



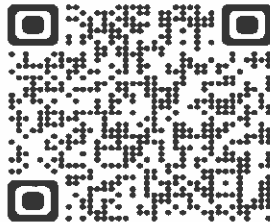
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



Welcome!

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.

First Presbyterian Church Natchez
Morning Worship
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church
Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you! Kristen Abney

THE GATHERING

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 *Thee We Adore* Robert Hebble

Welcome Rev. Dr. Gandy

Call to Worship Psalm 143:8, 10

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.

Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

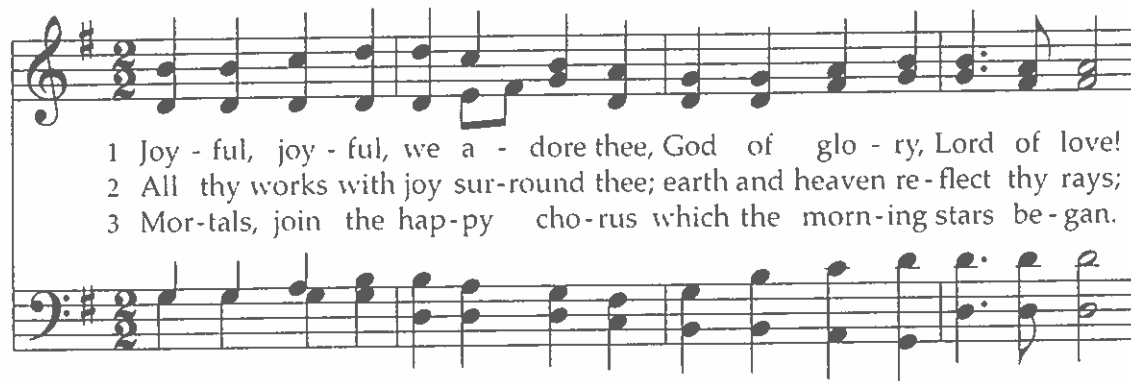
Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

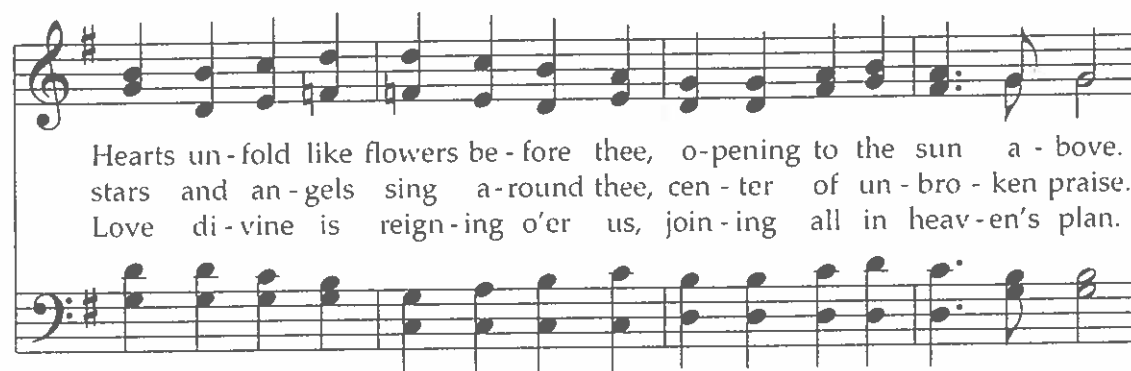
*Processional Hymn 611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

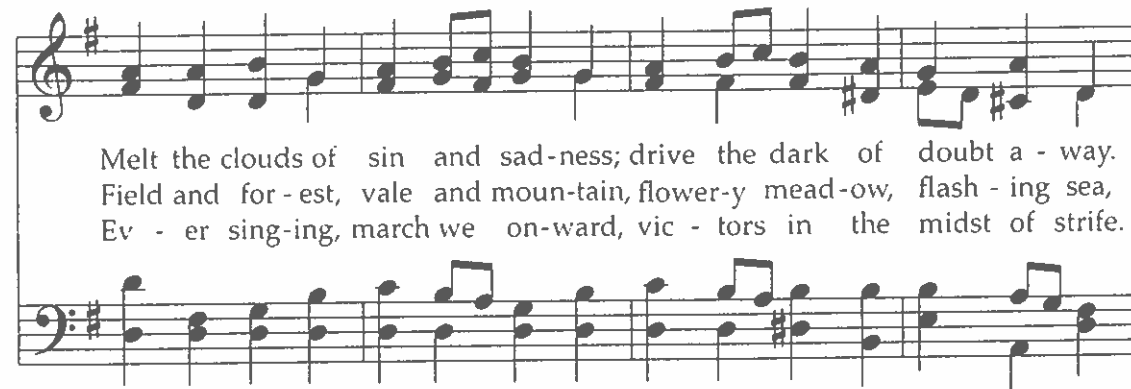
611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



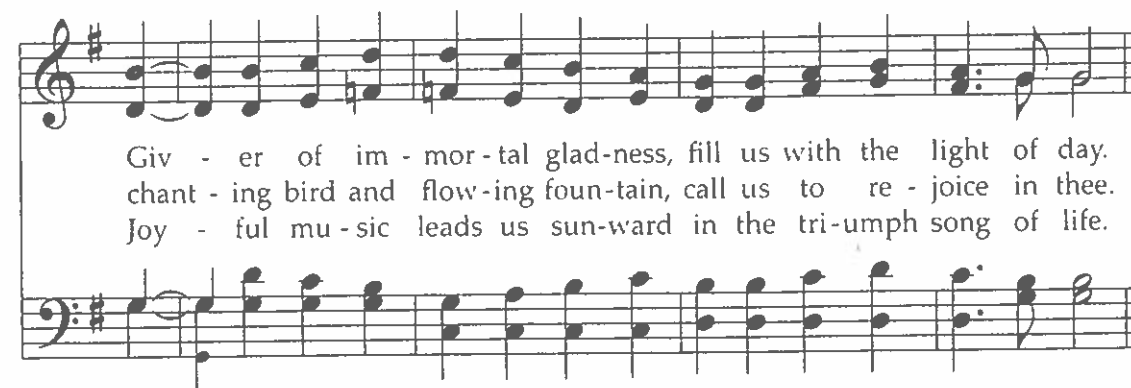
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

Morning Prayer

Almighty God, you are the author and giver of all good things.

Plant in our hearts the love of your name.

Increase in us true faith.

Nourish us with all goodness.

Bring forth in us the fruit of good works.

Let our hearts be fixed where true joys are found.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts.

Humbly, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have promised that you will pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We do humbly confess before you today that we have not loved you with a pure heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves; and we have not done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with you day by day. Cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us from your presence. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

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

Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

*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

Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

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

Prayer for Illumination

Kristen Abney, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Pew Bible Page 811

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 146

Pew Bible Page 715

Reading from the Epistles: James 2:1-17

Pew Bible Page 278

*Gospel Hymn 318, verses 1 & 2:

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-30

Pew Bible Page 52

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Released!”

Rev. Gandy

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.

THE THANKSGIVING

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



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758

arr. Roland E. Martin

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, Mount of God's unchanging love.
Here I find my greatest treasure; Hither by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn 530: *One Bread, One Body*

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

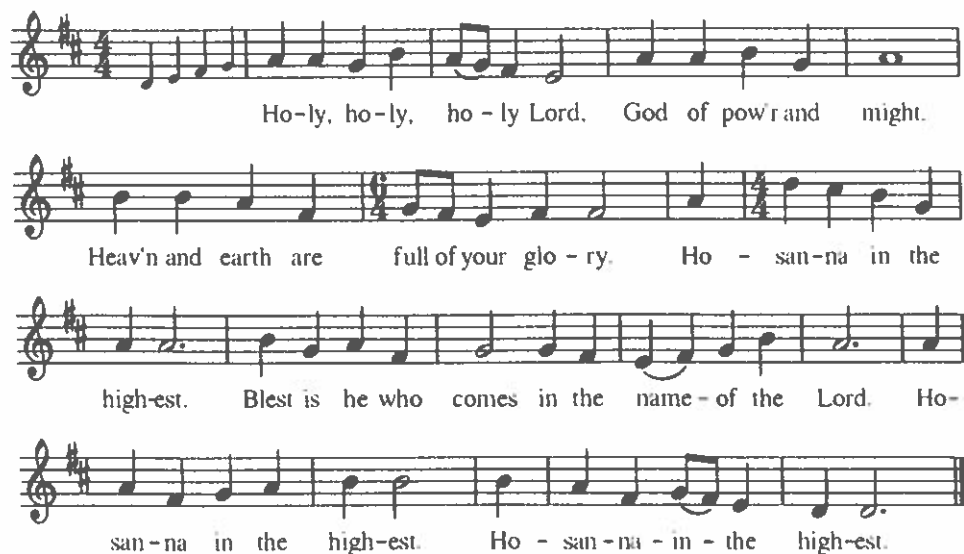
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor continues in prayer.)

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Vincent Bache III. 2018



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the

high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name - of the Lord. Ho-

san-na in the high-est. Ho - san - na - in - the high-est.

530 One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of



all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.



And we, though man-y, through-out the



earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and



free, wom - an or man, no more.
works, one in the Lord of all.
grown, gath-ered to one, for all.

to Refrain

This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1-31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.

(Minister continues in prayer.)

...With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith.



(Minister continues in prayer, concluding with Lord's Prayer.)

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

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.

Breaking the Bread

"The gifts of God for the people of God"

Choir and congregation sing: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Meal

THE SENDING

*Hymn 33: *Praise the Lord! His Glories Show*

*Benediction

*Postlude

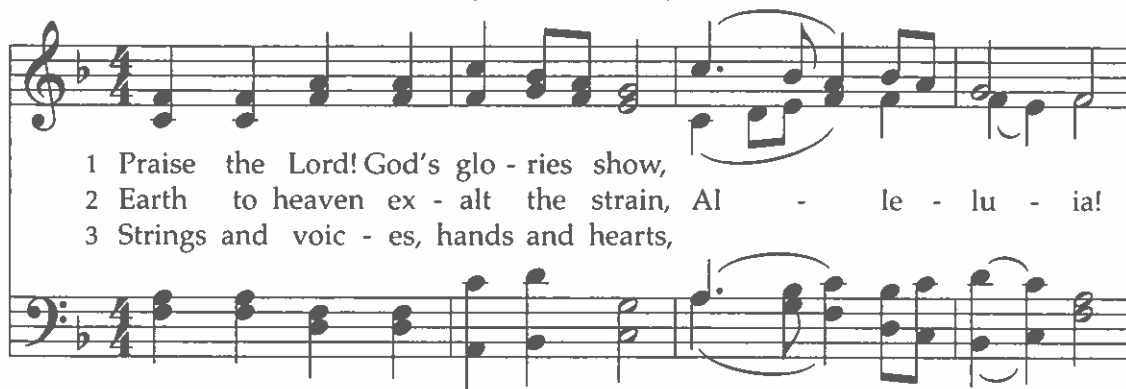
Prelude and Fugue in D Minor

Johann Caspar Simon

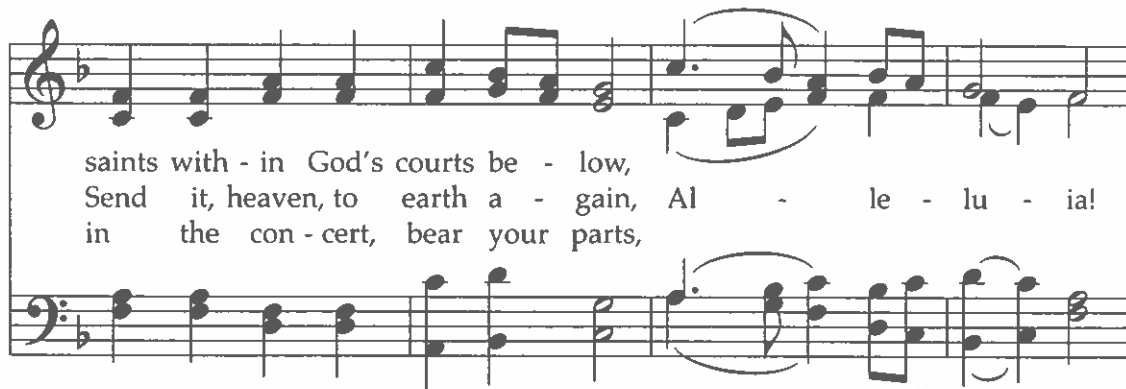
The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Edward (Ed) Godfrey III by Laura Godfrey, Will Godfrey, and Trippe Shields.

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show 33

(Psalm 150)



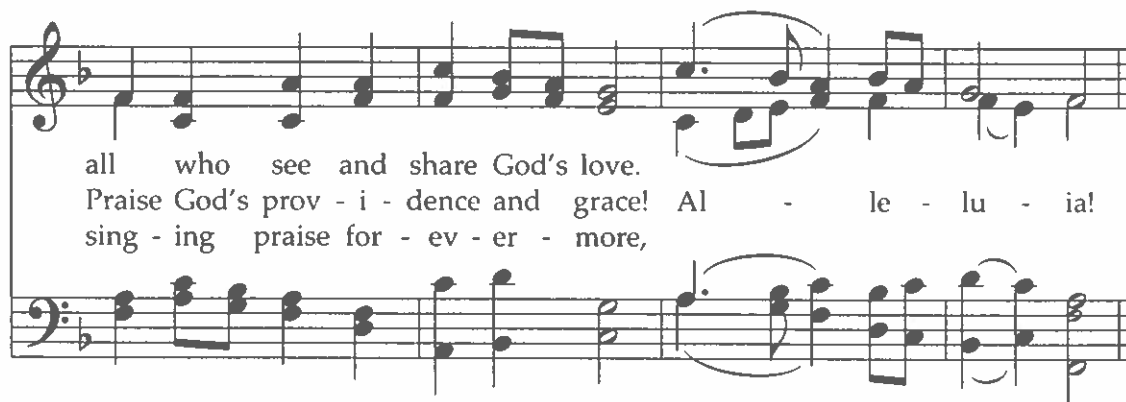
1 Praise the Lord! God's glo - ries show,
2 Earth to heaven ex - alt the strain, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Strings and voic - es, hands and hearts,



saints with - in God's courts be - low,
Send it, heaven, to earth a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia!
in the con - cert, bear your parts,



an - gels round the throne a - bove,
Age to age, God's mer - cies trace, Al - le - lu - ia!
All that breathes, your Lord a - dore,



all who see and share God's love.
Praise God's prov - i - dence and grace! Al - le - lu - ia!
sing - ing praise for - ev - er - more,

Originally cast as two eight-line stanzas, this 19th-century paraphrase of Psalm 150 was slightly shortened when it was set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune is actually older than the text and bears a name meaning "the church of St. Mary."

Music Notes: Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is a lush meditation on *Thee We Adore (Adoro Devote)* by American organist and composer Robert Hebble (1934-2020). The Anthem at the Offertory is a setting of the Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, here set for choir over an accompaniment based on J.S. Bach's Suite No. 1 for unaccompanied cello. The Postlude is *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* by German organist, teacher and composer of the Baroque period Johann Caspar Simon (1701-1776).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Prayer Breakfast: The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Tuesday, September 10, at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible Study meets on Tuesday, September 10, at 11 a.m. in the parlor of Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for study this week are Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; and Mark 8:27-38.

Acolyte Formation: Acolytes, both experienced and new, have been meeting with Rev. Gandy on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary to explore the meaning and history of acolyte work and its place in congregational worship. Acolytes learn from one another. The experienced assist the newer members of the acolyte team. Acolytes enhance the worship experience, bringing light to the sanctuary, water to the font, and helping to set the Table on a Communion Sunday. They wear robes, indicating that they are set apart to do this worship work. They continue to grow as servants of our servant Lord. Young people age nine and up are welcome as acolytes and urged to come and take part in the formation class and to prepare to serve as acolytes. Call Rev. Gandy or the church office with any questions about this program. And keep our young disciples in your prayers at all times.

Third Thursday Book Club: Please join this group of avid readers who are meeting once a month for book discussion – Third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. in the Stratton Chapel parlor. In September, the date is September 19. The book for September is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Come join the discussion. All are welcome!

PW Luncheon: PW luncheon will be Wednesday, September 18, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Officers will be installed for the 2024-2025 year and the Thank Offering will be collected. Afterwards any who are available, are invited to stay to work on repair of Chrismons for December.

Youth Car Wash Sunday: Our FPC Youth Group will be hosting a car wash fundraiser following worship from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, September 22. The car wash will be in the church parking lot behind the education building. Come support our students!

Pickleball 101: Students ages 10-16 are invited to a beginner pickleball lesson on Saturday, September 21 from 9-10, in Fellowship Hall. Local pickleball pro Frankie Spence will be on hand to help us learn our way around paddles, "the kitchen," and all the basics of this very fun game.

Men's Culinary Event: The Men's Culinary Event will be Friday, October 25, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Hawthorne, the home of Bettye Jenkins, 23 Hawthorne Place. Tickets are \$20. They will be on sale starting October 15. All proceeds go to FPC mission projects. More details coming soon.

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 others for people and things that are on each heart.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Wonderful Wednesday: The Wednesday gathering will begin with a meal at 5:15 with Bible study afterwards.

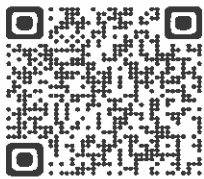
Wednesday Youth Group: Wednesday Youth Group will meet at 4:15 in the youth room.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Photo Gallery Docents: Attendance has been high during the past few months at Natchez in Historic Photographs. Are you available to serve as a docent, welcoming and giving a few words of explanation about the church and photographs? 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. Call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

Organ Update Fund: We are halfway there! Please help to get the organ update scheduled soon! The new programs will include rich new tones and instruments to give new ways for our gifted organist to give glory to God through music. Gifts may be made in honor of the organist and choir or in honor or memory of others. Every gift is important!

Give to the Organ Fund:



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 the minister 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.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

SEPT. 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 <u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship | 02 Closed for Labor Day | 03 11 Bible Study | 04 8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir | 05 5 Deacons' meeting | 06 Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA | 07 Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow! |
| 08 <u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship | 09 8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance Committee 5 Session 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157 | 10 7-Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30-Pack Food Boxes 11 Bible Study | 11 8:30 Exercise 10 Rebekah Circle 10 Food Boxes Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir | 12 | 13 Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA | 14 Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow! |
| 15 <u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship | 16 8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157 | 17 11 Bible Study | 18 8:30 Exercise 11:30 PW Luncheon Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5 Supper 6 Bible Study | 19 5 Book Club | 20 Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA | 21 9-10 Pickleball 101 Youth group Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow! |
| 22 Stewpot Sunday <u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship 11:30-2 Youth Car Wash | 23 8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157 | 24 11 Bible Study | 25 8:30 Exercise Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir | 26 Viking Tours | 27 Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while. Noon AA | 28 PW Fall Gathering Fondren Presbyterian, Jackson Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow! |
| 29 <u>Sunday Schedule</u> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship | 30 8:30 Exercise 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157 | | | | | |

FPC YOUTH FALL EVENTS

2024

PICKLEBALL 101
FELLOWSHIP HALL
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 9-10

**CAR WASH SUNDAY
FUNDRAISER**
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 11:30-2:00

FALL RETREAT
FELICIANA RETREAT CENTER
SAT- MON, OCT. 12-14
REGISTER BY SEPT. 26TH

WILD FAITH YOUTH BONFIRE
CHUCK AND CHRIS BORUM'S
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 5-7

**YOUTH GROUP PARTNERS
AND PARENTS MEETING**
(WITH PIZZA!)
SUNDAY, NOV. 10
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Church Staff

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

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore
Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith
Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, 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

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Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

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