



# The TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

400 Jefferson Street • P.O. Box 1725 • Tupelo, Mississippi 38802 • (662) 842-5681 • www.firstprestupelo.org

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO, MS

## A Message from the Pastor

### A PASTOR'S EXCUSES

Twelve reasons why a local clergyman stopped attending athletic events:

- Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
- The seats were too hard and not comfortable.
- The coach never came to call on me.
- The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- I was sitting with some hypocrites—they came only to see what others were wearing.
- Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
- The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
- The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
- My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
- Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow.
- I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

Olin



*Olin and Jim McBride, pictured with Dr. Christine Chakoian, guest speaker, 2020 McMillan Conversations.*

### McMillan Conversations (Lectures)

As you know, we recently had an excellent speaker in Dr. Chris Chakoian for our McMillan Conversation Series. It was a well-attended event, with dynamic messages.

This is the third guest speaker we have hosted since we reinstated these McMillan events. Past speakers were Dr. Jimmy Hardin (MSU professor of archaeology), Dr. Erskine Clark (former Columbia Theological Seminary professor), and Dr. Chris Chakoian, pastor of Westwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, CA.

***We are excited to announce that we plan to welcome Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as our guest speaker for the 2021 McMillan Conversation Series.***

We would like to continue these but need help in replenishing the McMillan Fund. If you would like to help, please contribute to the McMillan Conversations Fund. It costs about \$2,500 per event. They have proven worthwhile.

Thank you for your support.

# First

## Presbyterian Church (USA)

400 W. Jefferson St.

Tupelo, MS 38804

[www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)

662-842-5681



## Ministerial & Program Staff

The Reverend Olin McBride, Pastor

The Reverend Ron Richardson

Dr. Bob Taylor

Helen Curtis

Melissa McDuffie

Dr. Ray Harris

Danielle Ratliff

Sunny Waters

Kay Stanford

Eddie Baker

## Silence

Very often when I walk into a home or room of our homebound, the television is on and, in many cases, it is on a high volume. If a person is in a nursing facility and the door is open, I will knock as I enter the room. It is not unusual for me to find this individual asleep in a chair with the television volume on high. I can determine if this person is in a deep sleep or just relaxing with eyes closed. A touch on the arm will usually bring eyes open and, most of the time, a smile. Greetings will take place along with an invitation to have a seat. The television remains on loud. After a short visit without the television being turned down or off, I will ask if I can do so. It is as if the person I am visiting suddenly becomes aware of the noise.

My hunch is this does not necessarily need to be a homebound for such an experience to occur. Noise brings comfort and assures us, young or old, we are not alone. In this day and age, it is difficult to be anywhere without noise. I am reminded of the cartoon with father and son walking in the woods. The father says to the son, "It sure is peaceful out here in the woods." The son replies, "Yeah, it's so quiet you can hear the distant rumble of trucks on the interstate." Whether with trains, traffic, planes in the sky, phones, televisions, etc., it seems we cannot escape noise. Being in total silence is a rarity. Even so, the psalmist reminds us of its importance: "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation (Psalm 62)."

If silence is indeed a means for us to experience our salvation, it may well be helpful for us to turn down the noise in our lives. Our salvation comes from God and not from us. As with silence, we long to capture what cannot be caught. At the very least, there comes a time when we need to turn down the noise and wait.

*Ron Richardson*

*Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*

## Announcements

**Walk Through the New Testament** resumes Sunday, February 23, at 5:00 p.m. and Monday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. We will be on Lesson 18.

**The 2019 Congregational Annual Report is available** in the office, the breezeway, and other areas of the church. Pick up a copy and read all about the good things happening at FPC!

**The 2020 Church Directory is available** in the office, the breezeway, and other areas of the church. While this directory does not include member photos, it does contain updated addresses, phone numbers, and other church member contact information. Pick up a copy any time.

**First Presbyterian Church's pictorial directory will be available soon.**

# Session Digest

1. We welcomed three new members to our congregation in December - Alli McAlexander Monts, Julia Monts, and Carolyn Livingston.
2. In view of additional expenses required, the absence of returning teachers, and the uncertainty of enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year, the decision was made to discontinue the Preschool/Kindergarten program at the end of the current school year in May 2020.
3. A budget of \$859,223 has been approved for the 2020 year.
4. Any committee of the Session desiring to make a recommendation to the Session that would require an expenditure of funds over, above or outside its approved budget in excess of \$500.00 is first required to submit the recommendation to the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee will then determine how the funding of the recommendation could be accomplished, if at all, and provide that information along with the recommendation of the requesting committee to the Session. Additionally, copies of any contracts for services to be rendered to the church and approved by the Session, should be submitted to the financial secretary and the Administrative Committee.
5. Surplus from the 2019 budget (approximately \$9600) will be moved to maintenance reserves.
6. The Safety Team will use money from the Bob Munson Estate Fund to improve safety of the facility.
7. The Safety Team is asking for volunteers to serve as "Eyes and Ears" on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. Training will be provided on what to do in case of weather, health, fire, and any other emergencies or issues that might arise during gatherings at FPC.
8. Please stop by the new and improved Church Nursery! Sarra Godwin and Natalie Ellis have worked hard to clean it up, select and assemble new toys (with the help of Mac Godwin), select new paint for the walls (thanks to Pete McMurry and Travis Abney for painting), and select a new floor for the area. At this time, the floor is waiting for completion, but that will be accomplished soon!
9. "Idol Addiction, facing your false gods and restoring your sanity with the GOSPEL you thought you knew" by Julie Sparkman will be used for a small group study meeting in the Library during the Sunday School Hour. Julie Gibens and Kristen Whitten will facilitate the study.
10. Thirty gift cards were mailed to our college students.
11. Twenty-one poinsettias were delivered to our homebound members.
12. Presbyterian Women collected and delivered the warm clothing items from the tree in the breezeway to the Children's Mansion.
13. The yearly church directory is finished and will be distributed.
14. The photographic directory will, hopefully, be out at the end of March.
15. Dates to remember -
  - \* Ash Wednesday – February 26
  - \* Palm Sunday – April 5
  - \* Maundy Thursday – April 9
  - \* Good Friday – April 10
  - \* Easter – April 12

# Youth

It has been so nice to settle back into a routine after our time off in December and early January. Over the break, several senior high youth spent a long Sunday afternoon in the basement painting the walls and helping to freshen up the space. The youth love the basement as their space and take great ownership in it!

January also meant our annual PYC Retreat (this year a combined Junior and Senior High) weekend at Camp Hopewell. For our second trip in a row now, we outgrew the bus and needed additional vehicles to help get us to our destination. What a fun weekend it was! As I have mentioned before, Ana Morgan Beckham serves on the council that plans and leads this retreat. She represented us well that weekend, great job Ana Morgan!

February means Super Bowl which means “Souper Bowl”! We hope you plan to join us for this joint fund raiser between our youth and the Outreach Mission committee. Lunch will be served February 2 and will be available as take out or a sit down lunch in the Fellowship Hall. There will be plenty of delicious soups to choose from; we hope to see you there!

*Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education*

## Welcome!



Sunday, January 26, we welcomed **Jeremy and Francie Blanchard** by reaffirmation of faith.  
Welcome, Jeremy and Francie!

## Presbyterian Women

The PW Council wants to thank the congregation for the remarkable response to the “Keep Tupelo Warm” mission.

Ann Godwin delivered children’s items to the Children’s Mansion and adult items to Tree of Life.

Please join us for the Annual Traceway Birthday Party on February 18 at 3:00 p.m.—we will have a patriotic theme for the party. The church circles host the party for residents with a birthday. Everyone is welcome to participate and help.

Circles meet monthly, and we also enjoy fun and fellowship throughout the year.

Circle #2 – Ann Godwin – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 9:30 a.m. Meets in the home of a circle member

Circle #3 – Lucy Nash – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:45 p.m. Meets in the home of a circle member

Circle #4 – Vivian Fleming – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at Noon Meets in the Frances Sheffield SS Room at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres

If you are a new member or visitor and would like to participate in a women’s bible circle, please contact Lisa Nichols at 662-231-3434 for more information.

*Lisa Nichols, Moderator  
Presbyterian Women*

# January Visitors

Richie & Karen Alvarez  
Jeremy & Francie Blanchard  
Nelda Clayton  
Adam & Katie Crouch  
Laura Fisher  
Erin D. Flowers  
Simms Haadsma  
Hunter Harrington, Grace & Henry  
Michael & Lee Herman & family  
Eddy Holland  
Scott and Breanna Horton  
Wilson & Teracia Hunt  
Linda Lehman  
Susan Marsico  
Cindy McAuley  
Bob & Ritha McLaughlin  
Janice Reynolds  
Mark Reynolds  
Jan Riley  
Alix & Travis Roaten  
John Michael Walker  
Jean Yarborough  
David York

# February Birthdays

**2**  
Bethany Hazel  
Andy Luckett  
**3**  
Carolyn Livingston  
**4**  
Hank Owens  
Chris Thompson  
**7**  
John Parker  
**8**  
Leslie Burks  
**9**  
Joel Zimmerman  
**11**  
Lanta Craig  
**13**  
Emma Counce  
Abbey Hastings  
**15**  
Bill Deas

**17**  
Lucy Nash  
**19**  
Bess Robbins  
**20**  
Field Thomas  
**21**  
Bennett Mark  
**24**  
Lauren Nichols  
**26**  
Britt Rogers, III  
**27**  
Laurie Teague  
**28**  
Daintry Thomas

# February Anniversaries

**1**  
Byron & Betty Fellows  
Sammy & Analyn Perryman  
**3**  
Dwight & Sarah Hardison  
**4**  
Jim & Lisa Nichols  
**16**  
Chris & Holly Rogers  
**21**  
Robin & Cindy Faucette  
Lewis & Mel Whitfield  
**27**  
George & Wanda Dent

## Memorials, Gifts, & Honoraria

### IN MEMORY OF:

#### **Becky Franklin**

Joe & Frances Sheffield (General Fund)

#### **Bill Henson**

Joe & Frances Sheffield (General Fund)

#### **Jenny Hewitt**

Freddie & Mary Ann Chiles (Memorial Garden Fund)  
Bobby & Martha Dale (Memorial Garden Fund)

#### **Flora Shultz**

Freddie & Mary Ann Chiles (Memorial Garden Fund)  
Ms. Allen L. Linton (Memorial Garden Fund)  
Jimmy & Nancy Milam (Memorial Garden Fund)  
FPC Presbyterian Women (Memorial Garden Fund)  
Margaret Phipps (Memorial Garden Fund)

#### **Flora and Ralph Shultz**

Leroy & Lou Ann McCarty (Chancel Choir Fund)

#### **Rita Smith**

Joe & Frances Sheffield (General Fund)

#### **Bill Young**

Joe & Frances Sheffield (General Fund)

### IN HONOR OF:

#### **Jackie Haguewood**

Lisa Nichols (Cuba Water Mission)

#### **Ray Harris**

Lisa Nichols (Cuba Water Mission)

#### **Olin McBride**

Lisa Nichols (Cuba Water Mission)

#### **Ron Richardson**

Lisa Nichols (Cuba Water Mission)



# SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY\*

## February 2 Fellowship Hall

To-go boxes available after both services.  
Lunch in the fellowship hall after 11:00 services.

A variety of heart-warming soups, bread & desserts

Children's menu available

Hosted by the Outreach Mission Committee & Youth Group

Proceeds benefit youth & water missions

\*And there shall be no trash talking of teams.

### JOIN US

### FOR OUR SOUPER BOWL LUNCH!

Please join us this Sunday, February 2 for Souper Bowl Sunday. We will be serving after BOTH worship services. After the 8:30 service, we will have to-go orders, and we will continue after the 11:00 service.

The menu will have a children's option which will include chicken tenders and mac and cheese. The regular menu will be a large array of soups, a full salad bar, cheese bread, and a dessert.

Please plan to pay what you would normally pay for a Sunday lunch. All proceeds will benefit our adult and youth missions. Thanks for your support!

## Wednesday Nights in February



February 5

Dr. Jimmy Hardin  
Fellowship Hall

February 12

John Clark Packer  
on Cystic Fibrosis  
Fellowship Hall

February 19

African American Show Choir  
Sanctuary

February 26

Ash Wednesday Service  
Sanctuary



Join us for Olin's two-part sermon series:

**FEBRUARY 2:  
WHAT I BELIEVE  
ABOUT HELL**

**FEBRUARY 9:  
WHAT I BELIEVE  
ABOUT HEAVEN**



# Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated to our Presbyterian Women's Christmas project, "Hats, Gloves, Scarves, and Socks." Over 200 items were delivered to the Tupelo Children's Mansion. All items were greatly appreciated.

## SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.—Acts 20:28*

### We Need Team Members:

The Safety and Security Committee is in search of team members to help keep watch over the flock at FPC. We are not asking for any experience or special gifts--we can use anyone. We would like to have a team of 25-30 folks to be the eyes and ears around our facility when we are open, especially on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. We will have training sessions on "What to Do" in case of an emergency. It might be medical, weather related, or security related. Either way, we want to be proactive and have folks aware early enough to be of assistance to our members and visitors.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact one of the committee members: Buddy Stubbs, Nattie Ellis, Bob Lence, Drew Robertson, Tom Billups or call the Church Office. We hope to get a large enough group so you will only serve once a quarter or so.

### Door Security News:

The Session has approved a change to our security of the existing doors at FPC. We will replace the key pads with a key card or key fob on the 3 existing doors and add another one to the door entering the Preschool/Sunday School area.

On Sunday mornings all doors will be locked except the breezeway doors and the front door entrance by the office. If you are an adult member of FPC and would like to request a key or fob, please email Helen at [churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org) or call her with your request. Let her know if you prefer a key card or fob and we will put you on the list.

Costs of the keys or fobs will be \$5.00 each. This new system will allow us more control of the security of FPC as well as to know who is coming into our facility. Please be understanding with us as we try to protect our facility and membership. We will continue to update you as these new measures are implemented.

Thank you, from the Safety & Security Team

## WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOUR SHOEBOX GO???

If you paid your Operation Christmas Child shoebox freight online, you may go to this website to find out your shoebox's destination: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box-lookup/>. From there, if you enter your email address, the name of the country to which your shoebox traveled pops up! There is also a link to learn more about that specific country. A map will be on display in the breezeway showing the journey of our First Presbyterian shoeboxes. Please contact Mary Stubbs at [mary@busylad.com](mailto:mary@busylad.com), or 662-231-5675, and let her know the country or countries where your shoebox landed. It will be interesting to discover the destinations of First Presbyterian's far-reaching generosity!



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 & 11 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 SOUPER BOWL 5:30 – Youth	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2 – Prayer Partners 2:30 – CASA/Gym 4:30—Mah Jongg 6:45 – Circle 3, Kim Burleson’s home 7 – Boy Scouts	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 9 – Tai Chi Chih 11—Mary&Marthas 2:30 – CASA/Gym 7 – AA Meeting	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2:30 – CASA/Gym 5—Safety Committee Meeting 5:05—Tower Ringers 5:30 – Supper 6 – Faithbuilders 6:15 – Program 7:05 – Choir	7:30 – Men’s Breakfast 8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 10—Yoga, Library 2:30 – CASA/Gym	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 12 – AA Meeting 2:30 – CASA/Gym	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 & 11 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 5:30 – Youth	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 9:30—Circle 2, Ann Monaghan’s home 2 – Prayer Partners 2:30 – CASA/Gym 4:30—Mah Jongg 5:30—Committee Meetings 7 – Boy Scouts	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 9 – Tai Chi Chih 11– Mary&Marthas 12—Circle 4, Sheffield Room 2:30 – CASA/Gym 7 – AA Meeting	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2:30 – CASA/Gym 5:00—Tower Ringers 5:30 – Supper 6 – Faithbuilders 6:15 – Program 7:05 - Choir	7:30 – Men’s Breakfast 8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 10 – Yoga, Library 2:30 – CASA/Gym	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 12 – AA Meeting 2:30 – CASA/Gym	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30 & 11 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 5:30 – Youth	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2 – Prayer Partners 2:30 – CASA/Gym 4:30—Mah Jongg 6:00—Session Mtg. 7 – Boy Scouts	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 9 – Tai Chi Chih 11 – Mary & Marthas 2:30 – CASA/Gym 7 – AA Meeting	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2:30 – CASA/Gym 5:00—Tower Ringers 5:30 – Supper 6 – Faithbuilders 6:15 – Program 7:05 - Choir	7:30 – Men’s Breakfast 8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 10 – Yoga, Library 2:30 – CASA/Gym	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 12 – AA Meeting 2:30 – CASA/Gym	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 & 11 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 5:30 – Youth	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2 – Prayer Partners 2:30 – CASA/Gym 4:30—Mah Jongg 7 – Boy Scouts	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 9 – Tai Chi Chih 11—Mary & Marthas 2:30 – CASA/Gym 7 – AA Meeting	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 2:30 – CASA/Gym 5:00—Tower Ringers 5:30 – Supper 6 – Faithbuilders 6:15 – Program 7:05 - Choir	7:30 – Men’s Breakfast 8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 10 – Yoga, Library 2:30 – CASA/Gym	8:30 – Preschool & Kindergarten 12 – AA Meeting 2:30 – CASA/Gym 6:00—Jackson baseball team in Fellowship Hall	
30						
8:30 & 11 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 5:30 – Youth						

# The Church Calendar

## February, 2020

### Ongoing Events

#### Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
5:30 p.m. Youth

#### Monday

8:30 a.m. Preschool/Kindergarten  
2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners  
2:30-5:30 p.m. CASA, Gym  
4:30 p.m. Mah Jongg  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

#### Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Preschool/Kindergarten  
9:00 a.m. T'ai Chi Chih  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Mary & Martha's Bible Study  
2:30-5:30 p.m. CASA, Gym  
7:00 p.m. AA, 12 & 12 Group Mtg./Al-Anon

#### Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Preschool/Kindergarten  
2:30 p.m. CASA, Gym  
5:05 p.m. Tower Ringers  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper  
6:00 p.m. Faithbuilders & Adult Program  
7:05 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Thursday

7:30 a.m. Men's Meeting/Holiday Inn  
8:30 a.m. Preschool/Kindergarten  
10:00 a.m. Yoga, Library  
2:30-5:30 p.m. CASA, Gym

#### Friday

8:30 a.m. Preschool/Kindergarten  
Noon AA 12 & 12 Group Meeting  
2:30-5:30 p.m. CASA, Gym

### Special Events/Programs

#### Sunday, February 2

SOUPER BOWL Lunch  
after the 11:00 worship service.  
To-go orders will be available after both the 8:30 a.m.  
and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

#### Monday, February 3

6:45 p.m.—Circle 3, Kim Burleson's home

#### Monday, February 10

9:30 a.m.—Circle 2, Ann Monaghan's home

5:30 p.m.—Committee Meetings

#### Monday, February 17

6:00 p.m.—Session Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**APRIL 12**

**EASTER BRUNCH**

**APRIL 29**

**CHERUB & ELEMENTARY CHOIR  
CLOSING PROGRAM  
PICNIC/PIE SOCIAL**