

**Prayer List**

Carl Ivey, Sr. & Carl Ivey, Jr.  
 Charlie Weatherly  
 Wanda Hubbard  
 Margaret Collins  
 Andrew Whittenton  
 David Mote & Family ( The Folsom’s nephew)  
 Allen & Barbara Johnson  
 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

Cynthia Ware  
 Dennis Chukwu Amogu  
 Rilda Cox  
 Sylvia & Larry Melton (Kathy Wright’s parents)  
 Billy & Bob Forbus (Jack Forbus’s brothers); Staci Moak (Jack’s daughter)  
 Albert and Glenda Clark  
 Earline Howell (Wallace Cade’s Aunt)  
 Hugh Shurden ( Sandy Jackson’s Father)  
 Gloria Gentry  
 Roxene Atkinson  
 Peggy & Levette Johnson  
 Lydia Abraham  
 Jack Thompson (Alex Adam’s Uncle)  
 Marybeth Baker (Mara Cox’s Mom)  
 Don & Kathy Curto  
 Barbara Tindall (Tindall Morrison’s Grandmother)  
 John Clark Packer  
 Rubye Guest  
 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 Necaie (Janet’s sister) and Lydia Berry (Jay’s friends)  
 Maxie Bruce (Brittney McAfee’s father)  
 Ressie Carpenter  
 Jean Alice McDavid  
 Rae Nell Crumpton  
 Gerlene Lifer; and Keitha Scott (Gerlene’s friend)  
 Clayton Butler (son of the Lifer’s friends, Gary & Kristen Butler)  
 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  
 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**

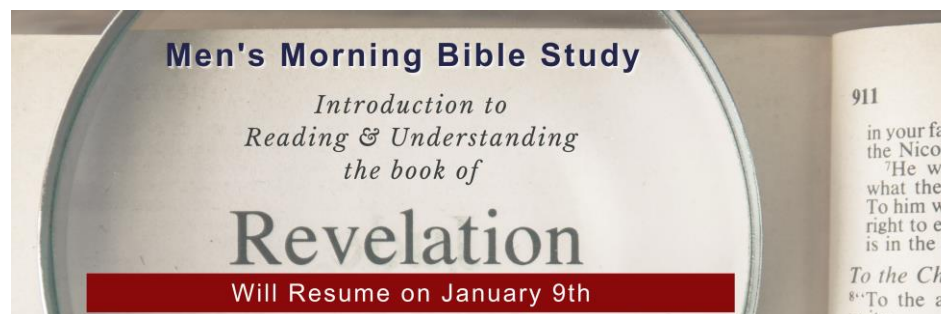
| Class of 2023   | Class of 2024   | Class of 2025   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Debbie Cooper   | Bob Boyd        | Haley Graves    |
| Johnny Folsom   | Boston Hampton  | Wayne Huberty   |
| Mike Jackson    | Robbie Holditch | Dalton Miller   |
| Alex Massingill | Jackie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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**  
 Get ready for the new year with us!

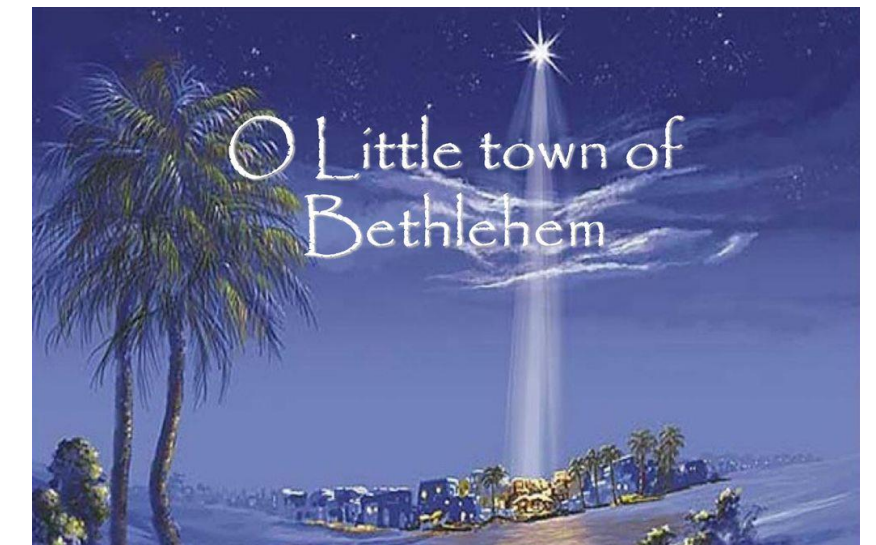
|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>31 DEC</b>    | <b>Unified 10:30 Service<br/>Sunday School Resumes</b> |
| <b>9 JAN</b>     | <b>Men's Revelation Bible Study Resumes</b>            |
| <b>10 JAN</b>    | <b>Wednesday Nights Meal and Bible Studies begin</b>   |
| <b>12-13 JAN</b> | <b>D-NOW Youth Conference</b>                          |



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STARKVILLE**

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

*4th Sunday in Advent  
 December 24, 2023*



**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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STARKVILLE  
December 24, 2023  
Lord's Day Service

Prelude *Still, Still, Still* Jennifer Blackburn

Welcome & Announcements Martin Lifer

Call to Worship: Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle The Ferguson Family

Invocation

\*Hymn #188 (vv.1-2,4) *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

Pastoral Prayers 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.

Choir Anthem

\*Hymn #668 *Doxology* OLD HUNDRETH

\*Call to Give God His Tithe and Our Offerings Dean Franklin

Offertory *Away in a Manger* Jennifer Blackburn

*Give Online:* [fpcstarkville.org/give](http://fpcstarkville.org/give)

*Give by Mail:* First Presbyterian Church, 307 University Drive. Starkville, MS 39759

Confession of Faith *from The (Westminster) Shorter Catechism, Q. & a. 97* Dean Franklin

What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Confession of Sin Dean Franklin

O Lord Jesus, Bread of Life –

Have mercy on us. We are sinners who daily breach communion with You, ignoring You and going our own way, the world's way, the devil's way. We are not worthy to sit with You at Table. Compel us by your Spirit to examine ourselves honestly. Please lovingly discipline our families and each of us to repent of all our habits, priorities, and practices that cause us to be out of fellowship with You and your Church. Give us power to change our daily activities, finances, and schedules so that our first priority is to worship You and walk with You. In your saving grace, empower us to turn away from sin and to come to You for everything we need. Create in us clean and loving hearts, so that we may receive You, Bread of Life, in joyful gratitude.

\* Assurance of God's Grace *from John 6:35,40*

Jesus said to them:

"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.... For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

\*Hymn #196 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

Scripture *Isaiah 55: 1-13 & 9:7-17* Pew Bible pp. 615 & 866

Sermon *Bethlehem Born, Everlasting King* Martin Lifer

Hymn #176 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

\*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

*Masters In This Hall*

Jennifer Blackburn



*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*



Today's Sanctuary Flowers given in memory by Bryn, Cosby, Jet, and Emery Taylor, and Sherry Siler, in memory of their father and grandfather, George Siler. *If you are interested in giving flowers for worship, please contact Olivia in the church office.*

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](http://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](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com).*

**Bethlehem Born, Everlasting King**

Martin Lifer/ FPC Starkville/ December 24, 2023/ Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 9:7-17

*Après la Chute* – All Human History a **Tale of Two Cities, Two Houses, and Two Kings**

Herod the Great ("King of the Jews," "friend of Romans") & his educated-in-Rome son Antipas

Jesus, God's Son & Bethlehem-born "son" of David (*the king*) & of Abraham ("*friend of God*")

**Bethlehem** (*Beit Lechem*) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Bethsaida** = House of Fishing.../House of Hunting/ Pursuit & Provision of Food

**Lord's Banquet** - "Why do you spend your money for *what's not bread* [lechem], your wages for *what does not satisfy*? Truly hear Me, and eat **what is good**, and delight your soul in **abundance**." *Isa. 55:2*  
"Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be **satisfied**." *Lk. 6:21*

**Lk. 9:9** - "Who is **THIS** about whom I hear such things?" And **he was seeking to see Him**.

**9:11- Our King** a) **permits interruptions**, b) **welcomes people from all backgrounds**,

and c) **fully teaches us to hear God's Word, so our souls can be filled**.

**9:13-17 Our King** a) **feeds people the Lord's Banquet, fully satisfying them**, and

b) **calls his disciples (*fallible disciples!*) to join Him in feeding his sheep**,

and c) **fully feeds and cares for his ministering disciples**.

**9:14-17 Our King** a) **Himself Provides the Lord's Banquet of Bread that Satisfies**,

*because* b) **He is the King of the Universe, King of the Ages**,

c) **God's Son**.

**"Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near!"** *Isa. 55:6*