



# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL JUNE 2019



***A blessed spring of celebrating Holy Week, Easter Season, the 198<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FPC's Mission, and record rainfall ushers a summer of new growth and ministries on God's Hill at 307 University Drive!***

**Now, FPC's active June Includes:**

**A June 9 Congregational Meeting and Summer Fellowship at Robinson Lake,  
Children's VBS (June 10-13),  
Welcoming Mr. & Mrs. Roberson into the Ministry of FPC,  
AND**

***Preparing to Welcome FPC's New Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries,  
Rev. Joe Nasvytis, together with Dr. Ann and Grace & Chloe Nasvytis.***

*Photos Above: Roxene Atkinson and nearly 198 children and adults joined in some part the Founders' Day/Anniversary Sunday Brunch on May 5. Photo below right: The previous week, on the Second Sunday of Eastertide (April 28), the FPC Children's Choirs presented their spring musical as part of a Unified 10 a.m. Worship Service. Photo below left: Rev. Joe Nasvytis, his wife, Ann, and their daughters Grace and Chloe look forward to moving from San Diego to Starkville this summer. [Please see the article about Rev. Nasvytis on Page 2.*





## Thanksgiving for God's Call of Rev. Joe Nasvytis and Family to FPC!

On Sunday, May 19, the Assistant Pastor Nominating Committee (Bob Daniels, Chairman, and Edward Kemp, Co-Chairman) presented to the Joint Session-Diaconate Meeting the committee's recommendation that candidate Joe Nasvytis be approved as FPC's new Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries. FPC's officers received the update on Rev. Nasvytis; later last Sunday afternoon, the Session in its Stated May Meeting formally approved the call and provision for the terms of call. Joe is noted for his passion for the Lord, evangelism, and the teaching of God's Word – all of which gifts were evident in his guest-teaching of FPC's New Covenant Class during his visit to our congregation on Mother's Day, May 12.

Now, this month, the Nasvytis family will be moving from San Diego and will then begin a transition period that will lead what the family hopes will be the family's initial move to Starkville either in July or at least by August. In the meantime, Joe will plan to begin his ministry with us by early July.

*In addition to the family's move from San Diego to Starkville later in June, Joe will also be looking ahead to preparing for a transition to the EPC from the Christian Reformed Church ("CRC"). In 2015, Joe was ordained in the CRC denomination. Joe has served two CRC congregations: Bethel CRC in Wisconsin as Youth and Family Ministry Leader, and more recently, Living Faith CRC in San Diego, through November 2018. In his new call with us at FPC, Joe will help lead our Family Ministries & Discipleship, as well as assisting Pastor Lifer in a full range of pastoral ministries, worship leadership, and teaching. The AP Nominating Committee and Dr. Lifer will provide further updates for general information at the June 9 Congregational that has been called for the election of two at-large members to the Congregational Nominating Committee.*

Remembering all this, let us continue to thank God throughout this month for God's call of Rev. Nasvytis to FPC, and let us further pray for Joe and his wife Ann, as well as their daughters – Grace (10) and Sophie (9). Ask for God's provision, guidance, and strength for Dad, Mom, and daughters, as they pack and prepare to leave their home in California, and as they continue to work seek housing arrangements and their move to Starkville this summer. In addition, please join our church family in extending Christian welcome AND Southern hospitality to Joe, Ann, Grace, and Chloe.

**We Thank God Also for the Marriage of FPC Pastoral Intern Reid Roberson and Madeleine Roberson.**



**Reid and Madeleine Roberson were wed on May 18.** God blesses us in bringing these faithful newlyweds to our church family. Reid continues now in the second full month of his ministry as a pastoral intern at FPC. This summer, his areas of ministry include working with Faith Lifer in Youth Ministry, as well as assisting and learning in a number of other worship and pastoral areas. *Reid will be graduating from MSU later this summer. He will then begin in August his graduate studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson – while he and Madeleine continue to make their home in Starkville for the coming school year: Madeleine will be completing her final year at MSU, and Reid will be working at FPC.*

### More Church Family News:

We thank God for: (1) the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of Boswell Kennard on May 6; (2) the birth on May 7 of Blythe Rivers Blackburn to Forrest and Andrea Blackburn [and the first grandchild of Richard and Jennifer Blackburn, who also celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 26]; and (3) new FPC member Emma Lessmann.





# FPC FELLOWSHIP NEWS

THANK GOD AND HIS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM AT FPC FOR A  
WONDERFUL SPRING OF FELLOWSHIP; ...





## FPC FELLOWSHIP NEWS (CONTINUED)



**THANK GOD AND HIS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM AT FPC FOR A WONDERFUL SPRING OF FELLOWSHIP, ... AND NOW WE LOOK AHEAD TO OUR CHURCH-WIDE FELLOWSHIP AT ROBINSON LAKE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9:  
OUR ANNUAL EARLY SUMMER FREEDOM CELEBRATION  
LAKESIDE FELLOWSHIP**

4:00 pm Color Run for Children and Other Activities to Kick Off VBS Week

4-5 p.m. Adult Fellowship in the Pavilion

4:45 p.m. Flag Retirement Ceremony

### **5-6 p.m. Cookout Fellowship Dinner**

*Adults and Children will enjoy a **Flag Retirement ceremony** conducted by Perry Sellers at 4:45 pm. **If you have any flags you would like to retire**, please bring them with you.*

**Directions to Robinson Lake:** Go north on Old West Point Rd. from Hwy 182 for 2.8 miles. Turn right at the small sign for Daffodil Lane (a gravel drive), immediately past the Valley Hills sign.





## FPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



### VBS is THIS Month, June 10-13

Registration remains open through June 10 on the FPC Website.  
Children ages 4 years old to rising 6th grade are welcome!

Our Summer Vacation Bible School Program (VBS) for children will be **Monday-Thursday (June 10-13), from 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

*Come join us as we learn about how life is wild,*



## OUTREACH MISSION — GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

On May 2, FPC welcomed brothers and sisters from other churches throughout Starkville as we hosted our first Community-Wide National Day of Prayer.

On May 6, FPC hosted the annual Graduation Celebration for the FPC Childcare Center, the most substantially-funded charitable mission benevolence of FPC giving for any Outreach Mission, whether local, regional, or international. The Graduation Day was of wonderful celebration for the children and families who are blessed to be supported by the faithful stewards, congregation, and Outreach Team of FPC.







# HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JUNE 2019

First Presbyterian Church  
307 University Drive  
Starkville, MS 39759

Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Rita Usher in the Church Office –Monday through Friday – at the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to [Office@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:Office@fpcstarkville.org). In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:

## FPC and FPCCC Ministry Staff- email addresses

**Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor** [mwlifer3@gmail.com](mailto:mwlifer3@gmail.com)  
**Rita Usher, Pastoral Secretary & Office Administrator** [office@fpcstarkville.org](mailto:office@fpcstarkville.org)  
**Ben Jackson, Assistant Minister for FPC/CCO University Ministry Outreach** [bdjackson8@gmail.com](mailto:bdjackson8@gmail.com)  
**Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator** [aabmurdock@gmail.com](mailto:aabmurdock@gmail.com)  
**Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director** [aarhus@bellsouth.net](mailto:aarhus@bellsouth.net)  
**Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist** [jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com)  
**Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director** [katherinemcgill@hotmail.com](mailto:katherinemcgill@hotmail.com)  
**Ellen Mauldin, Church Librarian** [mem3@bellsouth.net](mailto:mem3@bellsouth.net)



## THERE WILL BE A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, AT 11:00 A.M.

Immediately following the Announcements before the 11 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, June 9, in the Sanctuary, there will be a Called Congregational Meeting for the Primary Purpose of the Congregational Election of Two (2) At-Large Representatives to the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee. The slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee will include the following candidates: **Pat Bryan; Mike Dunlap; Rubye Guest; and Jane Vemer.**

There will also be a report from the Assistant Pastor Nominating ["Search"] Committee – on **Rev. Joe Nasvytis**, who has been called as our new Assistant Pastor for Family Ministries.

## SUMMER SUNDAY AND VBS SCHEDULE

Remember for NEXT Month: On Sundays in **July**, there will be a single, Unified  
**Worship 10:00 a.m. Service**

For each of the four Sundays of July (7, 14, 21, and 28) we will have a **single, unified Lord's Day Worship Service beginning at 10:00 am.**

**Children's and Youth Sunday School will NOT meet during July; however, we will provide childcare during the 10:00 am services in July.**

**Some Adult Sunday School classes may meet; check with your class for details.**

**Beginning Sunday, August 4, we will resume our regular Sunday morning schedule of two services at 8:30 and 11:00 am, and our full Sunday School schedule will be back at 9:45-10:30 on Sunday mornings.**

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, June 9		Church-wide Summer Fellowship at Robinson Lake. See below for directions to the lake.
	4:00 pm	Color run
	4:45 pm	Flag Retirement Ceremony
	5:00 pm	Cookout
Mon-Thurs, June 10-13	8:30 am – 11:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 16	11:00 am	VBS Children Sing
Sunday, June 23	Both services	Bruce Latimer preach
Sunday, June 30	Both services	Ben Jackson preach
Sundays in July	8:30 am	Some Adult Sunday Schools will meet. Check with your class. No Children's and Youth Sunday School.
	9:30 am	Fellowship
	10:00 am	One Unified Service Childcare provided during the 10:00 am services in July.
August 4		Resume Regular Sunday Service Schedule