



First Presbyterian Church of Starkville

# Pastor Search

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## A LETTER FROM PSC

First Presbyterian Church in Starkville Mississippi, is rich with history, sharing Christ in our community. Celebrating our 200th year in 2021, we rejoice that God has provided graciously for our faith community for generations. Our congregation is committed to glorifying God as we worship, teach, learn, and work among others in our community. Each season in our church has seen it grow in new and different ways. We are excited to see what God has planned for us in the coming years!

Our Pastor Search Committee members are humbled by the trust of our Session and

congregation as we proceed through the steps of searching for a senior pastor. We know that God has already planted the seed in the next person who will fill our pulpit. We are confident that, with His provision, He will lead us to that person in His time.

We invite you to review the following pages to get a better sense of who we are. Our church website is [fpcstarkville.org](http://fpcstarkville.org)

Grace and peace,  
**The Pastor Search Committee**  
[PSC member profiles](#)

# WHO WE ARE

We are a church that preaches the doctrines of grace as a member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a global movement of evangelical Presbyterian churches. We joyfully share God's Good News fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Our Biblical, Christian faith is expressed through the EPC's Affirmation, The Essentials. Additionally, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms serve as our more detailed confessional standard. For more information about the EPC, visit: <https://epconnect.org/>

## A Mission with Focus

Our desire is to call all people to a personal faith in Jesus Christ through worship, service, commitment, compassion, and evangelism so that they may know God's grace and love.

## A Church with Deep Roots

First Presbyterian Church of Starkville is the oldest Presbyterian congregation in North Mississippi. It began in 1821 as part of the Mayhew Mission to the Choctaw Indians, located about five miles from present-day Starkville in Oktibbeha County. Reverend Cyrus Kingsbury, the first missionary sent by the American Board of Mission in response to a request from the Choctaw Indians, served as the first pastor of the church. The congregation moved to the city in 1834 and relocated to its present site in 1853. The original wooden structure burned at least once, and the cornerstone for the current building was laid in 1934.

## Nurtured with God's Grace

Throughout its history, First Presbyterian Church has sought to follow God's will in its worship, ministry, and mission. The church sits on a hill in the center of Starkville on University Drive, the main street leading from downtown to Mississippi State University. Our eight-acre church campus supports the main church building, education building, and church offices, with plenty of room to grow. We are also blessed to own 37

acres with a lake about five miles north of town, which is used regularly for fellowship events and available to members for fishing and camping. Through the years, the church has continuously called and supported numerous pastors and associates, maintained and expanded its campus, and pursued the spread of the Gospel locally and globally. In the last 25 years, five young men from the congregation have entered ordained ministry, and four members now serve as missionaries abroad.

## A Flourishing Future

Our doors and hearts are open. Following in the footsteps of a Godly heritage, First Presbyterian Church has a glorious future ahead. As we support our current ministries and missions, we would like to expand our efforts with Mississippi State University, helping more students to know and love Jesus Christ.



Fall Festival at FPC's Robinson Lake property

# *Nurturing Joyful Faith and Compassionate Service*



# WHAT WE DO

## Ministries that support life, laughter, and learning

### Children

(aged 3-5th grade)



1. **Sunday mornings** – Sunday school studying the same topics as the youth
2. **Wednesday nights** – Play time outside, game inside, and a lesson from Scripture
3. **Annual Vacation Bible School** – Reaches our children as well as deep into the community
4. **Family Advent Craft** – Congregation shares a meal, fellowship, and hands-on crafts in preparation of our hearts and homes for the Christmas season
5. **Easter Egg Hunt** – Families enjoy a fun-filled morning in celebration of the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection

### Christian Preschool



1. **Care provided for 60 children** aged birth to pre-K
2. **Full-time licensed facility**
3. **Provides meaningful opportunities** for families to connect through a variety of special events, including Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, Trunk or Treat, our Christmas program, and a joyful graduation celebration with graduates receiving a Bible from the church
4. **Participates in a Chapel program** in which the pastor speaks with the children
5. **FPC volunteers read** to older children on a weekly basis

### Youth

(6th-12th)



1. **Sunday mornings** – Sunday school from 9:30-10:10 a.m., studying “Great Cloud of Witnesses”
2. **Sunday nights** – Worship, games, and a talk given from scripture; currently have three studies:
  - a. “Grill a Christian - Tough Questions about God, Christianity, and the Bible”
  - b. Dating and Relationships
  - c. Book of James
3. **Wednesday nights** – Small Groups - Studying the book of I Corinthians in spring 2026; meet at Chick-fil-a from 5:00-5:45; return to church for large group teaching in the Youth Room; break into Small Groups by grade and gender
4. Participate yearly in **community-wide youth weekend Disciple Now**
5. Participate yearly in **summer retreats** designed around Bible study and service
6. Participate in weekly **local, summer mission projects**

### College



1. **Sunday School** – Studying Ecclesiastes
2. **Boys Small Group** – Mondays at 6 p.m.
3. **Girls Small Group** – Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

## Adults



- Sunday schools** - A variety of offerings from 9:30-10:10
  - Crusaders Class – Singles & couples
  - Chapel Class – Singles & couples – Studying Romans
  - Live, Learn, & Laugh – Singles & couples - Bible Studies for Life (Lifeway)
  - Women in the Word – Women – Studying “Great Cloud of Witness”
  - New Covenant – Singles & couples – Studying Galatians
  - Deeply Rooted – Singles & couples – Studying “Heroes of the Faith”
  - Joy Class – Singles & couples using material from Les Feldick Ministries
  - Women’s Small Group
- Wednesday night** - Dinner and Bible study
- Keenagers** – Monthly fellowship for the FPC senior generation

## Men’s Small Groups



- Tuesday mornings Men’s Bible study**, 7 a.m.
- Wednesday morning Men’s Intensive** at 6 a.m. for 7 weeks (overview lesson, discussions around the table, current one began on 1/21/26)

## Women’s Ministry



- Circles** – Variety of monthly studies that meet during the week
- Weekly Bible study** – Thursday afternoons – Study different topics semi-annually
- Annual Women’s Retreat**
- Lunch Bunch** - Widow’s ministry

## Music



- Traditional hymns and music** accompany the service
- Praise and worship music** provided for Worship on the Hill and some Sunday services
- The Chancel Choir** provides music leadership and an anthem during worship services
- Special music offerings** at Christmas and Maundy Thursday, incorporating university musical talent
- Wednesday Children’s Choir** sings in church several times a year
- Additional instrumental groups** like handbells and brass/woodwinds provide special music throughout the year

## Fellowship



- Sunday mornings** 10:10-10:30 a.m. – Refreshments available prior to church
- “Worship on the Hill”** – Outside, semi-annual contemporary service
- Robinson Lake** – Church property for some activities and services, like Easter sunrise, a fall festival, and Fourth of July celebration
- Family Night Suppers** – selected Sunday nights
- Fellowship dinners/luncheons**

# OUR CHURCH

## By the Numbers

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DEBT

22

OFFICERS

172

FAMILY UNITS

86

COVENANT  
CHILDREN

12

STAFF  
5 full-time;  
7 part-time

300

COMMUNING  
MEMBERS

**\$1.194 M**

FOR THE 2025 BUDGET YEAR

## The only EPC church in Starkville, MS

# WHAT WE SUPPORT

## God's Work at Home and Globally

Our missions committee works to ensure our dollars support God's work in our world. Our local missions fulfill God's calling to reach out to those in need of shelter, food, housing, parenting support, and support in times of crisis. Globally, we are concerned with spreading God's Word and helping to plant and support churches in places where either Christ has ceased to be taught or never been taught.

### Local & Regional Missions

Diapers & Wipes Showers for members expecting babies

Palmer Home for Children

Cross of Christ Starkville

French Camp Academy

Habitat for Humanity

Casserole Kitchen

1st Steps Clinic

The Father's Child Ministry

### Global Missions

Young Life – Military Club Beyond

City Church in Manchester, England

Haddington Community Church in Scotland

Oxford Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Oxford, England

Mission India

CMJ Israel

Jeff Kim family – missionaries from Central South Presbytery to France

San Pablo Presbyterian Seminary on Yucatan Peninsula



# OUR COMMUNITY

## Starkville, MS, and Mississippi State University

Located two hours from Jackson, Birmingham, and Memphis, you will find Starkville, affectionately known as Mississippi's College Town. Not only are we proud to call Starkville home, but it was recently named Best Small Town in the South by USA Today. Starkville is a thriving and growing community of approximately 24,000 permanent residents, and that number doubles to nearly 49,000 residents when the students at Mississippi State University are on campus.



The quality of life in Starkville is unmatched. We boast of the attractiveness of a small town coupled with the excitement of a booming Southeastern Conference college atmosphere. For families, Starkville offers educational opportunities in public, private, and Christian schools, as well as a thriving homeschool community. Starkville is conveniently located about 20 minutes from the Golden Triangle Regional Airport, and in two hours, you can find yourself at one of several international airports.

We are also proud to welcome Baptist Memorial Hospital to our town as the new owner of our hospital system. Baptist has a goal of recruiting many new providers and growing our local access to several subspecialties reducing our need to travel for healthcare.

Starkville truly has everything you need to settle and grow deep roots in our warm and welcoming community.

Mississippi State University is the hub of our community. You will find a host of benefits with the university literally around the corner. From exciting sporting events and museums to theater and music performances, the benefits of raising a family in a college town are too many to list. Spending a weekend at The Cotton District Arts Festival or taking in a concert during Bulldog Bash, you will see the way our city and MSU work together to provide excitement and entertainment. On the weekends, choose to go cheer on our National Championship baseball team or visit the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library. You might also stop at the MAFES store on campus to pick up some Mississippi-made McCarty pottery or locally made cheese. Or perhaps, a relaxing stroll around Chadwick Lake and across our beautiful campus would be just what you need to experience the draw of MSU and Starkville.

One visit and it will be easy to see why Starkville is Mississippi's College Town. Come see it for yourself! And remember, "Hail State!"



# WHAT WE SEEK

## FPC Starkville Pastor Profile

First Presbyterian Church of Starkville is praying for the next pastor who will fill our pulpit. We have steadily advanced the search process by surveying our congregation and spending time discerning where we are in the life of our faith community. The result of this work is that we know we are looking for a pastor who primarily has the gifts of teaching God's word, shepherding the congregation, and providing church leadership as the congregation continues to grow spiritually.

Our people are hungry for God's word and how it applies to everyday life – the trials and tribulations as well as the joys and triumphs. While many are faithful, coming on Sundays, Wednesdays, and whenever the church opens its doors, we need to reach those who are not prioritizing time with God's people or who have yet to accept Christ as Savior. We see this work beginning with a strong message from our pulpit that reaches those in the pews and those streaming online.

While delivering the message is important, caring for the congregation is also an important trait identified in our church surveys. Members want to connect with their pastor in a meaningful way. We seek a leader who models shepherding so that, with the church leadership, all of our members are cared for and encouraged to grow spiritually.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Expository teaching of the Scriptures and committed to Reformed theology with a real-life application for the congregation, both believers and non-believers
- Committed to the Great Commission
- Demonstrate a genuine heart for shepherding the congregation with joy, compassion, and attentiveness
- Strong in organizational and administrative leadership
- Ordained (or eligible for ordination) in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with senior pastor experience, preferred but not required
- Master of Divinity required; further education appreciated

## ATTRIBUTES

- Strong Biblical character: walks with integrity and leads by example
- An approachable and humble shepherd
- Invested in the lives of our congregation
- Passionate about missions, both locally and globally, as well as outreach to MSU students
- Ability to inspire stewardship and generous giving to the glory of God
- Energetically serves our community
- Welcomes feedback and responds with conviction and care



McGowan Global Institute is assisting us in our search. **If you desire to apply for this position, please fill out the Pastor Registration at [mcfowanglobal.com](https://mcfowanglobal.com)**

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