering** ... or in a *FIRSTConnect* Box in the entranceways.

If you would like to learn more about growing in faith in Jesus Christ, about church membership and/or about ways you can learn and serve at FPC – then **please speak to Pastor Lifer or Assistant Pastor Nasytis** today, or call Pastor Lifer this week at the church office. You may also send a message to Pastor Lifer via **email (mwlfir3@gmail.com)**.

Members & Guests:

Join Us Today following the 11:00 a.m. Service for  
Our *JOYFUL PROMISE* Dedication Sunday  
Thanksgiving Celebration Luncheon!

All members and guests of FPC are invited to our Dedication Sunday Luncheon, beginning at 12:15 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.



**Deacon of the Month:** Jack Cook  
**Today’s Ushers:** (8:30) Charlie Guest, (11:00) Albert Clark, Lee Weiskopf  
**Today’s Greeters:** (8:30) Rubye Guest, (11:00) Ernie George, Amy Weiskopf

GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

**Mark 4:1-25**  
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 839)

SERMON SERIES ON MARK: *Who Do You Say Jesus Is?*

TODAY’S SERMON **The Lord of the Harvest Who Says,**  
***“Pay Attention to Your Hearing and the Measure You Are Giving!”*** [Part 1]  
Martin Lifer

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD AS HIS *JOYFUL* STEWARDS

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION FOR INSPIRATION FOR *FAITHFUL & JOYFUL PROMISES*

**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 *JOYFUL PROMISES* OF FAITHFULNESS, MERCY & LOVE

\***HYMN 96** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

\***GIVING TO GOD: HIS TITHE, OUR FURTHER OFFERINGS AND OUR *JOYFUL PROMISES***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Martin Lifer

FPC Members: Please complete & submit your  
*JOYFUL PROMISE* Pledge Cards for 2020 today  
... or by *Next Sunday, November 17*.



OFFERTORY

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* arr. Raney  
Jennifer Blackburn

CALLED, BLESSED AND SENT AS *JOYFUL* WITNESSES OF GOD’S WORD

\***HYMN 668** *THE DOXOLOGY*

\***BENEDICTION** Joe Nasvytis

CHORAL RESPONSE *America the Beautiful* arr. Red

\***POSTLUDE** *Soon and Very Soon* arr. Wolaver  
Jennifer Blackburn

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

TODAY’S KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES

BIG PICTURE: THE KEY TO EVERYTHING

**Jesus says: *“Pay Attention to Your Hearing and the Measure You Are Giving!”***

**Who’s IN, and who’s OUT of God’s Kingdom and Heaven to come?**

THE KEY TO EVERYTHING

Jesus says understanding *the Parable of the Sower,*  
*the Seed, and the Good Soil that Yields a Great Return* is

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ to understanding ALL of his parables of the Kingdom. [Mark 4:13]

*We’ll return to this Key-to-everything Parable next Sunday and to what Jesus teaches about different types of “hearers” (soils/religious people) and the mystery of those who are called into God’s Kingdom & Heaven. However, today, begin considering:*

The Parable of the Sower and the follow-up *Parable of the Lamp Hidden Under a Basket or Bed* (with the owners trying to hide & keep what they think is “theirs”!) are both ultimately focused on whether People (Soil & Lamp-Owners) Faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ and are changed by – and they are fruitful/giving in response to – what the King has given them.

THE Q: Is There a Return to the Kingdom on what the King Has Given?

The ***END RESULT*** of each parable/story is KEY to answering that question, to understanding ALL Jesus’ teaching, AND to understanding who’s IN and who’s NOT IN God’s Kingdom.

So Jesus sums up everything with the Savior’s Two Directives recorded in Mark 4:24:

(a) “\_\_\_\_\_ to what you hear!” AND

(b) ***“With the measure you use (give), it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you, and still more will be added. For to the one who “has,” more will be given, and from the one who “has not,” even what he has will be taken away.”***

Note: The person giving no good measure to the Kingdom with the excuse that he ***“has not” actually does have***. He is lying, making excuses, and holding back from God. In fact, the one who refuses to give generously is an \_\_\_\_\_: he refuses to \_\_\_\_\_ in God. So, because such a person refuses to believe and uses a measure of 0% or close to 0%, Jesus says, ***“even what he “has” [what he’s trying to keep for himself] will be taken away.”***

That’s why Jesus says: ***“Pay Attention to Your Hearing and the Measure You Are Giving!”***

THE Q: Is There a Return to the Kingdom on what the King Has Given YOU?

The ***END RESULT*** of *our* story of *our* Hearing and *our* Measure of Giving is KEY to God’s assurance of his children, whom He saves by grace – grace which leads to our faithful hearing and a generous measure of giving and glorifying our Father in Heaven.

***Is this salvation by works or purchase? Legalism? Absolutely not!***

**It’s about Grace & Faith and Joy from God, reflected in the faithful hearing and giving that God inspires in *everyone* He saves.**

People seeking to work or buy their way into God’s blessings or the Kingdom are using a measure that returns everything to themselves.

The faithful servant loves the King, hears & honors the King’s Word, and gives to the King for the sake, glory, and mission of the King.

Spurgeon’s Classic Story of **Very Different “Givers” and Gifts: *The Carrot and the Horse***.

THE KEY TO FAITH (AND GIVING): HOW’S YOUR HEARING?

God’s Kingdom AND Saving Faith by which we enter it come by true \_\_\_\_\_.

So **faith comes from hearing**, and **hearing through the word of Christ**. Romans 10:17

***TRUE Hearing***” ( \_\_\_\_\_ to AND \_\_\_\_\_ ) separates those who are IN the Kingdom from those who will never be IN. [Mark 4:11-12]

That’s why Jesus keeps saying: ***“He who has ears TO HEAR, let him HEAR!”*** and ***Pay Attention to Your HEARING and the Measure You Are Giving!”***

THE EVERLASTING JOY OF DIRT BROUGHT TO LIFE BY GOD’S WORD

THE JOY OF PEOPLE IN THE DARK GIVEN THE LAMP OF GOD’S LIGHT



Week of November 10, 2019

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:	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts Building)
	8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous, also on T, W, & F (120 Jackson St.)
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
TUESDAY:	5:15 p.m.	Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
WEDNESDAY:	5:50 p.m.	Nursery, Children and Youth programs begin
	6:00 p.m.	Adult Study, <i>Emotionally Healthy Spirituality</i> (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice

Make Your Reservations for Wednesday's  
Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner 5:15-5:45 p.m.

THIS Wednesday's Dinner: Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Lima Beans, Rolls, Buttter Cream Cake. Adults may also choose a Chef Salad, or as always, children may have pizza – just let us know. Please complete your reservation card and place it in the Offering today, or call or send an email to the Church Office **by Monday, at NOON!**

November 6,8 – TEJERAS MEAL SPONSOR (Mission meal for children in Tejas, Honduras from members of the congregation for the Glory of God.)

Prayer List

Greta Bryan  
Pastor Martin Lifer  
Paula Elliott  
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware  
John Clark Packer  
Mae Glass (Vivien Miller's mother)  
Jimmie Brown  
Betty Latimer  
Roxene Atkinson  
Randell Foxworth  
Marjorie Malone  
Billy and Brenda Harrington  
Scott Guest and Thomas Guest (son & grandson of Charlie & Rubye Guest)  
Joe and Carol Mobley  
Sean and Morgan Clark Schnurr & Family  
Bruce Leopold, Danielle Gregory (friend of Bruce Leopold)  
Sylvia Love  
Sherry Siler (Bryn Taylor'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)  
Bobby Fleming (brother of Gloria Cade), and Hazel Davis (Wallace Cade's aunt)  
Diane Daniels, her sister, Delores Irvin, 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

Current FPC Officers

Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator / Will Martin, Clerk of Session  
Elders Emeriti: James (Jim) Long and Dero Ramsey

Elders Serving on Our Session

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Dolph Bryan	Carl Ivey	Wallace Cade
Harold Clark	Jim Beaty	Jack Forbus
Cecelia Cook	Peggy Johnson	Will Martin
Bob Daniels	Jeff Foster	Cal Rackley
Orly Hardin		
Edward Kemp		

Deacons Serving on Our Diaconate

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Peggy Branch	Johnny Fair	Glenda Clark
Vivian Cade	Tabor Mullen	Jack Cook
Joel Downey	Jeremy Murdock	Peyton Fandel
Jason Ryder	Kristen Skinner	Robby Holditch

Officers-Elect

<u>Session Class of 2022</u>	<u>Diaconate Class of 2022</u>
Harry Bell	Jack Atkins
Scotty Crawford	Rebecca Banzhaf
Wesley Ferguson	Janet Bardwell
Susan Gamel	Lee Weiskopf
Brien Henry	

FPC Starkville (EPC) Men's Ministry

Will Rackley, President, Charlie Weatherly, Treasurer



Today in our worship services – on the Eve of Veteran's Day – we recognize and thank God for all veterans (men & women who have served our military), including those joining us in worship. Our Men's Ministry and Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study & Prayer Group invite all FPC men (members & guests) to join us for a special Veterans' & Armistice Day Service. Our Men's Ministry, Tuesday Morning Group, and Ministers have organized to share with the Men at the Claiborne. Join us at the Claiborne for the service 10:30-11:15 a.m. *If you would like to stay for lunch, you are welcome; the cost will be \$10 per person.*

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry

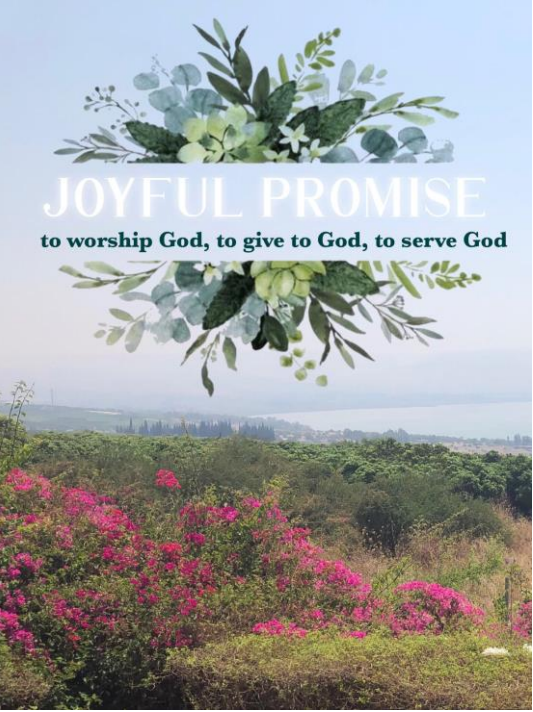
Janice Kinard, Moderator

Mission for the month – Child of the Church Missionaries (2 candidates)

Circle Meetings - 2nd week of each month (7:00 pm Circle meets 3rd Mon.)  
Sessions for November Bible Study "Stuck" Lesson 3: MAD, read James 1:19-17  
Sunday, 11/10 @ 8:00 am, location: Parlor;  
Monday, 11/11 @ 1:30 pm, location: Parlor;  
Tuesday, 11/12 @ 6:00 pm, home of Michele Rackley  
Monday, 11/18 @ 7:00 pm, location TBA



Starkville's Church  
That Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*  
and  
That is Part of the EPC –  
*A Global Movement of Evangelical Christians.*



NOVEMBER 10, 2019  
*JOYFUL PROMISE* Dedication Sunday

Worship Service | 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School | 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Gathering (Fellowship Hall) | 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service | 11:00 a.m.

*JOYFUL PROMISE* Dedication Sunday Fellowship Lunch | 11:00 a.m.

Visit Our Website for Sermon Podcasts & Ministry News  
[www.fpcstarkville.org](http://www.fpcstarkville.org)

Church Office

307 University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Phone | 662-323-1994 Fax | 662-323-1999

Office Hours

Mon. - Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:30 p.m.



Samaritan's Purse OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Deadline for boxes to be turned in is next week.  
Blessing of the Boxes will be **Sunday, November 24!**