



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

PROPER 17 • 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

We Fall Down

Chris Tomlin

Introit

God Will Make a Way

Don Moen

*Call to Worship

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn No. 566

Take My Life, Lead Me Lord

LANGLEY

Call to Confession

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.

Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

The Word

Ministry in Music

Spirit of the Living God
Sarah Ross, *clarinet*

arr. Kenneth Friedrich

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming of your word. Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Sermon

Burning Bush Moments
Ganeath Daniel, Colin Richardson, Whitney Rawlings

the Rev. Chris Richardson

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Hymn No. 805

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

*Hymn No. 563

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Invitation to the Offering

The apostle Paul encourages us: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. In loving service to this loving Lord, we now return to God a portion of the bounty God has provided.

Offertory

Nothing but the Blood

arr. Cindy Berry

*Hymn No. 809

Praise God from Whom All Blessings

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God of holy ground, like Moses we question our fitness to serve heaven's purposes on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence; bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn No. 576

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

ASSAM

Sending

Charge and Blessing

Hold fast to what is good; repay no one evil for evil. Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer.

May Almighty God, who creates all good, redeems from all evil, and hears all prayer, be with you and all people in suffering and in hope.

Postlude

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

arr. Rob Peery

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance • 53

Offering • \$4,795

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, 9/10	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; Session meeting
Tuesday, 9/12	Women's Bible Study (PW), <i>Sacred Encounters</i> lesson 2 at 11:30 AM
Sunday, 9/17	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 9/24	Led by the Rev. Joe Pack Arnold; MICA collection, Congregational meeting to elect Elders to class of 2026

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.

Welcome to guest pianist

Hailing from McComb, **Beverly Miller** has a multi-generational heritage of being deeply involved with local churches and has 30+ years of personal experience as a church pianist. She also serves as pianist for weddings, funerals, and holiday events as well as teaching students weekly. Having music ingrained in her heart and knowing first-hand how transformative it can be for others leads Beverly to regularly serve others by sharing her talents. Welcome, Beverly, and thank you!

New Members

We heartily welcome new members **Harrell and Nancy Ables!**

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, **September 24, 2023**, a Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect three Elders to serve on our Session through 2026. The Elder Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of nominees: Sam Daniel, Robbie DeCoux, and Sarah Ross.

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

Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you (Deuteronomy 16:10). Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions 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 Sharon White in honor of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Lectionary Readings and Questions for Reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28. How can your life include a faithful response to Jesus' charge that his followers must "deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24)? What struggles result when you take up this challenge? What blessings result?

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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**