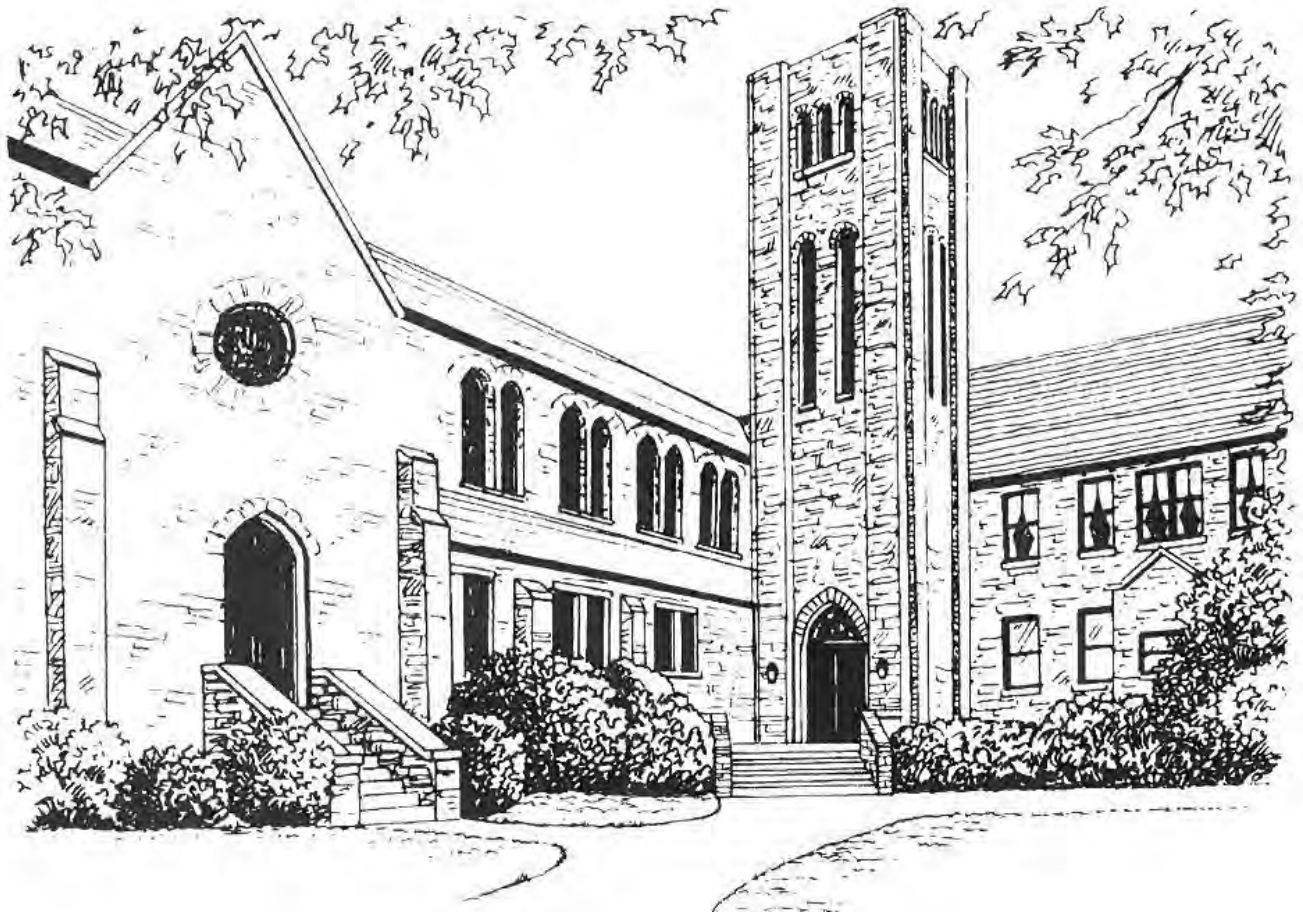


# First Presbyterian Church

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

662.842.5681

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

-MATTHEW 28:19

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*Prelude on the Doxology*

FRED BOCK

INTROIT

*The Call*

CRAIG COURTNEY

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The One who made the heavens calls us to follow.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The One who brought Israel out of slavery calls us to live with justice.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The Risen Christ sends us to share good news with all the earth.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, Three-in-One,

from the communion of Your being,

lover overflowed,

endowing us with Your image

and calling us into community.

Help us to listen for Your word,

that our lives may be ordered  
by Your peace alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 429 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Creation displays the glory of God,  
but your sin keeps us from rejoicing  
in the love God reveals.  
Yet Christ Jesus the Son carried our sins to the cross,  
and the Holy Spirit breathes new life into us  
so that we can praise God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Let us confess our sins,  
that we may receive such grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of justice and mercy,  
we confess that we have failed to follow Your way.  
We fast for appearances, but neglect the hungry.  
We speak of peace, but harbor resentment.  
We long for Your guidance, but resist Your call to go.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
Loosen the bonds of injustice in our lives,  
shine Your light into our darkness,  
and send us out to make disciples of all nations,  
so that Your glory may be known in all the earth.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*



# KYRIE

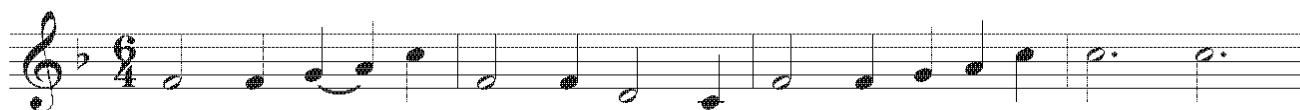
## Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

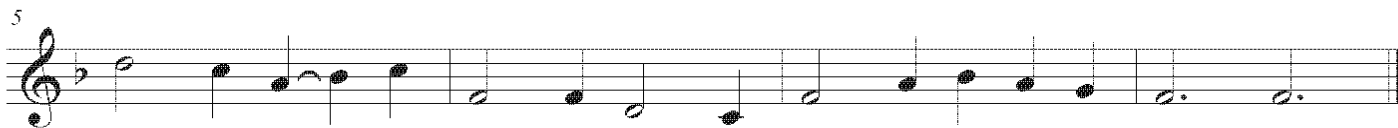
Kyrie Eleison

America folk hymn

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

The Holy One of Israel,  
the Redeemer of the world,  
and the Holy Spirit who comes as the breath of new life  
forgets the sins of all who repent.  
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

PSALM 136:1-9

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**for his steadfast love endures forever.**  
O give thanks to the God of gods,  
**for his steadfast love endures forever.**  
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
**for his steadfast love endures forever.**  
who alone does great wonders,  
**for his steadfast love endures forever.**  
who by understanding made the heavens

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

who spread out the earth on the waters

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

who made the great lights

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

the sun to rule over the day

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

the moon and stars to rule over the night

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3-8

PEW BIBLE, PG. 688

ANTHEM

*Come, Labor On*

RYAN MURPHY

*Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,  
while all around us waves the golden grain?*

*And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."*

*Come, labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!*

*No arm so weak but may do service here; by feeblest agents may our God fulfill  
His righteous will.*

*Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky;  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun:  
"Servants, well done."*

*Come, labor on. The toil is pleasant; the reward is sure. Blessed are those who to the end  
endure; how full their joy, how deep their rest shall be, O Lord, with thee.*

*Come, labor on!*

GOSPEL READING

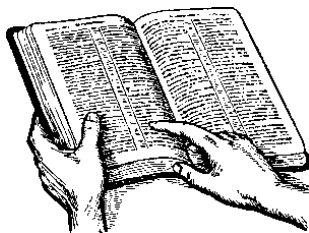
MATTHEW 28:16-20

PEW BIBLE, PG. 33

SERMON

"Go Into the World"

REV. JOHN BROCK



\*STATEMENT 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. 525      *Here I Am, Lord*

SCHUTTE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all goodness,

**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**

*We All Are One in Mission*

**DAVID CHRISTENSEN**

**\*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,  
we give You thanks for Your enduring love.  
Bless these gifts,  
and bless us,  
that Your justice may break forth like the dawn  
and Your gospel may shine to the ends of the earth.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Go to the World!  
(see insert)*

**SINE NOMINE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rondeau*

**HENRY PURCELL**

**\*BENEDICTION**



**This Week at EPC**

<b><u>Sunday, September 28</u></b> 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	<b><u>Monday, September 29</u></b> 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym	<b><u>Wednesday, October 1</u></b> 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 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir	<b><u>Thursday, October 2</u></b> 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
	<b><u>Tuesday, September 30</u></b> 9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih 2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym 7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting		<b><u>Friday, October 3</u></b> 12:00 P.M. AA Meeting 2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

## 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 of Presly Thornton Wallace, Jr on his birthday by Robin and Cindy Faucette.

**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](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: Sam Agnew

11:00: Doyce Deas

**Greeters:** 9:00: Pat Agnew, Tracy Kramer

11:00: Vicki and Jeff McCaleb, Grayson and Beth Robbins



# Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

Sylvia G. Dunston

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth. Go  
Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place. Go  
Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray; the  
Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for  
preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth, bap -  
live the Word of God's re - deem - ing grace. Go  
nights of tears give way to joy - ous day. As  
I am with you till the age shall end, when  
tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth, Al -  
seek God's pres - ence in each time and space. Al -  
ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way. Al -  
all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!" Al -  
le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Wednesday Night Program/Menu:

**Taziki's Grilled Greek Chicken Strips  
with Basmati Rice and Taziki Sauce, Fried  
Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green  
Beans, Greek Grilled Vegetables, Rolls,  
Taziki's Greek Salad with pita chips, Full  
Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted  
Desserts!**



Sign Up by Noon Wednesday

**\$7 per person**

**Program: What Is Kirkin' of  
the Tartans?**

## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Homebound:** Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price, Jack Price

**College Students:** Jenkins Wells, Ana Morgan Beckham, Daniel Crotwell

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

## ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 51    11:00 A.M.: 105

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 9/21/25: \$5,593

YTD Budgeted Income: \$766,110

YTD Income Received: \$744,722

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, September 29 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 the second half of 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 Taziki's Grilled Greek Chicken Strips with Basmati Rice and Taziki Sauce, Fried Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Greek Grilled Vegetables, Rolls, Taziki's Greek Salad with pita chips, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be What Is Kirkin' of the Tartans? We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, October 1!**



**In Worship during the month of September**, we will be focusing on the theme of *Welcome All*. For October 5, the mini-theme will be "Welcome Others as God Welcomes You" and our scripture passages will be from **Luke 18:15-17, Genesis 18:1-10, and Genesis 1:1-2:4a**.

Next Sunday, October 5, is World Communion Sunday, as well as the Sunday that we will take up the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Please be in prayerful consideration of what you can give to this program that is set up to help peacemakers around the world. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)



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

## Covenants and Covenanters

The XVII Century was a period of unrest in Scotland and England. In 1603, James VI of Scotland was declared King James I of the United Kingdom of England and Scotland. One of his first acts was a new "authorized" translation of the Bible (which came to be known as the King James Bible) for use by all his subjects in an attempt to unify the kingdoms by unifying their religion. He also successfully installed a panel of bishops to oversee the Scots Kirk.

However when his son Charles I declared himself supreme head of the Church, the Scots rebelled, and in 1638, he drafted the National Covenant, signed by thousands known as Covenanters, declaring that "Christ alone is head of the Kirk." The General Assembly expelled the bishops, leading to the Bishop's Wars of 1639 and 1640, leaving the Covenanters in control of Scotland. The 1643 Solemn League and Covenant brought Scotland into the First English Civil War on the side of parliament against the king. After his defeat in May 1646, Charles I surrendered to the Scots Covenanter army. As a result of negotiations to protect the Kirk, the Covenanters supported Charles I in the Second English Civil War of 1648.

After the king's capture and execution in 1649, the Covenanter government, in order to protect the Presbyterian polity and Calvinist doctrine of the Kirk, signed a treaty declaring his son as Charles II King of Scots in 1650 in return for his promise to support the Kirk. However, Oliver Cromwell crushed the Covenanter Army and annexed Scotland to the Commonwealth disestablishing Presbyterianism. After the death of Cromwell, Charles II was restored as king; however, he reneged on his treaty and Oath of Covenant, declaring the covenants "...against the fundamental laws of the kingdom." The Covenanters saw this as a betrayal of trust.

The Covenanters lost control of the Kirk and became a persecuted minority. There were several armed uprisings, leading to a period from 1679-1688 known as "The Killing Time" where they were actively hunted down by government forces. They were forced to worship in secret "conventicles," keeping Presbyterianism alive at the risk of imprisonment or death if captured, as many were. After the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688, which deposed James II in favor of William and Mary, the Church of Scotland was re-established as a wholly Presbyterian structure and most Covenanters were readmitted ending their existence as a separate movement.

Next Week: Presbyterianism in the Colonies






**PURSUE  
WHAT  
MAKES  
FOR  
PEACE.**

ROMANS 14:19



**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**  
**PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**

 *Peace is active, not passive.  
Peace is doing, not waiting.*

Grace Hope Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY, works with the nonprofit Guns to Gardens to collect and repurpose unwanted or decommissioned firearms to transform them into something constructive and useful, like garden tools, art or jewelry. The program nurtures peace and growth instead of violence.



Divinity student Adriana Soto Acevedo, from Puerto Rico, participated in the United Nation's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment. "Our job is to crack little rays of hope by connecting with one another, by learning of the struggles we each go through, and by being there for each other," she said.

For the past 12 years, Chester Presbyterian Church, in Chester, Virginia, has partnered with Marguerite Christian Elementary School to provide backpacks of food for children to take home over the weekend — as well as a drive-through café that meets the needs of 90 to 105 residents weekly.



To learn more, go to [pcusa.org/peace-global](http://pcusa.org/peace-global) for more information.



## **We are the Peacemakers**

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

**25%**

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

**25%**

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

**50%**

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

*Thank you!*



**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**  
**PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

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Thank you for  
your participation in the  
Peace & Global Witness Offering.

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IF WE ALL  
DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP  
TO A LOT!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



**WAYS TO GIVE**



Through your  
congregation



Donate by  
credit card online at [pcusa.org/peace-global](https://pcusa.org/peace-global)



Text **PCUSAPEACE**  
to **41444**  
or scan this QR code  
for more information.



## **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.

### **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

