

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; Exodus 19:1-6; Psalm 118:19-25; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Devotional*

Ellen Jane Lorenz

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of our new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Prelude on the Tune Eventide*

arr. Raymond Haan

INTROIT — *How Lovely, Lord*

Hal H. Hopson

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place; my soul is longing, fainting to feast upon your grace. The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest; and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the cup, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise our God who gives all goodness.

† HYMN 248 — *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

† KYRIE ELEISON



† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news;
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal, 581

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.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dave Garvey

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7-21

p. 292

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Salvation is Created*

Pavel Tschesnokoff

Salvation is created, in the midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

p. 133

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON — Yardwork

Rev. Andy G. Spaulding

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Molly Ijames

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

† DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

† OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

GO AND WITNESS IN GOD'S NAME

† HYMN 836 — *Abide With Me*

EVENTIDE

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Donald Fishel

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le -
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

POSTLUDE — *Hymn to Joy*

arr. Albert L. Travis

WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church warmly invites visitors to become a member of our family of faith. You may do so in one of the following ways:

- By Profession of Faith - The act of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and sincerely promising to live for Him. Previous baptism is accounted as valid, or the Sacrament of Baptism may be administered at the time of profession.
- By Transfer of Membership - Request our minister to contact your former church for a letter of transfer, where applicable.
- By Reaffirmation of Faith - If you have been inactive or separated from the church for some time or wish to rededicate yourself, you may be received by reaffirmation of faith.

Please contact the church office for more information.

Parents of nursery aged children please note: a nursery is provided from **8:45 am - 12:15 pm** for the following ages: Infants (0-1 years), Babies (1-3 years), Preschool (3-5 years). The nursery and pre-school rooms are located in the Education Building, first floor.

The FPC prayer chain is ready if you or someone you know is in need. Please contact Carlisle Wood at carlislewood@gmail.com or 662-832-8606. All requests are held in strict confidence.

The church has two portable defibrillators on site if a cardiac event occurs. One is located in our office hallway by the east stairwell; the other is located in the library of the Education Building.

Office Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Tithes and Offerings: Thank you for prayerfully supporting the missions and ministries of FPC! Every gift is greatly appreciated. Here are some ways to give:

- Completing the pledge card in the friendship register found in your pew
- Online by choosing the tab titled "Giving" at the top of the church website
(<https://fpcoxford.net/giving/>)
- Enrolling in direct deposit of withdrawal by contacting the church office.
- Scanning the QR Code provided here. Credit Card fees apply.
- Mailing gifts directly to the church office at 924 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS 38655

If you need assistance with any specific ways to give, please contact Frances Saralvarez at fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com, or call the church office.



TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	Rev. Andy G. Spaulding
<i>Liturgists</i>	Laura Montgomery
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Laura Montgomery
	Catherine Servati

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 28

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes*
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 3:00 pm Music at First Student Piano Recital
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Monday, April 29

6:30 pm Troop 45

Tuesday, April 30

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ The Beacon
 6:30 pm UKirk

Wednesday, May 1

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 4:30 pm Bibles & Brews
 5:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 2

2:45 pm Bible Study with Dave & Ruth O'Dell
 5:30 pm Adult Faith Formation Meeting

Sunday, May 5

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes*
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 5:00 pm Arc Benders
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship
 End of Year Party

**Nursery provided*

**Are you interested in learning more? Do you have ideas to share?
 Your church staff, Diaconate, and ministry team leaders would love to hear from you!**

SESSION

Adult Faith Formation - Carole Haney (2025) & Irma Buchanan (2026)
Children & Youth Faith Formation - Catie Hester (2024) & Brynne Quick (2026)
Clerk of Session - Catherine Servati (2026)
Finance - Richard DeVoe (2024) & Brent Hardin (2025)
Membership & Hospitality - Angela Manley (2025) & Matt Nielson (2026)
Mission - David Shaw (2025) & Laura Montgomery (2026)
Personnel - Melissa Hall (2024)
Property - Bradley Goodwiller (2024) & Bo Elliott (2025)
Worship - Hale Freeland (2024)

DIACONATE

Class of 2024 - Patrick Bolen, Tommy Cribbs, Lindsey Estes, Kathy Orr Griffith, Jennifer Williams
Class of 2025: Teresa Flautt, Scotty Jimenez, David McPhail, Laura Scott, Laura Whitten
Class of 2026: Stefanie Goodwiller, Marty Mauldin, Brad Mayo, Kathy Neff, Nina Patrick

CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>		Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i>	bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Rev. Andy G. Spaulding	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	aspauldingfpc@gmail.com	5
Rev. Allison C. Wehrung	<i>Pastor, UKirk Ministry</i>	ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com	
Creighton R. Holder	<i>Director of Music</i>	cholderfpc@gmail.com	4
Dave Garvey	<i>Director of FF for Children & Youth</i>	dgarveyfpc@gmail.com	9
Frances Saralvarez	<i>Office Administrator</i>	fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com	6
Kate Hill	<i>Communications Director</i>	kohillfpc@gmail.com	7
Wade Simpson	<i>Property Manager</i>	wsimpson13@yahoo.com	
Wendy Brady	<i>Nursery Director</i>	wendybrady@gmail.com	

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Servati from Taylor, Catherine, Frances, and Porter Webb.

Pantry Volunteers: Your help is needed to staff The Pantry during the month of June! Approximately 10 volunteers are needed every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 am - 11:00 am. A sign-up genius is available in Fast Facts. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Kelley (662-832-8798) or Monte Ochs (704-763-8446).

4th and 5th Grade Bible Study: We are excited to host an after school Bible study for 4th and 5th graders. Students will meet with Dave and Ms. Ruth O'Dell on Thursdays from 2:45 - 3:15 pm. The Bible studies will meet each day until May 16! Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for the kids to walk over after school, bringing as many friends with them as they would like. Come join us on the FPC front lawn for games, fellowship, and biblical teaching!

Lunch on the Lawn: Join us on the front lawn for a picnic-style lunch on Sunday, May 19, immediately following the 11:00 service. A bag lunch will be served and include a chicken salad or pimento cheese sandwich, chips, fruit and a cookie. PB&J sandwiches will be available for our younger Presbyterians. Bring a grove chair, or two, or a blanket. Please call the church office to RSVP. We look forward to gathering together before school dismisses and summer begins.

VIP Luncheon: Our next gathering will be held on May 14 in the Fellowship Hall. Please call/email Kate if you plan on attending. We hope you ALL will come.

Sanctuary Floral Arrangement dates are available May 5, June 9, 16 and July 7, 14, 21 and 28. To provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at mfancher42@gmail.com or call 662-234-1359.

Mission Opportunities: FPC seeks to serve "the least of these." See Fast Facts or call the church office for more details on the following outreaches as well as other opportunities.

- **LovePacks** (lovepacksoxford.com) is an in-school pantry that provides food for 250 children in the Oxford and Lafayette county schools who experience hunger in their homes. **For the month of April, donations of peanut butter crackers are requested.** Drop your contribution by the church office anytime.
- Need a helping hand? **In Good Order** is a group of FPC volunteers available to assist members who may need a little extra help with a yard clean-up project or light home repairs.
- FPC volunteers continue to host the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner** the second Tuesday of each month. It's easy! Pick up the prepared meal from Larson's, serve the meal in the fellowship hall, and sit at table with new friends.
- Each Friday from 2:30-4:00 volunteers meet at the OU Methodist kitchen for the weekly **"Food Rescue."** Left over produce from the Oxford Community Market as well as surplus food from Greek houses on campus are repackaged and taken to Oxford residents in need.
- **Memory Makers of Oxford** is a respite day service for those with memory loss. Volunteers to assist with programing and provide snacks are needed.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

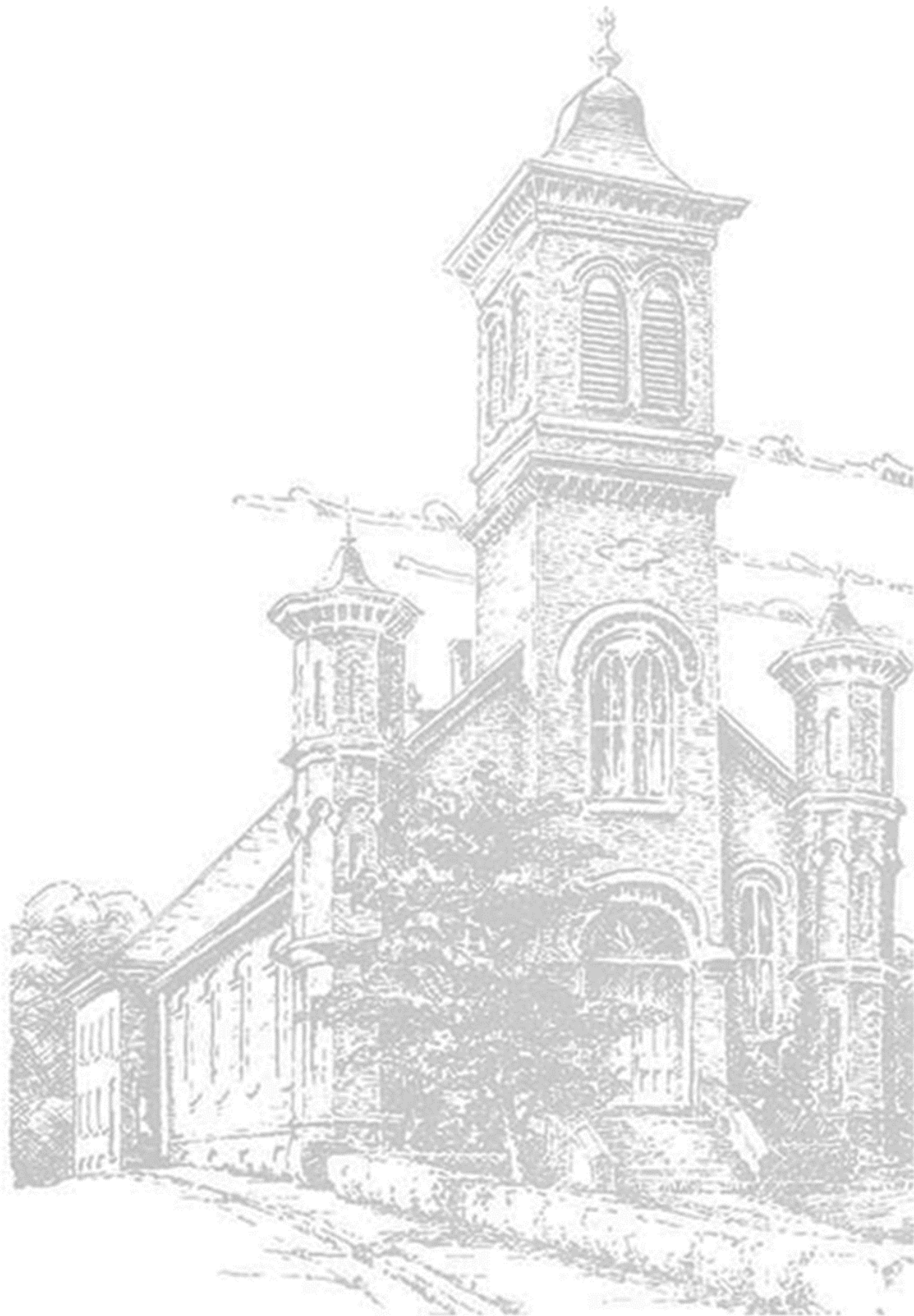
FPC Members: Jimmy Williams; The Family of Jean Blackston; Syd Shaw; Warner Biedenharn; Tina and Tony Montgomery's Family; The Charles and Laura Montgomery Family; The Family of Louise Waller; Majorie Selvidge; Becky Murphey; Ann Dickins; Margaret Fancher; Mrs. Pat Atkinson; The Family of William "Wylie" Coleman; Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Scottye Boone; Leon McCullouch

Family and Friends: Steve Mistilis; The Family of Dan Spaulding; The Family of Jeanette Wilkinson; The Family and Friends of Terry Moon; Beverly Biedenharn; Alex Saralvarez and Family; Sigrid Long; Family of Lynda Torbert Mathers; Eileen Cheney and Family; Family of Susan Treas-Ewing; Thomas Hines; Olivia Flautt; Dr. Gladys Memnon and Friends in Bongnotte, Haiti; Family and Friends of Dr. Jack Davis Brown; Margaret Burnett; Doors of Hope Families; Lafayette County Detention Center inmates; Parchman Prison inmates; Haven House residents

U. S. Military: SSgt Jason Freeland, USAF 17th Special Tactics Squadron

Please pray, too, for those with unspecified needs.

If you wish to have a name removed or added to this list, please contact the church office.



First Presbyterian Church 924 Van Buren Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655 fpcoxford.net 662-234-1757