



RALLY DAY

First Presbyterian Church

2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RALLY DAY 2023

“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.”

Romans 12:4-5

You're up to bat! What a wonderful calling! That calling can be equally overwhelming when it seems you are walking up to the plate alone to bat. It's easy to feel lonely even when you may be surrounded by a team of worshippers. It may not always seem easy to make a connection, but at FPC we want everyone to have the opportunity to be known and cared for, and, also to find their niche in ministry.

We all grow stronger spiritually when we feel free to ask questions, get honest answers, and sense the support of a group. Christian Education at FPC seeks to offer opportunities for all to find the support and connection members need through a wide range of ministries. From children's and youth ministries, adult and senior ministries, and outreach opportunities, we are committed to making sure our entire Congregation is learning the Gospel in meaningful and exciting ways. You can find information on all these programs here, on our website, or by contacting any of your fellow teammates here at FPC. Whether through Bible study, fellowship, or outreach opportunities, we offer numerous paths for the faith journeys of our members. Reach out now and connect to the right path for you this season of learning.

Now let's play ball!



BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

First Presbyterian Church is celebrating our 200th year so be sure to stop by and visit the beautiful exhibits celebrating our history.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Seekers Class

We will begin the year with a continuation of our study of the Holy Spirit. We will focus on our triune nature and how the Holy Spirit dwells within us, influences our own spirit and soul, and makes us a new creation.

Next, we will transition to the universal call of every Christian which is to share the Gospel with those inside and outside the church. If you are not aware, the Christian faith continues to decline as a percentage of the US population. Today's culture is embracing atheism, agnosticism and a secular worldview more and more. In our study, we will focus on strengthening our own personal approach to sharing God's plan of redemption to a world that doesn't even embrace the need for a Savior. Recognizing that God's Word is the truth, we will study Biblical foundations detailed in Genesis 1-11. We will then consider Apologetics and how Christians can make a defense for what we believe. Lastly, we will learn how to share our own personal testimony. **Contact: Ty Cowles, tcowles@jaxenergy.com**

Fellowship Class

The Fellowship Class is an adult class made up of both men and women, couples, and singles. Our ages vary anywhere from 55 and above. Sometimes way above! All ages are welcome. We enjoy studying books written by famous theologians and books of the Bible. Our studies may include a short video, scripture, some lecture, but always discussion. We like to share our experiences and learn from each other. Different members of the class are leaders of our studies and usually change every 4-6 weeks. We enjoy a short fellowship time before each lesson begins, where our members often bring a delicious treat to share with our coffee. We have a huge new coffee pot, so please join us in the Library each Sunday morning after worship for fellowship, study, making new friends, and being part of this wonderful body of Christ here at First Presbyterian, Jackson.

Some of the topics we plan to study in the upcoming Sunday School year include: *The Invisible War* by Chip Ingram, *Forgive-Why Should I and How Can I?* by Reverend Timothy Keller, *God is Closer Than You Think* by John Ortberg, *Sent and Advent Study* by Jorge Acevedo, *Keep Climbing* by Todd Phillips, and *Overcomer* (DVD Study) by Dr. Jeremiah, and *James-Knowing the Bible* by Greg Gilbert. **Contact: Nelda Evans, neldaevans@charter.net.**

Directions Class

Scripture-based studies to examine the context of Scripture and our times to help seek guidance and direction today. Open discussion and shared insights led by Steve Bowers, **Steve Bowers, showers@jaxenergy.com** and **Jim Campbell, jcampbell@hmcompany.com.**



Connections Class

The Connections Class will begin each session by briefly discussing a question taken from Don McKim's book, *Presbyterian Questions – Presbyterian Answers*. Don is a member of our Presbytery and does a great job of explaining some of the things we see and hear around the church in terms we can understand. For example, "What is the Incarnation?" "Can I lose my salvation?" and "What is the Priesthood of all Believers?" Don enables us to come to a basic understanding of some difficult concepts in just a few short paragraphs.

The first few weeks of the class will be taught by class members. During that time, we will look at a book called *Praying the Names of God*, by Ann Spangler. The book comes highly recommended and looks at one of the biblical names of God each week. You may have heard of "Elohim," and "Yahweh," but did you know that Elohim means "God, Mighty Creator," and Yahweh means "Lord?" Do you know how these different names were used by the original writers, and why there were so many different names for the One God? We hope that learning how these different names of God reveal the different characteristics of God will enable the class to understand the "wideness" of God more fully and enable us to draw closer to the God who is both our Creator (Elohim) and our Redeemer (Goel Lytron). As always, we will have conversation about how God can bring to bear all these characteristics in our lives today. Come join us! **Contact: Marlie Richardson at marlie3315@gmail.com or Stacey McAdams at smcadams347@hotmail.com**

YOUTH + CHILDREN

Youth Ministry

There are several ways to connect to the Youth Group (6th-12th grade) this year! Meet us for Sunday school, as we discuss the sermon and Bible verses in more depth. Missed worship? No worries, Sunday School is a chance to get the Cliff Notes. Join us for Wednesday night devotionals as we discuss how the Gospel connects to our everyday lives. And don't forget Sunday night Youth Connection - a time for fellowship and fun, with games, activities, and service opportunities. We're looking forward to a fun and meaningful year, where we get to study God's Word together, build friendships and connections, put our faith in action through service projects, and most of all, grow in our relationship to Jesus Christ. **Contacts: Molly Richardson, fpcmolly@eplus.net; Courtney Bowen, fpcourtney@eplus.net**

Children's Ministry

Our FPC children are the future of our church! We love seeing our kids participate in Worship, acolyting, Children's Church and Rotation Sunday School, all on Sunday mornings! We have an excellent nursery staff to care for our little ones and help with all of our children's programs. Children's Church is for children ages 4 years old to second grade. We have devoted church members who will be leading Children's Church during worship. Fun and exciting curriculum will be shared! After the Time with the Children in Worship, the children travel to the education building for the lessons. Two, three and four-year olds attend Sunday School with Ms. Ellen McClune.

QUEST is offered on Wednesday evenings for children ages K to 5th grade. Ms. Ellen McClune will lead age-appropriate games and Bible activities for two, three and four-year-olds. Ms. Lindsey Patterson will share exciting movement, instruments, and music with pre-K through 5th grade. Come find new ways to learn about scripture!

Children in 2nd grade and older have the opportunity to serve as cross bearers and lighting of the candles through our Acolyte Program. FPC is growing and we are definitely teaching them to F.R.O.G.-Fully Relying on God!
Contact: Libby Smith, fpclibby@eplus.net

Rotation Sunday School

In the Workshop Rotation Sunday School, we teach the same Bible story for 4 to 5 weeks in a row to all our elementary students. Each week classes rotate into a new and unique workshop (art, video, game, drama, cooking, Lego, etc.). The 2023/2024 year will be filled with exciting opportunities to learn about the life of Moses: from the Burning Bush to the Ark of the Covenant (we will spend 4 rotation lessons on Moses), study Advent through the teachings of Isaiah, learn about Nicodemus, the Easter lesson will be spent learning about Palm Sunday, study the Fruits of the Spirit and finish with Zacchaeus! Come and join us either as a teacher or student! You're never too old to be inspired by these stories! **Contact: Lisa Spurlin, Rotation Sunday School Coordinator at Itspurlin@gmail.com**

First Presbyterian Playschool

The First Presbyterian Playschool is celebrating its 52nd year! It has been a Jackson tradition since 1971 and operates on the grounds of First Presbyterian as a licensed partial-day program for two through five-year-olds. Playschool is a faith-based program which provides an opportunity for preschool children to participate in a structured educational program with the companionship of their peers, scaled to their needs under trained supervision. The curriculum includes PEP (Primary Educational Program), Process Phonics, Handwriting without Tears, Mr. P Mooney and Spanish Vocabulary. More information may be found at www.fpcjacksontn.org/playschool/ or by contacting the **Director, Stephanie Swims at fpplayschool@yahoo.com**

OTHER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GROUPS

Wednesday Night Small Adult Groups

Wednesday Night Small Groups are an excellent opportunity to grow as a Christian while studying God's word and making deep connections in your church family. Groups will start on September 6 and you can sign up today. The following groups will be offered this fall:

James Bible Study

This is a detailed Bible study of the book of James which describes the life of a living faith. Join us and explore James's sage wisdom for all believers. **Teacher: Debbie Hurt, dmh902@aol.com**

Faith + Film

Something a little different. This class will use popular movies to discuss matters of faith, such as ethics, redemption, human nature, and cultural differences. Each week, class members will be invited to watch a different film in their own time (or at a designated time with other class members) and then come together to discuss their thoughts on how these relate to scripture and our faith tradition **Teacher: Associate Pastor Courtney Bowen, fpccourtney@eplus.net**

There is More to the Story-Revisiting Well-Known Bible Stories

Each week, we will explore well-known Bible stories. As we explore the stories, we will look at how the Jewish faith, customs, and political landscape impacts the Bible stories; gaining new insights and meaning to the stories we thought we knew so well. Some of the stories we will explore include: Jesus overturning vendors tables in the Temple, The Prodigal Son, Jesus's Miracles, the Feasts, and more.

Leaders: Linda Houston lin2lou@eplus.net and Twyla Morgan, twyla91355@aol.com

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women have 3 groups known as PW Circles. We have 2 day circles and 1 night circle. Each circle has their own Bible Study, but we all work together for the church and community. Some of the organizations we support are ARM, Dream Center, Hands Up, RIFA, Threads of Love and Women of Hope. We also support some worldwide ministries. Our offerings and pledges go to support these groups as well as our time. Our goals are simple. We are faithful to our Lord and want to be His hands and feet. If you would like to get involved or have a ministry you would like us to serve, please let us know! **Contact: Vivian Pauley, vivian_pauley@yahoo.com**

Men's Coffee Group

The Men's Coffee Group meets at the church Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Sun Room of Memorial Hall to drink coffee (or tea or water) and engage in friendly conversation. All men are welcome! **Contact: Ted Showalter, showbeau@aol.com**



Service Committee

God has led our congregation to serve in areas such as

- Working in the RIFA Soup Kitchen
- Aiding with NaCoMe service projects
- Celebrating Earth Day
- Sponsoring over 50 Foster Children at Christmas
- Delivering Meals on Wheels on Christmas Eve morning
- Donating School Uniforms to the Dream Center

Ongoing service projects throughout the year include

- Collecting for RIFA Snack-Backpack Program
- Assisting with Room In The Inn
- Donating to / Volunteering with Read Team program
- Maintaining the Blessing Box
- Assembling / Delivering Gratitude Baskets
- Participating in the Earth Care Program

When possible, we support various mission opportunities, both locally and abroad. We welcome anyone who wants to join us in our mission of Service for God! **Contact: Jan Jones, cadljones@yahoo.com or Mike Taylor, michaelletaylor08@yahoo.com**

Discipleship Committee

Our mission as followers of Jesus Christ is to reach out to the Church spreading the gospel to strengthen one's faith in our Triune God. Together in obedience to God and being faithful to the scriptures, we desire to further develop our relationship with our Master adhering to His command of making disciples by teaching one another. We want to assist members of the church by making disciples among the children, youth, and adults in the congregation. Be sure to stop by and learn about our Men's Discipleship Groups. **Contact: Eden Smith at eden@edensmith.com**



Threads of Love

Would you like to put your sewing skills to good use? Can't sew? We would love to teach you! Come to Threads of Love! We meet the second Tuesday of the month from 9:30-12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Threads of Love is a national organization that desires to show God's love, presence, and infinite compassion when a parent is faced with the death of an infant through miscarriage, infant death, or stillbirth by reaching out to them with a packet containing a gown, blanket, and hat showing God's love through our sewing skills, silently saying "You are Loved". If you don't sew there are other tasks that need to be done- cutting, ironing, knitting, and fellowship.

For additional information Contact: Debbie Hurt (731) 499-0682, Jennifer Flanagan (731) 668-5722, or Marge Stumpenhorst (731)225-1249



**There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same Spirit distributes them.**



**There are different kinds of service,
but the same Lord.**



**There are different kinds of working,
but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**



**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for the common good.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

**JOIN US FOR
A SEASON
OF CONNECTION
SERVICE + GROWTH**

