



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Tommy Brock

Prelude

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

arr. Mark Hayes

Introit

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

*Call to worship

Let us offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

*Hymn no. 96 (verses 1 & 3)

Praise Him! Praise Him!

JOYFUL SONG

Call to confession

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends.

Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Word

Anthem

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

Sermon

Matters of the Heart

the Reverend Chris Richardson

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

Hymn no. 805

*Hymn no. 353

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

Invitation to offering

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Offertory

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Jay Rouse

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

*Prayer of thanksgiving

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever.

Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

*Hymn no. 689 (verse 1)

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

Charge and blessing

Go forth to serve in the name of our risen Lord.

May Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, be with you. May the Spirit empower you to serve in Christ's name. May God, who raised Christ from the dead, keep you forevermore.

Postlude

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

arr. Cindy Berry

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from last week (04/30/23) Attendance • 35

Offering • \$4,714

This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Tuesday	5:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming events

Sunday, 5/14	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Tuesday, 5/16	Presbyterian Women (lesson 9, Sabbath and Community)
Sunday, 5/21	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 5/28	Led by the Rev. Philip Williams (with Communion); recognition of Seniors Whit Williams and Kya Cotton
Sunday, 6/4	Led by the Rev. Philip Williams (with Communion)
Sunday, 6/11	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 6/18	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 6/25	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson

Welcome to worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To visitors, we offer a special hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon; please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate.

Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson

Rev. Chris Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Chris has lived in Pike County since marrying husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

Vision 2023 (adopted by Session on December 11, 2022)

Believe in Me and grow our church together in 2023. In 2023, we shall regularly reach out to inactive members, encouraging them to renew participation in the life of JJWMPC. We shall also increase visibility through social media and community involvement that encourages others to join our membership. This will include promotion of church facilities as a destination for appropriate community events, with special emphasis on attracting young adults and youth. In doing so, we shall be widely recognized as a vibrant, welcoming church family that loves the Lord and one another. These initiatives will serve to grow membership and double attendance by year end, 2023.

Reminder of God's call to stewardship

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others (Matthew 6:2). Thank you to all who have already submitted 2023 pledge cards, greatly helping the church plan the year's budget. Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns.

Session

Watkins "Noggin" Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer

Class of 2023

Dennis Ross
Randy White
Rusty Whittington

Class of 2024

Melisa DeCoux
Suzi Drummond
Whitney Rawlings

Class of 2025

Tommy Brock
Linda Miller
Noggin Wild

Sanctuary flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Linda Miller to the glory and honor of God and to the honor of our church family.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings is: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14. Is the "dwelling place" (John 14:1-14) of which Jesus speaks a place for us after we die, or does it include our life in the present? What does Jesus mean when he says that his disciples "will do greater works"? What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"?

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