



Happenings on the Hill May 2020



Ring the Bell and Rejoice in the Lord: It's Our 199th, First Presbyterians!



Happy Birthday, FPC Starkville!

Praise & Thank God for 199 Years of Good News through His FPC Mission and Congregation!

Join Our **VERTICAL CELEBRATIONS** each Sunday in May, Beginning May 3, via FPC Starkville Facebook and/or Our FPC Starkville EPC YouTube Channel.



Dear Church Family and friends,

This is not the way we planned to celebrate our anniversaries! In January – as you pitched in to help us host for the first time ever at FPC a Meeting of the Central South Presbytery (EPC) – I was already looking forward to celebrating – with you, on *The Hill* – two momentous anniversaries:

- (1) The 3rd Anniversary of our congregation's vote to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (the EPC); and
- (2) The 199th Anniversary of the first worship service in 1821 of the Mayhew Mission, the church ministry that led to FPC Starkville.

Back in January, I was *naturally* planning to celebrate with you *in-person*. First and foremost, I envisioned our gathering for Lord's Day Worship Services *in the Sanctuary on The Hill, 307 University Drive*. As we now know, God's *supernatural* plans were different than what you and I would have anticipated. ***"And we know that – for those who love God – all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*** [Romans 8:28] Our opportunity now, as believers, is to trust and (yes!) to rejoice in *his* plans and providence for our 199th Anniversary.

Thank God that He *has* provided ways for us to *worship together* each Sunday morning, including our special celebrations of two anniversaries of God's gift to us of FPC Starkville (EPC). Join us each Sunday morning for our Worship Broadcasts *via* FPC Starkville Facebook *or* the FPC Starkville EPC YouTube Channel.

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As always, though, if you have any problems or questions with either of the following ways to participate in our full Sunday Morning Worship Service Broadcasts, then **please call or send an email to Kathy Wright**, Pastoral Administrative Assistant, or **Noa Hardin**, Communications & Social Media Facilitator, via the Church Office telephone number or via Kathy's office email address or Noa's direct email address:

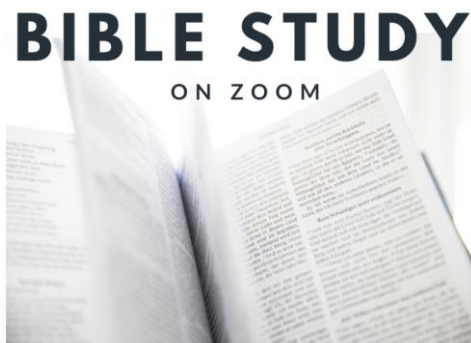
- **Accessing the Internet in general and directly reaching our simplest & most accessible Sunday Broadcast—via the FPC Starkville EPC YouTube Channel;**
or
- **Accessing our Sunday Broadcast via the FPC Facebook Page.**

Thank God for, and join in, our other ongoing weekly gatherings. God is also providing for our **Mid-Week Live Bible Study & Ministry News Discussion in our weekly Wednesday Night Meeting via Zoom**, as well as for other weekly live fellowships (e.g., the **NextGen Small Group Bible Study coordinated by Jack Atkins & Faith Lifer**, and the **Chancel Choir Hangout hosted by Dr. Craig Aarhus**). We also have a weekly **Men's Bible Study & Prayer Group facilitated via email by Bruce Latimer** and a **Women's Bible Study facilitated by Orly Hardin**. If you have not yet been able to join in one or more of these but would like to know the blessings and spiritual encouragement God will bring to you as you participate this month, then please contact Kathy Wright or me at the Church Office. We will be delighted to help you. *In addition, stay posted early this month, as I communicate with you further (at least by our Wednesday Bible Study on our actual 199th Anniversary, May 6) about how we will be participating in the National Day of Prayer.*

With all that said – including repeating my thanks and love for God in providing so many ways for us to worship, study his Word, and fellowship during the many unexpected circumstances of our spring 2020 – nevertheless, I am very ready to worship with you in-person as soon as God's Wisdom permits. Therefore, I close by requesting of you:

Pray for our return to in-person worship on The Hill as soon as possible. May the Sanctuary doors on The Hill be open soon!

Your pastor and friend in Jesus,
Martin



EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM

Thank God for our Weekly Live Meetings, including:

(1) Our All-Church Wednesday Night Bible Study & Ministry Discussion via Zoom Meeting.

(2) The Thursday Night Bible Study & Fellowship for Millennial & Generation Z members [contact Faith Lifer] – photo at right.

(3) The Thursday Night Chancel Choir Hangout/Fellowship [contact Craig Aarhus] – photo below.



FPC Ministry Continues This Month –

***Including through Major Improvement Projects for Our Christian Education Building, ...
Core Ministries, such as FPC Women's Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry,...
and***

Volunteers Coming to The Hill for Smaller-Scale but Vital Upkeep of our Grounds & Facilities.



Thank God for the progress of this spring of the major upgrade to the Christian Education Building being overseen by Wallace Cade and other members of the FPC Childcare Center Board and the FPC Property Team. *See photos at left.*

Thank God also for volunteers such as Peggy Branch, Peggy Moore, and Marquita Beatty for faithfully coming to The Hill and helping us maintain AND beautify our Church Grounds. *See photo below.*

FPC Starkville (EPC) Women's Ministry

Janice Kinard, Moderator

Women's Ministry News

I like to begin this article with good news. The Women's Ministry Scholarship will be awarded to Miss Faith Lifer. We celebrate her plans to continue her education. She has enrolled in Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando. She will pursue a Masters Degree in Christian Counseling. Her application's testimony reveals the Lord's purpose for her life. His hand has guided her path. In Christ, she will serve others with all her heart.



Congratulations, Faith!
Jeremiah 29:11



The Women's Ministry Coordinating Team will not meet May - July.

Mission Supported in April: Christian Women's Job Corp of Starkville (Donations can be mailed to my home address: Janice Kinard, 617 Sunset Dr, Starkville, MS 39759)

Mission Supported in May: FPCCC Graduates and Teacher Appreciation. The Lord led me to inquire about the number of Bibles needed for May's class. Women's Ministry purchased 20 Bibles last March. We will celebrate the teachers at a later date.

June was assigned the local mission of Vacation Bible School with hands on support from our church family.

Circle meetings are postponed for May, June and July.

Women of First Presbyterian Church, EPC, God bless you, keep you safe, place his loving hand be upon you. Let us praise the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever!

Janice Kinard, Moderator



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Contact or leave a message for Pastor Martin Lifer, or speak with Kathy Wright in the Church Office Number (662) 323-1994, or via email to info@fpcstarkville.org. In addition, you may reach the following ministry staff via their direct email addresses listed below:

Rev. Dr. Martin Lifer, Pastor mwlifer3@gmail.com

Kathy Wright, Pastoral Administrative Assistant info@fpcstarkville.org

Cheryl Ewing, Church Financial Secretary (part-time in office) cheryl@fpcstarkville.org

Dr. Craig Aarhus, Music Director aarhus@bellsouth.net

Ashleigh Murdock, Children's Ministry Coordinator aabmurdock@gmail.com

Kirk Kinard, Co-Director of Youth Ministry kirkkinard@gmail.com

Reid Roberson, Pastoral Ministry Intern, and Co-Director of Youth Ministry reidrob97@gmail.com

Jennifer Blackbourn, Organist jenniferblackbourn@hotmail.com

Kathy McGill, Children's Choir Director katherinemcgill@hotmail.com

Noa Hardin, Communications & Social Media Facilitator noakhardin@gmail.com

In Addition to Bringing or Mailing Your Offering Checks to the Church Office (or via Other Draft or Disbursement Means, You May Now Give God's Tithe or Your Other Offerings ONLINE:

Simply access the FPC Starkville Website Homepage, and select & click the GIVE Icon/Heading. On the Giving Page, select & click the second heading – Click Here to Give Online. Then provide the very basic information; your giving is private and secure via the service FPC has chosen.

