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## SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT FPC

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Evening Worship, 6:00 p.m.

All worship services are available online!

[livestream.com/fpc-tv](https://livestream.com/fpc-tv)

[facebook.com/fpchattiesburg](https://facebook.com/fpchattiesburg)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN AUGUST 16!

*from Josh Adair, Minister of Discipleship*



With the return of the school year, all of us naturally start to look forward to our favorite rhythms of the return of Fall. Football, bonfires, or changing leaves. For me personally, Fall is a season for enjoying the finer gifts of life (like a PSL-pumpkin spice latte for you non-coffee folks.) All of these activities leave us circling our calendars with eager anticipation.

One highlight of the Fall season here at FPC is our Wednesday night activities, and I am writing to you to let you know of a few changes to our schedule so that you can mark your calendar in anticipation. We will start back on August 16th with the following schedule:

- **Dinner** will run from 5:15 to 6:20 p.m., with dismissal to classes after singing a chorus together.
- **Children's and adult classes** will run from 6:30-7:15 p.m.

The adult classes offered will be as follows:

- **Choir** (*which will resume its normal rehearsal schedule, going until 7:30 each week, but will need to leave when we dismiss by a song to ensure the full rehearsal time.*)



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## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

from Arrington Rhett, Church Administrator

We are grateful for the faithful giving of God's people to the cause of Christ at First Presbyterian Church! The church relies upon the generous financial support of members and friends to sustain an annual budget of \$2.1 million.

Through the first six months of 2023, FPC has received gifts and other income of \$710,149 for the **General Fund** and \$96,981 in **designated gifts** (e.g., Building Fund, Youth Bake Sale, Missions) from 235 donors. While gifts of cash or check are most popular, a number of families have chosen to make regular gifts via bank draft at the Realm online gift portal.

FPC-Hattiesburg maintains a line of credit secured by our property, with a balance on June 30 of \$527,440. Monthly interest payments are made using proceeds from the Building Fund.

If you have giving questions or need assistance in making a gift, please contact me or Rob King, our church treasurer.

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

II Corinthians 9:8

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- **Connections/United Christian Ministries** (for more information please speak with Jack Kennedy)
- **Women's Bible Study** (in the Ladies' Parlor beginning 9/13)
- **Fellowship/Testimonies/Singing** (8/16, 8/23, & 8/30) in Taylor Hall. After these dates we will begin a 6-Week study (beginning 9/6).

Children of all ages will also start back with **Wonder Nights**—an exploration of the beauties of God's Word and Worship.

You may note changes to our schedule, and the reasons are two-fold. First, we want to spend more time engaging in relationships with each other and hearing one another's stories. Our church has needed these opportunities to connect and re-familiarize ourselves with part of what makes a place like FPC so special: its people! Second, you'll note dinner will have an earlier start to facilitate an earlier end to our evenings for the sake of the school-aged families who attend.

If you are available earlier to come and share a meal with us at church, please do come as early as 5 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and no more than \$25 per family. And if you get off work later, we will be glad to save you a spot. Even if you are unable to join for the meal, we hope you will come to one of our opportunities to learn, hear someone's story, or grow in sharing your gifts through one of our adult opportunities.

Regardless of the opportunities we offer, Wednesdays give a chance to be better known and grow your connection to the people of First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg. Often our lives as Christians focus on the content of our faith to the detriment of recognizing that we need relationships to serve as the theatre for where we live out the truths we all believe. Christ not only died for our sins individually, but he gives us the context of a community to live out that truth together in a people like the Church. Whatever class you attend, we hope that you will circle the date and join us for the resumption of our Fall opportunities to know and grow together in the hope that we all become more like Christ together.





## PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

FPC Hattiesburg was represented at the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of our denomination in Memphis by Teaching Elders Knox Baird, Zeek Dean, and David Jussely and Ruling Elders Randy Henderson and Arrington Rhett.

Around 2,300 commissioners (teaching and ruling elders) representing 1,100 PCA churches from around the nation were in attendance, along with many guests. Here were some of the highlights from the Assembly:

**Worship.** At the opening service, we were led in worship and in the Lord's Supper by Dr. Sean Lucas and served by elders of Independent PCA-Memphis. Worship speakers during the week included Randy Thompson, Ligon Duncan, and Les Newsom.

**Music.** On Tuesday night, we were blessed to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Concert, hearing testimonies of God's faithfulness and singing along with gifted musicians of the *Indelible Grace* tradition.

**Assembly Business.** The commissioners endorsed a number of amendments to the *Book of Church Order* and overtures to the Assembly dealing with various issues were debated and voted upon. We also heard reports from each of the ten permanent committees and agencies of the PCA, including Mission to the World, Mission to North America, Reformed University Fellowship, Covenant College, and Covenant Theological Seminary.

PCA Stated Clerk Bryan Chapell's summary and reflections on the General Assembly can be found here:

<https://byfaithonline.com/stated-clerks-summary-and-reflections-on-the-50th-general-assembly/>

## A NOTE FROM DR. NOOTE

Dear Church Family,

Since the dawn of time man has continued to invent new ways of making music. From the rudimentary sound of beating rocks, to the mysterious buzz of the didgeridoo, to the glorious tone of the pipe organ, our attempts at more creative and elaborate forms of instrumental sophistication endure.

Of all the attempts at instrumental design, none can match the beauty and complexity of the human voice. It is God-breathed from start to finish, and He alone owns the blueprint. Did you know that you have a voiceprint that is unique? It is as specific to you as your fingerprint. There has never and will never be another one exactly like yours. You see, God did not stop creating after the seventh day. He continued with you and me (Psalm 139:13-14).

Just as every man-made instrument was designed to be played, every human voice was designed for singing praise to its Maker. The Master Craftsman delights in the instruments that He designed (Psalm 22:3). Even more wonderful is the fact that He enjoys singing His love for us too (Zephaniah 3:17).

As we come together in worship, I want to challenge you to sing out. Whether in the choir loft or the pew, add your special voice print to the symphony of praise. I often hear the phrase, "Jesse, you don't want to hear me sing." My response to that is: "But God does!"

If singing is something you enjoy or would like to improve, consider joining the Sanctuary Choir. It is a great way to serve the Lord and your church family. We will resume weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 9 from 6:30pm-7:30pm**. A music degree or prior experience is not required. The only requisite is church membership and a heart of worship. *Lessons and Carols* rehearsals will also begin on **Sunday, September 10, 4:00pm-5:30pm**. All church members high school age and up are welcome!

In Christ,  
Jesse Noote

## DEACON NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the office of Deacon are being received during the month of August.

You will find nomination forms in the church office and narthex that include a listing of qualifications for eligibility.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WITH ZACK OWENS

There's a very special morning planned for families on August 13, when **Zack Owens** will be our guest. Zack is an Assistant Pastor for Redeemer PCA in Jackson and regularly leads the ON THE ROCK retreat for our own 5th/6th graders. He will be encouraging parents and grandparents from Proverbs 22 during the Sunday school hour. Following worship on August 13, Zack will lead a session for our children's ministry teachers, with lunch and nursery provided.



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## DARWIN AND KAYE JORDAN HAVE ARRIVED IN HATTIESBURG!



Darwin began serving as Interim Senior Minister at FPC on August 1. He will continue preaching through the book of Romans on Sunday mornings.

There will be fellowship gatherings during the next several months where our members can get to know Kaye and Darwin better. Thank you for making them feel welcome in their new community!

## JOYFUL SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON Tuesday, August 15 at Noon with guest speaker Ray Heddings



Ray and his wife, Faith, are both graduates of USM and became members of our church in 2022. Ray served in the federal government for almost 40 years, including stints in the U.S. Air Force ICBM career field and as a federal government attorney in the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, FBI, and White House. *Join us on August 15!*