

EXPRESSIONS



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

*"I am the good shepherd.
 The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
 John 10:11 ESV*



WHO IS TAKING CARE OF YOU?

Darwin Jordan

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23

Puny Humans

Human beings cannot take care of themselves. Have you ever thought about that? How can I prove that? Well, every one of us dies. Everyone of us dies, and nobody can stop it from happening. You can

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SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

gather every friend around you, a whole city around you, but nobody can keep you alive in the end. What happens then? Who takes care of you then?

Here is another thing. We are told in God's word that we are not the only beings in this world. In fact, humans are certainly the weakest link. We are the puny ones. Paul teaches in Ephesians 2 that whether or not we realize it, spiritual beings exert dominion over mankind. That may seem radical to you, but it's true. Just living for one's self instead of God is enough evidence to show a person is controlled by Satan. That's exactly what Satan wants. We are following his lead already.

We are really fragile creatures, playing in a war against powers we can't see and can't even imagine. The question is this: "Into whose hands will you entrust your life?" The choice is this: Will you entrust your life to Jesus Christ for forgiveness, change and a future that stretches into eternity, or will you not? If not, then you automatically put yourself into the hands of Satan.

No Choice Here

You really don't have a choice of serving another being. As important as you and I are as God's image, we were meant to live in obedience to God and under the protection of God. If you will not put yourself under His care, you are exposed to the molestations of other spiritual beings, and don't think that they are not strong enough, shrewd enough and subtle enough to advance your pride and self-ambition while you don't even think they exist.

You are not independent. You were made to be cared for. You were made to be protected and supported and governed. You and I are a lot like a baby duckling. My family had a duckling at a little lake one time and were amazed that it would follow us on the shore,

then in the lake and back on the shore again. It was built to follow. But it would follow an animal that wanted to eat it as well.

Apparently we human beings would too. We were made to follow, and when we don't follow God, we automatically follow someone else, one whom Christ called a murderer and a liar (John 8:44).

The Good Shepherd

This Psalm promises the best of care. It relishes and celebrates that care. It invites us to put ourselves in the hand of this great Shepherd. He gives us the best of care in all circumstances. He nourishes and protects. He gives us the most careful attention at all times. His goodness pursues us, shadows us. We will live in peace, safety and abundance forever.

And the picture only gets more beautiful when we look at God's shepherding care through a New Testament lens. In John 10:11, the Lord Jesus Christ says, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." He is referring to His death on the cross where He would stand in the place of His people, bearing the punishment for their sins (1 Peter 2:24). "The Lord is my shepherd" has taken on a meaning that we could not have imagined. God even lays down His life in order to protect us and do us good.

I would suggest to you that this is a God you can trust! If you have got to be in the hands of someone else anyway, why not God? The alternative is bleak and deadly and endless. If God would not spare His own Son to do you good, He will spare nothing else to do you good all the days of your life! (see Romans 8:32). Put yourself in His hands. Trust Christ to bear your sins and take you under His wing.

Right now, who is taking caring of you?

Darwin Jordan is Assistant Pastor of Leadership and Preaching at First Presbyterian Church.

Worship Schedule for Holy Week at FPC

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Communion Service,
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday, April 5

Sunrise Worship Service, 7:00 a.m.,
Canebrake Country Club, 18th green

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

*There will be no Sunday school on Easter.
"Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!"*



The Spring Inquirers Class is for those interested in learning more about membership at First Presbyterian Church.

If you are considering joining our church, please make plans to attend the next class scheduled to begin on **Sunday, April 12** at 9:30 a.m. in Currie Hall 201.

You may register for the Inquirers Class by scanning the QR Code. For more information, contact any member of our ministry staff.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES Spring 2026

ASAPH/MCINTOSH

Book of Acts (Ken Gunnufsen)

Faith of Our Fathers/Ralph Davis (Randy Martin)

Gospel of Luke (George Shurden)

Letter of I Corinthians (Aaron Strum)

Parlor

ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Book of Revelation (Charlie Greer)

Taylor Hall 103

CALEB/LUCAS

Gospel of Matthew (Matthew Wiggins)

Currie Hall 206

DORCAS

"Growing Older and Wiser"

(Virginia Morris)

Taylor Hall 101

LEONARD LOWREY

Minor Prophets (Joe Gibbons)

Taylor Hall 102

PRISCILLA/AQUILA

Life of Peter (Knox Baird)

Currie Hall 207

SOJOURNERS

Book of Proverbs (Josh Kines)

Currie Hall 205

Support the FPC Student Ministry!

Bake Auction

Wednesday, April 22
McIntosh Hall

Supper at 5:30 p.m. Auction begins at 6:15 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to provide baked goods!
Contact Ainslie Curtis or Sean Kittler for more info.

*All proceeds benefit our 7th - 12th grade students
attending RYM Summer Conferences and retreats in fall and spring.*



Senior Recognition Banquet

Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.
McIntosh Hall

Honoring these high school seniors and their families—

WHIT ALDERSON

MCKAY GREGG

MILLY BLAIR

SAM JONES

BURN CURRY

HALLIE JUSSLY

STELLA CLAIRE DEWS

SADIE KITTLER

ANNA GRAY

CAROLINE KOSKO

RHETT ROBERTSON