

# First Presbyterian Church

400 Jefferson Street  
Tupelo, Mississippi



## 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.*

Visit us online. [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

*Morning Worship Service*  
*Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

AUGUST 17, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart” - PROVERBS 3:3

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God* BENEDETTO MARCELL

SPECIAL MUSIC *Little David, Play on Your Harp* ARR. FABER

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* ARR. FABER

INTROIT *Jesus Loves Me* ARR. JOHN FERGUSON

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

How good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity!

**It is like precious oil poured out, a blessing from the Lord.**

Let love and faithfulness never leave you. Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

**We come to trust in the Lord, to walk in His ways, and to dwell together in peace.**

*Come, let us worship the Lord.*

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, You have called us into a community of love, kindness, and faithfulness. As we gather in Your presence, pour out Your Spirit upon us. Bind our hearts together in Christ, and teach us to live in harmony, seeking the good of our neighbors and walking in Your truth. May our worship bring You glory, our prayers rise to You like incense, and our lives reflect Your mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The Apostle Paul writes: “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection.” In the light of God’s love, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**

**You have shown us the beauty of living in peace, yet we confess that we have not always sought harmony.**

**We have withheld kindness when it was in our power to act.**

**We have allowed envy, resentment, or fear to divide us.**

**We have looked away from the needs of our neighbors.**

**Forgive us, Lord.**

**Write Your truth on our hearts.**

**Teach us to live in love and faithfulness,**

**so that in all we do, Your name may be honored.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

## Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Americal folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: who is in a position to condemn,  
only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ intercedes for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God!**

***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

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

MARY PACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

UNISON READING

PSALM 133

**How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life forevermore.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 12:9-21

PEW BIBLE, PG. 162

ANTHEM

*My Eternal King*

JANE MARSHALL

*“My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav’n thereby,  
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.*

*Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;  
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.*

*Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?  
Not for the hope of winning heav’n, or of escaping hell;*

*Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;  
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!*

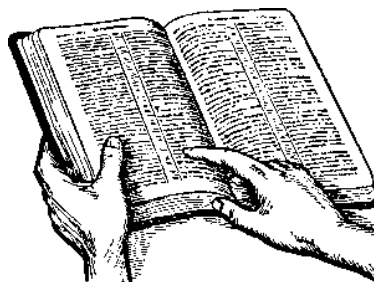
*E’en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;  
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.”*

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day, He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION *They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love* ONE IN THE SPIRIT

(see insert)



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

ALICE JORDAN

\*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

**Faithful God,  
receive these gifts,  
and with them our lives.  
Use them to build up the body of Christ,  
to bring hope to the hopeless,  
and to spread Your love in the world.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 343

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

POSTLUDE

*Praeludium in C Major*

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

\*BENEDICTION



# We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes, 1966

We are one in the Spi - rit, we are one in the Lord. We are  
We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. We will  
We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. We will  
All — praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come. And all

5 one in the Spi - rit, we are one in the Lord. And we  
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to -  
work with each oth - er we will work side by side. And we'll  
praise to Christ Je - sus, God's — on - ly — Son. And all

9 pray that all u - ni - ty will one day be re - stored. And they'll  
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land. And they'll  
guard each man's dig - ni - ty and save — each man's pride. And they'll  
praise to the Spi - rit, who — makes — us — one. And they'll

13 know we are Christ - ians by our love, by our love; yes they'll  
know we are Christ - ians by our love, by our love; yes they'll  
know we are Christ - ians by our love, by our love; yes they'll  
know we are Christ - ians by our love, by our love; yes they'll

17 know — we are Christ - ians by our love. —  
know — we are Christ - ians by our love. —  
know — we are Christ - ians by our love. —  
know — we are Christ - ians by our love. —

## **WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Are you looking for a church home?** If so, please speak to our minister following worship or email him at [pastor@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:pastor@firstprestupelo.org).

**Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.**

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

**The flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory Sissy McCarty by Michelle and Joey Hutto.

**All children are welcome in worship!** Children's activity bags and special bulletins are available for all ages and are located with our regular worship bulletins in the Narthex. 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. 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.

**Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilders** during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. We meet after the children's sermon for a fun and engaging time of learning about the structure of our church service with activities to help kids grow in their understanding and participation in worship. If your child attends, you can pick them up in the gym area after the service.

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

**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.

**Leading the worship service today:** Rev. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

**Liturgist:** 9:00: Virginia Tolliver

11:00: Larry Crowell

**Greeters:** 9:00: Charles & Betty Reece

11:00: Bryan & Natalie Ellis, Buddy & Mary Stubbs



## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatment:** Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

**Homebound:** Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson, Daisy Aycok

**College Students:** Daniel Crotwell, Afton Gable, Lindley Gibens

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

## ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

One Service at 10:30 A.M.: 166

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$17,025

Amount Received 8/10/25: \$5,533

YTD Budgeted Income: \$680,987

YTD Income Received: \$681,116

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, August 18 at 11:00 A.M.** We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship and is open to everyone. This week, we will be studying Luke 18.

For August, I want to try something different. I am going to send out the main passage I will be preaching from, and I would like anyone who is interested in reading the passage and sending me their thoughts on the passage to participate. **The passage for August 24 is Proverbs 9:1-6, 13-18.** If you have any thoughts or ideas or questions from the passage, please email me at **[pastor@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:pastor@firstprestupelo.org)** or **come by the office!** Please do so by **Wednesday, August 20,** so I will have time to think about and integrate your ideas into the sermon.

**Nominating Committee** is beginning its work to propose a slate of elders for the Class of 2029. If you have any suggestions for members of the church you would like the Committee to consider, please use the QR code provided here in the bulletin or go to the following link:

**<https://forms.gle/JtFTc3nGxG8Ff5Pu8>**



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# *Labor Day* **BOSTON** **BUTT** *Fundraiser*

FOR THE CUBA MISSION TEAM  
PREPARED BY MARK REYNOLDS

**PRE-ORDER NOW**  
**THROUGH AUGUST 22**



**PICK UP DATES:**  
**AUGUST 27, 28, 29**

*\$40 each*

instruction for reheating included at pick up

Contact: Liz Rose - 662.397.4504

Jean Magee - 662.231-6404

Robin Faucette - 662.401.4510





# The Church at Worship & Work

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## YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY

SUNDAY

17

AUGUST

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School, Fellowship Hall

11:00 A.M.

Worship Service, Sanctuary

4:30 P.M.

Boy Scouts, Room B205

5:30 P.M.

Youth

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MONDAY

18

AUGUST

11:00 A.M.

Bible Study

2:30 P.M.

CASA, Gym

5:00 P.M.

Steering Committee Meeting

6:00 P.M.

Session Meeting

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TUESDAY

19

AUGUST

9:00 A.M.

T'ai Chi Chih

10:00 A.M.

Staff Meeting

2:30 P.M.

CASA, Gym

2:30 P.M.

Cook for the Salvation Army

7:00 P.M.

A.A. Meeting

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WEDNESDAY

20

AUGUST

2:30 P.M.

Mah Jongg-Stewart Clayton SS Rm.

3:00 P.M.

CASA, Gym

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THURSDAY

21

AUGUST

8:00 A.M.

Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

1:30 P.M.

Shepherd's Center Meeting, Rec. Room

2:30 P.M.

CASA, Gym

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FRIDAY

22

AUGUST

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## CUT-OFF FOR ORDERING BOSTON BUTTS

12:00 P.M.

A.A. Meeting

2:30 P.M.

CASA, Gym

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### **THE SESSION**

Rev. John Brock, Moderator  
Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

#### **CLASS OF 2026**

Glen Davidson, Sr.  
Jim Fisher  
Ben Hunter  
Bob Lence  
Corey Littrell  
Helen Monts  
Aubre Wells

#### **CLASS OF 2027**

Heather Crotwell  
Amanda Davis  
Beth Anne Ellzey  
Mac Godwin  
Mary Margaret Gratz  
Debra Robison  
Liz Rose

#### **CLASS OF 2028**

Jim Bruce  
Tatum Collins  
Lee Herman  
Trey Phyfer  
Buddy Stubbs  
Virginia Toliver  
Kathy Wallace

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. John Brock, Pastor  
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education  
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music  
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist  
John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician  
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs  
Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer  
Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian  
MJ Whitt, Church Secretary  
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary  
Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist  
Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist  
Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent  
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

