

Prayer List

Margaret & Ross Collins
 Ruby Guest
 Judy Packer & John Clark Packer
 Albert & Glenda Clark
 Wanda Hubbard
 Andrew Whittenton
 David Mote & Family (The Folsoms' nephew)
 Allen & Barbara Johnson
 Cynthia Ware
 Carl Ivey, Jr. and Family following the death of Carl Ivey, Sr. & Nina Ivey
 Sylvia & Larry Melton (Kathy Wright's parents)
 Billy & Bob Forbus (Jack Forbus's brothers); Staci Moak (Jack's daughter)
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade's Aunt)
 Hugh Shurden (Sandy Jackson's Father)
 Gloria Gentry
 Roxene Atkinson
 Ernie George
 Charlie Weatherly
 Peggy & Levette Johnson
 Lydia Abraham
 Jack Thompson (Alex Adam's Uncle)
 Marybeth Baker (Mara Cox's Mom)
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison's Grandmother)
 Rilda Cox
 Andy Lawrence
 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 Necaise (Janet's sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay's friends)
 Maxie Bruce (Brittney McAfee's father)
 Ressie Carpenter
 Rae Nell Crumpton
 Gerlene Lifer; and Keitha Scott (Gerlene's friend)
 Delores Irvin (Diane Daniel's sister), Sarah Helen McCloskey & Craig D. Campbell

Wednesday, January 24, Dinner Menu

Adult Plate: Spaghetti & Meatballs & Pineapple Upside-down Cake
 Kids Plate: Same as Adults!

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, January 22

FPC Officers

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Moderator //
 Bob Daniels, Corporate President // Lee Weiskopf, Treasurer

Session of Elders

Board of Deacons

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Bob Daniels	Larry Anthony	Jim Beaty	Bob Boyd	Haley Graves	Jack Atkins
Jeff Foster	Vivian Cade	Andrew George	Boston Hampton	Wayne Huberty	Richard Blackburn
Charlie Guest	Michele Rackley	Carl Ivey	Robbie Holditch	Dalton Miller	Jay Cook
John Turner	Lee Weiskopf	John Kelley	Jackie Mullen	Caitlin Rackley	Alex Massingill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You're invited!
Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Studies
January 24
How to get more out of the Bible.
with Pastor Martin Lifer

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

PRISCILLA SHIRER
JONAH
 Navigating a Life Interrupted

Ladies Bible Study - Starting Jan. 25
 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams.

Books: \$20
 Reach out to Olivia in the church office for more information!

Prepare to receive the Lord's Supper faithfully next Sunday.



We invite all baptized and affirming believers who are prepared to discern and partake of the Body and who are active in our congregation or any other evangelical church, professing personal faith in salvation through Jesus Christ, to a focused week of preparation for Holy Communion. God's Word instructs that our preparation should include Spirit-led self-examination, repentance, and reconciliation to God and to others (particularly fellow believers to whom we have been estranged), trusting in God's grace.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Tomorrow marks the 40th anniversary of the first federally-recognized National Sanctity of Human Life Day (January 22, 1984) declared by President Ronald Reagan. Today as a church family, we remember this anniversary and affirm our commitment to God's blessing of all human beings, male and female, made in His Image, together with the Sixth Commandment, and we welcome at our 10:30 a.m. Lord's Day Service Carol Lee, Director of FPC's Mission Partner 1st Steps Clinic.



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

January 21, 2024

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

Luke 9:35

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

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

January 21, 2024
Lord's Day Service

Prelude *Prelude in G Major* Jennifer Blackburn
Welcome & Ministry News Martin Lifer
***Call to Worship** *Revelation 21:22-24* Dean Franklin

And I saw no temple in the city,
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

***Hymn #55** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*
Invocation Dean Franklin

Anthem
Good News from FPC Mission Partner 1st Steps Clinic Carol Lee, Director

***Hymn #668** *Doxology*
***Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Offerings**

Offertory *How Can I Keep from Singing?* Jennifer Blackburn

Prayers of Confession, Petition & 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.

***Assurance of God's Grace** *from John 6:37,39*
Jesus said,

"All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.
And this is the will of Him who sent Me:
that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

***Greeting Our Neighbors in the Grace of Christ**
Good News for Children

***Confession of Faith** *from The (Westminster) Larger Catechism, Q. & A. 1*
What is the primary and highest purpose of human beings?

The primary and highest purpose of human beings is to glorify God and to enjoy Him fully forever.

***Hymn #34** *O Lord, You're Beautiful*
Scripture *Luke 9:18-36* Pew Bible pp. 867

Sermon *Heaven on Earth* Martin Lifer

***Hymn #279** *There Is a Redeemer*
***Benediction**

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


Postlude Jennifer Blackburn



*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.

FirstConnect Lunch & Learn

FEB. 4 | 11:45 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL



Visiting our church? Interested in learning more about becoming a member at FPC? Pastor and Nancy Lifer with other staff invite you to FirstConnect Lunch! Email: info@fpcstarkville.org to sign up!

Heaven on Earth

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ January 21, 2024/ Luke 9:18-36

'New Orleans-Style' Wings Are a Global Sensation. Just Not in New Orleans, Weilun Sun, WSJ (01/14-15/24)

Beyond Utopia, Independent Lens film, Madeleine Gavin, Director (01/09/24)

Who is Jesus? Lk. Ch. 4-9

In 9:18-26, we read the **Penultimate Identification(s)** of:

- (a) Jesus = The Christ *Who is the praying, prophetic, AND imminent Son of Man;*
- (b) His Mandated Mission *by God's Word:* Suffering, Rejection, Death, & Resurrection.
- (c) The Choice & Way of Disciples *Personally & Publicly:* i) Confess Jesus as God's Christ; ii) Know & Trust Jesus in His *Son of Man Way* (Suffering, Rejection, Death & Resurrection); iii) Deny Themselves, Die to Themselves, & Take up Their Cross and Follow Him. 9:24-26 *Choice between 2 Ways of Life: try to save yourself, or trust Jesus as Savior.*

9:27 **Jesus' Prophecy & Promise - Some Disciples will see God's Kingdom before death:** "there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Kingdom of God."

What is God's Kingdom? Where is God's Kingdom? How can I see & enter it?
"Behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst." Lk. 17:21; see also Lk. 10:9 & Mt. 12:28

God's Plan: NOT for us to escape to Heaven but bring _____ on _____

Jesus teaches us to pray for - *and to seek* - the Kingdom of Heaven on _____

"unless born again...of water & the Spirit"/ "better to enter God's Kingdom with one eye" Jn. 3:3-5/ Mk. 9:47

9:28-36 gives the **Ultimate Identification, God's Revelation: HEAVEN ON EARTH in Jesus** ("My Son, the Chosen") **& in His Word** ("Hear Him"); know & obey → *Heaven on Earth*

about 8 days after these sayings – taking Peter, John & James –

He went up on the mountain to pray. And it came to pass, **as He was praying,**

Jesus' Glorification Comes in His _____ with His Father, but the Father's revelation from the prayer is not to Jesus but to _____

His face's appearance *was transformed*, and his clothing *became white as lightning*

Behold, two men were talking with Him, Moses & Elijah, who appeared in glory.

They were **speaking of his exodus**, which He was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Sleepy disciples "see" Jesus' Glory, but Simon misses Heaven on Earth – the Gospel of WHO & WHAT Jesus is – *rushing instead to OT Edifice Complex.* 9:32-33; cf. Acts 7:48-49

Heavenly Cloud → disciples' fear ← Voice from Cloud (the Father):

"This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him!" /Jesus Alone 9:35-36

Let the Word of Christ live in you richly. Col. 3:16 / A. Davis, [How to Memorize Scripture for Life](#)

Arise, shine (*be light*), for your Light has come, & the LORD's Glory has risen upon you! Is. 60:1