



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

PROPER 10 • 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Michael Sharp

Introit

Thy Word Is a Lamp

Amy Grant and Michael Smith

Call to worship

Your word is a lamp to our feet

and a light to our path.

Your word is our heritage forever,

the joy of our hearts.

*Hymn no. 532

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Call to confession

The Scriptures are filled with stories of people just like us: men who grieved, women who questioned, siblings who did not get along, parents who chose favorites. God's word of grace is meant for people just like us. There is no need for pretense in this place. Let us go to God in prayer.

Prayer of confession

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.

Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.

The Word

Anthem

Wonderful Words of Life

Clayton Lloyd Moore

Prayer for illumination

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.

We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

Sermon

Volunteer Squash

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. 678

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

†The sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Insert

Invitation to the offering

We bring gifts because tendrils of God's love have worked their ways into the soil of our hearts. Sisters and brothers, let us yield our lives to God's abundant harvest.

Offertory

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. Jay Rouse

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

*Prayer of thanksgiving

Giver of life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, so we long to participate in your seeding of the world. Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and grow in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came out of love for the world.

Amen.

Prayers of the people

Sending

*Hymn no. 479

O How He Loves You and Me!

PATRICIA

Charge and blessing

Sisters and brothers, sow the gospel wherever you go – not judging the soil on which you stand – for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless, the Christ, whose charge is freedom, the Spirit, which grants us life and peace, keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion as we seek to serve.

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Cindy Berry

*Please stand as you are able

†Gluten-free communion bread available

Announcements

Record from last week (07/09/23)

Attendance • 40

Offering • \$6,150

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, 7/23	Led by the Rev. Barron Banks
Wednesday, 7/26	July birthday potluck dinner , "Summer Bounty"
Sunday, 7/30	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; MICA food pantry collection
Sunday, 8/6	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Tuesday, 8/8	Presbyterian Women kick off new Bible study year – <i>all invited!</i>
Sunday, 8/13	Led by the Rev. Dr. John Dudley
Sunday, 8/20	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 8/27	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.

July birthday celebration

Join the fun on Wednesday, July 26, at 5:30 PM to celebrate the month's birthdays. The potluck dinner is themed "Summer Bounty," featuring BLT sandwiches and cooked ham provided by the church, to accompany potluck dishes of your favorite veggies. Dessert (also provided by the church) celebrates summer with an assortment of delicious cobblers. Bring along a vegetable dish ... and a friend! For help with transportation, please contact Tommy and Debbi Brock.

Congregational meeting in August

Look for the August date (to be announced soon) for the next congregational meeting, to elect an Elder Nominating Committee. In October, that committee will present a slate of elders to be nominated to the class of 2026.

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

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-44). Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns about your tithes or offerings.

Session

Watkins "Noggin" Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer		
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Dennis Ross	Melisa DeCoux	Tommy Brock
Randy White	Suzi Drummond	Linda Miller
Rusty Whittington	Whitney Rawlings	Noggin Wild

Sanctuary flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Maxime Brock to the glory of God.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23. How is God's resurrecting spirit at work in you and in your community? Where are you experiencing new life? Where are you struggling? How might God be bringing new life from that struggle?

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

110 Third Street • P.O. Box 774 • McComb, Mississippi 39648 • (601) 684-4189

Email jjwhitememorial@gmail.com • Web www.jjwhitememorial.org • Facebook [JJWhiteMPC](https://www.facebook.com/JJWhiteMPC)

Church office open **Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**