

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE (EPC)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Wagner
Jennifer Blackburn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Called Congregational Meeting and Election (8:25 a.m.)

Called Congregational Meeting (8:30 a.m.)

Martin Lifer

CALL TO WORSHIP IN CHRIST’S NAME

*INTROIT (11:00 – Chancel Choir, Craig Aarhus, Director)

* Responsive Reading from Philippians 2:12-15 Ben Jackson

Minister: Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ALL: Do all things without grumbling or disputing – so that we may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, shining as lights in the world.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION & PRAISE

*HYMN 391 We Are Called to Be God’s People AUSTRIAN HYMN

GOD’S WORD FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ashleigh Murdock

*ANTHEM (11:00 – Chancel Choir) Agnus Dei / How Great Thou Art Smith/Raney

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION, PETITION & INTERCESSION

Joe Nasvytis

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 MERCY

HYMN 668 - THE DOXOLOGY

*OFFERING: GOD’S TITHE AND OUR FURTHER OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Thou Art Worthy arr. Hayes
Jennifer Blackburn

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Martin Lifer

*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 these devices!

Deacon of the Month: Tabor Mullen
Today’s Ushers: (8:30) – Bob Boyd (11:00) – Wesley Ferguson, Derick Metts
Today’s Greeters: (8:30) – Priscilla Boyd (11:00) – Emily Ferguson, Pam Metts

Members of our FPC congregation have given today’s **Sanctuary Flowers** to the Glory of God and to enhance our worship of God this Lord’s Day.

Join us for our NEXT Sunday morning and evening for FPC’s Annual Reformed Faith and Spiritual Renewal Conference (September 29, 2019)



with
Rev. Dr. Sean Lucas

Sunday Morning Services - 8:30 am and 11:00 am;
Sunday Evening Service at 6:00 pm
Childcare provided for newborn thru 1st grade children for all services.

Dr. Lucas is the Sr. Pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis and the Chancellor’s Professor of Church History at Reformed Theological Seminary. He has authored a number of excellent books addressing Presbyterian-Reformed faith and history - including *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories* and *God’s Grand Design: The Theological Vision of Jonathan Edwards*.

Sunday Morning Services - 8:30 am and 11:00 am - *What Obeys Jesus: Nature* (Mark 4:35-41)
Sunday Evening Service at 6:00 pm - *What Obeys Jesus: Evil* (Mark 5:1-20)

GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE Leviticus 13:45-46; Mark 1:21-45
(ESV Pew Bible pp. 91; 836-837)

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

TODAY’S SERMON The One with Authority: Martin Lifer
To See & Know, To Call or Cast Out, and To Cleanse & Raise by His Hand

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

*HYMN 396 I Thank the Lord for You AVON

CHORAL RESPONSE Amen

*POSTLUDE Postlude on ‘Azmon’ Williamson
Jennifer Blackburn

*The congregation is invited to stand.

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 him via email (mwlifer3@gmail.com). Also, we invite you to our **FirstConnect Lunch & Learn** in Two Weeks:

FIRST-CONNECT LUNCH & LEARN – Sunday, October 6:
Visitors: Join Pastor Lifer, Nancy Lifer, Deacon Jeremy Murdock, and others at 12:15 p.m., in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 6, for our fall FIRST CONNECT Lunch & Learn Fellowship.



Learn about being a faithful Christian through membership & ministry at FPC. Pastor Lifer will review some basics about what it means to be a faithful Christian and an FPC member, and we’ll share about ministries and opportunities to learn and grow at FPC. *Childcare, Children’s Lunches, and Children’s activities are also provided for participants.* **RSVP to the church office or directly to Pastor Lifer – so that Nancy can plan for your lunch needs and we can plan to host you and any family members.**

**TODAY, beginning at 4 p.m.,
FISH FRY AND BLUEGRASS GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL
AT FPC’s ROBINSON LAKE!**
ALL WELCOME: Members & Visitors, All Ages!
Join us for a great dinner, fellowship at the lake, and a Gospel Music Celebration with **Alan Sibley and the Magnolia Ramblers.**



Directions to our Robinson Lake Retreat and Pavilions: Go north on Old West Point Rd. from Hwy 182 for 2.8 miles. Turn right at the small sign for Daffodil Lane (a small gravel drive), immediately past the Valley Hills sign.

TODAY’S KEY SERMON & SCRIPTURE NOTES
The first sense we acquire is the sense of _____.
The Alpha & Omega of Loving Communication: To be _____, _____, and _____.
“Un-viewable,” Untouchable Outcasts
Leprosy is _____ and lepers were (& are) _____ in most cultures across history & the globe.
Leviticus 13-15 [OT Law on Leprosy]
“The leper ...shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘*Unclean! Unclean!*’” Leviticus 13:45

IN MARK, THE CENTRAL QUESTION JESUS ADDRESSES TO US: “But who do you say that I am?” Mark 8:29a
After Mark’s introduction identifying Jesus, Mark recounts Jesus’ early ministry, showing that Jesus is the One with All Authority: the Son of God and Anointed Prophet, Priest & King (Christ) - **with Free Right to:**
- Teach from His Own *exousia* (Mark 1:22,1:27; Matthew 7:28-29)
- Preach the Gospel AND to Bring the Gospel’s Kingdom in _____ (Mark 1:14-15)
- Call & Command Disciples and Even to Commission Us (Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-21,etc.)
- Command & Cast Out Demons and All Evil Spirits (Mark 1:23-27)
- **Heal and Cleanse** (Mark 1:29-34, 1:40-45, etc.)
- Forgive Sins (Mark 2:1-12, etc.)
- Do All of the Above **on the Sabbath** as Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 1:29-31, 3:1-6)
- **Command Nature** and All Natural Forces (Mark 4:35-41)

- Mark 1:16-45

- See & Know

- Call or Cast Out

- Cleanse & Raise by His Hand
- Mark 1:21-39

(1) Sabbath morning in Synagogue (1:21b-28) – Jesus Teaches with Authority, Including Exorcism.
(A) With his WORD only, Jesus conquers & calls out the evil spirit.... and (B) Jesus needs NO Invocation.
“Be silent, and come out of him!” Sabbath!
- (2) Sabbath afternoon in Simon & Andrew’s House (1:29-31) – Heals Simon’s mother-in-law, raising her. [Jesus] took her by the hand and raised her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.. Sabbath! Sabbath!
- (3) After Sundown, our “Saturday Night” - but Sabbath Over, First Day/Sunday – Multiple Healings, Crowds at Simon & Andrew’s House (1:32-34)
- (4) Sunday morning, while dark, Jesus goes off to pray by Himself. Simon & company hunt for Jesus. (1:35-39)
Simon (and the church): “Everyone wants you!” (i.e. Get back here and do what the people want!!!!)
“Let us go to the next towns, and preach here also, for that is why I came out.”

Mark 1:40-45
The Faith of the Leper in His Prayer
Jesus’s Response: Moved by pity, He stretched out his hand and _____ him, and said:
“I will! Be _____!”
Jesus does NOT become unclean; by HIS hand, He cleanses the leper.
The Healed Man Disobeys Jesus’ Commands.
Jesus pays the price of the healed man’s sin: Jesus forced out of community.
The Cross and Resurrection Grace of Jesus –
To see and know,
To call,
To cleanse and raise from death to life by His Hand.

Week of September 22, 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.)
TUESDAY:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
WEDNESDAY:	5:15 p.m.	Friends & Family Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
	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
THURSDAY:	1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 p.m.	Post-Grad Young Adult Fellowship
SATURDAY:	6:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (120 Jackson St.)
SUNDAY:		Reformed Faith and Spiritual Renewal Conference
TEJERAS MEAL SPONSORS (Mission meal for children in Tejas, Honduras) September 25, 27 – By members of the congregation for the Glory of God.		

Prayer List
Paula Elliott
Betty Latimer
Cynthia Ware, together with her parents, Donna and Herman Ware
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
Madison Collins (son of Ross and Margaret Collins)
Madison Collins and Ross Collins
Janet, Gary, and Jay Bardwell
Richard Barge (friend of Jack Forbus, Palmer Home, and FPC)
Aspen Reynolds (Anita Reynolds granddaughter)
Teresa Miller (Amy Harrison's mom)
Emily Chancellor (Natalie Morgan's Niece)
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 – Sunnysbrook 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

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

THIS Wednesday's Dinner: Chicken Spaghetti, Green Beans, Corn Nuggets, Rolls, Butter 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!

Called Meeting on September 22 for Officer Nominations & Elections.

Active Members of FPC: On September 22, at 8:30 a.m., we will convene a Called Congregational Meeting for Nominations and Elections. The stated primary purpose of the meeting will be for receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and then opening the voting process for the election of members to the Session Class of 2022 and the Diaconate Class of 2022. The meeting will open in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. with prayer, confirmation of the day's agenda, and report of the Nominating Committee. The Agenda Further Includes the Following Initial Substantive Actions:

- (1) Confirming the Congregational Election of Its Nominating Committee.
- (2) A Congregational Vote on the Session's Recommendation for Congregational Approval of a Special Exception that would Increase the Number of Members in the Session Class of 2022 from Four to Five: that is, from Four (as set by prior Congregational Vote to have four members in each Session Class) to Five Members in the Class of 2022.
- (3) Receiving the Nominating Committee's group of five nominees for the Session Class of 2022 and four nominees for the Diaconate Class of 2022.
- (4) Receiving any proper nominations of active members for additional nominees to be candidates for the Session Class of 2022 or candidates for the Diaconate Class of 2022.

The Congregation may then vote to proceed to the election process and to adjourn the meeting – pending (and subject to) the conclusion of a ballot election process and the confirmation of the election results. The Session has voted to have the Congregation following the procedure for FPC Officer Elections established by the Session and Congregation in the 2018 Officer Elections. Accordingly, active FPC members would then be able to vote individually by ballot on the meeting date, September 22, any time from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the election table that will be set up in the northeast corner of the Fellowship Hall. However, under certain proper circumstances and a majority vote of the Congregation, the meeting may be adjourned to a Time Certain (likely a subsequent Sunday). The election process would then likewise be moved to proceed in accord with confirming actions on that Time Certain.

On Sunday, September 22, the Nominating Committee will nominate the following five candidates for the office of elder in the Session Class of 2022: Harry Bell; Scotty Crawford; Wesley Ferguson; Susan Gamel; and Brien Henry. If the Congregation approves the exception of increasing the Session Class of 2022 number from four to five, and if there are no nominations from the floor for the Session Class, then the Nominating Committee will recommend that the congregation elect by an omnibus approval vote (all five) of the committee's nominees to serve as members of the Session and to constitute, together, the Session Class of 2022.

On Sunday, September 22, the Nominating Committee will also nominate the following four candidates for the office of deacon to be members of the Diaconate Class of 2022: Jack Atkins; Rebecca Wade Banzhaf; Janet Bardwell; and Lee Weiskopf. If there are no nominations from the floor for the Session Class, then the Nominating Committee will recommend that the congregation elect by an omnibus approval vote (all four) of the committee's nominees to serve as members of the Diaconate and to constitute, together, the Diaconate Class of 2022.

There will not at this time be a meeting of the church corporation.

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

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
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

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

After This Afternoon's Fellowship,

Plan to Be Back a Robinson Lake in Two Weeks: Join Us for Jubilee Launch Cookout on October 6.

The University Ministry led by the Student Leadership Team is hosting a Jubilee Launch Cookout at Robinson Lake on October 6, 4:00-7:00 pm. Fun for everyone – all ages! In addition to the cookout, we will play yard games, including kid-friendly games. You can even come and help us cook and prep. Let us know! Please RSVP to the church office, so we can plan.



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



Fishing Boat on the Sea of Galilee, viewed from the shoreline at Capernaum.

September 22, 2019

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.

Visit Our Website for Sermon Podcasts & Ministry News
www.fpcstarkville.org

Church Office
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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.