

EXPRESSIONS



OUR VISION

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

"Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7 ESV



CELEBRATING ONE YEAR WITH THE MERRY CLASS: SHARING THE GOSPEL IN WORD AND DEED

Julie Durfield

Every time visitors walk through the doors of our church, it is an exciting opportunity for us as members to not only welcome them into our midst, *but to strive to make the gospel – the good news of the coming of Christ's kingdom – accessible to them, in word and deed**. It is a challenging but beautiful calling of the church to do our best to meet the unique needs of those that come to worship with us. One year ago, God provided us a special opportunity to do this very thing.

June 1st is the one-year anniversary of the first meeting of the "Merry Sunday School Class". Most of you have likely seen or met the Merry Class ladies, making their way down the hall to Sunday School or to the sanctuary with big smiles on their faces. What a blessing it has been to see our church family show them the warmth and welcome of Romans 15:7. Over the past year, they have worshipped alongside all of us in our church pews on Sunday mornings, hearing the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ week after week. But to further minister to their unique needs, the Merry Sunday School Class was born. And as I share this story with you, I promise you will see the providence of God on full display!

These precious ladies are part of the resident living program at Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources (PBMHR). They visited us for the first time in April of 2025 on a recommendation from Pat Chambless, a beloved member of FPC who has gone to be with the Lord. Pat's grandson, Brandon, who

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SUNDAYS

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

we all know and love, is a resident there, and Pat had told the PBMHR staff to reach out to our church if they ever needed anything. Remembering this advice from Pat, a staff member contacted Knox Baird, because one thing these ladies all wanted desperately was a church home. Knox told them they'd be more than welcome, and they've been worshipping with us ever since.

God clearly brought these women to us, and in his gracious providence has orchestrated numerous ways for this ministry to flourish, primarily through the people of FPC. Our leadership has been enthusiastically supportive from the very beginning. Deacons, elders, staff, and our pastors have consistently met these ladies' needs in countless ways, anticipating needs and filling them before anyone could think to ask. You, as members, have been quick to greet them with smiles and hugs, handshakes and conversation. Several of the ladies have made special "buddies" with some of you and eagerly seek you out every Sunday. God called two amazing women that are perfectly gifted for this ministry. Terry Fleming and Martha Lee have become the heartbeat of this endeavor. Terry has a Special Education degree, but more importantly, a love for God's word, a gift for teaching, and a passionate dedication to these ladies. (Sidenote: one of the ladies is a former student of hers!) Martha is gifted with patience, gentleness, kindness, and wisdom. Her love for the Lord and calm demeanor bring such a peace and comfort to the classroom. As Terry frequently says, "I don't mean to brag, but I think we make a pretty good team." I am so personally blessed to have Terry and Martha in my life.

It is a gift from God to not only see these ladies grow and thrive at our church, but to call them friends and sisters in Christ. You may wonder why we call it the Merry Class. For one, they are most definitely a merry group! And at our first class, they asked

for the class to be named after the mother of Jesus. What a joy they all are. They love deeply. They are funny, kind, and thoughtful. They love Jesus and learning about the Bible. They have their share of difficulty in life, but they continue to persevere. They love shopping at Walmart and they love giving gifts. They cry for the loss of their loved ones whom they miss so much. They are compassionate and sympathetic to us and to one another. Some cannot say much, so they simply reach out a hand or nudge us and smile or use their own unique sign language. They love to laugh. They absolutely love coming to church. They learn from us, and we learn from them. It's beautiful, and God is the author of it all.

The past year has brought birthday celebrations, the Fall Festival, a field trip to Walmart and Wendy's, a Christmas party, hair and makeup for Night to Shine, gospel karaoke, and many more memories to treasure. Some of you have joined in to help in these things, and we thank you! This is the glorious combination of loving them in word and deed, and we praise God for the opportunity. My prayer is that God will continue to give us the grace and strength to respond to Christ's command in John 15:12, "This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."

We'd love you to visit us in the Merry Class! Come get to know the ladies and join us for a Bible lesson, singing, sharing, and praying. And there is always laughter.

Lori, Gracie, Vicki, Abbie, Rebecca, Cathy, Debra, Jennifer, Martha, Terry, and I would be thrilled to have you!

*Stephanie Hubach. "Special Needs Ministry; What it is and Why it matters." From *Engaging Disability With The Gospel*, the denominational disability ministry of the PCA.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mallory Norman



We are just a few days away from one of my favorite weeks of the year — Vacation Bible School! Beginning this Monday, we'll journey back into the land of Narnia as we walk through the story of *Prince Caspian*, using biblical application to share the Gospel with over 300 children.

We are so excited for all that this week holds — the transformation of our church into Narnia, Scripture memory, music, activities, and so much more. Please join us in praying that the love of Christ would be shown to each one of our children, that the Gospel would be faithfully and clearly presented, and that the Spirit would do work in the lives of the children before, during, and after VBS.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Whitney McMullan, Kathy Young, or me — we would love to have you help serve this week.

If you are unable to participate in-person, but would like to bring food to refresh our on-site volunteers, the links to sign up are below.

[Monday](#)

[Tuesday](#)

[Wednesday](#)

[Thursday](#)

[Friday](#)

Thank you, church family, for showing up year after year to serve, love, and pray for our children and volunteers. If you need a smile next week — or are simply curious to see what VBS looks like — we would love for you to stop by and experience it with us!

We're looking forward to a wonderful week!

SUMMERTIME IN THE STUDENT MINISTRY

It has been an incredible year in our youth group as we close out another school year. We are so encouraged about what the Lord is doing among our student body. Additionally, summer is now in full swing for our youth at *FPC*! We couldn't be more excited about going into the summer with a full youth staff, with **Sean Kittler** as our Student Ministry Intern and **Savannah Prescott** as our Student Ministry Assistant. Along with Pastor Josh Kines, they've planned a fun-filled schedule for our teens.

Kicking off the summer, we are excited to have many of our youth serving the younger kids during VBS. Last year we had nearly 100 teens serving, and this year looks to be another banner year of participation.

Our two biggest ministry weeks will be when the Junior High students participate in **Reformed Youth Movement (RYM)** at Panama City Beach, FL (June 22-26th), with the Senior High students following soon after (July 7th-12th). We are excited about sending nearly 60 students to the two camps this year. Please pray that this is a great time of fellowship, deep discipleship, and memories that last a lifetime.

In between these major events we will be hosting movie nights, a trip down the Okatoma, Bible studies, lake days, and many other activities. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for our youth this summer and look forward to the many ways the Lord will continue His work of growing our youth ministry as we move into the fall.



53rd PCA General Assembly

June 22-26, 2026 | Louisville, KY



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

These men have been appointed by our presbytery to one of the **Committees of Commissioners** for the PCA General Assembly (GA) scheduled for June 22-26 in Louisville, Kentucky:

Ruling Elder Bobby Blass - Committee on PCA Foundation
Teaching Elder Darwin Jordan - Committee on Interchurch Relations
Ruling Elder Randy Martin - Committee on Discipleship Ministries

Ruling Elder Paul Durfield and Teaching Elder Josh Kines will also be representing FPC Hattiesburg at the GA.

Please pray for our commissioners and for all who participate in the work of the Assembly.

Here's a link to the General Assembly Information Book:


[General Assembly Information](#)

ADULT/YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES SCHEDULE

Adult/Youth Sunday school classes will meet jointly beginning May 31 through the months of June and July. We will meet together in the Sanctuary each week at 9:30 a.m. while renovations are being completed in Taylor Hall.

This summer's study will be "Characters of the Bible," with teaching times led by Darwin Jordan, Josh Kines, and Matthew Wiggins.

May 31st - Darwin Jordan teaching on Deborah
June 7th - Josh Kines teaching on Timothy
June 14th - Matthew Wiggins teaching on Ruth
June 21st - Josh Kines teaching on Nehemiah
June 28th - Matthew Wiggins teaching on Elisha
July 5th - Darwin Jordan teaching on Rahab
July 12th - Matthew Wiggins teaching on Elijah
July 19th - Darwin Jordan teaching on Mary
July 26th - Josh Kines teaching on Mark

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