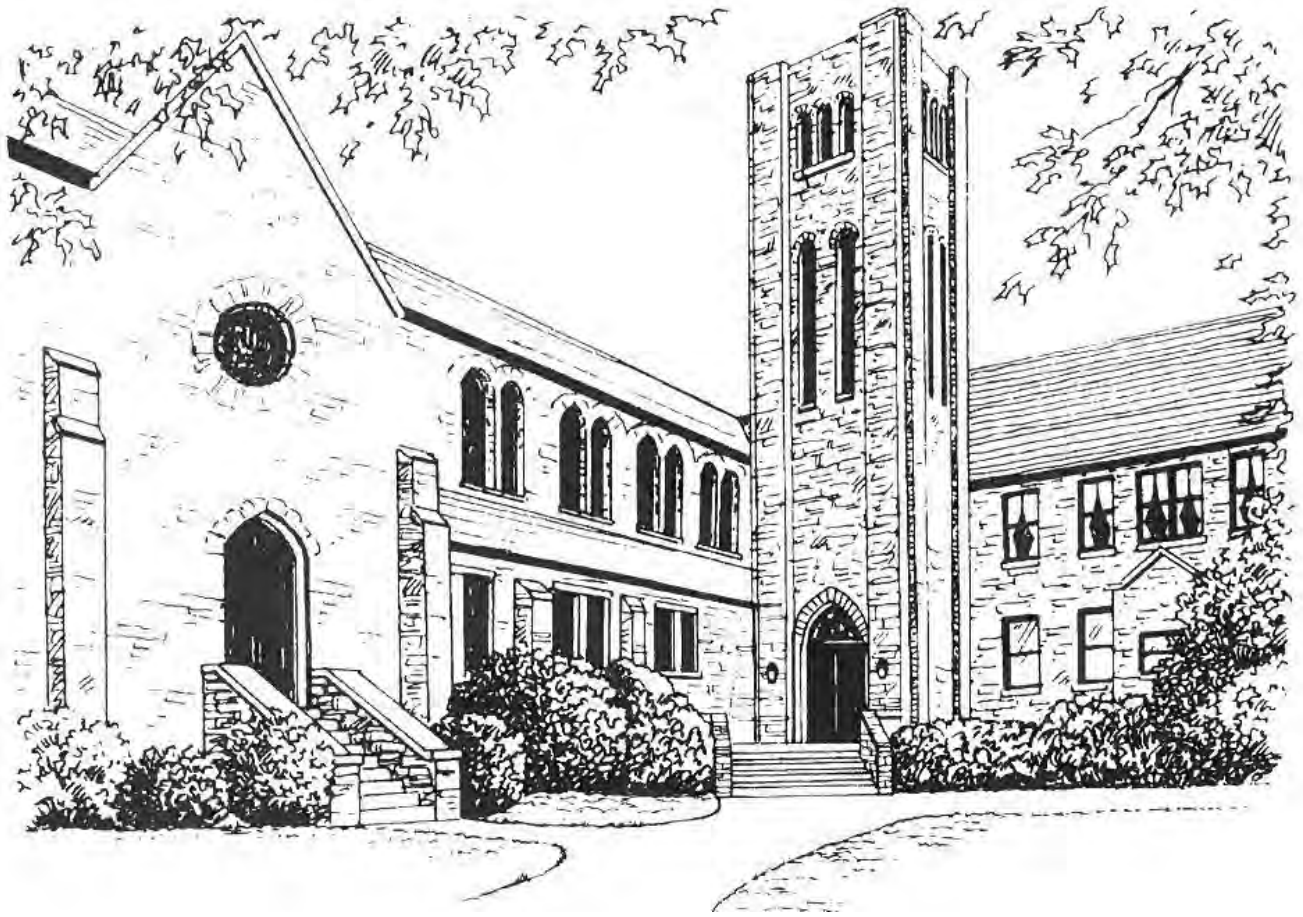


First Presbyterian Church

400 W 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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

-DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

DALE WOOD

INTROIT

O God, Beyond All Praising GUSTAV HOLST/ROBERT HOBBY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O people of God:

The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

We will love the LORD our God

with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The greatest commandment is this:

Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

We gather to worship the God who first loved us,

that we might learn to love as God loves.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love and life,

You have called us to love You

with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,

and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

By Your Spirit, draw us near today,

that we might be shaped by Your Word,

renewed by Your grace,
and sent out as witnesses of Your love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's law is good: it teaches us to love God and neighbor.
But we fall short of that calling,
turning inward, forgetting others, and neglecting God.
Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,
You command us to love You with all that we are
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We confess that we fail to obey.
We turn from You in our thoughts,
neglect our neighbors in our actions,
and seek our own comfort above all.
Forgive us, O God.
Teach us again Your perfect love
and fill us with Your Spirit,
that we may walk in Your ways
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

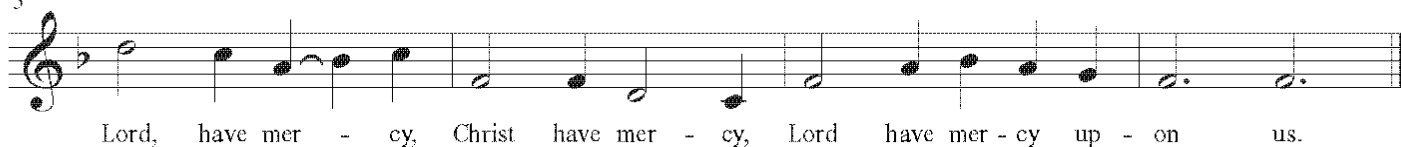
America folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



5



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news:

The Lord our God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

MATTHEW 22:37-40

Jesus said to him,

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your
soul, and with all your mind.”**

This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

PEW BIBLE, PG. 163

ANTHEM

This Is My Commandment

LARRY SHACKLEY

This is My commandment, that you love one another,

Love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.

This is My commandment, that you love one another,

Love one another as I have loved you.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 12:28-34

PEW BIBLE, PG. 49

SERMON

“All You Need Is Love”

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

42. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the LORD our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbors as ourselves.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 355 *Though I May Speak*

O WALY WALY

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

Aria

W. A. 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

**Generous God,
You have poured out Your love on us.
Take these gifts,
and use them to share Your love with the world.
Shape us, too, into faithful disciples,
loving You and our neighbors in all we do.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

The Lord is God
(see insert)

AZMON

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

MARK OTTERSTAD

*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 honor of Ms. Alice Rogers 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.

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.

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: Melissa McDuffie, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Lori Robertson

11:00: Trey Leeke

Greeters: 9:00: Mac & Sarra Godwin

11:00: Bryan & Natalie Ellis, Daintry Thomas

The Lord is God

Azmon

David Gambrell

Carl Gotthoelf Glaser



The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give
With all your heart, with all your soul, with
At night or day, at home, a - way, to -
The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give



hon - or, thanks, and praise to God, the ma - ker
all your mind and might, O peo - ple love the
geth - er or a - part, O child - ren, take these
hon - or, thanks, and praise to God, the ma - ker



of all things and___ giv - er of our days.
Lord your God, the___ source of truth and light.
ho - ly words and___ keep them in your heart.
of all things and___ giv - er of our days.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program:

Date	Time
9.24.2025	5:30pm

Menu:

**Presly's Smoked Pork
Loin, Fried and Grilled
Chicken Tenders,
Southern Cheese Grits,
Homestyle Green Beans,
Broccoli Salad, Rolls, Full
Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and
Assorted Desserts!**

**Sign Up by
Noon
Wednesday:**



Program: Kirkin of the Tartans 101

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: John Gaston, Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash

College Students: Ross Reeder, Olivia Reynolds, Walt Rose

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 49 11:00 A.M.: 92

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 9/14/25: \$4,192

YTD Budgeted Income: \$766,110

YTD Income Received: \$739,129

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, September 22 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 22.

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 Italian Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Roasted Fresh Vegetables, Congealed Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be Kirkin of the Tartans 101. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, September 24!**

Collars for Elementary & Cherub Choir—We need people to help sew **on September 24** starting at 9:30 A.M. and going until 6:00 P.M. in the extra preschool classroom. Come as you are available. Can't sew? No worries! We need people to cut and press, as well! Contact Cindy Faucette with any questions at 662.231.6827.

In Worship during the month of September, we will be focusing on the theme of *Follow Jesus*. For September 28, the mini-theme will be "Follow Jesus by Making Disciples" and our scripture passage will be from **Mathew 28:16-20 and Matthew 3:13-17**.

As we approach the Kirkin' service, we will look at the various influences that would eventually lead "Father" Stuart to establish FPC.

Hamilton, Wishart, et al. - Reformation Martyrs

Patrick Hamilton was the first martyr of the Scottish Reformation. In 1517, he was appointed Abbot of Fearn Abbey in Ross-shire. He studied at the University of Paris where he became a Master of Arts in 1520. It was there that he encountered the writings of Martin Luther. In 1523, he joined the faculty of the University of St. Andrews. Reformed doctrines deeply affected him, and by 1527, his teaching had attracted the attention of Archbishop James Beaton who had him tried and burned at the stake for heresy in 1528. Henry Forrest was a Benedictine Friar who was a determinant at St. Andrews in 1526. He "affirmed and said that Mr. Patrick Hamilton died a martyr, and that his articles were true." Forrest "underwent a long imprisonment in the sea tower" at St. Andrews and was eventually convicted of heresy and burned at the stake around 1532. His execution took place at the north stile of the church "that all people...might see the fire, and...be the more feared from falling into the like doctrine." George Wishart was a student at the University of Leuven, from which he graduated in 1531. While there, he translated the First Helvetic Confession from Latin to English. He taught New Testament at Montrose until investigated for heresy by the Bishop of Brechin in 1538. He fled to England where a similar charge was brought against him in Bristol. Fleeing to the Continent, he may have visited Germany and Switzerland in 1539-1540. He returned to teach and study at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge in 1542. He became an itinerant preacher in 1544, traveling Scotland from east to west accompanied by his disciple John Knox who acted as his bodyguard, bearing a two-handed sword to ensure that Wishart was allowed to preach. He went from place to place, in danger of his life, denouncing the Papacy and the abuses of the Church. In January of 1546, after telling Knox to flee and keep the Reformation alive, he was seized at Ormiston and transported to Edinburgh where a "show trial" was held that resulted in Wishart being hanged and burned in St. Andrews in March 1546. Walter Milne was the last Protestant martyr to be burned in Scotland before the Scottish Reformation changed the country from Catholic to Presbyterian. In his early years, he visited Germany where he learned the doctrines of the Reformation. During the time of Cardinal Beaton, he was denounced as a heretic, forced to flee the country, and condemned in absentia to be burned wherever he might be found. Long after the Cardinal's death, he was apprehended in the town of Dysart, Fife. After being confined in the castle at St. Andrews, he was brought for trial before an assembly of bishops, abbots, and doctors in the cathedral. Being over 80 years old, he was so weak and infirm that he had difficulty climbing into the pulpit to answer for his actions, but when he spoke, "he made the church to ring and sound with so great courage and stoutness that the Christians present were no less rejoiced than his adversaries were confounded and ashamed." He used the opportunity to point out what he regarded as the special errors of the church, and was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake in April 1588 at the age of 82.

Next week: Covenants and Covenanters

This Week at FPC

Sunday, September 21

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 22

11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Rm.
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:30 P.M. Nominating Committee
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, September 24

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
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

Thursday, September 25

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Friday, September 26

12:00 P.M. AA Meeting
2:00 P.M. Madrigals Photos on front steps
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Saturday, September 27

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands

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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

