

**Prayer List**

Sandy Ramsey & Family – following the death of Dero Ramsey  
 Robert McDavid & Family - following the death of Jean Alice McDavid  
 Lydia Abraham  
 Dana Griffith & Matt Griffith (friends of Jetson & Bryn Taylor)  
 Jack & Lynda Forbus; Billy Forbus (Jack’s brother)  
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaise (Janet’s sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay’s friend)  
 Wanda Hubbard  
 Rubye Guest  
 Tindall Morrison’s; Barbara Tindall (Tindall’s Grandmother)  
 Billy Brown (father of Darinda Gruchy)  
 David Mote & Family (The Folsoms’ nephew)  
 Wallace Cade; Earline Howell (Wallace’s aunt)  
 Cynthia Ware  
 Albert & Glenda Clark  
 Janice Kinard  
 Allen & Barbara Johnson  
 Gloria Gentry  
 Charlie Weatherly  
 Andy Lawrence  
 LeeAnn Joe  
 Andrew Whittenton  
 Ann McGregor (June Carpenter’s Friend)  
 Peggy & Levette Johnson  
 Louis Lavalée (Esther Abraham’s grandfather)  
 Judy Packer & John Clark Packer  
 Marybeth Baker (Mara Cox’s Mom)  
 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**

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 // mwlfir3@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 // fpcdirector@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:**

**Community-Wide National Day of Prayer**  
 Thursday, May 2  
 12 P.M.  
 Front Lawn of First Presbyterian

**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](http://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 TV, Fire TV, Apple TV, Roku

**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.



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

Follow our church website, [fpcstarkville.org](http://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.

*Fifth Sunday in Easter Season*  
**April 28, 2024**

"Martha, Martha! You are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."  
 Luke 10:41b-42

**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](http://fpcstarkville.org)**

307 University Drive, Starkville, MS 39759  
 662.323.1994 | [info@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:info@fpcstarkville.org)



Fifth Sunday in Easter Season, April 28, 2024  
Lord's Day Service

Prelude (Jennifer Blackbourn) *Prelude in G* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Invitations to Ministry Opportunities Martin Lifer

**GOD CALLS US TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME TO WORSHIP**

\*Call to Worship: Lamentations 3:22-24 Dean Franklin

Minister: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

**ALL: His mercies never come to an end!**

Minister: They are new every morning.

**ALL: O LORD – great is your faithfulness! My soul says:**

**“The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will hope in Him.”**

\*Hymn #96 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\*Invocation

Thanksgiving Celebrations for:

Mission Partner *The Palmer Home for Children (Drake Bassett, Pres.); and the Morrison Family*

Prayers of Praise, Confession, and Supplication Martin Lifer

\*Assurance of God's Grace: *Psalm 73:24-26*

Pastor: You guide me with your counsel, and afterward You will receive me to glory.

**ALL: Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I**

**desire besides You.**

Pastor: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart.

**ALL: And God is my portion forever.**

\*Greeting Our Neighbors in the Gospel of Grace

Good News for Children Dean Franklin

**AFFIRMING OUR FAITH AND GIVING THANKS TO GOD OUR SAVIOR**

\*Affirmation of Faith - *from The (Westminster) Shorter Catechism Q. 1* Boston Hampton

Minister: What is man's primary purpose?

**ALL: Man's primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.**

\*Hymn #668 *The Doxology*

Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Further Offerings Dean Franklin

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Deep River* Jennifer Blackbourn

**GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

Scripture Luke 9:28-35, 10:21-25 & 10:38-42 Pew Bible p. 867-869

[*Psalms 73:21-28 & 16:5-6 and Luke 10:36-37*]

Sermon *Woman's Place? Choosing What Lasts* Martin Lifer

\*Hymn #524 *Seek Ye First*

**GOD'S WORD SEALED: THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation to the Lord's Table; Words of the Lord's Institution of the Supper

Sursum Corda: Martin Lifer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us lift up our hearts on high.... from whence He will come again.

**ALL: We lift up our hearts to the Lord.**

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty – Who was, and is, and is to come!

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Consecration, and Petition

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.

Sharing the Bread, and Sharing the Cup

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

**BLESSED AND SENT AS AMBASSADORS IN CHRIST'S NAME**

\*Benediction

\*Response (ALL): *Three-fold Amen*; and Postlude

**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 [fpcestarkville.org/connect](http://fpcestarkville.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](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com).

**Woman's Place? Choosing What Lasts**

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ April 28, 2024/ Luke 10:38-42

Kenza Haddock, *An Ex-Muslim's Guide to Christianity* (April 2024)

Kingdom Gospel: Jesus saves us from ourselves (*being our own gods & saviors*). *Gen. 3:4,15*

Don't *fly-by* or *stand over* Jesus, unloading on Him to fix *your* people, worries & troubles *by your word*. Sit at His Feet; Lose & Find Yourself in Him; live *by HIS Word*.

**Martha:** A Controller – insisting on “serving” the Lord & her family *HER way*;

a Doer *by the Law*, doing before listening; “Anxious & Troubled *about* many things”

→ **Angry at Mary**

→ **Angry at Jesus** (Who doesn't answer her prayers *HER Way*, so “*doesn't care.*”)

→ Standing to put Him to the test *cf. Torah expert stood to put Him to the test*  
Martha, **expert in the way we do things in our family** stood up to put Him to the test

Peter's **Doing-before-listening**, and **God's Rebuke:** “Let us make three tabernacles:...”  
[God] “**THIS is MY SON, the Chosen One; LISTEN to Him!**”

**Mary: At King Jesus' Feet, LISTENING** [ēkouen] to **His WORD** [ton logon autēs]:

- His **DISCIPLE: HEARS His Word & DOES it**, in His Kingdom Mission.

- **Undividedly Belonging & Submitted to Him, *not to others*** or their agendas.

*At peace & a free woman* with others, *even her controlling older sister* (freed from fighting, defensiveness, or people-pleasing)

WITH Jesus → **At peace with herself (through Him), not distracted or anxious with striving after many things to justify herself;** able to enjoy (worship) and hear Him.

Listening, not unloading! Focused on His love & being shaped by His Word, not her 1,000+ feelings, thoughts & agendas.

“**Martha, Martha!** You are **anxious and troubled** about many things,

but **one thing/small** [oligōn] **is necessary.** → **Subtract & focus! Go SMALL! Go One!**

For **Mary** has **chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken from her.**”

The LORD is **my chosen PORTION** and MY CUP; You hold my lot. *Ps. 16:5*

One *thing* I've asked of the LORD, that will I seek: to  **dwell** שָׁבְתִי [lit. **SIT**] in the **LORD's House** all my life's days, to **gaze upon** the **LORD's beauty**, and to **inquire** in his Temple. *Ps. 24:7*

**Whom have I in heaven but You? And there's nothing on earth I desire besides You.** My flesh & my heart may fail. The strength of my heart & **my portion is God, forever!** *Ps. 73:25-26*



*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*