



February 2020

Dear Church Family,

One of the great privileges of pastoring at First Presbyterian Church is working so closely with Dr. David Jussely. As you may know, the Lord has used David to bless and shepherd His people for nearly fifty years in many different pastures. Like his father, the Reverend Edward Jussely, David was burdened to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a spry seminary graduate in 1974, David hit the ground running, simultaneously serving the congregations of Thomson Memorial, Hoyte Memorial, and Bethany Presbyterian churches in the Centerville area, before establishing the Second Presbyterian Church in Yazoo City. From there, the Lord called David to pastor Woodland here in Hattiesburg until beginning his PhD studies at USM. Between classes, David taught at Jones College & USM, and pastored the staff and patients of Forrest General as their chaplain. Upon completing his studies, David taught homiletics at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson before being called, at last, back to Hattiesburg to serve the saints of First Presbyterian Church.

A pastoral journey of such Tolkienian proportions would callous and exhaust a lesser man. But by God's grace, David's and Andrea's hearts have remained so very soft to the Lord Jesus and to His church. You know this because you know them. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why their own children and grandchildren bask in the gentleness of David's pastoral care, the wisdom of his counsel and teaching, and in the boldness of his preaching.

David's insights, gifts, and experience are an invaluable asset to FPC as we seek to proclaim the good news that Jesus saves sinners, "warning everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). With the Session, I am grateful to the Lord that instead of riding into the sunset of retirement, David has agreed to continue serving our beloved congregation, though bearing a lighter load, as the Minister in Residence. As such, David's energies will be primarily concentrated on pastoring the pastors and discipling the elders, imparting his extensive shepherding experience earned through a life of passionate pastoral ministry. And since you can't keep a Jussely out of the pulpit, David will continue to bless us and the churches of Grace Presbytery through his faithful, Christ-exalting preaching.

Luke wrote of Barnabas, "he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith" (Acts 11:24). Friends, we have such a man in David Jussely. He is a good man, full of the Holy Spirit. Ask his bride: Andrea. Ask his children: Josh, Daniel, Jonathan, or Carrie. Ask his daughters-in-law: Rachel, Lucy, or Kim. Ask his grandchildren: Hatten, Dabbs, or Parker, Dews or Halley, Lyla or Emmet and they'll tell you that David/Dad/Pops is the same man in private as he is in public. He is a gift to us; a token of God's affections for us in Christ Jesus. Thank God for David & Andrea Jussely. May God continue to richly bless us through them.

Your grateful servant,

Jim McCarthy
Senior Minister