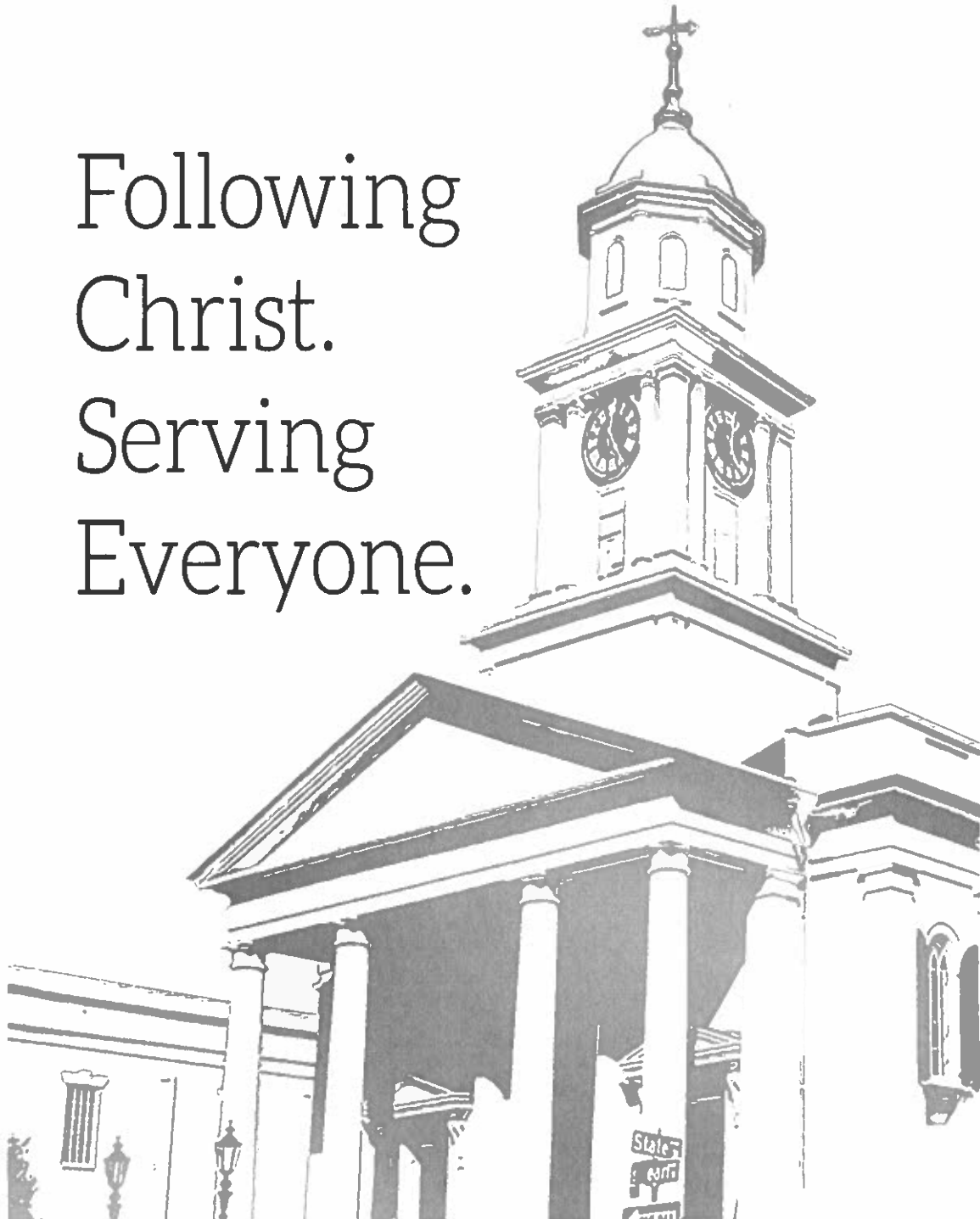




First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following  
Christ.  
Serving  
Everyone.



**First Presbyterian Church Natchez**  
**Morning Worship**  
**25th Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 28**  
November 19, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.  
The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister  
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

**THE GATHERING**

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Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to be seated.  
Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude    *Meditation on My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*    Robert Hebble

Welcome    Elder Bobby Meason

Call to Worship    Psalm 100:1, 2, 5

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose  
faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised! Amen.**

\*Processional Hymn 267: *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

# 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

## Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

*Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!*

### Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.  
After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)*

### Call to Confession

See Hebrews 4:14-16

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Protect us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties.**

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.**

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength.**

### Time for Silent Confession

*Lord, Have Mercy upon Us*  
(Choir and congregation sing.)

*Kyrie*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Chase Caldwell

\*Response Hymn 581

*Gloria Patri*

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

\* Greeting and the Peace

*Leader:* The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

*All:* **And also with you.**

## **THE WORD**

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Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

*Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.*

Prayer for Illumination

Sammy Gore, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

*Pew Bible Page 1070*

A Reading from Psalms: Psalm 90

*Pew Bible Page 673*

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Pew Bible Page 250*

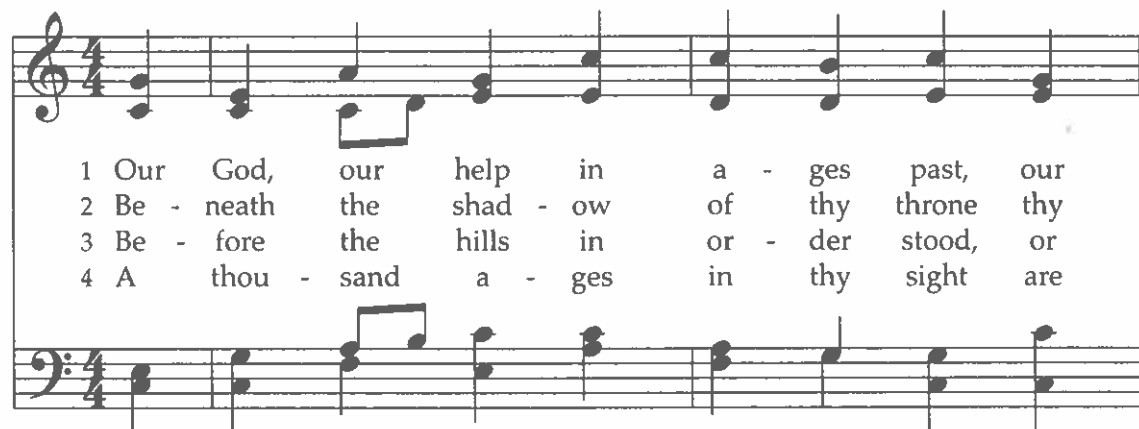
\*Gospel Hymn 687, verses 1, 2, 3:

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

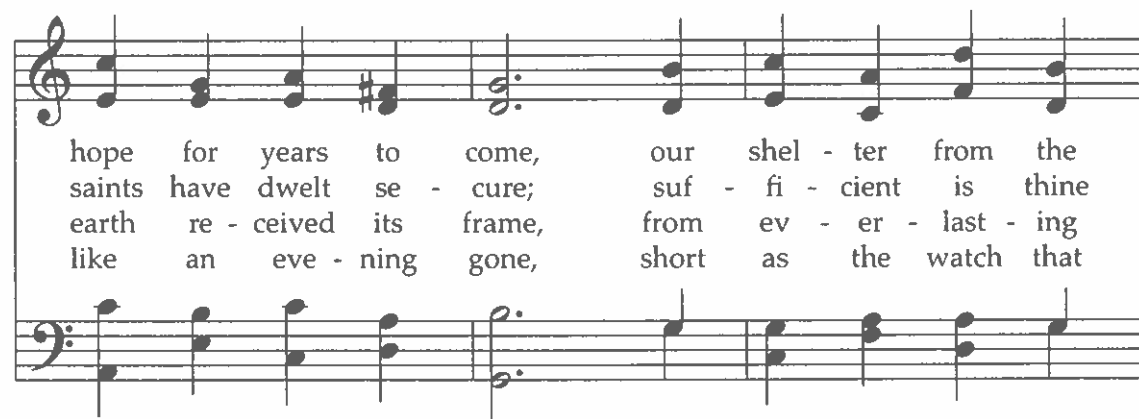
ST. ANNE

## 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guard while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "White Elephants, Hidden Talents, and the Greatest Risk of All"

Rev. Caldwell

Affirmation of Our Faith

\*Apostles' Creed

Traditional

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Traditional

**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.**

## THE THANKSGIVING

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### Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.* Psalm 24:1

With gladness, let us present the offering of our life and labor to the Lord.

### Offertory

#### *Prayer of St. Paul*

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Charles Callahan

I pray that God, who gives peace,  
will make you completely holy.  
And may your spirit, soul, and body  
be kept healthy and faultless  
until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Amen.

### \*Response Hymn 606

#### *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*Prayer of Dedication

## THE SENDING

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\*Hymn 298, verses 1 & 2: *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* ABBOT'S LEIGH

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

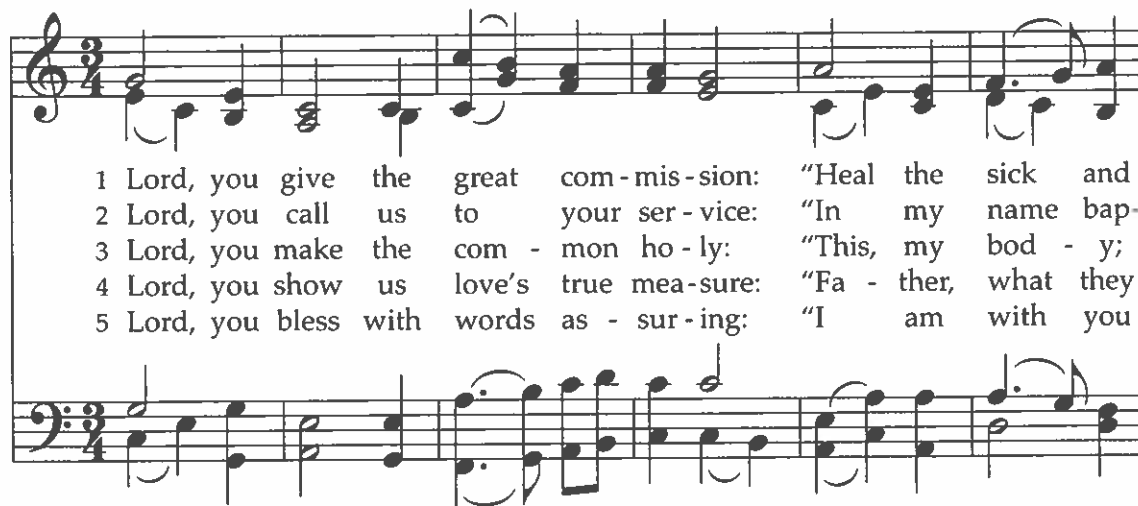
*Fugue on O Lamm Gottes Unschuldig*

Johann Pachelbel

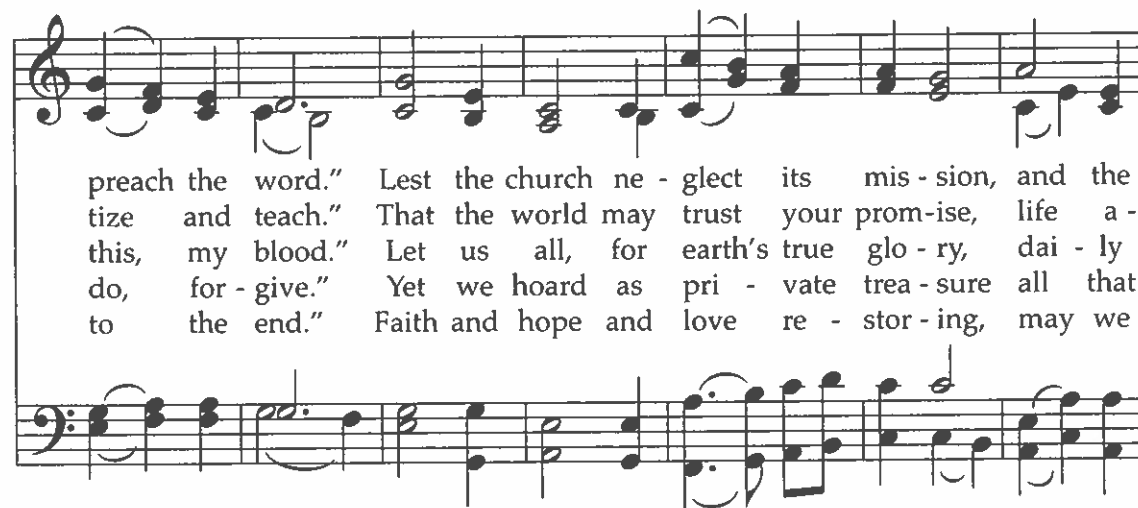
*Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our mothers Bessie Foster Smith and Marian Kaiser Smith by their children and grandchildren.*



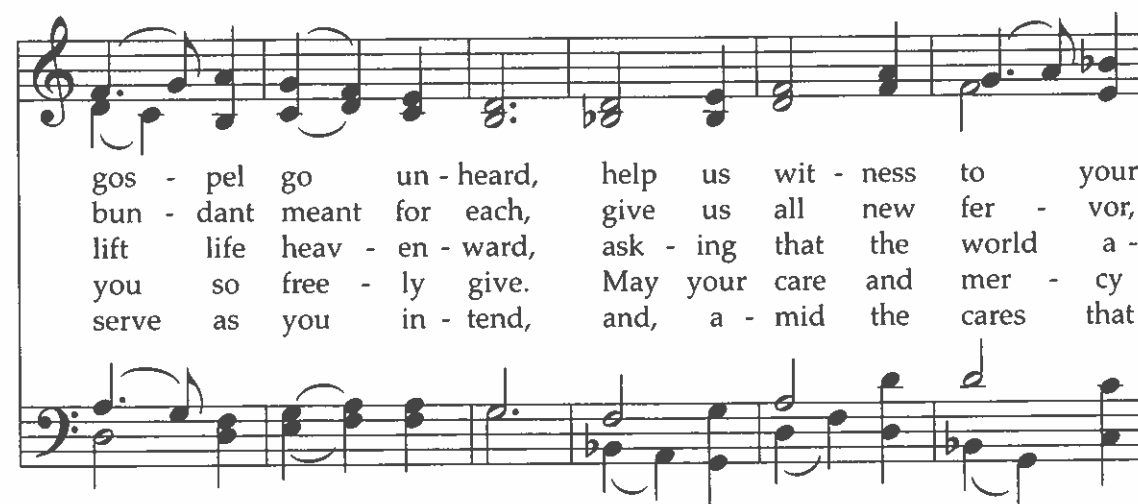
## 298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -  
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your  
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,  
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -  
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy  
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that

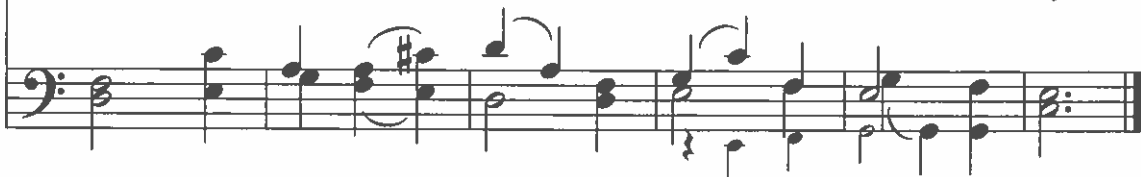
United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.



pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's  
 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.



**Music Notes:** The Prelude this morning is a lush setting of the hymn tune *Resignation- My Shepherd Will Supply My Need-* by American composer Robert Hebble (1934-2020). The Anthem at the Offertory is *Prayer of St. Paul* by American organist and composer Charles Callahan (b 1951). The Postlude is a short fugue on *O Lamm Gottes Unschuldig, O Lamb of God, Innocent*, by German Baroque composer Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**In the pulpit today:** The Rev. Chase Caldwell, FPC ministry assistant, and Elder Bobby Meason are in the pulpit today. Please welcome them as worship leaders today. Joan is away visiting family and will return late tomorrow.

**New Member:** At their recent meeting, the First Presbyterian Session welcomed Shirley Petkovsek into membership through reaffirmation of her faith. Please welcome Shirley to this church family!

**Guest Lecturer:** This Tuesday, November 21, at 12 noon, Lucy Feltus Brewer will speak in Stratton Chapel. The program is open to all. Lucy, daughter of Ginny Feltus Brewer and granddaughter of Betsy Feltus, has utilized historic photographs and the story of the photographs in the preparation of her thesis for master programs at Stanford University in California and Oxford University in England. Please come to welcome Lucy and to take part in this special event in our church.

**Toys for Tots:** Please help collect Christmas gifts for children who otherwise might not have any during the traditional season of giving. Please be generous in your giving. There are hundreds of families in our community who will be served by Toys for Tots. Boxes are in the church office and in Stratton Chapel. **The deadline is December 1.**

**Holiday Hours:** The church offices and the Playschool will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Join the Bible study Tuesday, November 21, at 11 a.m. in the parlor at Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for study this week will be Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

**Presbyterian Women's Christmas Coffee:** The PW Christmas Coffee is Wednesday, December 6, at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Please bring a layette item for our Christmas project to donate to Merit Hospital's maternity ward.

**Rebekah Circle:** The Rebekah Circle will not meet in December.

**Youth Choir and Together Time:** Children gather with Youth Director Katie Borum and the Rev. Chase Caldwell at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for choir, food, and fun. Families, please get the children to this excellent time for our children to grow and learn together. The older children join in a Bible study beginning at 5:15 during their meal together. The youth choir is developing beautifully! If your children are not participating, please bring them!

**Wonderful Wednesday:** Come for a delicious supper at 5:15 p.m. and stay for the showing and discussion of *The Chosen*. This video chronicles the gospel story. Many in the First Presbyterian congregation, along with people everywhere, have enjoyed the production and have requested a time for group viewing and discussion. Charles Hall leads these classes.

**C. S. Lewis Study:** Join the group study in the church library each Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., studying *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Kathleen Bond, parishioner at Trinity Episcopal Church and Lay Eucharistic Minister, is leading the class.

**Handbell Rehearsal:** The FPC Handbell choir rehearses at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, upstairs in the sanctuary. Whether you have rung handbells before or you want to learn how to play handbells, we would love for you to join us. Just contact the church office or Becky Jones (601-660-1812).

**Sanctuary Choir:** The Sanctuary Choir meets on Wednesdays, at 6 p.m. in the choir room.

**Monday Prayer:** Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with and for others.

**Pastoral Visits:** Rev. Gandy is available for you when you have needs! Call the church for an appointment or just stop by the church office if it is an emergency. When there are burdens on your heart, problems you are trying to solve, questions about your faith you want to resolve, or any other reasons for your wanting support from the pastor, do not hesitate to call and seek that help. You are important! You are welcome!

**New Members Welcomed:** If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let Rev. Gandy know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

**AA Meetings:** Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

**Photo Gallery:** Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You may call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

# NOV 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>
			8:30 Exercise Noon AA meeting 4:15-Youth activities Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, The Chosen Study	5:30 Deacons' meeting  5:30 C.S. Lewis Study	Noon AA meeting Noon Stayin' Alive program and brown bag lunch	
<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:15 Sunday School  10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 staff meeting 11:30 prayer group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts #157	11 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells	8:30 Exercise Noon AA meeting 4:15-Youth activities Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, The Chosen Study	5:30 C.S. Lewis Study	Noon AA meeting Noon Stayin' Alive program and brown bag lunch	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
9:15 Sunday School  10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 staff meeting 11:30 prayer group Noon AA 5:30 Session 7 Boy Scouts #157	11-1 Playschool Thanksgiving Feast 11 Bible Study NO Handbells	8:30 Exercise 10-11 a.m. Food Box Distribution Noon AA meeting 4:15-Youth activities Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, The Chosen Study	5:30 C.S. Lewis Study	Noon AA meeting Noon Stayin' Alive program and brown bag lunch	10:30 until 2 Family Field Trip Natchez Indian Village
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
9:15 Sunday School  10:30 Worship	8:30 Exercise 10 staff meeting 11:30 prayer group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts #157	11 Bible Study Lucy Feltus Brewer presentation. Natchez in Historic Photographs NO Handbells	NO Wonderful Wednesday	Happy Thanksgiving! Playschool & Church Offices are closed.	Playschool & Church Offices are closed.	
<b>Christ the King</b> <b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
9:15 Sunday School  10:30 Worship Commitment Sunday	8:30 Exercise 10 staff meeting 11:30 prayer group Noon AA 6 Book Club 7 Boy Scouts #157	11 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells	8:30 Exercise Noon Playschool Bd. Meeting 8:30 Exercise Noon AA meeting 4:15-Youth activities Wonderful Wednesday 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, The Chosen Study	5:30 C.S. Lewis Study		

**Church Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor  
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Ministry Assistant  
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist  
Katie Borum, Director of Youth Activities  
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director  
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator  
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary  
Deon Buford, Sexton

**Officers of the Church**

**ELDERS**

**Class of 2023:** Lane Feltus, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe  
**Class of 2024:** George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody  
**Class of 2025:** Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

**Elders-Elect**

**Class of 2026:** Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

**DEACONS**

**Class of 2023:** Ken Price, Ryan Sharp  
**Class of 2024:** Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith  
**Class of 2025:** Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

**Deacons-Elect:**

**Class of 2026:** Leigh Anderson, Robert Joseph, Ken Price

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, and  
Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**117 South Pearl Street**

**(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)**

**Natchez, Mississippi 39120**

**601-442-2581**

**[www.fpcnatchez.org](http://www.fpcnatchez.org)**

**[fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net](mailto:fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net)**

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