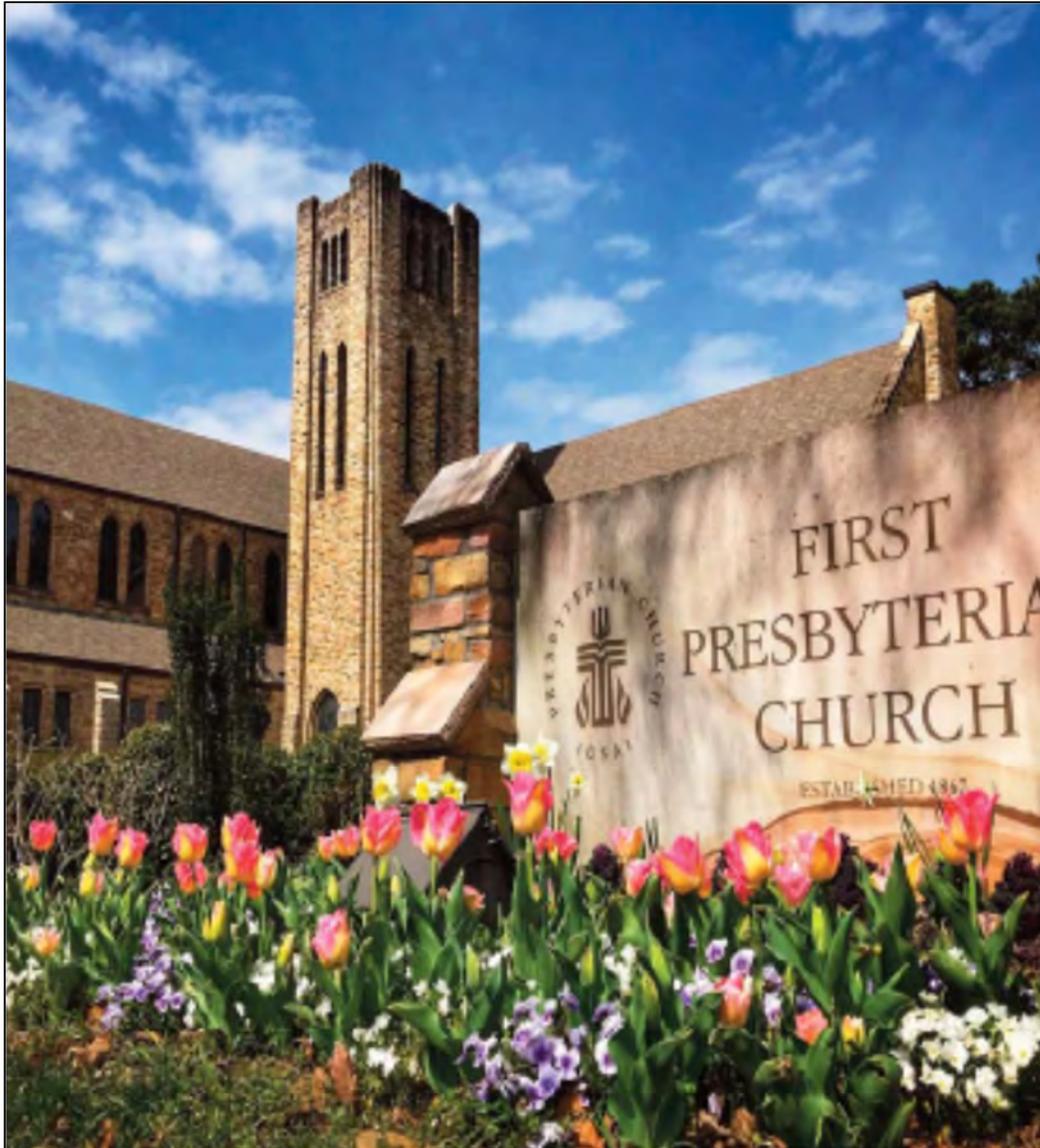


First Presbyterian Church



400 Jefferson Street
Tupelo, Mississippi
662.842.5681
Fax 662.842.1696

Visit us online. www.firstprestupelo.org
www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupelo

Morning Worship Service

First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

The purpose of this sermon will be to distinguish between being tested and being tempted as we enter this season of Lent.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"* Dale Wood

INTROIT *"It Is Well With My Soul"* Bob Krogstad

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us gather today and lift our voices in song and praise to God.

People: For once we were lost in sin and cried out to God for a Savior.

Leader: And God heard our pleas, and in Christ Jesus we have our salvation.

People: So, let us sing and give praise to Almighty God!

Leader: Let us walk in the way of the Lord forever.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 361 *"How Firm a Foundation"*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: God of the Wilderness, as we devote these forty days to You, shape us by Your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by Your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. This we pray in the name of the One who is life eternal, Jesus the Christ, whose call we hear and whose prayer we offer up to his glory...

Unison: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace. Let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, You know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. We have all sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We have not always kept Your words in our hearts and minds, nor taught them to our children when we are at home and when we are away. Forgive us, we pray, and give us the gift of Your grace, that we may be made right through our faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader: Hear now, O Lord, our personal prayers of confession in this time of silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven! Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE – No. 579

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

“Abide With Me”

Brian L. Hanson

Abide With Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Hitting the Reset Button”

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*UNISON PROFESSION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

What an honor and privilege it is to come before God and offer to Him our various gifts and offerings. As we do so, let us give with a generous and cheerful heart.

OFFERTORY

“Ave Verum”

Wolfgang Mozart

*DOXOLOGY NO. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Magnificent God, all that we have are gifts of Your unconditional love and everlasting grace. Accept what we bring to You as our offerings of praise and in gratitude for the hope of new life we receive in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 379 *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”*

**POSTLUDE

“The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”

Benedetto Marcello

BENEDICTION

*Congregation standing as able.

**Please be seated until the conclusion of the Postlude.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, please turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

The Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our beloved parents, Bill and Tot McMurry and John and Norma Head, by Kathy and Pete McMurry.

Nursery care is available for newborns through four-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

Ritual of Friendship—Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers. You may also view the bulletin by visiting our website at www.firstprestupelo.org. See the “Bulletin” link at the top of the homepage.

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

After the 11:00 Children’s Sermon, preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend “Wee Kirk.” This is a time of fun childcare with age appropriate songs and games. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Crucifer: 9:00: Hudson Fisher

11:00: Kelsey Whitten

Liturgist: 9:00: Trey Leeke

11:00: Trey Phyfer

Greeters: 9:00: Lori and Bill Dickerson; Lucy and Steve Nash
11:00: Heather and Jim Ingram

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held today, February 26, 2023, at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. The meeting will fulfill the requirement of holding an Annual Meeting of the congregation. Business to be conducted includes the following:

- 1) The congregation will receive as information the 2022 Annual Report of the committees.
- 2) Act on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect the following members to the elder class of 2026: Aubre Wells, Ben Hunter, Helen Monts, Glen Davidson, Sr., Corey Littrell, Jim Fisher, and Bob Lence. Nominations from the floor will be allowed. Please make sure nominees have agreed to serve if elected.
- 3) Elect a new Nominating Committee for 2023.

As per the by-laws of FPC, “the Church Officer Nominating Committee shall be made up of two (2) elders, each elected by the Session. One will serve as chairperson and the other as assistant. The assistant will serve as chairperson the following year. There shall be five (5) at-large members of the congregation elected at the Annual Meeting. These members will be a fair representation of the church membership.”

Nominations for these at-large members will be made from the floor during the congregational meeting. Please make sure those you nominate have agreed to serve.

A new Lenten study for adults begins at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 1. Taylor Todd will lead the study. All are welcome!

Be sure to join church friends and our visitors for supper and fellowship at 5:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 1. The menu: The Martha’s’ Beef Casserole, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Marco’s Pizza, Homestyle Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, Lemon Crunch, Chess Pie, Peach Cobbler, Chocolate Chip Cake, Cookies, and Ice Cream. Sign up by Noon on Wednesday by using the link in Friday’s newsletter or calling the church office at 662-842-5681.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Sam Pace

Homebound: Carolyn Gaston, Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly

College Students: Emma Kantack, Bennett Mark, Eli Martin

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andy Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 43 11:00 A.M.: 150

THE SESSION

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle
Susan Boone
Amy Fagan
Mitzi Moore
Aubrey Patterson, Jr
Grayson Robbins
Debra Robison

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson
Cindy Faucette
Leslie Geoghegan
Michael Gratz Jr.
Chauncey Godwin
Charles Reece
Alice Rogers

Class of 2025

Richard Hastings
Trey Leeke
Lucy Nash
Chris Rogers
Mary Stubbs
Glenn Thomas
Presly Wallace

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician
Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian
Helen Curtis, Church Secretary
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary
Debbie Merritt, Receptionist
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO...

Learn The Word Of God In Worship And Study.
Live The Word Of God In Our Homes And Communities.
Lead Others To The Word Of God In Love.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH

A Lenten Study led by Taylor Todd

Beginning Wednesday, March 1

Fellowship Hall - 6:00 PM

Come early and join us for supper at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall!



LEARNING TO LIVE
insideOUT

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHES

Join us for a light lunch and short Lenten devotion on Thursday, at 12 p.m. during Lent. Donations accepted to off-set cost of food.

2/28 - Wesley UMC

Rev. Emily Sanford, Wesley UMC

3/02 - St. James Catholic

Rev. Taylor Todd of First Presbyterian

3/9 - First Presbyterian

Rev. Rusty Keen of First UMC

3/16 - St. Luke UMC

Father Tim Murphy of St. James Catholic Church

3/23 - First United Methodist

Rev. Rob Gill of St. Luke UMC

3/30 - Lawndale Presbyterian Church

Rev. Bill Bradford of Lawndale Presbyterian



DOING THE
MOST GOOD

EMPTY BOWLS

LUNCHEON TO FEED THE HUNGRY



MARCH 1, 2023

\$15

Doors Open 10:30 am

Soups Served 11:00am to 1:00pm

Tupelo Furniture Market Bldg. V
or Renasant Bank Downtown

SPONSORED BY THE SALVATION ARMY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

JOIN HANDS WITH US AS
WE FILL THE BOWLS OF
THE LESS FORTUNATE

• BOWLS ARE BACK!! •

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 662-842-9222 or 662-213-7596

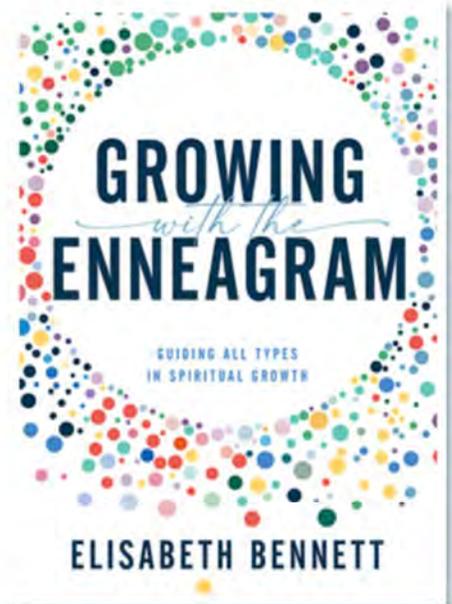
FOR CURBSIDE ORDER PICK-UP CALL:
662-231-2210

NEW STUDY for Adults!

Beginning Sunday, February 26
4:00 - 5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Join us as Julie Gibens leads a new study for adults, *Growing With the Enneagram*. Plans are for the study to conclude by May.



Nursery will be provided. No book is necessary, but books detailing specific Enneagram types are available on Amazon or at other book stores.

Questions?

Call Melissa McDuffie at 662-871-2046.

THIS WEEK @ FPC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 9:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:00 A.M. Congregational Meeting
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary
- 4:00 P.M. Enneagram study, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
- 10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
- 11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Room 110, John 3:1-17
- 7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 11:00 A.M. Empty Bowls Luncheon
- 3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton Classroom
- 5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
- 5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders, Youth, Adult Programs
- 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

- 7:45 A.M.—12:00 P.M. St. Luke Food Pantry
- 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
- 12:00 P.M. Community Lenten Luncheon, St. James Catholic Church

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

- 12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting