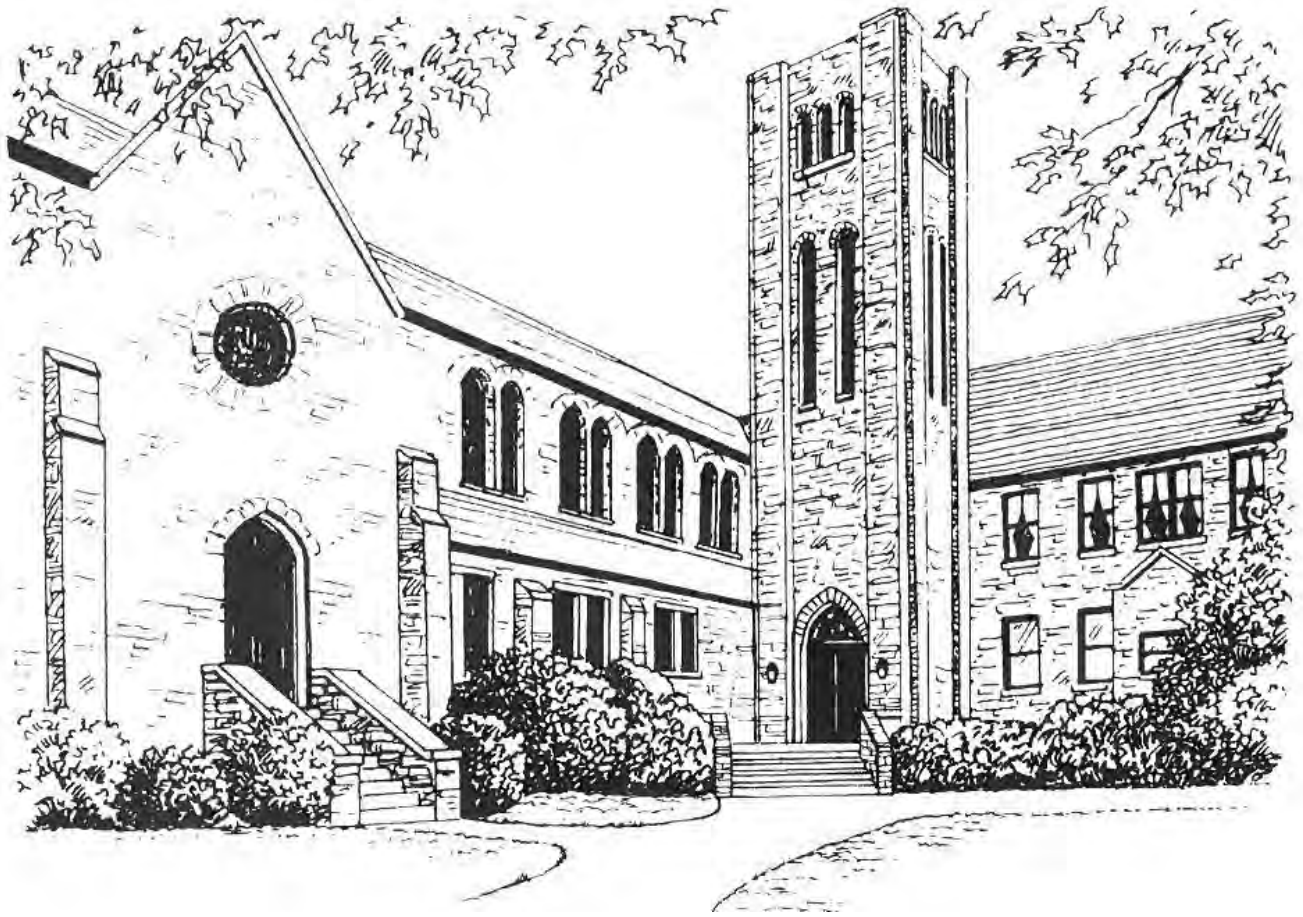


First Presbyterian Church

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
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

Morning Worship Service

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 31, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.” -
PROVERBS 22:2

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

ERIC THIMAN

INTROIT

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

ARR. STAN PETHEL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.

**For God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in God's holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

Be lifted up, O ancient doors!

That the King of glory may come in.

The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

You are the Maker of heaven and earth,

the One who owns all things and gives life to all.
You call us into community, where rich and poor meet together,
where mercy and justice take root.
As we gather in worship, lift our eyes to Your glory,
open our ears to Your Word,
and shape our lives by Your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 422 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is our Maker, the One who sees all and knows all.
God calls us to live with clean hands and pure hearts,
yet we often fail to love as we should.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You call us to honor one another,
to walk humbly with You,
to defend the poor and uphold the weak.
Yet too often we chase after wealth and status,
we ignore those who suffer,
we excuse injustice and turn away from need.
Forgive us, Lord.
By Your Spirit, give us clean hands and pure hearts,
that we may live as Your people,
walking in Your mercy and working for Your justice.
Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)





ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news:

Though Christ was rich, yet for our sake He became poor,
so that by His poverty we might become rich.

In Him, we are forgiven and made new.

Believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

for he has founded it on the seas,

and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

**who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory.**

NEW TESTAMENT

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

PEW BIBLE, PG. 182

ANTHEM

A Giving Place

HEATHER SORENSON

*Lord, make this church a giving place, a house of prayer, a sacred space, a chapel of Your
boundless grace.*

Lord, make this church a giving place.

*Lord, make this church an open door, where every word redeems, restores, a healing room for
evermore.*

Lord, make this church an open door.

Lord, build this church with broken hearts, on fragile jars of clay.

Through wounded windows shine Your light in a thousand glorious ways.

*Lord, make this church a light of hope, a beacon bright, a welcome home, a gathering where
Your love is shown.*

Lord, make this church a giving place.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

PEW BIBLE, PG. 604

SERMON

“Stewardship”

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Scots Confession*

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible to have been created, to be retained in Their being, and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable providence for such end as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of His own glory.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 428 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

SCHUMANN

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

Sicilienne

MARIA TERESIA PARADIS

*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

**Generous God,
we offer our gifts to You,
symbols of our love,
signs of our gratitude,
and seeds of Your justice.
Bless them and use them**

**to lift up the poor,
to strengthen the weak,
and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 414 *As Those of Old their Firstfruits Brought* FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE *Festive Trumpet Tune* DAVID GERMAN

*BENEDICTION

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.

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 loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Erskine Bishop by Chauncey and Ann Godwin.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Charlie Gratz, Lucy Gratz, Reid Hardison

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 68 11:00 A.M.: 120

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$17,025

Amount Received 8/24/25: \$6,685

YTD Budgeted Income: \$680,987

YTD Income Received: \$694,662

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, September 1.

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 to the right.

Nominating Committee



Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program using the QR Code provided, using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. This week the cost is \$7 per person, and we will enjoy Rotel Chicken Spaghetti, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Oven-Roasted Vegetables, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Orange Congealed Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be a Montreat Presentation given by our Youth Group. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, September 3!**



Wednesday Night

In Worship during the month of September, we will be focusing on the theme of *Follow Jesus*. For September 7, the mini-theme will be "Accept Jesus' Invitation," and our scripture passages will be from John 1:35-51 and John 1:6-9, 19-36.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, August 31

9:00 A.M. Worship Service
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

Monday, September 1

OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 2

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, September 3

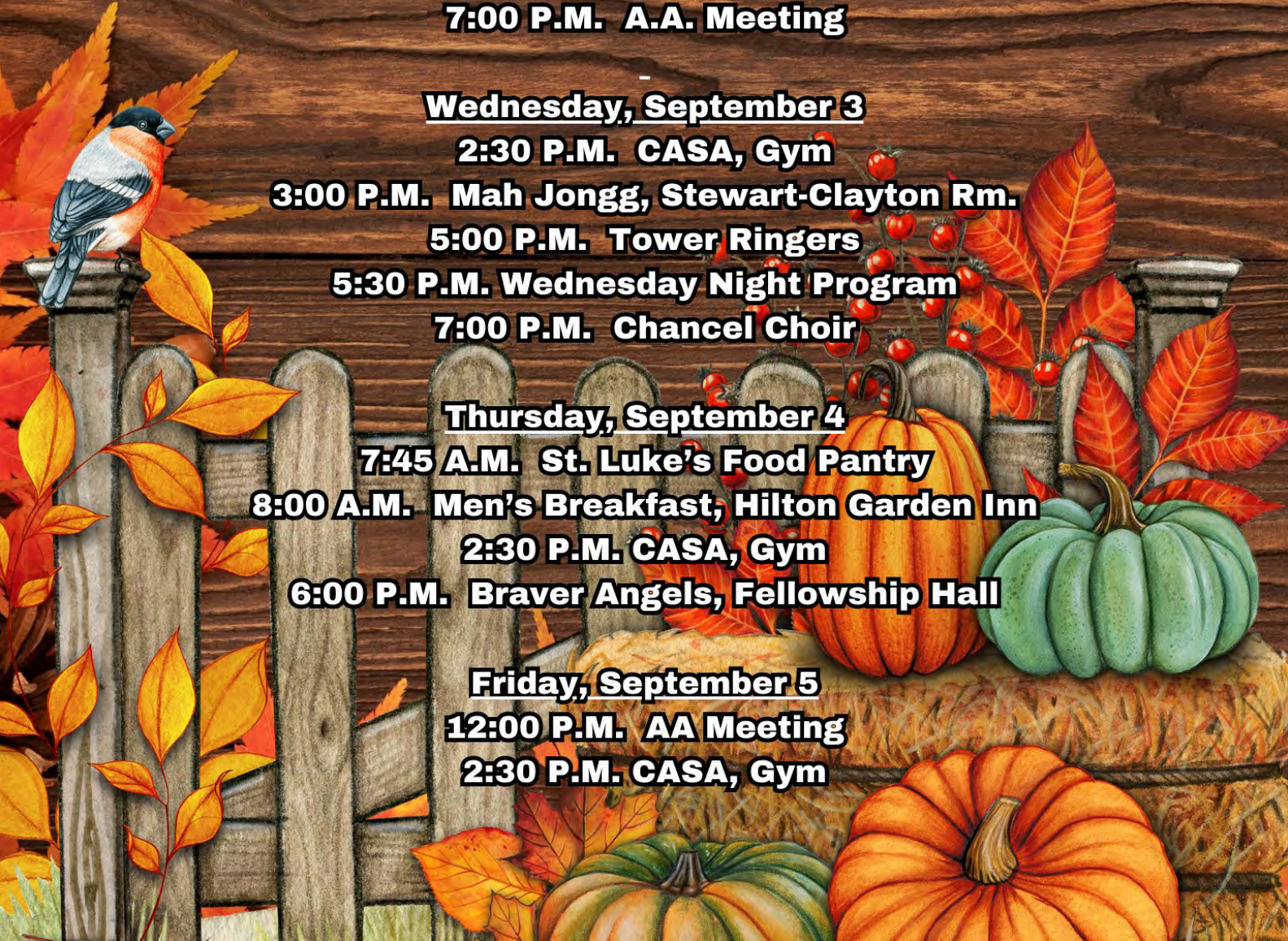
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart-Clayton Rm.
5:00 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 4

7:45 A.M. St. Luke's Food Pantry
8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
6:00 P.M. Braver Angels, Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 5

12:00 P.M. AA Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym



History of FPC: Part 1 – Local History.

Our local history begins long before our congregation was established and is inextricably linked to the works of the Reverend Thomas C. Stuart. A graduate of the College of New Jersey (which would become Princeton University). Stuart was commissioned by the Synod of South Carolina as a missionary to the Indians in 1819. Initially rebuffed by the Creek nation, he continued westward and formed the Monroe Mission in 1821 where he ministered to the Chickasaw Nation. By 1823, he had established a school, a church, and housing near the Natchez Trace between Pontotoc and Cotton Gin Port (near modern day Amory). Following the signing of the Treaty of Pontotoc Creek in 1832, Stuart continued his work as the Chickasaw people prepared to journey westward. In recognition of his efforts, the Chickasaw granted him the title "Father" Stuart which he retained for the rest of his life. During this period "Father" Stuart founded the First Presbyterian Church of Pontotoc in 1835.

After the Chickasaw left the area in 1837-1838, "Father" Stuart ministered to the settlers, forming Zion Presbyterian Church in 1841. Painted a brilliant white, it became known as "White Zion" to differentiate it from the unpainted Baptist church nearby, which as the wood darkened with age, became known as "Black Zion." After his wife died in 1851, his daughter Mary Jane assisted with his mission. During the Civil War "Father" Stuart returned to Pontotoc to resume pastoral duties beginning in 1863. Following the War, "Father" Stuart, by then in declining health, moved to Tupelo to be with his daughter and her husband. A few months later, under the sponsorship of White Zion Church, he organized our very own First Presbyterian Church Tupelo in 1867 where he served as pastor until our first minister, Reverend James H. Gailliard could be called in 1868. Our Sesquicentennial book, *The Light that Shines in Darkness*, is an excellent resource detailing the history of the congregation.

What motivated "Father" Stuart to live such a remarkable life? Stay tuned as we explore the history of Presbyterianism each week!

First Presbyterian Church
Tupelo, MS

Please Join Us For Our

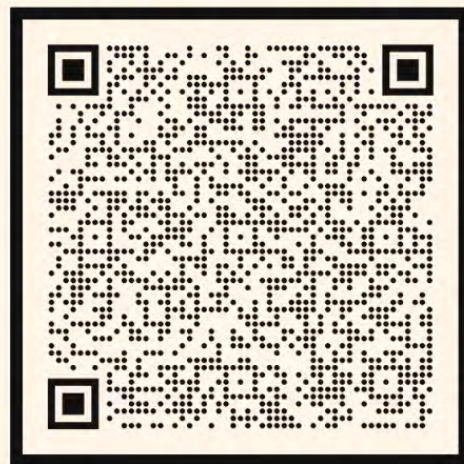
*Wednesday Night
Dinner & Program*

Date	Time
9.3.2025	5:30pm

Menu:

**Rotel Chicken Spaghetti, Fried
and Grilled Chicken Tenders,
Oven-Roasted Vegetables,
Homestyle Green Beans, Tater
Tots, Orange Congealed Salad,
Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh
Fruit, and Assorted Desserts!**

Sign Up by Noon
Wednesday:



\$7 per person



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Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.
Lead others to the Word of God in love.

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

