

## Prayer List

Charlie Weatherly  
 David Mote & Family ( The Folsom's nephew)  
 Allen & Barbara Johnson  
 The Peace of Jerusalem & Israel; all persons grieving bereaved by the killing or abduction of loved ones in the current war in Israel and Gaza; all hostages; first responders and those in military service; all ministry leaders of our mission partner, CMJ-Israel  
 Cynthia Ware  
 Rilda Cox  
 Margaret Collins  
 Andrew Whittenton  
 Sylvia & Larry Melton (Kathy Wright's parents)  
 Wanda Hubbard  
 Billy & Bob Forbus (Jack Forbus's brothers); Staci Moak (Jack's daughter)  
 Albert and Glenda Clark  
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade's Aunt)  
 Hugh Shurden ( Sandy Jackson's Father)  
 Gloria Gentry  
 Roxene Atkinson  
 Peggy Johnson  
 Lydia Abraham  
 Jack Thompson (Alex Adam's Uncle)  
 Marybeth Baker (Mara Cox's Mom)  
 Don & Kathy Curto  
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison's Grandmother)  
 John Clark Packer  
 Rubye Guest  
 Andy Lawrence  
 Thelma Purdy (Neena Howell's mother and Dylan Franklin's grandmother)  
 Macey & Byron Bell (Marshall Molen's sister & brother-in-law)  
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaize (Janet's sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay's friends)  
 Maxie Bruce (Brittney McAfee's father)  
 Ressie Carpenter  
 Jean Alice McDavid  
 Rae Nell Crumpton  
 Gerlene Lifer; and Keitha Scott (Gerlene's friend)  
 Clayton Butler (son of the Lifer's friends, Gary & Kristen Butler)  
 Delores Irvin (Diane Daniel's sister), Sarah Helen McCloskey & Craig D. Campbell (Daniels' friend)  
**Additional Prayer List for Health Care/Assisted Living**  
 Carl Ivey, Sr., & Nina Ivey – The Goldton  
 Dero Ramsey – The Goldton  
 Lou Cross – The Goldton  
 Hilda Scholtes – The Goldton  
 Cattie Taylor – The Beehive, Starkville  
 Marjorie Malone

### FPC Officers

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator // Andrew Fountain, Clerk of Session  
 Bob Daniels, Corporate President // Lee Weiskopf, Treasurer

#### Session of Elders

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Richard Blackbourn	Bob Daniels	Larry Anthony
Andrew Fountain	Jeff Foster	Vivian Cade
John Kelley	Charlie Guest	Michele Rackley
Kristen Skinner	John Turner	Lee Weiskopf

#### Board of Deacons

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Debbie Cooper	Bob Boyd	Haley Graves
Johnny Folsom	Boston Hampton	Wayne Huberty
Mike Jackson	Robbie Holditch	Dalton Miller
Alex Massingill	Jackie Mullen	Caitlin Rackley

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Worship for Advent & Christmas Season

**DEC. 17 // 8:30 & 10:30 service**

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM @ 10:30**

3rd Sunday of Advent

**DEC. 24 // 10:30 AM**

**UNIFIED WORSHIP SERVICE**

4th Sunday of Advent

**DEC. 24// 5:00 PM**

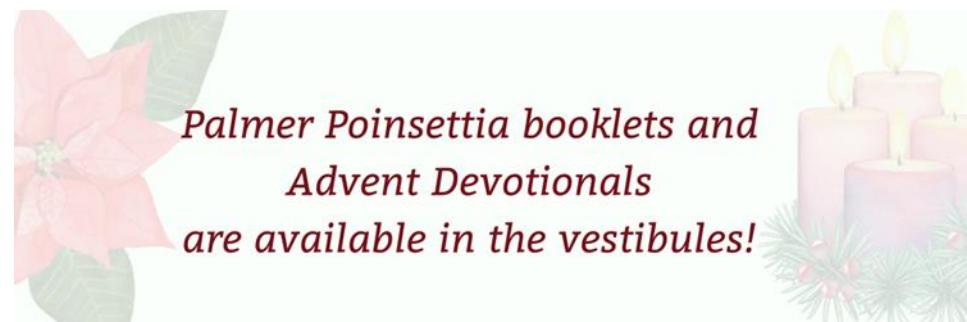
**CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

Christmas Eve Service

**DEC. 31// 10:30 AM**

**UNIFIED WORSHIP SERVICE**

New Years Eve Service



*Palmer Poinsettia booklets and  
 Advent Devotionals  
 are available in the vestibules!*

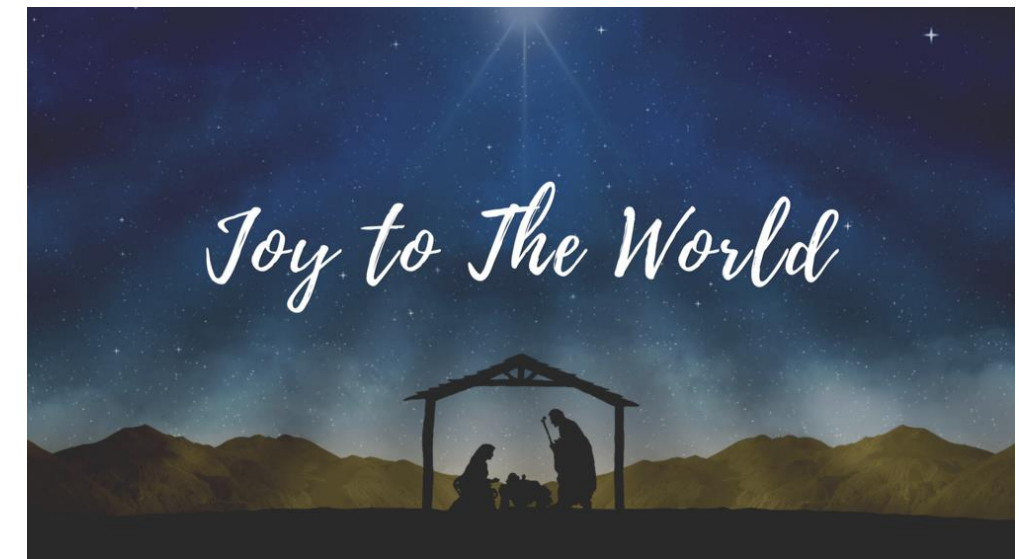


**FIRST  
 PRESBYTERIAN  
 CHURCH  
 STARKVILLE**

Starkville's Church that Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*  
 Part of the *Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

*3rd Sunday in Advent*

*December 17, 2023*



## Sunday Morning Schedule

**Lord's Day Service | 10:30 AM**

Sunday School | 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time | 10:10 AM

Chapel Service of the Word | 8:30 AM

*Access more information and online resources:*

**fpcstarkville.org**

307 University Drive, Starkville, MS 39759

662.323.1994 | info@fpcstarkville.org

December 17, 2023  
Lord's Day Service

**Prelude** *What Child Is This* Jennifer Blackburn

**Welcome & Announcements** Martin Lifer

**Call to Worship: Lighting the Third Advent Candle** The Rush Family

**Invocation**

**\*Hymn #181** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* ANITOCHE

**Confession of Sin** Dean Franklin

Lord of the Heavenly Banquet,  
**Forgive us for not living in the strength of your joy. Forgive us for not coming to You as loving children who trust and know that You and You alone give us our daily bread. Please deliver us from the foolishness of basing our emotions and decisions on our own assessment of our temporary, earthly conditions, rather than trusting and acting on your Word. Deliver us from the devil's lies that our home and long-term future are in our mortal bodies or in our jobs, finances, and houses – all of which will soon pass away. Free us by your truth to live for your glory and to enjoy You forever.**

**\* Assurance of God's Grace** *from Revelation 2:7*

Hear what the Spirit of the Lord says to the churches:  
**"To everyone who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God."**

**\*Hymn #60** *To Him Who Sits on the Throne* GRAAFSMA

**Choir Anthem**

**\*Confession of Faith** *from The Essentials of Our Faith (of the EPC) Article 6* Dean Franklin

**Jesus Christ will come again to the earth – personally, visibly, and bodily – to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).**

**\*Hymn #670** *Glory Be to the Father* GREATOREX

**Pastoral Prayers** Martin Lifer

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**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.**

**FPC Children Sing**  
Parents of ALL younger children who are not singing today. As the children's singing concludes, please have your Preschool-Age through 2nd Graders come forward to join us up front. We will prepare to depart for TLC – our weekly worship-time ministry for younger children.

**\*Hymn #193** (vv. 1,3-4) *As with Gladness Men of Old* OLD 100th

**\*Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Offerings** Dean Franklin

**Offertory** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Jennifer Blackburn

*Give Online:* [fpcstarkville.org/give](http://fpcstarkville.org/give)  
*Give by Mail:* First Presbyterian Church, 307 University Drive. Starkville, MS 39759

**\*Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** *Luke 1:35-37 & 9:7-17* Pew Bible pp. 856 & 866

**Sermon** *Jesus, God's Son: Nothing's Impossible with Him* Martin Lifer

**\*Hymn #668** *Doxology* OLD HUNDRETH

**\*Response to the Good News of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior**

All our sins,  
**We send to the Cross of Christ!**  
All our troubles,  
**We send to the Cross of Christ!**  
All the devil's works,  
**We send to the Cross of Christ!**  
All our hopes,  
**We set on the Risen Christ!**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sung Response** *Threefold Amen* DANISH



**Postlude** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Jennifer Blackburn



Today's Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Sara Wilson's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. *If you are interested in giving flowers for worship, please contact Olivia in the church office.*

**Visiting with Us? We'd Love to Stay Connected!**

Please fill out one of our FirstConnect Cards and drop it in the offering plate! Alternatively, you may scan our QR code or visit [fpcstarkville.org/connect](http://fpcstarkville.org/connect).

*Want to find out more about faith in Christ, church membership, or ways to serve at FPC? Speak to Dean Franklin, Pastor Martin Lifer, or send an email to Pastor Martin at [mwlifer3@gmail.com](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com).*



**Jesus, God's Son: Nothing's Impossible with Him**

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ December 17, 2023/ Luke 1:35-37 & 9:7-17

**Who is Jesus to me?** *My answer directs all my life, responses to all other questions, and eternity.*

Part 1 of the Question: WHO is Jesus?

**Lk. 9:9** Herod said, "John I beheaded, but **WHO is THIS** about whom I hear such things?"

*"Who then is this?" Lk. 8:25 (also 5:21 & 7:21,49) ← **Lk. 9:9** → Lk. 9:20 "Who do you say I am?"*

**9:7** The apostles' purposeful, powerful gospel Word & deeds prompt questions → THE Q  
**Do my Christian life & witness 1) perplex evil ones & 2) lead people to ask Q.s → THE Q?**

Two miracles recorded in ALL 4 gospels: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

**9:10-17** **Multiplying Bread-loaves & Fish to Feed 5,000+:** "men" *plus women, children, 12*  
**= Jesus' Most Massive Public Miracle AND Climax of His "Galilean-Stage Ministry"**

**9:10-11** Apostles' Report; Retreat interrupted; Jesus welcomes crowds, teaching & healing.

**9:12-15** Day-end dilemma; Apostles' concern & direction to Jesus; Jesus' direction to them.  
**My dilemmas and Jesus? Do I direct Him based on my power or seek His direction & power?**

**9:16-17** *Greater than Moses & Elisha/Elijah*, God's Son Creates Food & Feeds All (Crowds + 12)

**Moses, Elijah & Elisha were merely servants & "shadows" under the Son, Jesus.** *Cf. Heb. 8:5*

- 1) "Nothing is impossible with God" *Lk. 1:37*
- 2) Jesus is "the Son of God" *Lk. 1:35*
- ∴ 3) Nothing is impossible with Jesus! *See, e.g., Feeding 5,000+ and Resurrection from death*