

Prayer List

Robert McDavid & Family following the death of Jean Alice McDavid
 Jack & Lynda Forbus and Family (including Billy Forbus) following the death of Bob Forbus
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaie (Janet's sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay's friend)
 Wanda Hubbard
 Rubye Guest
 Dana & Matt Griffith (friends of Jetson & Bryn Taylor)
 David Mote & Family (The Folsoms' nephew)
 Wallace Cade
 Cynthia Ware
 Ann McGregor (June Carpenter's Friend)
 Albert & Glenda Clark
 Janice Kinard
 Allen & Barbara Johnson
 Gloria Gentry
 Charlie Weatherly
 Nelson Jones & Andy Lawrence
 Lydia Abraham
 LeeAnn Joe
 Andrew Whittenton
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade's Aunt)
 Peggy & Levette Johnson
 Louis Lavalley (Esther Abraham's grandfather)
 Judy Packer & John Clark Packer
 Marybeth Baker (Mara Cox's Mom)
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison's Grandmother)
 Macey & Byron Bell (Marshall Molen's sister & brother-in-law)
 Ressie Carpenter
 Rae Nell Crumpton
 Gerlene Lifer; and Keitha Scott (Gerlene's friend)
 Maxie Bruce (Brittney McAfee's father)
 Delores Irvin (Diane Daniel's sister), Sarah Helen McCloskey & Craig D. Campbell

Additional Prayer List for Health Care/Assisted Living

Dero Ramsey – The Goldton at Adelaide
 Lou Cross – The Goldton at Adelaide
 Hilda Scholtes – The Goldton at Adelaide
 Cattie Taylor – The Beehive, Starkville
 Marjorie Malone

FPC Staff

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer - Senior Pastor // mwlifer3@gmail.com
 Rev. Dean Franklin - Assistant Pastor for Youth, Children, & Families // dean@fpcstarkville.org
 Boston Hampton - Youth Ministry Director // boston@fpcstarkville.org
 Amanda Eddington - Director of FPC Christian Preschool // fpccdirector@fpcstarkville.org
 Dylan Franklin - Director of Children's Ministry // dylan@fpcstarkville.org
 Esther Abraham - Children's & Youth Ministry Intern // esther@fpcstarkville.org
 Cheryl Ewing - Financial Secretary // cheryl@fpcstarkville.org
 Dr. Craig Aarhus - Music Director
 Jennifer Blackburn - Organist

FPC Officers

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator // John Kelley, Clerk of Session
 Bob Daniels, Corporate President // Lee Weiskopf, Treasurer

Session of Elders

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Bob Daniels	Larry Anthony	Jim Beaty
Jeff Foster	Vivian Cade	Andrew George
Charlie Guest	Michele Rackley	Carl Ivey
John Turner	Lee Weiskopf	John Kelley

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Bob Boyd	Haley Graves	Jack Atkins
Boston Hampton	Wayne Huberty	Richard Blackburn
Robbie Holditch	Dalton Miller	Jay Cook
Jackie Mullen	Caitlin Rackley	Alex Massingill

MINISTRY NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES:

DIAPERS & WIPES SHOWER
 The Morrisons
 APRIL 28TH AT 10:10 AM IN
 THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
 FOR DAUGHTER,
 LAINEY FAYE
 BRING A GIFT OF DIAPERS OR WIPES FOR EACH OF THE EXPECTING COUPLES
 & JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR A BRIEF SHOWER PRESENTATION.

VBS 2024 REGISTRATION
 Kids and Volunteer Registration
 Scan the QR Code to go directly to our
 student and volunteer Registration Page or
 go to our website fpcstarkville.org.
June 10th - June 12th

All women - You're Invited!
 Join the Women in the Word Sunday school class as we begin our next study **this month**. We will study the book of Titus, and learn guidelines for living at peace and how to react to those who teach false doctrine.
 We meet at **9:30** on the second floor behind the Chapel. Please join us!
 If you have any questions please call or text
 Nancy Lifer at 843-290-8825

Men's Morning Bible Study
 Reading & Understanding
 the book of Revelation
 Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall

rightnow MEDIA
 Family Discipleship
 Resources Now Available!
 Free Access to
 Bible Study Videos—Anytime,
 Anywhere, from Any Device
 Apple, Android, FireTV, Roku

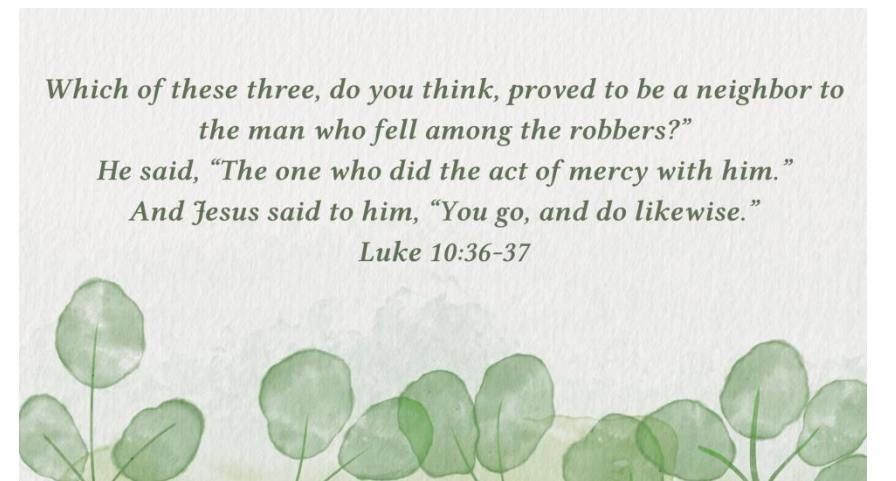
We are collecting items for
 Operation Christmas Child throughout the year!
**April- Combs, Brushes,
 and Hair Items**



We Preach the *Doctrines of Grace* and
 are Part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)

Follow our church website, fpcstarkville.org:
 Grow spiritually on the solid foundation of God's Word in the *Essentials of Our Faith*, our daily Resources for you, and our Prayer & Mission updates.

Fourth Sunday in Easter Season
April 21, 2024



Sunday Morning Schedule

Lord's Day Service | 10:30 AM
 Sunday School | 9:30 AM
 Fellowship Time | 10:10 AM
 Chapel Service of the Word | 8:30 AM

Access more information and online resources:
fpcstarkville.org

307 University Drive, Starkville, MS 39759
 662.323.1994 | info@fpcstarkville.org

Having trouble hearing the service? Please see an usher to use one of our portable hearing assistance units that are connected directly to our sound system for optimum audio.

Fourth Sunday in Easter Season, April 21, 2024
Lord's Day Service

Prelude *Simple Gifts* Jennifer Blackburn
Welcome and Invitations to Ministry Opportunities Martin Lifer
GOD CALLS US TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME TO WORSHIP
***Call to Worship: Proverbs 21:2-3 & Matthew 9:13** Dean Franklin
Minister: Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
ALL: but the LORD weighs the heart. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
Minister: [Jesus said] "Go and learn what this means:
ALL: 'I desire mercy, and not ritual sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."
***Hymn #376** *Glorious Is Thy Name, Most Holy*
***Invocation**
Thanksgiving for Aleksandr Cox and for Dero Ramsey
Anthem (Chancel Choir) *My Help Comes from the Lord*
Prayers of Praise, Confession, and Supplication Martin Lifer
The Lord's Prayer (*All*): Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
***Assurance of God's Grace: 1 Peter 4:8 and John 14:23**
Pastor: Let us
ALL: keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
Pastor: Jesus said:
ALL: "If anyone loves Me, he will obey my Word, and my Father will love him. And We will come to him and make our home with him."
***Greeting Our Neighbors in the Gospel of Grace**
Good News for Children Boston Hampton
AFFIRMING OUR FAITH AND GIVING THANKS TO GOD OUR SAVIOR
***Affirmation of Faith: (Westminster) Larger Catechism Q. 122**
Minister: What is the essence of the six commandments that cover our obligations to fellow human beings?
ALL: The essence of the six commandments is to love your neighbor as yourself, and to do to others what you would have them do to you.
***Hymn #668** *The Doxology*
Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Further Offerings Dean Franklin
Prayer of Dedication
Offertory *Wayfaring Stranger* Jennifer Blackburn
GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED
Scripture Luke 10:21-37 Pew Bible p. 868-869
[James 2:8-9,14-17 and John 14:21]
Sermon *Parable of the Good Heretic: Holy Love Lives* Martin Lifer
***Hymn #594** *Faith of Our Fathers*
BLESSED AND SENT AS AMBASSADORS IN CHRIST'S NAME
***Benediction** Martin Lifer
***Congregational Response: Three-fold Amen**
Postlude *Organ Piece in C Major* Jennifer Blackburn



*The congregation is invited to stand.

Today's flowers are given by Andrew & Stacey George to the glory of God & in celebration for the birthday of their twins, Drew & Katie Clay's 14th birthday!

Visiting with Us? We'd Love to Stay Connected!

Please fill out one of our FirstConnect Cards and drop it in the offering plate! Alternatively, you may scan our QR code or visit fpcstarkville.org/connect.



Want to find out more about faith in Christ, church membership, or ways to serve at FPC? Speak to Dean Franklin, Pastor Martin Lifer, or send an email to Pastor Martin at mwlifer3@gmail.com.

Parable of the Good Heretic: Holy Love Lives

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ April 21, 2024/ Luke 10:21-37

With a naked, beaten-nearly-to-death man (a Jew?) strapped to his pack animal – a hated Samaritan, (heretic) comes to Jewish Jericho and checks into a public inn.

Beyond racism & bad-blood-historic hatred, Jews abhorred Samaritans as HERETICS who: 1) denied Jerusalem & the Temple's exclusive import; and 2) the authority of much of the OT.

Not an earnest question but a _____ → Behold: an expert in the law stood up to put Him to the test,... "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" *Lk. 10:25*

He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord with all your heart...[soul, mind, strength] and your neighbor as yourself." *Lk. 10:26-27*

He said..., "You have answered correctly; this DO, AND you will LIVE." *Lk. 10:28 [LORD said]*
"Keep my statutes & my justice; IF a person DOES them, he shall LIVE by them" *Lev. 18:5*

But wanting to JUSTIFY HIMSELF, he said to Jesus, "And WHO is my NEIGHBOR?" *Lk. 10:29*

Prophetic Pilgrim's Gospel w/ 7 Scenes in Chiasm. #7 = completeness *vis-à-vis God & Creation*. Central to a 7-scene gospel is #4; in Ps. 23, #4 central scene is "Though I walk ... valley of death's shadow,... I fear no evil, for You are WITH ME, your rod... COMFORT ME."

Parable of the Samaritan in 7 Scenes. #4 = SEES, has COMPASSION. Cf. Dr. Ken Bailey

Scene 1 Robbers TAKE & DISREGARD man's life

Scene 2 Priest Sees, DOES NOTHING, Travels APART, SAFE

Scene 3 Levite Sees & DOES NOTHING, Travels APART, SAFE

Scene 4 "Heretic" sees, has COMPASSION & ACTS to SAVE man.

Scene 5 "Heretic" Travels WITH man → UNSAFE, Life at Risk

Scene 6 "Heretic" Takes man into Jewish City, Inn → UNSAFE, Life at Risk

Scene 7 "Heretic" GIVES (Pays) EXORBITANTLY + Guarantees RETURN & UNLIMITED CREDIT

Jesus tests & teaches the tester: "Which of these 3, do you think, proved [in the testing] to BE a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"

"The one who DID [poiēsas] the act of mercy with him." "Go, and DO [poieii] likewise."

"You've hidden these... from learned & wise and REVEALED them to little children." *Lk. 10:21*

"The one who has My commandments and keeps them is he who LOVES Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will LOVE him & REVEAL MYSELF to him." *Jn. 14:21*

"If anyone loves Me, he will obey my Word, and my Father will love him. And We will COME to him and MAKE OUR HOME WITH HIM." *Jn. 14:23*