



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

PROPER 25 • REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Noggin Wild

Prelude

The Church's One Foundation

arr. Phillip Keveren

Introit

Be Strong in the Lord

Tom Fettke

*Call to Worship

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

In you, we come home – to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved. We dwell in you.

Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world, from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

In you, we are home – we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice. We dwell in you.

*Hymn No. 43

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Call to Confession

Our spirits are like new grass: at the dawn they spring up fresh, but by sunset they dry up and wither, blown away in spiritual death. Let us confess our frailty before our merciful God.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess: we do not live as those worthy to be entrusted with the good news of your grace; we relate to others callously as though we do not trust that gospel ourselves; we seek to please and manipulate, using flattery to gain praise and distinction; we use condescension as a mask to cover insecurity or a need for power. Our motives are mixed, impure.

Lord, reassure and clean us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word

Anthem

God Will Make a Way

Don Moen

Incorporating *He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought!*

J.J. White Chancel Choir featuring Glenn Sanders, *Baritone*

Prayer for Illumination

Lord Jesus, your understanding of Scripture astonished and humbled all around you. Send your Spirit to illumine this Word that our understanding and wisdom may be increased. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Sermon

Don't Look Back

Rev. Chris Richardson

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

*Hymn No. 60

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Invitation to the Offering

Trusting in God's providence, we share not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. God's tithes and our offerings will now be received.

Offertory

The Gift of Love

arr. Charlie Miller

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we offer these gifts to you. May your favor be upon them and prosper the labor of our hands, that your glorious power may be manifest to all, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn No. 661

Be Strong in the Lord

FETTKE

Sending

Charge and Blessing

Beloved family of God, be gracious and kind to all, with both the gentle acceptance of a child and the wise maturity of a compassionate mother.

May the Lord bless you and lay loving hands upon you, that you may be strengthened to continue to walk in the faith that others have passed on to you, to move ahead into the promised land. Amen.

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

arr. Carol Tornquist

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance • 33

Offering • \$2,395

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, 11/5	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; observing All Saints' Day
Sunday, 11/12	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; Session meeting
Tuesday, 11/14	Women's Bible Study (PW), <i>Sacred Encounters</i> , lesson 4
Sunday, 11/19	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; Communion
Sunday, 11/26	Led by the Rev. Jill Buckley; MICA food pantry collection
Sunday, 12/3	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 12/10	Led by the Rev. Amy Finkelberg
Tuesday, 12/12	Women's Bible Study (PW), special Christmas message
Sunday, 12/17	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 12/24	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; 10:30 AM service and 6:00 PM service, with Communion in both services
Sunday, 12/31	Led by the Rev. Barron Banks; Congregational Meeting - installation of Elders 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.

Poinsettias for Advent

Following our usual tradition, during Advent we will display poinsettias in the church sanctuary. If you would like to honor someone, the poinsettia order forms will be available beginning Sunday, November 5. The deadline for ordering is December 4.

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 JJWMP. 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

All of Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil into the storerooms (Nehemiah 13:12). 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

Dennis Ross, *Stewardship & Finance*
Randy White, *Property*
Rusty Whittington, *Mission*

Class of 2024

Melisa DeCoux, *Christian Education*
Suzi Drummond, *Government*
Whitney Rawlings, *Worship*

Class of 2025

Tommy Brock, *Fellowship & Evangelism*
Linda Miller, *Congregational Care*
Noggin Wild

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Debbi and Tommy Brock in honor an appreciation of Rev. Chris Richardson and her family.

Lectionary Readings and Questions for Reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46. Where has God seemed to lead you to the edge of your "promised land" and then appeared to be holding you back from entering? What could this be saying about God? What effect could this have on your faith?

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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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**