



*“Who is First Presbyterian Church?
What’s going on here?”*

603 Smythe Street - Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090
662-289-2435

www.fpckosciusko.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Living our core values of Worship, Teaching, Nurture, Reaching (WTNR) keep us focused on becoming the disciples (and church) that God would have us be. We look with anticipation to see all that the Lord will do in and through this truth-loving, Christ-centered, redeemed community as it reaches out.

Thanks for visiting us. We hope that you might join us in our pursuit of God, his ways, and people.

“Who is First Presbyterian Church (FPC)? What’s going on here?”

Our VISION

“A gospel-driven church pursuing God, his ways, and people.”

Denominational Affiliation

We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the revelation of God’s truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. We are not making up our beliefs as we go. Though we are learning and growing, our beliefs are rooted in the ancient creeds and our church's doctrinal commitments, the **Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms**. FPC is a congregation of the **Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)**. You can find out more about the PCA at www.pcanet.org.

Our VALUES

As we pursue God, his ways and people we promote VALUES that we believe reflect the values of the New Testament church. We evaluate the VEHICLES (specific activities and programs) according to their effectiveness in developing the VISION and VALUES in people’s lives.

- **WORSHIP:**
 - Magnifying the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in praise, prayer, preaching and the sacraments.
 - Glorifying the Triune God according to his Word through forms that blend ancient traditions and current local styles.
 - **TEACHING:**
 - Engaging the minds and hearts of members and outsiders with Biblical truth as expressed in our Confession and Catechisms.
 - Equipping our members to bring the gospel to people in their spheres of influence.
 - **NURTURE:**
 - Loving one another so that the world will see the difference Jesus makes.
 - Demonstrating “Kingdom-first” living together in all areas of life.
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- **REACHING:**

- Making room for outsiders through long-term relationships and multiple exposures to the Gospel.
- Committing ourselves to spend and be spent in local outreach, church planting and world missions. Our vision also compels us to emphasize aggressive effort in church planting and deep involvement in world missions.

Our VEHICLES

WORSHIP: Sunday Morning Worship

Our weekly Sunday morning worship begins at 10:20 a.m. and ends right around 11:30 a.m. We celebrate the Lord's Supper the first Sunday morning of each month. Generally, our pastors preach through books of the Bible. Occasionally, topical sermons are preached. We believe that worship should take its cues from what God is like. Since we want to celebrate both the "transcendence" of God (his otherness, bigness, majesty, justice) and the "immanence" of God (his nearness, generosity, mercy, relational nature), we want our worship to reflect *both* realities about God. So we use texts, music, and language that reflect both. We encourage everyone to make corporate worship a priority (see Hebrews 10:24-25).

Nursery is offered for children ages 3 and under. If you bring a small child with you, we want you to know that your child is cared for and accessible during your time with us.

WORSHIP: Sunday Evening Worship and Children's Choir

For generations FPC has followed the tradition of gathering as Sunday closes to worship the Lord once again. This hour-long time of worship begins at 5:00 p.m. during Standard Time, and at 6:00 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time. **Nursery** is provided for this service also. In addition, children 10 and under have the option of participating in a fun, Christ-centered ***Children's Choir*** time during the sermon. Children are dismissed at the beginning of the sermon, and the choir leaders return them to the sanctuary at the end of the service.

Sermons from FPC Kosciusko are available for free download from www.fpckosciusko.org and from iTunes.

"How Do I Join?"

At various times during the year, FPC offers a short class called "**First Things**" for people interested in joining FPC or simply in learning more about FPC and/or the Presbyterian Church in America. Attendance does not obligate anyone to join, and all prospective church members must be interviewed by the elders as well. The fellowship is warm and the teaching informative, led by Senior Minister Phillip Palmertree. Ask one of the pastors when the next class is scheduled.

A **Communicants' Class** also is held each spring for young people who are interested in learning how and what it means to be a Christian, a member of FPC, and to partake of the Lord's Supper. Ask one of the pastors when the next class is scheduled.

To become a member you must meet with the elders to give a credible Christian testimony and to answer the vows of membership in the affirmative.

FPC Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?"

FPC wants to make a difference for Christ in Attala County and the world.

We believe this happens not just through what God leads us to do corporately (as a church), but also as individuals in our spheres of influence. We believe that every believer has callings from God to glorify God in these spheres of influence.

WORSHIP: Choir and Musicians

If you enjoy singing, we would love to have you sing with our choir. Our chief musician, Pat Fiedler, leads a weekly rehearsal one hour prior to Evening Worship. The choir enhances our Morning Worship time each week by helping encourage hearty congregational singing, teaching us new hymns and songs, and singing during the offertory. The choir also prepares special performances for Good Friday and Christmas.

If you have skills on a musical instrument, please talk with Pat. There may be opportunities for you to “make a joyful noise” in that way.

WORSHIP: Family Worship and Discipleship

We desire to complement, not replace, the equipping ministry that should take place in the home. To that end, we encourage FPC members to worship – study God’s Word, pray, sing - as individuals and as families. Resources are available to help you develop this practice. Talk with one of the pastors about how you can develop personal and family worship.

TEACHING: Wednesday Night Connection

On Wednesday evenings we gather for **supper** at 5:30 p.m. You can make a supper reservation by calling the church office (289-2435) no later than noon on Tuesday. The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.75 for children.

Wednesday Night Connection, from 6:00-7:00 p.m., is designed to connect us with one another in fellowship and training by digging deeply into God’s Word through Bible-centered studies for children, youth, and adults. Most of the time we have two or more electives to provide training for adults in Christian conviction, character, and competence for ministry. This is a *great* way to meet new people and build relationships centered on God’s Word, and it is a great way to introduce people to the Bible.

TEACHING: Bible Studies

During the week, FPC offers a number of Bible studies for women, men, and other groups for various purposes. Some are “advertised” in the bulletin; others sprout up for a while. If you are interested in plugging in to a regular small group Bible study, talk with one of the pastors.

TEACHING: Bible Conference

Each year, usually in February or March, FPC hosts a weekend Bible Conference. During these weekends, we enjoy being fed from God’s Word through the ministry of a gifted preacher.

REACHING: World Mission Conference

For more than 50 years, FPC has held an annual World Mission Conference during which we consider Christ’s call to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:18).

REACHING: Vacation Bible School

One week each summer, we hold a Vacation Bible School here at the church. This is a great opportunity to introduce unchurched kids (and their parents) to the gospel.

REACHING: FPC Preschool and Presbyterian Day School

For more than 25 years FPC has offered the community a **Preschool** committed to providing young children with the basic educational and social preparation for elementary school based upon sound Biblical principles and educational techniques. For more information, call 289-9960.

In 1998 FPC established **Presbyterian Day School** to equip students with the knowledge, ability, and motivation to reflect God’s glory in every area of life through a distinctively Christian education in a nurturing environment. For more information, call 289-3322.

REACHING: Mercy Ministry

FPC is involved with **Helping Hands**, a local cooperative effort to address the physical and spiritual needs of people in our community who need economic and other assistance.

REACHING: Whenever...However...Whomever

We are always looking for ways in which the Holy Spirit might lead us to make disciples, both around the corner and around the world.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

FPC is committed to excellence in WORSHIP, TEACHING, NURTURE, and REACHING. Attending to these values requires outstanding, God-given, committed and qualified leaders. Thus, FPC aspires to be a church that equips people to serve and lead creatively, sacrificially, joyfully, and consistently, motivated by grace rather than guilt. We believe that developing church health will lead to church growth.

NURTURE: Adult Sunday School Groups

Adult Sunday School groups are the best way to connect with others here at FPC. Groups meet from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. They also get together at other times for fun and service as a group. They are the primary place where we care for and support one another in the joys and challenges of daily life.

How do you know what group to join? “**A Field Guide to Sunday School @ FPC**” is available at the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall. This will give you a profile of the life-season and “feel” of each group. You’re welcome to attend any group. Just join right in!

NURTURE: Youth and Children’s Sunday School

“A Field Guide to FPC Sunday School” also has information about youth and children’s Sunday School. We encourage parents to take advantage of these opportunities for your children to study and apply the Scriptures. Children’s Sunday School uses “The One Story” curriculum—a Christ-centered, conversational survey of the Bible which helps children learn, love, and live its truth.

NURTURE: Children’s Ministry

We acknowledge that God has assigned to parents the responsibility and privilege of raising their children in the nurture and discipline of the Lord. The primary purpose of the children’s ministries at First Presbyterian Church is to strengthen and assist parents in the Christian nurture of their children. Children’s ministry provides an opportunity for all church members to use their spiritual gifts in serving our covenant children and their parents for the common good. Also, we seek to evangelize unchurched and unconverted children. We believe that strong, healthy families make a strong, healthy church. FPC Children’s Ministry strengthens and assists parents through weekly instruction in Wednesday Night Connection, Sunday evening Children’s Choir, Sunday School, Bible and catechism memorization, and fun activities.

NURTURE: Youth Ministry

The mission of FPC's youth ministry is to see young people (7th-12th grades) come to a saving faith in Christ, experience grace-motivated growth in holiness, and desire to give their lives in the service of Christ through service to others. We seek to cultivate these goals by praying with and for the youth, reading and teaching the Scriptures, and developing relationships. The ministry is led by assistant pastor Grant Carroll and the Student

Ministries Committee. The following activities are the vehicles by which we endeavor to carry out our mission:

- Youth Sunday School, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Night Fellowship (SNF), after Evening Worship (a time of food, fellowship and discussion of that night's sermon)
- Youth Connection, Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. (a weekly Bible study)
- Small group studies
- Monthly fellowship events
- Annual retreats, conferences, and service projects.

NURTURE: Shepherding

We believe that Scripture teaches that the flock of God needs feeding, leading, serving, and protecting. We also believe that Christ equips and calls men known as “elders” to be responsible for this “shepherding” work. Feeding, leading, and protecting take place on a *macro*-level as the elders make decisions, cast vision, and carry out administrative functions for the good of the entire church body. Feeding, leading, and protecting also take place at *micro*-level through personal ministry. Each FPC member is a part of a Sunday School group with an elder and deacon who are responsible for developing relationships with the “sheep” and ministering on a personal level.

REACHING: Missions and Evangelism

Seeking to witness in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8), FPC supports a number of missions efforts both locally and around the world through church planting, medical ministry, theological education, and campus ministry. Zeal for world missions is part of the “DNA” of FPC.

Faith Promise is FPC’s primary vehicle for supporting world missions. Faith Promise is an annual commitment, motivated not by guilt but by the grace of God, in which members give over-and-above their regular contribution to the FPC budget to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Each year FPC organizes **short-term mission trips** which allow members to experience world missions at eye-level and use their gifts to assist and encourage our partners on the field through medical missions, teaching, construction, and other projects. Recent trips locations have included Sweden, Belize, Peru, Hancock County, Mississippi (post-Katrina relief), and Choctaw County, Mississippi (post-tornado relief).