

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday in Lent

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41

*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.*

† Indicates all who are able may stand.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Prelude on St. Columba*

arr. William Endicott

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, we come before you thankful that you love us as we are. We are creatures of your hand; we are a community formed by your Spirit. You are the potter; we are the clay. With your sure and loving hands, shape us, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Beside the Still Waters*

Gwyneth Walker

INTROIT — *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Traditional Spiritual

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Sam. 16:7, John 9:5, Eph. 5:8-9

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance;

God looks on the heart.

**Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.

**Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

† HYMN 803 — *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

RESIGNATION

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds in secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgement on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

† KYRIE ELEISON

Three staves of musical notation in G major and 2/2 time. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy up on us. Christ, have mer - cy up on us. Lord, have mer - cy up on us.

† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dave Garvey

At this time, all children (pre-K 4 through third grade) are invited to leave the service to attend "Children's Time." Children can be picked up on the second floor of the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 23

p. 617

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *The Lord is My Shepherd*

Howard Goodall

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 5: 8-14

p. 237

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON — "Children of Light"

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

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 AND 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 626 — *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *We Are One in the Spirit* (verse 1)

Hymnal, 300

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

† POSTLUDE — *How Great the Bliss to Be a Sheep of Jesus from The Good Shepherd*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

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 Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 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:

- Mailing gifts directly to the church office at 924 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS 38655
- Online by choosing the tab titled “Giving” at the top of the church website
(<https://fpcoxford.net/giving/>)
- Enrolling in direct deposit of withdrawal
- Scanning the QR Code provided here

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

Proclaiming the Word

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

Liturgists

Rev. Deb de Boer

Organist

Creighton R. Holder

Ushers

Richard DeVoe

Bo Elliott

Jennifer Williams

David McPhail

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 19

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 4:00 pm Presbyterian Kids Club
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Monday, March 20

4:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 5:30 pm Adult Faith Formation
 5:30 pm Membership & Hospitality
 6:30 pm Troop 45

Tuesday, March 21

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ the Beacon
 9:45 am Lula Gregory Circle
 12:00 pm Gerry Duvall Circle
 5:30 pm Service of Wholeness & Healing
 5:30 pm Arc Benders
 6:00 pm Carol Barr Circle
 6:30 pm UKirk

Wednesday, March 22

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 12:00 pm Lenten Reflection
 12:30 pm Book Study
 5:30 pm Wednesdays Together

Friday, March 24

3/24 - 3/26 - PYC Retreat at Camp Hopewell

Sunday, March 26

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*

**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 - Mary Haskell (2023) & Carole Haney (2025)
Children & Youth Faith Formation -
 Kathryn Elliott (2023) & Catie Hester (2024)
Clerk of Session - Drew Mauldin (2023)
Finance - Richard DeVoe (2024) & Brent Hardin (2025)
Membership & Hospitality- Lee Miers (2023) & Angela Manley (2025)
Mission - David Shaw (2025)
Personnel - Goodloe Lewis (2023) & Melissa Hall (2024)
Property - Bradley Goodwiller (2024) & Bo Elliott (2025)
Worship - Hale Freeland (2024)

DIACONATE

Class of 2023 - Chloe Lloyd, Laura Lovelady,
 Allison McCord, Shae Orrell, Adam Quick

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

CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>	Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i> bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Rev. Deb de Boer	<i>Interim Associate Pastor</i> ddeboerfpc@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 Faith Formation 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 Session has called a **meeting of the congregation** on Sunday, March 19 following the 11:00am worship service for the presentation of the 2023 operating budget and proposed changes regarding the pastor's terms of call. All are encouraged to attend.

Sundays during Lent, February 26 - April 2, a new adult Sunday School class, taking the place of Intersections! Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield. Books are available in the church office.

Wednesdays Together Join us for a catered dinner at 5:30, followed by class at 6:00 p.m. March 1 through April 5. Our children are learning about Jesus at the table as well and our youth have time for homework. Nursery is available for our youngest friends.

VIPs our next gathering will be Thursday, March 23rd at 5:30pm at the Sizzler on Hwy 6 E. They will need a head count, so please call the office to sign up by Sunday, March 19.

Mission Opportunities, Join us! The Mission Team meets the first Monday of each month at 5:00. We seek creative and effective means to serve "the least of these." Call the church office or contact David Shaw, missionteam@fpcxford.net, to become more involved. All FPC members from PYF through VIP are invited to serve in the following outreach programs. Please read Fast Facts for more information and to sign up.

- Next Sunday is our first **Cents-Ability Collection Sunday!** Please bring your Cents-Ability containers/donations to either worship service so that we may help provide hunger assistance to local communities.
- FPC volunteers are returning to **Dawson Springs, Kentucky** April 27-30 to assist in the reconstruction effort following the devastating tornado there in 2021. No particular construction skills required. For more information contact Niles Lovelady, 662-801-9200. Join us!
- FPC volunteers deliver snacks twice a week to the **Leap Frog** students in the Oxford and Lafayette schools.
- FPC members host the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner** the second Tuesday of each month.
- **Holding Hands** is a local secondhand shop with a higher calling. The nonprofit resells donated clothing and household items while employing intellectually impaired individuals. Volunteers are needed
- FPC collects food items for **Lovepacks** now serving over 250 children in the Oxford and Lafayette county school districts who experience hunger in their homes. Please bring your donated food items to the church office.
- 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 project or light home repairs. If you would like assistance or know of someone who does, please contact the church office.
- **The Oxford Community Market** is more than just a farmer's market. A half dozen programs are in place to make fresh produce and nutritious food available to those who otherwise are not able to afford it. A variety of volunteers are always needed.

UKirk Ole Miss is seeking meal providers for their Tuesday night gatherings. If you are interested in supporting college students in this way, find the schedule at ukirkolemiss.org/tuesday-meals. Questions? Contact Allison at ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements dates are available April 23, May 21, June 4, 18 and July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at mfancher42@gmail.com or call 234-1359. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.

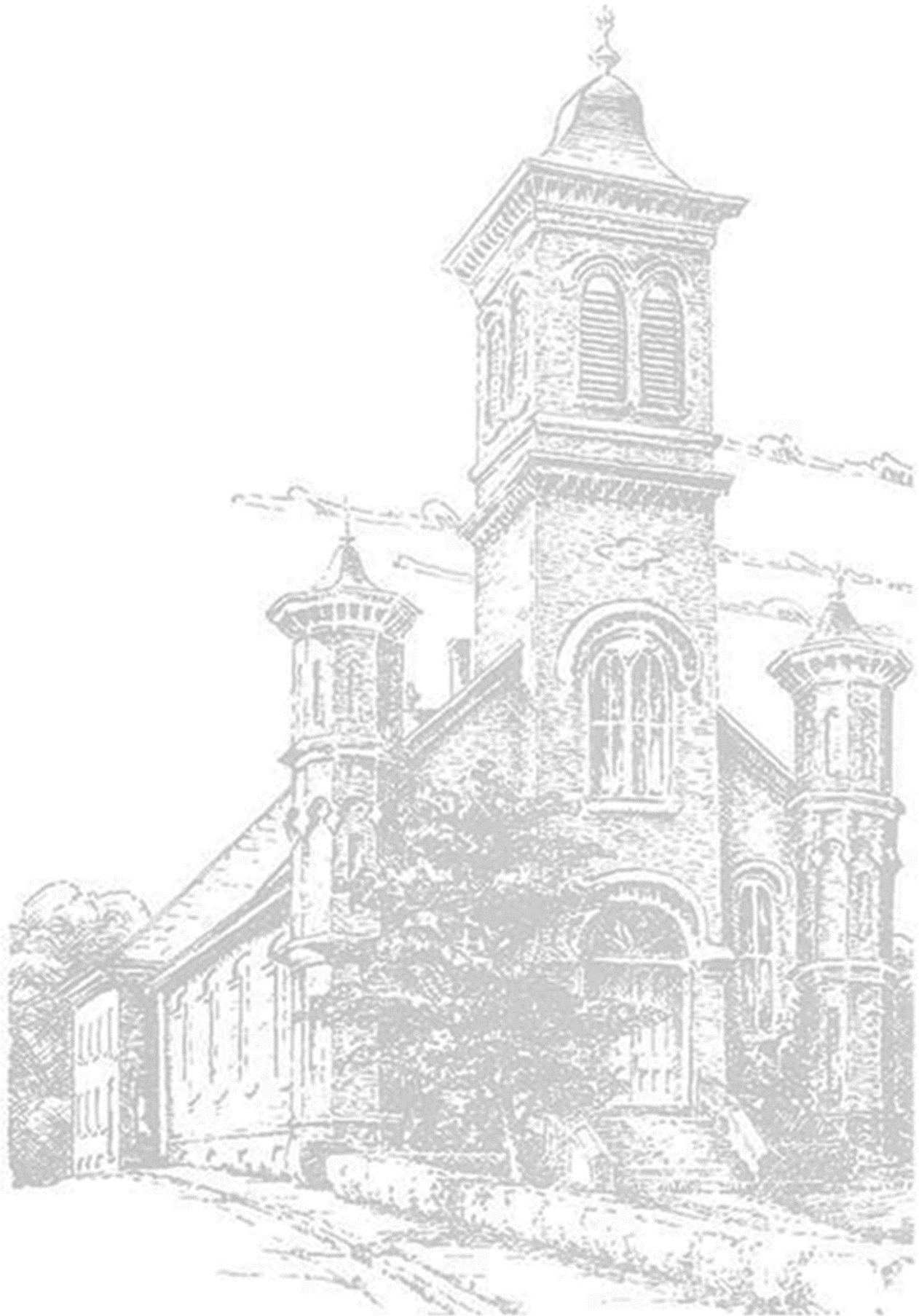
REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: The Family of Martha Walcott, The Family of Nancy Rogers; Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Family of Alisa Reed Elliott; Mary Kay McDowell; Keith & Cheryl Hayward; Scottye Boone; Jean Blackston; Leon McCullough; Family of John Edge, Family of Joe Murphey; Jane Henderson; Family of Dr. Bobby Kennedy; Doug & Margaret Fancher; Thomas Wade Simpson; Family of Nolan Waller, Family of Helen Scruggs, Family of Janet Barnes; Family of Ann Caroline McIntosh; Marianna Ochs; Family of Lynton Dilley; Max Williams; Lydia Moak; Michele Howie

Family and Friends: Family of Richard Flautt; Family of Barbara Callery; Mike Flautt; Family of George Caffey; Family of Pat Ewing; Family of Dr. and Mrs. Gerry Foret; Family of Helen Nielson; Family of Shirley Bragg Donnelly; James Chavers; Kathy Bremer; Susan Treas-Ewing; Nancy McPhail; Charlyn Wilson; Family of Thomas Mayo; Family of George Walker; Family of Gloria Smith Griffith; Valentina Iepuri and Ukraine family; Charissa Johnson; Sarah Luchin and Family; Sigrid Morrison Long; Connie Whelan; Lenoir Stanley; Doors of Hope Families; Bob Flautt; Lafayette County Detention Center inmates; Parchman Prison inmates; Haven House residents; Our Haiti partners; Oxford & Lafayette County First Responders; Community leaders

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.*



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