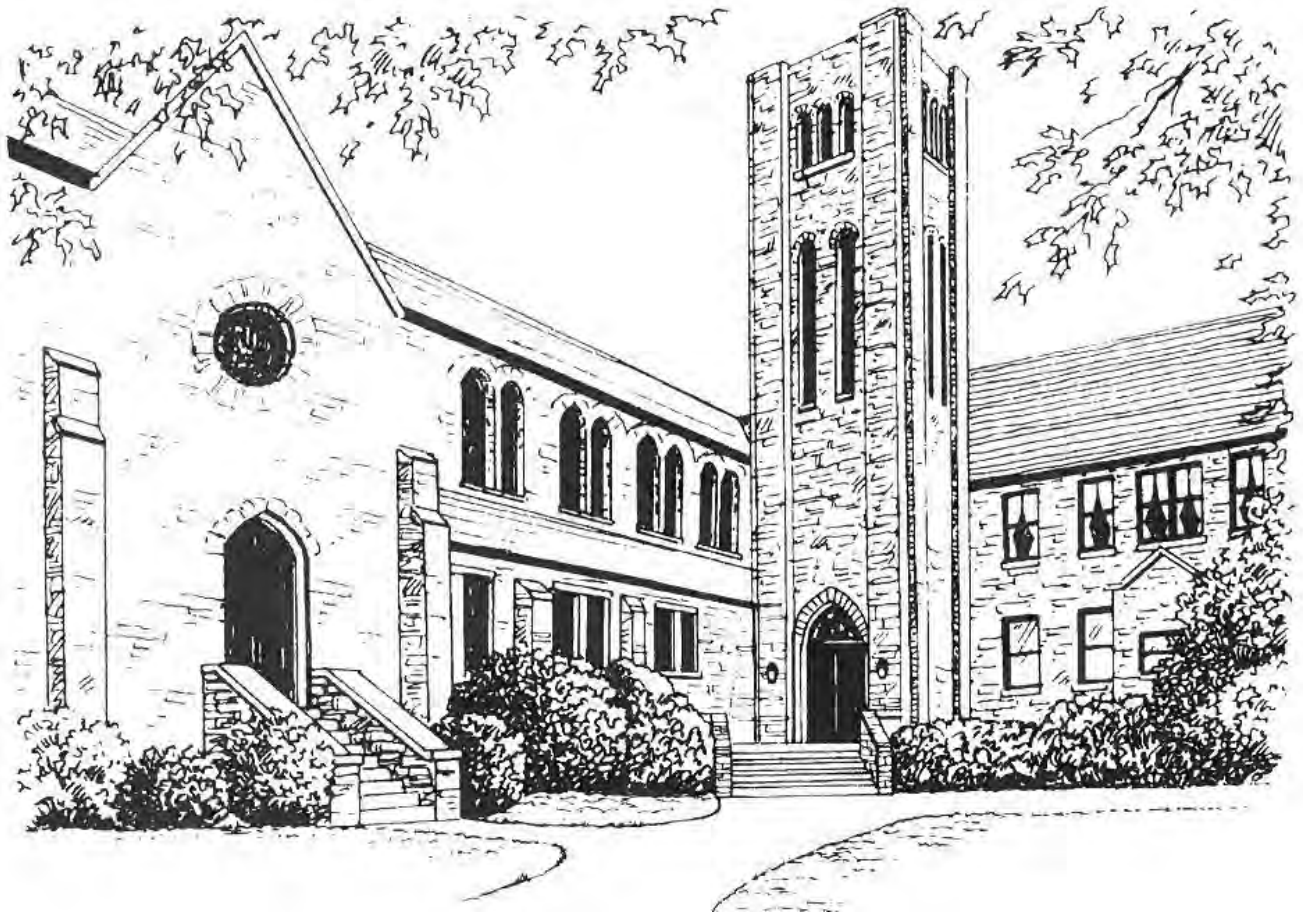


# First Presbyterian Church

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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

9:00 & 11:00

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come and see.’” - JOHN 1:39

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

DALE WOOD

INTROIT

*Come, Follow Me*

JOEL RANEY

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;

**the world and those who live in it.**

O praise the Lord with me,

**let us exalt God's name together.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and Living God,

You call us, as You called the first disciples,

to come and see the life made new in Jesus Christ.

You open our eyes to Your glory,

You stir our hearts with Your Spirit,

and You set before us the promise of Your kingdom.

Give us courage to follow where Christ leads,

faith to trust in Your presence along the way,

and joy in bearing witness to the One

who is the way, the truth, and the life—

Jesus Christ our Lord,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to come and see—  
to see God's truth, God's mercy, God's redeeming love.  
But we confess that too often our eyes are closed,  
our hearts are distracted,  
and we turn away from the One who calls us by name.  
Trusting in the grace of Christ,  
let us come before God with honest hearts  
and confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,  
You call us to follow Your Son,  
to see where He dwells, and to abide in Your love.  
Yet we confess that we are slow to listen  
and hesitant to follow.  
We cling to what is comfortable  
and ignore Your invitation to new life.  
We doubt that anything good can come from places we despise,  
and we resist the hope You set before us.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
Open our eyes to Your glory,  
our ears to Your voice,  
and our hearts to Your grace  
that we may be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*



# KYRIE

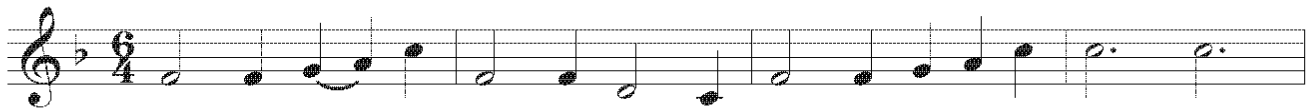
## Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

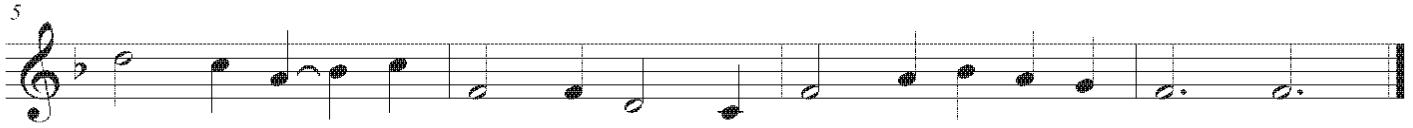
Kyrie Eleison

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

Friends, hear the good news:

Jesus knows us and loves us,

calls us and claims us.

In Christ, our sins are forgiven

and our lives are made new.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

\*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 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;**

**do not let me be put to shame;**

**do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;**

**teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

For your name's sake, O Lord,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

**Who are they that fear the Lord?  
He will teach them the way that they should choose.**

They will abide in prosperity,  
and their children shall possess the land.

**The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,  
and he makes his covenant known to them.**

My eyes are ever towards the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart,  
and bring me out of my distress.

**Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.**

Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.

**O guard my life, and deliver me;  
do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.**

May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.

**Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all its troubles.**

ANTHEM

*Christ is the World's Light* FRED PRATT GREEN/LLOYD LARSON

*Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;*

*Born in our darkness, He became our brother.*

*If we have seen Him, we have seen the Father:*

*Glory to God on high!*

*Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;*

*No one can serve Him and despise another.*

*Who else unites us, one in God the Father?*

*Glory to God on high!*

*Christ is the world's Life, Christ and none other;*

*Sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.*

*He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:*

*Glory to God on high!*

*Give God the glory, God and none other;*

*Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;*

*Give God the glory, God with us our brother:*

*Glory to God on high, on high!*

GOSPEL TESTAMENT READING

JOHN 1:6-9, 35-51

PEW BIBLE, PG. 91

SERMON

“Come and See”

REV. JOHN BROCK

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY No. 592

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S 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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 426      *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*      CANONBURY

POSTLUDE      *Minuet Gothique from "Suite Gothique" Op. 25*      LÉON BOËLLMANN

\*BENEDICTION

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## 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 Susie Crockett by Jimmy Crockett, Becky Easley, and Janice Reynolds.

**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: Virginia Toliver

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

**Greeters:** 9:00: Lucy & Steve Nash

11:00: Anna Brock, Susan Boone, Bonnie Williford, Mary Elizabeth Williams

**Crucifers:** 9:00: Emma McDuffie

11:00: Owen Leeke

# Wednesday Night Dinner & Program:

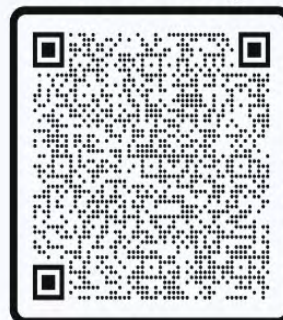
Date	Time
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9.10.2025	5:30pm
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## Menu:

**Chicken Casserole, Fried and Grilled  
Chicken Tenders, Build-your-own Beef  
Tacos, Homestyle Green Beans,  
Macaroni and Cheese, Rolls, Fresh Fruit,  
Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts!**

**Sign Up by Noon  
Wednesday:**



**Program:** Leslie Wood Watercolor Presentation

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

## *John Calvin*

A French theologian, pastor and reformer in Geneva during the Protestant Reformation, Calvin was originally trained as a humanist lawyer. He was the principal figure in the development of the system of Christian theology later known as Calvinism, which is the basis of Presbyterianism. Calvin embraced Protestant beliefs in the late 1520s as espoused by Huldrych Zwingli, an early Swiss reformer. Writing between 1536 and 1539, Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion was the most widely influential work of the era. In it he taught the absolute sovereignty of God, salvation by grace through faith alone, the authority of Scripture, and the doctrine of predestination. In support of Calvin's reforms, the Council of Geneva passed ordinances providing for four orders of ministry: pastors to preach and administer sacraments, doctors to instruct believers in the faith, elders to provide discipline, and deacons to provide for the poor and needy. (Sound familiar?). Starting in 1555, Calvin sheltered exiles who fled the reign of Catholic Mary Tudor of England, including John Knox who would carry Calvin's ideas on doctrine and polity back to Scotland and establish the Church of Scotland, which in America would become the Presbyterian Church.

Next week: John Knox and the Scottish Reformation

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

## ASSAM

Simon Marak

Hindustani folk tune

I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -  
Though none go with me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low; though none go  
The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me; the world be -

cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low  
with me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low; though none go with me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will  
hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me; the world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be -

Je - sus; no turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back.  
fol - low; no turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back.  
fore me, no turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back.

## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Homebound:** Barbara Price, Jack Price, Annette Thornton

**College Students:** Olivia Hastings, Lewis Herman, Magalie Martin

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

## ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 51    11:00 A.M.: 103

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$17,025

Amount Received 8/31/25: \$25,370

YTD Budgeted Income: \$680,987

YTD Income Received: \$720,137

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, September 8 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 20.

**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 Chicken Casserole, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Build-your-own Beef Tacos, Homestyle Green Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be a Watercolor presentation by Leslie Wood.



We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, September 10!**

**In Worship during the month of September,** we will be focusing on the theme of *Follow Jesus*. For September 14, our scripture passage will be from Ephesians 4:11-16. We will be looking at the topic of "Following Jesus in Community."

# This Week at FPC

## Sunday, September 7

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

5:30 P.M. Youth

## Monday, September 8

11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Rm.

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

5:30 P.M. Committee Meetings

## Tuesday, September 9

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting

12:00 P.M. Circle 24 Sheffield

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

6:00 P.M. Circle 5, Busylad

7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

## Wednesday, September 10

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 11

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

## Friday, September 12

12:00 P.M. AA Meeting

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

# MEALS ON WHEELS OF LEE COUNTY



## NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS & GENTLY LOVED FURNITURE  
No Mattresses Please.



MEALS ON WHEELS OF LEE COUNTY  
DONATION & RESALE CENTER  
TUPELO FURNITURE MARKET, BUILDING 6 - 2

1879 Coley Rd, Tupelo, MS 38801

### **Donations Accepted:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### **More Information:**

Ashely McDaniel

662-231-1614

[ashley.mcdaniel@mss.org](mailto:ashley.mcdaniel@mss.org)

A Ministry of Methodist Senior Services



# Youth Mission Opportunity - Keep Tupelo Beautiful

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Keep Tupelo Beautiful works to inspire and educate residents to improve the community by preventing litter, promoting recycling, and beautification. We encourage all citizens to be responsible for improving the city's scenic beauty and quality of life.

## **THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:**

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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

