

Prayer List

Betty Ann & Johnny Folsom, together with the Aarhus family & other family members -- following the death Betty Ann's older brother, Glenn Lambeth

Peggy Johnson
 Charlie & Rubye Guest
 Don & Kathy Curto
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison's Grandmother)
 Albert Clark
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade's Aunt)
 John Clark Packer
 Cynthia Ware
 Jennifer Blackbourn
 Gloria Gentry
 Barbara Johnson
 Andy Lawrence
 Lydia Abraham
 Lea Pitre (Diane King's Neighbor)
 Jack Thompson (Alex Adam's Uncle)
 Margaret Collins
 Roxene Atkinson
 Mattie Mason during her trip to Paraguay
 Macey & Byron Bell (Marshall Molen's sister & brother-in-law)
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaise (Janet's sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay's friends)
 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
 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' friend)

Additional Prayer List for Health Care/Assisted Living

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

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 Blackbourn	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

Wednesday, September 20, Dinner Menu

Adult Plate: BBQ Pork, Potato Salad, Mac & Cheese, Banana Pudding

Kids Plate: Cheese Burger, Mac & Cheese, Cookies

Name _____
 Phone # _____
 # of Adult Plates _____ # of Kids Plates _____



To sign up, drop this tear-off form in the offering plate, or scan the code for the online form by Monday, September 18th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S MINISTRY CIRCLES
 There's still time to join a women's circle in September!
 Tuesday, September 19th
 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
 REACH OUT TO THE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS: 662-323-1994

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FPC ARE BACK!
 All are welcome to join us for men's, women's, children & youth bible studies!
 Dinner at 5:15 p.m.
 Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY
 Ladies,
 Join us for this bible study where 6 beloved teachers will guide us through a prayer from the Bible that can inspire and transform your own prayer life. We will meet on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall
 Books are \$25 and available in the FPC office!

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

TEAM COLORS BREAKFAST
 Join us TODAY Sunday, September 17th at 10:00 in the Breezeway



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STARKVILLE

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

September 17, 2023
 Sixteenth Lord's Day
 After Pentecost

“John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour He healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind He bestowed sight.

LUKE 7:20 & 21

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

September 17, 2023
Lord's Day Service

Prelude *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* Marquita Beaty

Welcome & Announcements Martin Lifer

— *God Calls Us* —

Call to Worship *Adapted from Luke 4:17-21* Martin Lifer

The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Jesus. And unrolling the scroll, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to release the oppressed in freedom: to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And after rolling up the scroll and giving it back to the attendant, Jesus sat down.

And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Then He began to say to them:

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

***Invocation**

***Hymn #289** *Days of Elijah* DAYS OF ELIJAH

— *God Cleanses Us* —

Confession of Sin Dean Franklin

Holy God,
Be merciful to us; we are sinners.

O Jesus, Judge of the living and the dead,

Inspire us truly to repent. May we love one another. May we love, praise and support your gospel mission to the nations.

We will each stand before your Judgment Seat soon. Yet today, by your grace, You invite us to call upon your Name and to know everlasting forgiveness and peace in your Spirit. Please then, O Lord, hear our silent confessions of sins. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Grace** *from Isaiah 29:19,24*

The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction.

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

— *God Consecrates Us* —

Call to Give God His Tithes & Our Offerings Dean Franklin

(If you would like to give to today’s special offering towards FPC’s support of Mission India’s ministry help to persecuted Christians and churches in the State of Manipur, please write in the memo line [India-Manipur](#))

Offertory *Give Me Jesus* Marquita Beaty

Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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.

Anthem *Come to Jesus* Chancel Choir

***Confession of Faith** *from The Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 14* Dean Franklin

The gift of faith makes it possible for the souls of the elect to be saved by believing in Jesus Christ. This faith has different degrees of strength and weakness. It may be attacked and weakened often, and in many ways, but it gets the victory.

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

Good News for Children Missy Walters

***Hymn #473** (vv. 1 & 3) *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* CLOSER WALK

Prayer for Illumination Martin Lifer

Scripture *Luke 3:15-20, 7:18-23* Pew Bible pp. 858 & 863

Sermon *Impatient with Jesus* Martin Lifer

— *God Commissions Us* —

***Hymn #338** (vv. 1 & 3) *Wonderful Words of Life* WONDERFUL GRACE

***Response to the Good News of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior**

All our sins,
We send to the Cross of Christ!

All our troubles,
We send to the Cross of Christ!

All the devil’s works,
We send to the Cross of Christ!

All our hopes,
We set on the Risen Christ!

***Benediction** Martin Lifer

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



Postlude *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Marquita Beaty



**The congregation is invited to stand.*

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.



Today’s Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Betty Foley Bell by Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bell III and Mr. & Mrs. Robby Holditch.

“Bless you prison!... disclosed to me that that the line between good and evil passes not between ...political parties but right through every human heart... Lying on the rotting prison straw, I came to realize that the object of life is not prosperity as we are made to believe, but the maturity of the human soul.” A. Solzhenitsyn

Impatient with Jesus

[Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ September 17, 2023]
Luke 3:15-20, 7:18-23

For the prisoner, time slows down. Walnut Grove Correctional Facility

Impatience or Inspiration

Lk. 3:19-20 John (wilderness prophet) imprisoned by evil Herod the Tetrarch. **Machaerus**

Jesus “wandering” in Galilee for months, miraculously helping even Gentiles & poor widows but *not* delivering prompt judgment on “the chaff,” political revolution, or freedom for John. cf. Lk. 3:16

Lk. 7:18-20 John deputizes 2 disciples, delegation to query/push Jesus on Identity. (Deut. 17:6/ 19:15)

“Are you *the One Who Is to Come*, or shall **we look for Another?**” i.e. **Where is the Kingdom?!**

FAITH (*Gentile Centurion*) v. **FRUSTRATION** (*Israel’s Prophet*) Type A v. Type A

Lk. 7:21ff. Jesus’ Twofold Answer: **God’s saving grace rule in (1) Deed ... & (2) Word.**

Lk. 7:22-23 He answered them, “Go and tell John **what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight** [], **the lame walk** [], **lepers are cleansed** [], and the **deaf hear** [], **the dead are raised up** [], the **poor have good news preached** to them [],...

Is. 29:18-19, 35:5-6 *but not* 34:4. 42:7a & 61:1a & 2a *but not* 61:2b... *and not even* 42:7b & 61:1b!

and blessed is he who is not offended by Me! []” Jesus’ “forgotten” Beatitude

Uniquely **Gracious but Challenging** *all re* our **relation to Christ: “Blessed is he who is [mē skandalisthē] not offended/scandalized by Me.”**

Is. 8:13-14 LORD of hosts will be both a Sanctuary *and* a **stone of offense & rock of stumbling** to all Israel.

Warning *and* Invitation to anyone doubting & impatient with Jesus/ 2 Cor. 5:16-17; Rom. 12:1-2