



EXPRESSIONS

OUR VISION

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

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,
because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:3-5 ESV



Discipleship Groups Are Coming!

Josh Kines

Have you heard about our new discipleship groups starting this January?

We are excited about our discipleship group ministry that will be launching this fall. What is a Discipleship Group? Discipleship groups are gender specific groups of 6-8 men or women that meet every two weeks to engage spiritual conversation rooted in Scripture. The Puritans called this type of gathering "holy conference" and considered it a means of God's grace to mature His people. The four-fold goal of these discipleship groups is to:

GROW IN

Wisdom and knowledge through God's Word

GROW WITH

Other brothers and sisters by engaging life together

GROW THROUGH

Gospel-centered conversation and prayer

GROW TOWARD

Spiritual maturity and Christlikeness

Discipleship Groups will begin in January, with sign-ups starting the first of October. When you sign up, you will be assigned to a group and your group leader will contact you. Be on the lookout for more information on registration, and contact Josh Kines if you have any questions: joshkines@fpchattiesburg.org.

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SUNDAYS

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

Operation Christmas Child 2026

Our church's fall schedule is underway and there is excitement in the air!

There are some changes regarding **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** that add to our JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) overall mission theme. We have a new storeroom that's not far from Taylor Hall, where our OCC Packing Party will be held. Having the Packing Party in Taylor Hall will provide the needed space, ease of transport, and accessibility for everyone involved. *Mark your calendar NOW for the Packing Party November 11-15.* We will need all hands to come and pack at some time slot on one or more days. Additional details about the November Packing Party and the final Pay phase will be forthcoming.

We want to remind everyone that our JOY mission ministry operates through 4 phases—PRAY, PREPARE, PACK, PAY. Currently we are asking individuals and family units to begin praying for the children who will receive a shoebox with a gospel booklet inside. Besides praying, now is also the time for preparation as well. Purchase small gifts to go inside the boxes. Our church goal is to purchase enough items to fill 1,400 boxes.

Since we purchase and collect all year long, we have already accumulated a substantial amount of items. God has blessed us with many unbelievable deals and bargains! Here are a few suggestions for places and items to buy—

- Dollar General has *Hot Wheels* cars for \$1.35, coloring books for \$1.00, and a host of other items at reasonable prices.
- Ollies has coloring books and toys.
- Walmart has a wide assortment of items.
- Amazon has many bargain choices. In addition, an [Amazon OCC Wish List](#) has been set up.

Never underestimate what our God can do when righteous people pray. Expect great things from God. Without a vision the people perish. Jesus loves the little children of the world. Let us follow His example.

Love in Christ,
Lacretta Shurden
Debera and Gary Shaw



Women's Ministry Fall Kick-Off

A special time for our ladies with fellowship, fun, and great teaching!



Children's Ministry Teacher Enrichment Luncheon

We are grateful for those who teach our children in Sunday school and at **Wonder Nights** during the school year! Teachers were honored at a luncheon on August 23.



Our Newest Members

These folks joined First Presbyterian Church in June!



Garner & Ivey Bell
with Millicent (5) and James (2)



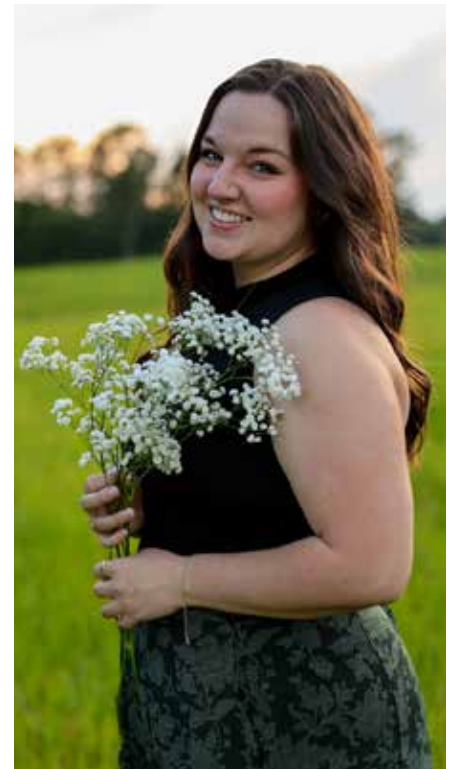
Kimberly McRoy
(pictured with sons Zach and Andrew)



Jeff & Greer Rushing
with Henry (2)



Danielle Silkman
with Liam (10)



Savannah Prescott

Upcoming Events at FPC



SEPTEMBER	7	Labor Day Church office will be closed.
	8	Grace Presbytery, New Covenant PCA, Summit
	13	Parent/Student Worship at Jacob's Creek Farm
	20	Fellowship Groups meet
	27	Visitors Lunch after worship service in Taylor Hall
OCTOBER	3	FPC Fall Festival. <i>Fun for the entire church family!</i>
	17	Church Workday. <i>All are welcome!</i>
	30-Nov 1	Student Ministry Timber Creek Retreat <i>Contact Savannah or Sean for details!</i>

Fall Preaching Series

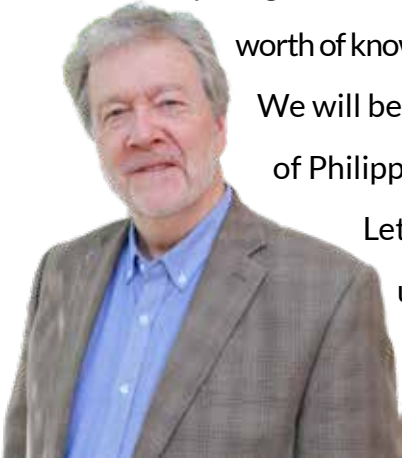
Darwin Jordan

Philippians is one of the smaller Epistles of the Apostle Paul. It is short but loaded, brimming with some of the most memorable verses in the New Testament: "Rejoice always, again I say rejoice," "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain," "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing

worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

We will begin our consideration of Philippians September 13.

Let's ask the Lord to enrich us and grow us together as we dig into this little letter.



In The Book Nook

The Certainty of Faith by Herman Bavinck

"Bavinck's discussion of both personal assurance and the reliability of God's promises is refreshingly biblical and profoundly encouraging. Bavinck declares,

[Faith] is the return of the confidence which right-minded children place in their father. In the disposition and condition of the soul on which Holy Scripture stamps the name of faith, [faith's] certainty of itself is enclosed.

First of all, there is the certainty regarding the truth of the promises of God given to us in the gospel, but then also the certainty that we personally participate in those promises out of grace. . . . Faith is certainty, and as such excludes all doubt."

-from a review by Pierce Taylor Hibbs at **The Gospel Coalition** website: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/skepticism-not-virtue/>

