

EXPRESSIONS

The
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Grace Transforms



OUR VISION

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

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 40:11 NIV



A LIFE OF ADORATION AND DEVOTION

Kathy Young, Director of Children's Ministry

Have you heard good things about the children's ministry at our church? I certainly hope so. I hope that you've heard that our children are learning biblical truths, that the Gospel is shared with them in word and deed, and that they feel welcomed and loved in our midst. All of these are goals which we want to ultimately be used for each of our covenant children to know the Lord and follow Him with their whole hearts for their whole lives. The FPC children's ministry statement of purpose is, **"In total reliance upon God's transforming grace, our purpose is to effectively prepare children for a life of adoration and devotion to the one Triune God."** This is what we're about, what we want to do.

If you have, in fact, heard good things about our children's ministry, I want you to know a few very important things. These are not secret. First, the Lord provides. We bring our children to him, and he gives what is needed for these precious ones to know him.

Second, our church values children as part of God's Kingdom. When Knox Baird baptizes a baby, he always includes an addendum to the congregational vows which goes something like this, "By saying yes, this looks like helping in the nursery, volunteering with VBS, teaching our children, going as a chaperone on

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Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

youth trips, and praying.” This may not be the exact words that he says, but I’ve heard this many times through the years. He makes sure that we know what we’re signing up for with those congregational vows! This always makes my heart soar. We put our money where our mouths are. The children in our church are at the forefront of decisions made about resources (both physical and financial), scheduling, programming, and longterm planning. Our church sees what God is doing in our midst through the hearts and souls of our youngest members.

Third, and this directly correlates to the above: we have amazing volunteers! The good things that you hear reflect the people who are in the classrooms with the children. There are so many of these. *The morning worship service on May 3rd will focus on God’s faithfulness to our children and will offer a look at what the kiddos do and the people who teach them.* If you’ve ever wondered about volunteering in children’s ministry, ask one of these people about what it means to them, then pray about it and come see me.

Every volunteer is vital. We have people who are willing to substitute on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights, those who volunteer quarterly

to lead children’s church, and those who greet our nursery families and ensure that Goldfish crackers and apple juice are served. There are volunteers who show up every week or every other week to teach Sunday School or Wonder Nights. There are those who show up to be extra hands guiding our kiddos during special events, those who share a week (an amazing week, btw) with children at Vacation Bible School. Some volunteers work behind the scenes, organizing, planning, and preparing materials for the classrooms. Some bring food when asked. Our deacons volunteer to ensure that children have safe spaces to learn and play. All are essential. All are gifts from the Lord!

There are many ways to support the work of raising the next generation of believers and church leaders. I am always happy to tell you about those ways in case you want in on the joy!

As we praise and thank the Lord for his faithfulness, let us count those volunteers as evidence.

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*
Psalm 100:5 ESV



INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR JOSH KINES

The Session has formally called **Rev. Josh Kines** as an Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. Josh has served for the past two years as Director of Discipleship, including oversight for our Student Ministry.

Pending his approval by Grace Presbytery, there will be an installation service for Josh in June during the morning worship service.



VBS REGISTRATION INFO



FPC & Woodland
Presbyterian VBS 2026



On June 1st- 5th, we return to Narnia to learn God's word through the theme of Prince Caspian. Vacation Bible School will take place each day from 9am until noon. Please register early and invite your friends and neighbors.

Youth volunteers also need to register and indicate preferred service areas and available days and times.



PCS PRESCHOOL UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church has hosted a preschool/Kindergarten program for member families and others in the community for many years.



Since 2009, our church has partnered with **Presbyterian Christian School** to provide 3- and 4-year old preschool students with classroom, music, and recreation space at the church's facilities.



As part of the school's strategic plans, PCS will be relocating the preschool from the church campus to the PCS Elementary campus in south Hattiesburg beginning with the fall semester.



While we will certainly miss the students and their teachers next school year, this presents our church with the opportunity to imagine new ways to utilize the preschool space that would be beneficial to member families and impact the community for Christ.



A study committee has been appointed by church leaders to examine options for future utilization of Stanway Hall.



SPRING PICNIC AND CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, May 17
5:00 p.m.

We will meet out back of the church office building for a meal, fellowship, music and activities for the children!

The church will provide chicken and drinks, and members are asked to bring a favorite side dish, salad, or dessert.



WELCOME SAVANNAH PRESCOTT!

Savannah has joined our staff as Assistant to Student Ministry, and she will also have oversight for the church's social media accounts and website.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY May 3

For years on a Sunday night in May, we held a "Rally Night" to recognize our graduating 6th graders and to be encouraged by the singing of all of our children. This year we are moving it to this Sunday morning during the worship service.

Join us as we rejoice in God's goodness together and celebrate his love for us and our children.

Congratulations to our high school seniors who were recognized (and roasted!) at a special dinner in their honor on April 29.

