

EXPRESSIONS



OUR VISION

A church deeply formed by the Good News of Jesus Christ, experiencing and expressing God's grace together in Hattiesburg.

Arise, O God, and shine in all thy saving might, and prosper each design to spread thy glorious light; let healing streams of mercy flow, that all the earth thy truth may know. William Hurn



2026 FPC MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 18, 5:15 p.m.

Supper in McIntosh Hall

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

Whit Lewis speaks to youth and adults in Currie Hall 205

Saturday, February 21, 5:15 p.m.

Supper in McIntosh Hall

Saturday, February 21, 6:00 p.m.

- Evening Service in McIntosh Hall with **Rev. Ray Cortese** preaching on "Missional Clarity" from Acts 1:6-11; 2:1-13
- Missionary Greetings with **Harris Bond, Mark Jennings,** and **John Noblin**
- **Jamie & Jen Burkemper** with children at 4 Corners Café in Currie Hall 206

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SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

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Sunday, February 22, 9:30 a.m.

- **Mark Jennings** with children at 4 Corners Café in Currie Hall 206
- **Jamie & Jen Burkemper** speak to youth in Youth Center
- **Harris Bond & John Noblin** speak to adults in Sanctuary

Sunday, February 22, 10:45 a.m.

Flag of Nations and Worship Service in Sanctuary with **Rev. Ray Cortese** preaching on “Missional Certainty” from Micah 4:1-7

Sunday, February 22, 6:00 p.m.

- Worship Service in Sanctuary with **Rev. Ray Cortese** preaching on “Missional Power” from Acts 8:26-40
- Missionary Reports from **Jamie & Jen Burkemper & Mark Jennings**
- **Harris Bond** with children at 4 Corners Café in Currie Hall 205

Special Missions Conference Offering with a goal of \$15,000 towards buying a vehicle for the Ministry of Perlentor in Munich, Germany. A MTW missionary is working with Perlentor helping women get out of Human Trafficking. Perlentor is a Munich-based Christian ministry grounded in the conviction that true and lasting restoration flows from the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. A dedicated ministry vehicle would allow for transporting women discreetly, minimize exposure in public spaces, and preserve the confidentiality that safehouse security depends on, as well as the physical safety of both staff and survivors.



Rev. Ray Cortese,
Missions Conference
Speaker

Ray Cortese is a native of Miami, Florida, and the Founding Pastor of Seven Rivers

Presbyterian Church in Lecanto, Florida. He served as Senior Pastor for over 40 years and continues to enjoy and support the church community on the Pastoral Team. Ray graduated from Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi, and earned his Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Under his leadership, Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church has been instrumental in planting five churches across Central Florida, including the most recent congregation established in The Villages. Ray was also a

catalyst for the creation of the Florida Church Planting Network. Ray’s passion for Christian Education led to the beginning of Seven Rivers Christian School. Ray and his wife, Diane have four adult children and 10 grandchildren.



Harris Bond
with Ouachita PCA,
Monroe

Harris Bond, a native of Yazoo City, MS, has been involved in pastoral ministry for 17 years. He is a graduate of Auburn University and Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC (M.Div.). While serving as the Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Belzoni, MS, he met Laura Beth Shields, a graduate of Delta State University who was then living & working in the

Jackson area. They married in 2008 and spent nearly eleven years in Sylacauga, AL where Harris served as the Pastor of Knollwood Presbyterian Church. Harris and Laura Beth, along with their three children—Thomas, Sam, and Jane Paschal—moved to Monroe in the summer of 2019 to begin living and doing the work of church planting.



Jamie & Jen Burkemper
with Mission to the
World in Spain

Jamie and Jennifer Burkemper, who have been together since high school and who grew up outside of St. Louis, felt

a calling from God to pursue missionary work soon after getting married. They served with Mission to the World in Mexico starting in 2005. However, since 2021, the Burkempers have taken on the role of team leaders in Madrid, Spain. Spain, the least-evangelized Spanish-speaking country and one of the least-evangelized nations in Europe, presents a tremendous need for gospel witness. In Madrid, the Burkempers are focused on reaching the next generation, particularly university students, who are often atheistic yet open to spiritual conversations. Their new ministry is strategically located near 7 universities and thousands of students. Alongside this, they are discipling international students studying abroad in Madrid and laying the groundwork for a new church plant.



Mark Jennings
with Thirdmill Ministries

Mark Jennings serves both as a Gift Officer and an Instructor for Thirdmill Ministries. He has been committed to the teaching and

equipping of pastors for most of his career, having previously taught at Gordon-Conwell

Theological Seminary. Mark holds a Master's degree in Education and in Biblical Languages, and a doctorate in Religious Studies. He and his wife (Kim) recently moved to the Atlanta, GA area from Boston, MA. They have been married for 30 years and have three sons.



Whit Lewis
with Palmer Home
for Children

Rev. Whit Lewis serves as the Senior Director of Community Partnerships at Palmer Home for Children,

where he leads outreach to churches and civic groups, helping communities engage in compassionate care for vulnerable children. Whit partners with church leaders to create practical frameworks that empower congregations to serve children in need. His work is driven by a passion for building meaningful relationships and fostering long-term church engagement. A proud Kosciusko, MS native and 1997 graduate of Kosciusko High School and 2001 graduate of Mississippi College, Whit and his wife Leanne have been married for 24 years and are parents to Harrison (12), Jack Whitten (10), and Annlea (8).



John Noblin
with Lifeline
Children's Services

John Noblin has been the Mississippi and Louisiana State Director for Lifeline Children's Services for

the past six and a half years. John is a lifelong resident of Jackson as well as a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, notwithstanding a brief detour in the 90s to help plant Highlands Presbyterian in Ridgeland. He holds undergrad and law degrees from Ole Miss and has been married to his wife, Jill, for 35 years. They have two adult daughters who also live in Jackson.

FPC FACILITIES UPDATE

Arrington Rhett

It has been a joy to return for worship in the newly renovated Sanctuary during the past couple of months! The response of our people to the facilities improvements has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have been encouraged by attendance numbers at worship services.



There are several remaining “punch list” items that our contractors will be completing in the next few weeks in the office building and Sanctuary. And new audiovisual equipment was recently installed in McIntosh Hall that will significantly enhance gatherings in the gym in the future.

The majority of the remaining work is in Taylor Hall, where renovations have been paused during the past month while church leadership considered a proposal for more extensive renovation of the **Fellowship Hall**.

During the fall while we worshiped in the gymnasium, it was uplifting to see members and guests of all ages enjoying cookies, coffee, and conversation as we gathered each week. *There's a desire to provide a venue for that experience to continue in the newly renovated Taylor Hall.*

The Facilities Planning Committee and officers are reviewing options for additional modifications in Taylor Hall that we believe will provide a more spacious and welcoming area for fellowship, receptions, and studies.

With your continuing support of the **Harvest Fund**, our church will be in a position to fully fund these projects by the end of 2026!

HARVEST FUND GIVING (as of January 31, 2026)

Pledges + gifts	\$1,303,530
\$ received	\$1,137,955
Pledge balance	\$ 165,575

126 donors