



The

TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

400 Jefferson Street • P.O. Box 1725 • Tupelo, Mississippi 38802 • (662) 842-5681 • www.firstpres.org



October 2025

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO, MS

Friends in Christ.

As Christians, we believe that if there is anything good in our lives, it comes from God. From those good things, God reminds us in Hebrews, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

October will kick off our Stewardship Season, and this year, we will focus our thoughts and prayers on our theme of "Hearts of Faith, Hands of Generosity." As our verse in Hebrews tells us, being generous pleases the Lord. But Stewardship Season is not just about the budget. Stewardship is about creating a culture of generosity.

First, we need to create hands of generosity around the time we have to give. When we are generous with our time to the church, whether being present in worship, participating in a class, volunteering to help others, or laughing in a time of fellowship, we share God's love with one another. Generosity of time allows us to show the face of Christ.

Next, we need to create hands of generosity around the talents we have. God created each of us with gifts to share with the world. Some of us have the gift of teaching, others have the gift of song, others have the gift of healing through listening and caring, others have the gift of always being there for others. The list could go on. But those talents we have? We were given those talents to use for the betterment of the kingdom of God, so let us be generous with our talents.

Third, we need to create hands of generosity around the treasures we have. The first sentence of this letter states that if there is anything good in our lives, it comes from God. Whatever treasures here on earth we have accumulated, have come from God's generosity to us. And we are called, as Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians, to give cheerfully.

I hope as we prayerfully consider what our generous hands can do, you don't just think about what money you can give for the coming year, but think and give generously of your time and talents so we, together, as the body of Christ at First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, can fulfill Christ's calling on our lives together.

Grace and Peace.

John

Worship With Us *First Presbyterian Church*

Sunday, September 28

Services at 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.



[Our YouTube Channel](#)

[Children's Bulletins](#)

[Ages 3 & Up](#)

**Sunday's
Bulletin**

[Scripture Lesson](#)

[Children's Bulletins](#)

[Ages 7 & Up](#)

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!



★ JOIN US FOR ★

Bible Study

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
AT 11:00 A.M.

BOLTON/SISTAHOOD ROOM



shepherd's center
OF GREATER TUPELO

Volunteer Drivers Needed

For More Information:

Call: 662.840.0787

400 W Jefferson St

Tupelo, MS 38804





The Session

Administrative – Glen Davidson, Sr.

•The Administrative Committee has appointed Deborah Robison as Chair of the Stewardship Committee and named Kory Hunter, Jim Bruce, Claire Johnson, and Mark Burleson as members of the committee.

Christian Education – Corey Littrell

1. Huge thank you to all who helped make Rally Day and the Wednesday Night Kick-Off go smoothly! The meals were delicious, the Rally Day worship was wonderfully full, the Kick-Off weather couldn't have been more perfect, and many hands made light work!

2. Youth will meet this Sunday, September 14 for a mission opportunity with Keep Tupelo Beautiful. Wednesday night Bible studies for the youth will resume September 10 following them joining the Montreat program on September 3.

3. Wednesday Night Programming

- a. September 17 – Guatemala Update
- b. September 24 – Kirkin' of the Tartan
- c. October 1 – A Walk Through the Bible – Lori Dickerson
- d. October 8 –
- e. October 15 – Jim Johnson
- f. October 22 – Curtis Monts/Kirkin' of the Tartan with John
- g. October 29 – Fall Festival
- h. November 5 –
- i. November 12 – Doniphan Dance Project, Roxie Clayton
- j. November 19 –
- k. November 26 – No Program – Happy Thanksgiving
- l. December 3 –
- m. December 10 – Joy Gift

•The Sistahood Class has decided to pivot from their initial plan to study the series The Chosen this fall and instead prefers to study The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Christians Read the Same Stories Differently by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler.


Congregational Care – Jim Fisher

•The committee delivered Apple/Pecan bread to our homebound members.

•A meal chain was organized for Gladys Wilson after her hospital stay and Marthas delivered meals to Davidson's after Bonnie's hospital stay.

•The Shepherd Center is having their Fall Festival on October 11.

•We completed the 2026 Budget request.



Fellowship – Aubre Wells

- Fellowship did not meet this month.
- Wonderful partnership with CE for the Wednesday night kick-off on 8/27/25.
- Fall Festival is Wednesday, October 27 and we welcome anyone who would like to be a part to reach out, especially if you can work a game that night between 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Text or call Aubre.
- Will provide a meal for UKirk at Ole Miss

Outreach/Mission – Helen Monts

- Discussed dream budget/bare bones budget
- Cuba Mission Boston Butt sale was successful; total sales \$2,721.

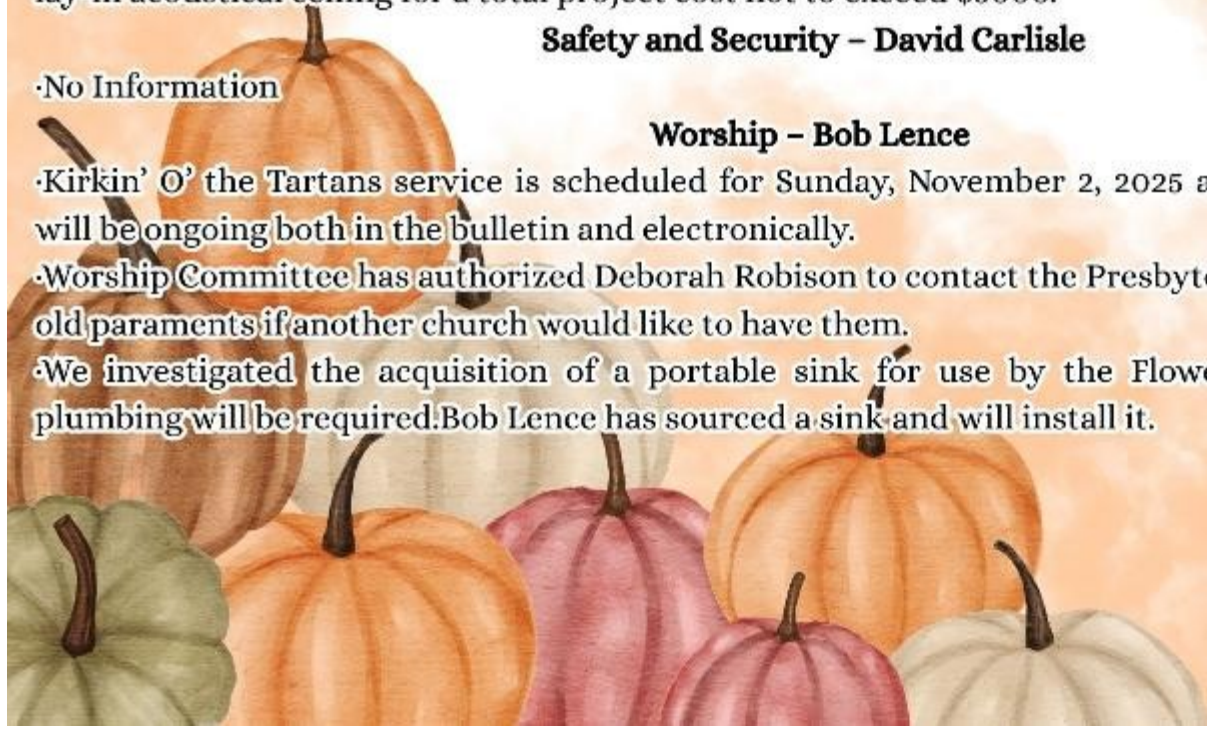
Property and Grounds – Ben Hunter

- Rod Marcinelli Carpet cleaning of 3 upstairs Sunday school classrooms and hallway - \$650
- Godwin Garden pressure washing – Ricky wants to see the trees/shrubs cut back prior to pressure washing or the issue will just continue.
- 6 New round tables needed – around \$800 – Glenn Thomas to meet with Ricky
- Maintenance Items master list – Ben will distribute to committee.
- Trey Phyfer requested to use the church for Aryanna Phyfer's signing day. Specific details were still to be defined, however, the use of the church on the afternoon of November 12 was the main request with specific details being decided upon later.
- Stained Glass Windows project update – Ben working through the contract terms with Pearl River. We have all insurances in place and ready to execute. Schedule change - all windows will be done after the first of January 2026 and be completed prior to Lent.
- Budget Review
- Water in youth basement – solved for now
- Celtic Cross – install complete
- Plants and Beds budget – will increase this year's budget request
- Storage/Mission trip organization
- Bob's Office Ceiling - Bryan Ellis reviewed 3 options with Ricky and recommended through Glen a lay-in acoustical ceiling for a total project cost not to exceed \$5000.

Safety and Security – David Carlisle

- No Information

Worship – Bob Lence

- Kirkin' O' the Tartans service is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 10:30 AM., information will be ongoing both in the bulletin and electronically.
 - Worship Committee has authorized Deborah Robison to contact the Presbytery about donation of the old paraments if another church would like to have them.
 - We investigated the acquisition of a portable sink for use by the Flower Guild. No changes to plumbing will be required. Bob Lence has sourced a sink and will install it.
- 



October

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

PROGRAMS

1 - What Is Kirkin' Of
the Tartans?

8 - Trey Leeke

15 - Jim Johnson

22 - Curtis Monts/Kirkin' of
the Tartan

29 - Fall Festival

Wednesday Night Program:

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?



KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

NOVEMBER 2

HUH?? WHAT'S THAT?

THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN IS A SPECIAL SERVICE HONORING OUR ROOTS--THE PC(USA) ORIGINATED AS A BRANCH OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND--YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THE TAPESTRY ON THE RIGHT FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY AND WONDERED WHY IT IS THERE. "KIRK" IS THE SCOTS LANGUAGE WORD FOR "CHURCH", AND "TARTAN" REFERS TO A SPECIFIC PLAID PATTERN ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR FAMILY OR GROUP, SO "KIRKING THE TARTAN" IS WEARING YOUR TARTAN TO CHURCH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL BLESSING.

NOT OF SCOTTISH ANCESTRY? DON'T HAVE A TARTAN? NO PROBLEM. FPC HAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED THE ROYAL STUART TARTAN AS THE CHURCH TARTAN, SO ANY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH MAY WEAR IT PROUDLY.

THERE WILL BE SOMEONE IN THE LIBRARY BETWEEN SERVICES EACH SUNDAY TO ASSIST YOU WITH TARTAN RESOURCES FROM NOW THROUGH OCTOBER.

Prayers for the 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

Memorials. Gifts. and Honoraria

*In Memory of Neena Ledbetter from Dan & Frances Brasfield.
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Theresa McCormick. (General Fund
Memorial)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from FPC Presbyterian Women. (General
Funds Memorial)

*In Memory of William (Bill) Allen Harris (Ray Harris' Brother) from
David Williams. (Music Fund)

*In Memory of Aubrey Patterson & Maureen Miller from Judy Thomas.
(Music Fund)

*In Memory of Martha Ellen Prude, Paul & Louise McCullough, and
Keith & Dot Randle from Ellie & Buddy Prude. (Undesignated Memorial
Fund)

*In Memory of Rick Jones from Susan Boone. (Helping Hands)



*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Susan Boone. (Congregational Care)

*In Memory of William Allen Harris from Susan Boone. (Music Fund)



LET'S SERVE TOGETHER

October



10/2 St. Luke's Food Pantry at
7:45 A.M.

10/21 Cook for the Salvation
Army at 2:30 P.M.



10/25 Helping Hands
Volunteers at 9:00 A.M.

2 Cents-A-Meal

Offering

Sunday, October 5

Two Cents-a-Meal invites every member of your congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from “living more simply so that others may simply live.” Participation in is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command, “You give them something to eat.”






**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 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.

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

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



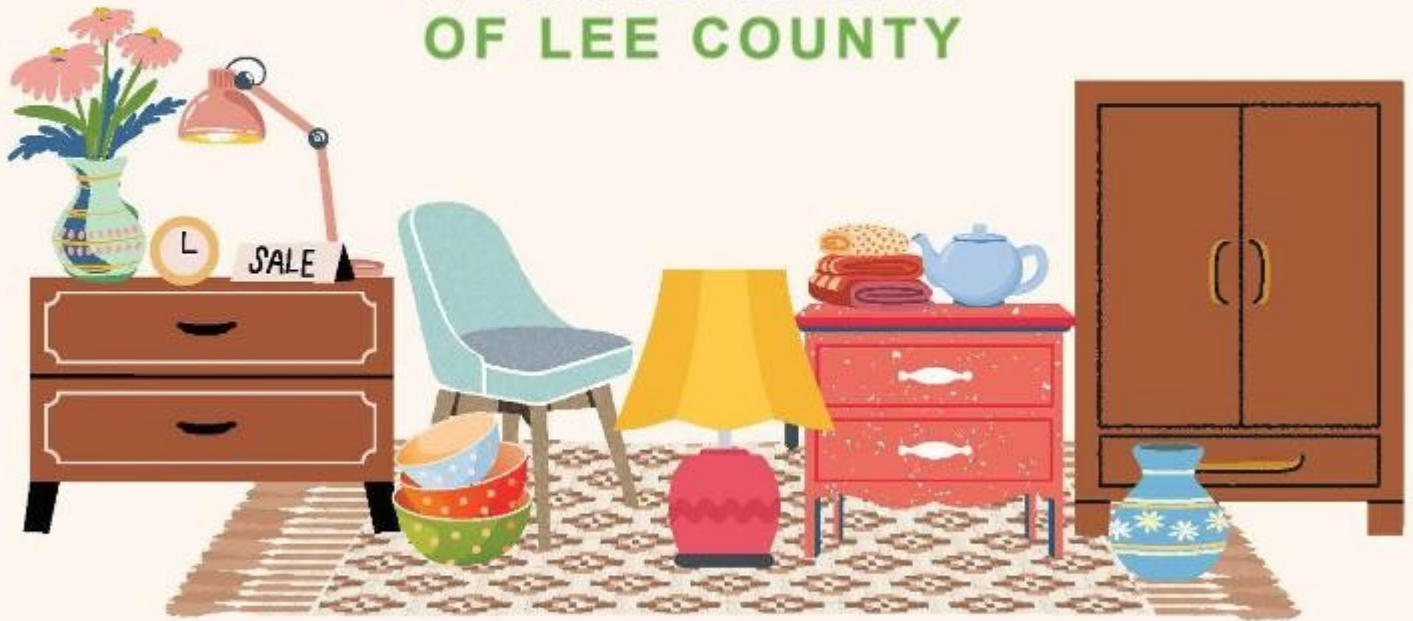
Donate by
credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global



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



MEALS 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

A Ministry of Methodist Senior Services

Save the Date

YOUTH EVENTS

2025

October

13 Serve @ Saint's
Brew



19 Go Karts!

November

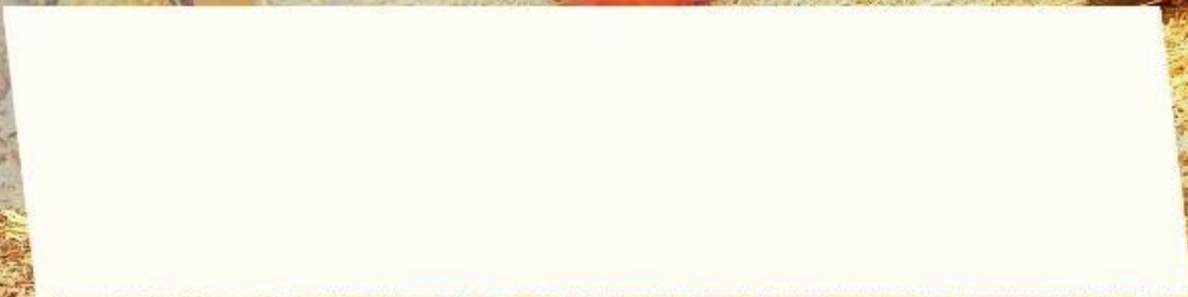
16 Serve @ Salvation
Army



Week of Thanksgiving
Girl's Day; Guy's Day
Details to come!

December

21 Christmas Party



This Week at FPC

Sunday, September 28

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 29

11:00 A.M. Bible Study
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

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

Thursday, October 2

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, October 3

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



October

Birthdays & Anniversaries



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Birthday: Tracy Kramer	2 Birthday: John Brock Jamie Ingram Jim Ingram Jr. Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Billups	3 Birthday: Lou Ann McCarty Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Crowell IV Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Rose	4 Birthday: Cindy McAuley Erin Stubbs
5	6 Birthday: Sherron Somerville	7 Birthday: Grayson Robbins	8 Birthday: Carolyn Kelly Buddy McCarty Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Neelly Mr. & Mrs. Bailey Peters	9 Birthday: Rud B. Robison Jr. Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ingram Jr.	10	11 Birthday: Keith Grisham Jae Ingram
12 Birthday: Perry Clayton Ann Godwin David Henson Jr. Cooper Moore	13 Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Mac Godwin	14	15 Birthday: Finn Clayton Lee Reeder	16 Birthday: Ren Crowell	17 Birthday: John Gaston Sr.	18
19 Birthday: Katelyn Fulgham Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Sam Agnew	20	21 Birthday: Hamilton Lence Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Nash Mr. & Mrs. Trey Phyfer	22 Birthday: Henry Martin Lewis Whitfield	23 Birthday: Jimmy Crockett, Jr.	24 Birthday: Ferrell McAuley Lanier Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wells	25 Birthday: Charles Reece Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Mike Gratz
26 Birthday: Tim Myers Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Leighton Gibens	27	28	29 Birthday: Betty Nash	30	31 Birthday: Meg Curtis Lawson Phyfer	



Happy Birthday and Anniversary
to You!

October

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2 7:45am St. Luke Food Pantry 8:00am Men's Breakfast 2:30pm CASA 6:00pm Braver Angels	3 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	4
5 Communion 2 cents a meal 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts	6 11:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA	7 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Circle 24 2:30pm CASA 6:00pm Circle 5 7:00pm AA Meeting	8 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	9 8:00am Men's Breakfast 2:30pm CASA	10 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	11
12 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts	13 Youth Serve at Strange Brew 11:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA 5:30pm Committee Meetings	14 9:00am T'ai Chi 2:30pm CASA 7:00pm AA Meeting	15 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	16 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:30pm Shepherd's Center Meeting 2:30pm CASA	17 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	18
19 Youth Go Karts 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Youth	20 11:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA 5:15pm Steering Committee 6:00pm Session Meeting	21 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 2:30pm Cook for Salvation Army 7:00pm AA Meeting	22 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	23 8:00am Men's Breakfast 2:30pm CASA	24 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	25 9:00am Helping Hands Volunteers
26 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts	27 11:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA	28 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 7:00pm AA Meeting	29 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	30 8:00am Men's Breakfast 2:30pm CASA	31 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	

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 Gatz
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
Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer
John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
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

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Tupelo, MS 38802

(662) 842-5681

Visit us online: <https://www.firstprestupelo.org>

