



## INSIDE

### God's Faithful Care

Pages 1-2

### Calendar of Events

Page 2

### Real Progress

Page 3

### Churchwide Spring Picnic

### Stewardship Update

### Book of Revelation Podcasts

Page 4

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT FPC

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship, 6:00 p.m.

Worship services  
are available live online!  
[livestream.com/fpc-tv](https://livestream.com/fpc-tv)  
[facebook.com/fpchattiesburg](https://facebook.com/fpchattiesburg)

## GOD'S FAITHFUL CARE

*by Dr. Kathy Young*

It's that time of year again. You know what I'm talking about. This is a season of busy. A season of graduations, promotions, ends and beginnings. Recently, I was looking through old files to find photos of our high school seniors as they were growing up in the church. I am sure it's no surprise that I was sentimental and a bit confused as to how we got here so quickly. But I've been thinking—each of those pictures took me back to a moment in the lives of these young people as they were growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. That is what we pray for. In the yearbooks, the slideshows, and the photo albums that we peruse during this season, we can see it more clearly than when simply looking at just one picture.

During our annual mini-retreat, Zack Owens leads an amazing Bible study called "Pictures of the Promise" for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. During the retreat, he talks about pictures in his own life and what they represent, but more importantly, he talks about the pictures that God gives us in scripture, imagery from Genesis to Revelation that beautifully points to our Savior. Zack opens the Bible to our young students and shows them many examples where God wants us to see something beyond just that moment in time. Those pictures are part of The BIG picture. The BIG Story. And so are the pictures that I've been enjoying.

*continued on page 2*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Children's Ministry Rally Night

Sunday, May 5  
6:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary

### Presbyterian Christian School Spring Choral Concert and Art Show

Monday, May 6  
6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary

### Women's Ministry Homecoming

Wednesday, May 8  
5:30 p.m.  
Taylor Hall

### Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 12  
10:45 a.m.

### FPC Spring Picnic

Sunday, May 19  
5:00 p.m.  
behind office building

### Vacation Bible School

June 3-7  
9 a.m. - Noon each day

*continued from page 1*

We will be celebrating God's faithfulness to our church on May 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a time when we praise him for giving us children to raise up in Him, and for giving us grace to be part of their spiritual growth. We will honor our 6<sup>th</sup> graders who will be completing their years in children's ministry and promoting to youth. We will thank the many volunteers who consistently demonstrate Christ's love as they instruct our children. We will rejoice when we hear young voices sing timeless truths, and we will look at pictures. What I hope we will see in those pictures, other than activities, silly and sweet faces, friendships, and learning, is God's faithfulness. In those pictures that we enjoy on Rally Night, may we remember His promise. He has promised to be our God and to be with us always. He cares for us and for our children, and our children's children. How amazing!



*And I will establish my covenant between me and you  
and your offspring after you throughout their generations  
for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you  
and to your offspring after you.*

*Genesis 17:7*



## REAL PROGRESS

by Pastor Darwin Jordan

*...work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13*

### **It is our responsibility to make progress in the Christian life.**

The first phrase is shocking when you first read it. The Bible teaches that we cannot save ourselves. It sounds like Paul is saying, “Save yourself – work out your own salvation.”

But “salvation” has several meanings in Scripture. Sometimes it refers to the initial rescue of sinners (Lk 7:50), sometimes it refers to our final salvation when Jesus comes again (1 Pt 1:5), and sometimes, as here, it refers to our present growth.

Scripture teaches we have been saved, we are being saved and we will be saved. We have been saved from the guilt, punishment and tyranny of sin. We are being progressively saved from the power and influence of sin. One day we’ll be saved completely and forever from the presence and misery of sin. Here Paul is saying, “Rid yourselves of sin and cultivate the character of Christ. Make progress in your salvation!”

Do it with “fear and trembling.” In general, “fear” means being in awe of God’s greatness and kindness. “Trembling” points to our own weakness. Taken together, we must have dependent and humble hearts toward God as we seek to grow.

### **But only God makes it happen**

But more specifically, in this context he says “with fear and trembling, *for* it is God who is at work.” We work out our salvation in awe of the fact that the God who made the world is actually present in our lives making us like Christ. It is *God* who is at work in you! GOD! Yes, almighty God! That *is* cause for fear and trembling! It’s cause for joy and expectation as well. Hey! This thing can really happen! Awesome!

Notice God works so that we “will and work for His good pleasure.” This means that we will *want* to do His will and we will actually *do* His will. He works from the inside out: we have the desires that please Him and real obedience that pleases Him.

Think of it, omnipotence takes up your progress in getting rid of sin and becoming like Christ. You can throw yourself into the battle, knowing that you have dominating air support and artillery fire from God that weakens and debilitates your enemy, sin, so that you can always make progress against it.

We must never give in to self-pity. We must not say, “I just can’t do anything about my sin” and leave it there. Yes, apart from Him we can do no good at all (John 15:5). *But we are not apart from him; we abide in him and he abides in us and works in us.*

God is at work in you! Sin can and will stand up to you all day, but sin cannot stand up to God’s power. Since He is at work, you be at work against it! We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

### **The church – ya’ll**

And remember the context of these verses. Paul has been urging the Philippians to be humble and for each to count one another as more important than himself by having the same servant heart that Christ did when he left heaven and died on the cross (2:3-8).

Here he encourages us that we can have this kind of rich community of love and humility because God is at work in us to bring it about! If this were translated into “Mississippian” it would read, “Ya’ll work out ya’ll’s salvation because God is at work in ya’ll.”

As a church we work out our salvation by becoming a church of Christ-like humility, counting one another as more important than ourselves. This is good news: God works in us as a church so that we will have the desire and obedience to walk in this humility. Let’s work out our own salvation as a church with fear and trembling!

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**  
 Year-to-date through March 31, 2024

General Fund Income	\$359,015
Expenses	<u>452,893</u>
	\$(93,878)
 Mortgage line of credit balance	 \$317,563

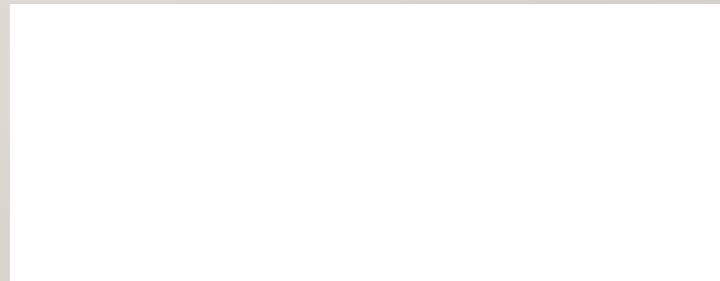
Podcasts of Pastor Darwin's Sunday evening series Revelation: The Ruling, Conquering Lamb are available at the FPC Hattiesburg website in the **RESOURCES** section.



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**CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS  
 AND SPRING PICNIC**  
 Sunday, May 19  
 5-7 p.m.

Look for details in the e-newsletter!