

Prayer List

Gwen McReynolds
 Hugh Shurden, Sandy Jackson, Jim Rhodes & Family following the death of Lesa Rhodes
 (Jim's wife & Sandy's cousin)
 Cynthia Ware
 Margaret Collins

The Peace of Jerusalem & Israel; all persons grieving bereaved by the killing or abduction of loved ones in the current war in Israel and Gaza; all hostages; first responders and those in military service; all ministry leaders of our mission partner, CMJ-Israel; US armed forces members; ... and Pam Minyard (Diane King's friend), a tour group from Crosspoint, and all other tourists visiting Israel and surrounding nations this month.

Peggy Johnson
 Andrew Whittenton
 Don & Kathy Curto
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison's Grandmother)
 Albert Clark
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade's Aunt)
 John Clark Packer
 Clayton Butler (son of the Lifer's friends, Gary & Kristen Butler)
 Gloria Gentry
 Barbara Johnson
 Andy Lawrence
 Lydia Abraham
 Lea Pitre (Diane King's Neighbor)
 Jack Thompson (Alex Adam's Uncle)
 Libby Stephan & Jayna McQuade (daughters of Sara Wilson)
 Roxene Atkinson
 Thelma Purdy (Neena Howell's mother and Dylan Franklin's grandmother)
 Macey & Byron Bell (Marshall Molen's sister & brother-in-law)
 Janet, Gary & Jay Bardwell, Linda Necaize (Janet's sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay's friends)
 Lesa Rhodes & Hugh Shurden (Sandy Jackson's 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)
 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

Carl Ivey, Sr., & Nina Ivey – The Goldton
 Jimmy Lee Dodd – Huntsville, AL
 Dero Ramsey – The Goldton
 Lou Cross – The Goldton
 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 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

Wednesday, October 18, Dinner Menu

Adult Plate: Smoked Pork Butt, Scalloped Potatoes & Apple Crisps

Kids Plate: Chicken Sliders, French Fries & Pudding

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, October 16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

STEWARDSHIP LUNCH
 JOIN US NOVEMBER 12TH FOR LUNCH FOLLOWING OUR 10:30 SERVICE.

YOUTH FALL RETREAT BAY SPRINGS LAKE
 NOVEMBER 10-12 | \$150
 Scan the QR Code to sign up!

We are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child throughout the year!
 THIS MONTH:
 Toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, pencils, scissors, markers, crayons & girl toys



All are invited to the Community Band Concert - conducted by FPC's Johnny Folsom - located at MSU's Kent Sills Band Hall on Sunday, October 15th at 2 p.m.



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

October 15, 2023
 Twentieth Lord's Day
 After Pentecost

For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

JUDGES 13:5

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

October 15, 2023
Lord's Day Service

Prelude *Praise Him! Praise Him* Jennifer Blackburn

Welcome & Announcements Martin Lifer

Call to Worship *from Amos 1:6-7a & 2:4-5; and Isaiah 55:3a,6* Dean Franklin

Thus says the LORD:
“For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four,
I will not revoke the punishment,
Because they carried into exile a whole people
To deliver them up to Edom, so I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds.”

Thus says the LORD:
“For three transgressions of Judah, and for four,
I will not revoke the punishment,
Because they have rejected the Law of the LORD,
And have not kept his statutes.

But their lies have led them astray – those after which their fathers walked.
So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.”

Thus says the LORD: “Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live.”
We will seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him, while He is near!

***Invocation** Dean Franklin

***Hymn #538** (vv. 1 & 4) *Once to Every Man and Nation* BEECHER

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 *Always By Our Side* Chancel Choir

Good News for Children Dean Franklin

***Confession of Faith** *from The Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 150* Martin Lifer

Are all sins not equally evil in themselves and in the eyes of God?
All sins are not equally evil in themselves and in the eyes of God. In the eyes of God, some of them are more evil in themselves, and others are more evil because of the harm that results from them.

***Confession of Sin** Martin Lifer

As we prepare to confess our sin, let us remember God's Word from Judges 17:6 and 21:25:
In those days, there was no king in Israel. Everyone did whatever was right in his own eyes.

Righteous God, we confess that we often are like the ancient Israelites.
We do whatever is right in our own eyes, instead of obeying your Word. Please forgive and save us in the Righteousness of Christ our King. Lead us to repent of our sin, and give us eyes of faith to trust in Jesus and to follow His Way.

***Assurance of God's Grace** *from Isaiah 55:7a*

Let the wicked abandon his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let the unrighteous return to the LORD, that the LORD may have compassion on him; Let us turn to our God, for He will abundantly pardon!

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

Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory+ *In Christ Alone* Martin Lifer

***Hymn #66** *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Jennifer Blackburn

***Prayer for Illumination** *from Psalm 119:18* OPEN THE EYES Martin Lifer

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things from your instruction.

Scripture *Judges 13:1-5; 16:1-6 & 16:15-31* Pew Bible pp. 213-216

Sermon *Gaza's Captive; God's Salvation* Martin Lifer

***Hymn #83** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

***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**

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



Postlude Jennifer Blackburn



**The congregation is invited to stand.*



Today's Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God by Will & Caitlin Rackley.
If you are interested in providing flowers for Sunday, please reach out to Olivia at 662-323-1994

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.



Gaza's Captive; God's Salvation

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ October 15, 2023/
Judges 13:1-5; Judges 16:1-6 & 16:15-31

those days, no king in Israel. Everyone did whatever was right in his own eyes. Jdg. 21:25

Individualism! Free from God & Rule! Politics of Anger! → rising violent crime, terror, wars: **CHAOS**

God raised judges to save his people, but they rejected his Word & “whored after other gods.” Jdg. 2:16-17

Samson (Jdg. 13-16): Last Judge in Book; Longest Account;; Annunciation & Miracle Birth
Israelites again did what was evil in the LORD's sight, so ... gave them into Philistines' hand 40 years Jdg. 13:1

Angelic Annunciation to Manoah's Barren Wife of Miraculous Conception & Set-Apart Child: Jdg. 13:3-5

Before Samson's birth, God elects & sets him apart– giving him holy vows & a savior's call

Samson's Spirit-endued strength but sinful sight → “she is right in my eyes” Jdg. 14:3
(1) His Philistine Wife in Timnah; (2) the Gaza Prostitute; (3) Delilah

16:1 Human “Freedom” & “Sight”: Samson freely goes to GAZA to SEE a Prostitute.

16:21 Human Freedom & Seeing No More: Shackled Samson goes to GAZA BLIND.

16:4,18 Human “Freedom” & Heart: Samson loves with & tells all his heart to Delilah.

“Samson was Israel:” Set apart for the LORD but resistant & waywardly desiring the world. Israel went after foreign gods; Samson went after foreign women; only prayed in desperation. B. Webb, *Judges*

16:23-31 Divine Sovereignty, Heart & Sight: Gaza's Captive; God's Salvation

Manoah's barren wife → Samson *forerunner of* No king & only begins salvation from Philistines
Barren Hannah → Samuel *forerunner of* King David, who completes salvation from Philistines
Barren Elizabeth → John *forerunner of* Jesus, Who completes salvation from Satan & Sin 1 Jn.:3:8

“Our loss is great, but God is greater.” on Brandon Burlsworth's Gravestone, leading to title of bio movie *Greater*