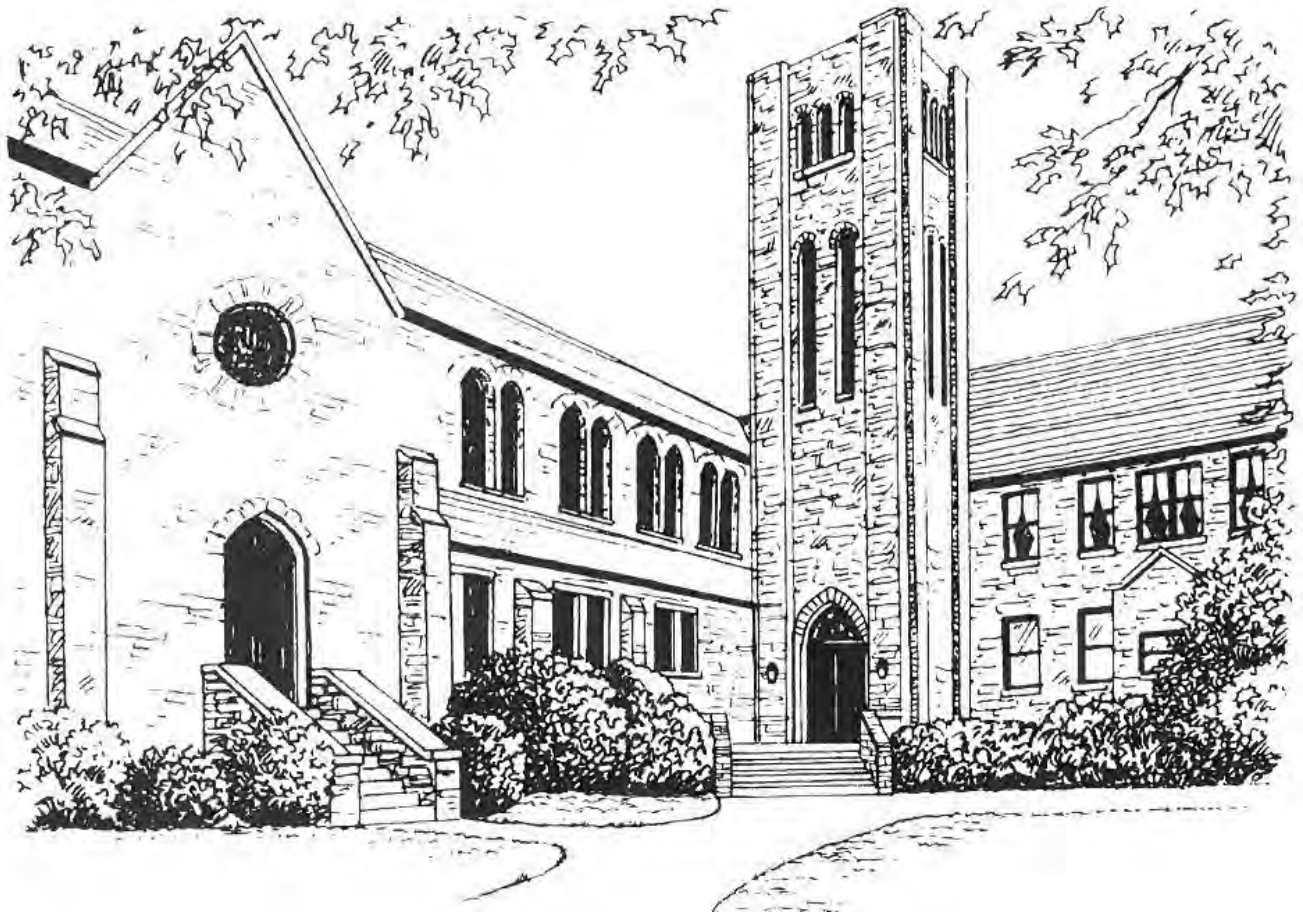


First Presbyterian Church

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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 12, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
- MATTHEW 25:40

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

DIANE BISH

INTROIT

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

K. LEE SCOTT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!

God's steadfast love and faithfulness are for all the earth.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

We will break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, You have called us from every land and people, gathered us in Your mercy, and bound us together in Your love. As we worship You today, tune our hearts to sing Your praise, open our lives to hear Your Word, and send us forth to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

CALL TO CONFESSION

With sincere and repentant hearts,

let us name our sins against Christ and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves,

yet we draw lines between those we welcome and those we judge.

You call us to see Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger,

yet we turn away, busy with our own concerns.

Forgive us, O Lord.

In Your mercy, open our eyes to see Your image in every neighbor,

and set our feet on the path of justice and compassion.

Through Christ, our Shepherd and Judge, we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

America folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

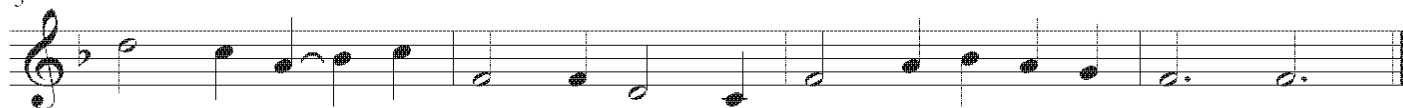
arr. Richard Proulx

ASSURANCE OF



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

5



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ have mer - cy; Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

PARDON

Hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, set free to live in love.

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stewardship Minute

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 2:1-8

PEW BIBLE, PG. 229

ANTHEM

The Love of God

ARR. LLOYD LARSON

*The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell.*

*The wandering child is reconciled by God's beloved Son.
The aching soul again made whole and priceless pardon won.*

*When ancient time shall pass away, and human thrones and kingdoms fall,
When those who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,*

*God's love so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong.
Grace shall resound the whole earth 'round the saints' and angels' song.*

***Oh, love of God, how rich and pure, how measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure the saints' and angels' song.***

*Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made.
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and everyone a scribe by trade.*

*To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.*

REFRAIN

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 25:31-46

PEW BIBLE, PG. 29

SERMON

"The Least of These"

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Confession of 1967*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to men, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which men know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They, therefore, accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's grace.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(see insert)*

HYFRYDOL

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

SAMUEL WESLEY

*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

Gracious God, receive the gifts we bring and use them to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and share Your good news. May our lives also be an offering of love and service in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 439 *In Christ There Is No East or West* ST. PETER

POSTLUDE *Prelude in C Major* J. S. BACH

*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 are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Helen & Ray Aycock and Irma & Van Stubbs by Buddy, Mary, Erin, Sara Frances, & Vandy Stubbs.

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.

Hebrews 13:7: “Remember your leaders, men who spoke to you the word of God, and considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith.” On this **Pastor’s Appreciation Day**, may we reflect on the teachings of our Pastor Rev. John Brock, and honor his dedication and commitment to spreading God’s word here at First Presbyterian Church. May we also show our appreciation for the positive influence in our lives and welcome his continued leadership.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Virginia Toliver

11:00: Rud Robison

Greeters: 9:00: Nancy Brown & Jimmy Milam

11:00: Jeff & Vicki McCaleb, Bob & Carolyn Kelly



Hearts of Faith, Hands of Generosity

Giving boldly, trusting God's abundance.

HEARTS OF FAITH

HEBREWS 11:1 – “NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN.” REMINDS US THAT STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WITH TRUST IN GOD’S PROMISES. GIVING IS ONE OF THE CLEAREST WAYS FAITH TAKES FORM. IT OFTEN MEANS RELEASING WHAT WE SEE AND HOLD, AND TRUSTING IN WHAT WE CANNOT YET SEE.

HANDS OF GENEROSITY

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–7 – “THE ONE WHO SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND THE ONE WHO SOWS BOUNTIFULLY WILL ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY. EACH OF YOU MUST GIVE AS YOU HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.”

A STEWARDSHIP CORNERSTONE—GIVING CHEERFULLY AND GENEROUSLY.

FAITH AND GENEROSITY TOGETHER

JAMES 2:17 – “SO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT HAS NO WORKS, IS DEAD.” GENUINE FAITH NATURALLY PRODUCES GENEROUS ACTION.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston, Joy Hyatt

College Students: Walker Gibens, Tyler Goad, Charlie Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 58 11:00 A.M.: 98

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 10/5/25: \$19,037

YTD Budgeted Income: \$851,234

YTD Income Received: \$785,265

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday. We look forward to resuming on Monday, October 20 with Luke 23 in the Bolton/Sistahood Room.

In Worship during the month of October, we will focus on the theme of *Welcome All*. For October 19, the mini-theme will be *"Know Your Gifts," and our scripture passages will be from 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Luke 10:38-42.*

The Operation Christmas Child table will be in the church library starting October 19. Congregants can pick up boxes and shipping labels from this table and return their packed boxes through Sunday, November 9. Either Anne Kramer or Morgan Ricks will be at the OCC table in the library between services from October 19 through November 9 to assist or answer questions. Congregants are asked to pay for their boxes' shipping cost (\$10/box) online using the QR codes on provided shipping labels; however, we will also accept cash or checks made out to First Presbyterian Church Tupelo. Monetary donations may also be made for FPC Youth to shop and pack boxes.

There will be NO Wednesday Night Program this week during Fall Break. We look forward to resuming October 22.

The rosebud and cradle cross last Sunday were in honor of the birth of **Camille Claire Peters**, daughter of Katherine and Bailey Peters, on September 29, 2025.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hyfrydol

Frederick William Faber, 1854

Rowland H. Prichard (1830)

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy
For the love of God is broad - er
5 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion

like the wide - ness of the sea.
than in the the mea - sures of the mind.
9 in the blood that has been shed.

There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice
And the heart of the e - ter - nal
13 There is joy for all the mem - bers

which is more than li - ber - ty.
is most won - der - ful - ly the kind.
17 in the sor - rows of the head.

There is no place where earth's sor - rows
But we make His love too nar - row
21 There's a grace e - nough for thou - sands

are more felt than up in heav'n.
by false li - mits of our own.
25 of new worlds as great as this.

There is no place where earth's fail - ings
and we mag - ni - fy His strict - ness
29 There is room for fresh cre - a - tions

have such kind - ly judge - ment giv'n.
with a zeal He will not own.
in that up - per home of bliss.

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

Presbyterianism In The USA

The history of American Presbyterianism is one of schism and reconciliation: someone puts forth a progressive idea, conservative members oppose it, and one side or the other forms a new denomination which may eventually rejoin the other.

In the decades following independence, many American Protestants were swept up in a revival movement, later known as the Second Great Awakening. In 1810, frontier revivalists split from the PCUSA and formed the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. By 1838, the PCUSA itself had divided into the Old School (strict conformity to the Westminster Confession) and the New School (revivalists), each of which had a General Assembly claiming to represent the PCUSA. A further split affecting both Schools occurred in 1858 along regional lines, leading to the eventual formation of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America, absorbing both Old and New School Southerners. After the war, this group became known as the Presbyterian Church in the United States (the "Southern Church") where Old School thought predominated, and under whose auspices, our own congregation formed in 1867. In 1869, the northern PCUSA Old School-New School factions reunited, as well (the "Northern Church") and became more open to liberal thought.

The PCUSA was joined by most Cumberland Presbyterians in 1906, but by 1936, the more conservative faction had left to form the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in response to the denomination's increasingly modernist viewpoint. Although an attempt to merge the PCUSA and the PCUS failed, in 1958, the PCUSA merged with the United Presbyterian Church of North America to form the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. As social pressures increased throughout the 1960's, the PCUS eventually split in 1973, with the conservatives forming the Presbyterian Church in America or PCA. This had the effect of lessening opposition to merger between the PCUS and UPCUSA denominations.

In 1983, the "Plan of Union" came to a vote, and on June 10, 1983, the reunification of the "Northern" and "Southern" churches was celebrated, with the current denomination taking the name "Presbyterian Church (USA)."

This Week at FPC

Sunday, October 12

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, October 13

11:00 A.M. Bible Study - Cancelled
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:30 P.M. Committee Meetings

Tuesday, October 14

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
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, October 15

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
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 16

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
1:30 Shepherd's Center Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Friday, October 17

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



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

