

Prayer List

Barbara Johnson
 Bettie Cummings & family following the death of her son, Tyler
 Rubye Guest
 Roxene Atkinson
 Albert Clark
 Peggy Johnson
 Jimmy Lee Dodd
 Dero Ramsey
 Macey & Byron Bell (Marshall Molen’s sister & brother-in-law)
 Margaret Collins
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaize (Janet’s sister) and Will Taggart & family (Jay’s friends)
 Don Curto
 Libby Stephan & Jayna McQuade (daughters of Sara Wilson)
 Lesa Rhodes & Hugh Shurden (Sandy Jackson’s cousin and father)
 Maxie Bruce (Brittney McAfee’s father)
 Ressie Carpenter
 Jean Alice McDavid
 John Clark Packer
 Bob Forbus (Jack Forbus’s brother); Staci Moak (Jack’s daughter)
 Rae Nell Crumpton
 Gerlene Lifer; and Keitha Scott (Gerlene’s friend)
 Dr. Joe Brown
 Roy D. Dreher, Jr. (Jennie Beth Chance’s father)
 Delores Irvin (Diane Daniel’s sister), Sarah Helen McCloskey & Craig D. Campbell (Daniels’ friends)

Additional Prayer List for Health Care/Assisted Living

Dero Ramsey – The Claiborne
 Carl Ivey, Sr., & Nina Ivey – The Claiborne
 Lou Cross – The Claiborne
 Jimmy Lee Dodd – Huntsville, AL
 Hilda Scholtes – The Claiborne
 Cattie Taylor – The Beehive, Starkville
 Marjorie Malone
 Thelma Purdy

FPC Officers

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

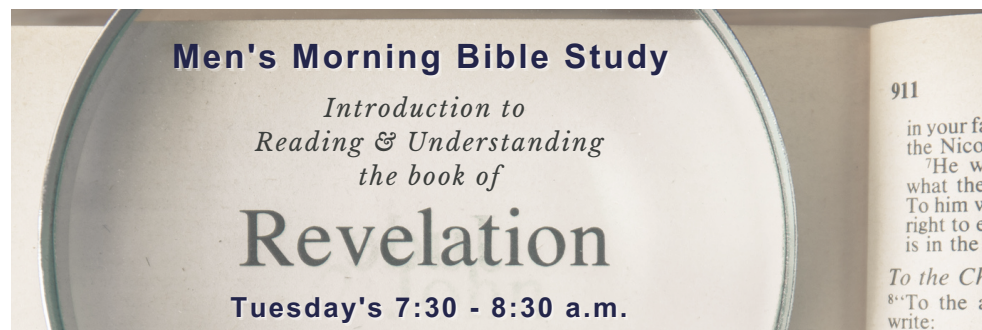
Session of Elders

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Richard Blackburn	Bob Daniels	Larry Anthony
Andrew Fountain	Jeff Foster	Vivian Cade
John Kelley	Charlie Guest	Michele Rackley
Kristen Skinner	John Turner	Lee Weiskopf

Board of Deacons

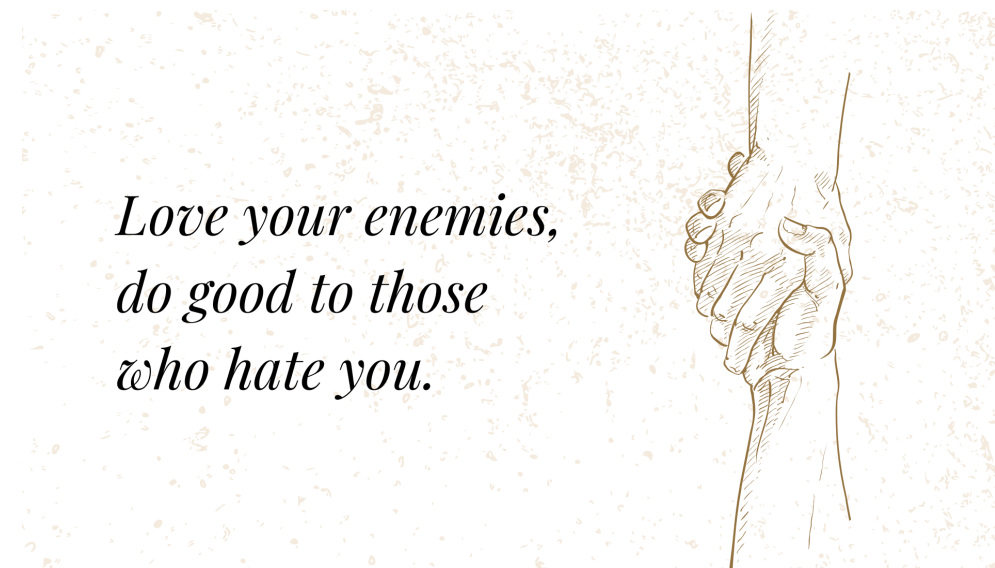
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Debbie Cooper	Bob Boyd	Haley Graves
Johnny Folsom	Boston Hampton	Wayne Huberty
Mike Jackson	Robbie Holditch	Dalton Miller
Alex Massingill	Jackie Mullen	Caitlin Rackley

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Starkville’s Church that Preaches the *Doctrines of Grace*
 Part of the *Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

July 23, 2023
Eighth Lord’s Day
After Pentecost



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

Prelude *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Marquita Beaty

Welcome & Announcements Reid Roberson

God Calls Us

***Call to Worship** *Hosea 2:21-23* Reid Roberson

And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,

I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth,

and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and they shall answer Jezreel, and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people';

and he shall say, "You are my God."

***Invocation**

***Hymn #149** *Praise Him! Praise Him!* JOYFUL SONG

God Cleanses Us

Confession of Sin Reid Roberson

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We confess to You that we have grievously sinned in thought, word, and deed.

Make us truly repentant. Fill us with holy fear, and give us grace to conform

our lives to Your Word, for the glory of Your holy Name, through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

***Assurance of God's Grace** *Romans 5:9-10*

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,

much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

***Hymn #668** *Doxology* OLD 100TH

God Consecrates Us

Call to Give God His Tithes & Our Offerings Reid Roberson

Offertory *Sweet By and By* Marquita Beaty

***Confession of Faith** *Larger Catchism 178 & 183* Reid Roberson

What is prayer?

Prayer is offering our desires to God in the name of Christ with the help of his Spirit, confessing our sins and thankfully recognizing his mercies.

For whom should we pray?

We should pray for the entire church of Christ on earth, for civil authorities and ministers, for ourselves and fellow believers, and, yes, for our enemies. We should pray for all humans who are alive, and those who are going to live in the future. But we should not pray for the dead or for those who are known to have sinned the sin that leads to death.

***Hymn #670** *Glory Be to the Father* GREATORIX

Prayer of Intercession Martin Lifer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Special Music *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* Collier Martin

Prayer for Illumination Martin Lifer

Scripture *Luke 6:20-36* Pew Bible p. 862

Sermon *Enemies of Love* Martin Lifer

God Commissions Us

***Hymn #250** *And Can It Be* SAGINA

***Benediction** Martin Lifer

***Sung Response** *Threefold Amen* DANISH



Postlude *To God Be the Glory* Marquita Beaty



**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Enemies of Love

[Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ July 23, 2023]

Real threats to our souls: not *other people we call "enemies"* but **external AND internal**

. Cf. Eph. 6:12

Gospel LOVE is a _____ . Self-Giving Love-in-ACTION – extended even to Enemies – is the Heart of: (1) God's Gospel; (2) Jesus' coming & saving us; and (3) any truly saved & sanctified Christ-follower living in the Spirit's power.

Qumran (*Dead Sea Community*) command: "**hate all the sons of darkness.**" IQS 1.10-11

"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." Lk. 6:27

Jesus' command to *love & do good* to your enemies: "**most of all sets his ethic of love apart** from other *love ethics* of antiquity" [Furnish, *Love Command*]; brings "a totally new orientation of love" [Becker, *Jesus of Nazareth*]; "is the **high point of overcoming of self**, the surrender of one's own claim." [Bultmann, *Jesus and the Word*]; **and is Jesus' crucible command for refining believers as God's children who glorify Him.** [ML]

"Trilemma" re Jesus' Sonship assertions: A) **Liar**, B) **Lunatic**, or C) **Lord?** [Duncan; Knee; Lewis]

Similarly, re his Upside-down Beatitudes & Woes, enemy-love commands; is Jesus a A) **Cynic**, B) **Flighty Mystic**, C) **Lunatic**, ...or D) **Prophet**, ... OR E) **THE King & Judge?**

Christ's Command takes us to the Crucible of the Cross, Exposing the Enemies of Love that Threaten Our Souls:

Satan, Selfishness, and Sin (*desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes & pride of life/possessions*)

Fear & Anxiety, ... Anger, Hatred & Depression, ... Guilt, Shame & Self-Hatred

Fear (& actual experience) of: Poverty, Hunger, Grief, Rejection & Harm cf. Lk. 6:20-26

Psalm 23 & Luke 6:20-36

FOLLOW God's Loving Call (His Word)

FEAR NOT Want (*Poverty & Hunger*), **Death** (*Grief*), **Evil** (*Rejection & Harm*)

FELLOWSHIP with the Lord IN THE PRESENCE OF My Enemies

Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee is looking for confidential suggestions for officers. Forms are available at the tables in the front and back of the Fellowship Hall.

Suggestions are due by July 31.

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 or Reid Roberson, or send an email to Pastor Martin at mwlifer3@gmail.com

