

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

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.’”
- ACTS 10:34-35

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. BACH

INTROIT

Agnus Dei - Lamb of God

GEORGES BIZAT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is

When we live in unity.

We gather here together with our hearts and voices raised to God,

Who is the center of our unity and praise!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and gracious God,

on this Reformation Sunday we give You thanks

for Your Spirit that is always reforming Your Church.

You break the chains of fear and pride

and free us to live by grace alone.

As we worship You today,

renew in us the joy of Your salvation;

make us bold in truth, humble in heart,

and steadfast in faith.

Reign over us with mercy and justice,

through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's Word reminds us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
yet we are justified by grace as a gift.

Trusting in that mercy, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful and reforming God,
You call us to trust Your grace alone,
yet we cling to our pride and our distinctions.
You invite us to be renewed,
but we prefer what is comfortable and known.
Forgive us when our faith grows rigid,
when our love grows small,
when our hearts forget the wideness of Your mercy.
Reform us by Your Spirit,
that we may live as Your forgiven people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

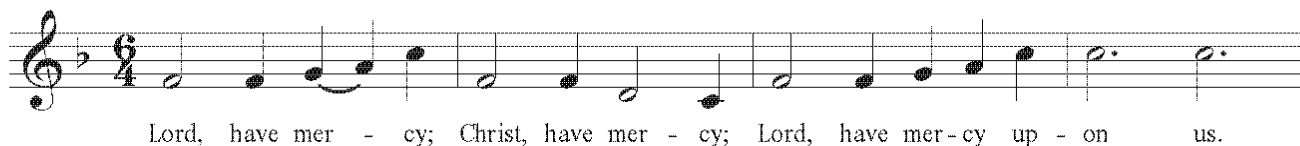
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

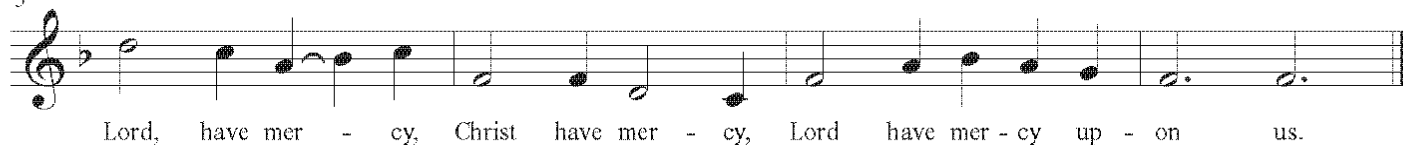
Kyrie Eleison

America folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



5



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:
In Christ we are justified by grace through faith—
it is a gift, not our own doing.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*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 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
**For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**
He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
**He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**
God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
**God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.**
The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
**For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stewardship Minute

Helen Monts

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43

PEW BIBLE, PG. 129

ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ARR. MACK WILBERG

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 7:36-50

PEW BIBLE, PG. 66

SERMON

"All Are Welcome!"

REV. JOHN BROCK

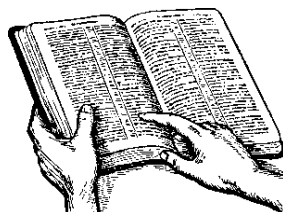
STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION**

*Help Us Accept Each Other
(see insert)*

ANGEL'S STORY



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

Prelude

WILLIAM H. HARRIS

*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

**God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table—
a table that is not contained by our one church,
but extends across varied worship spaces,
across diverse cultures and communities—
bless the gifts that each of us brings today.
May they strengthen bodies and nourish spirits,
and be used for your glory.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 210

Our God, Our Help In Ages Past

ST. ANNE

POSTLUDE

Coluntary on "Ein Feste Burg"

GORDON YOUNG

*BENEDICTION



Help Us Accept Each Other

ANGEL'S STORY

Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Arthur Henry Mann, 1881

5

Help us ac-cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us; teach
Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life we
Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved in
Lord, for to-day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need, who

9

us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace. Be
strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith. Teach
liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love; to
hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous-ness and bread, we

13

pre - sent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve we
us to care for peo - ple, for all not just for some, to
prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart the
need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on; re -

are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
love them as we find them or as they may be - come.
ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
new us with your Spi - rit; Lord, free us, make us one!

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

First Presbyterian Church Tupelo

FALL Festival

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED

Cake Walk – Games – Costume Contest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

Supper: 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Games: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

in lieu of purchasing *GAME TICKETS*, please have *EACH* individual bring a jar of peanut butter to donate.

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 Lucy Jeanelle Wells, Susan Williams, Billy Jenkins Jordan, and Wilson D. “Buck” Simmons by Jack, Aubre, Ivy, Katelyn, Lucy, Jenkins, and Witt Wells.

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.

Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilder’s during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service. This fall, we will meet weekly through December 14 to give us extra time to prepare for the Joy Gift program. We meet **after the children’s sermon** for a fun and engaging time of learning about the structure of our church service, with activities to help kids grow in their understanding and participation in worship. If your child attends, you can pick them up in the gym area after the service.

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.

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

Liturgist: 9:00: Lori Dickerson

11:00: Andy Crotwell

Greeters: 9:00: Jim & Hudson Fisher

11:00: Brock Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, October 27 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 24.

In Worship during the month of November, we will focus on the theme of *Confess*. For October 26, the mini-theme will also be "*Confess*," and our scripture passages will be from **Psalm 119:105, Genesis 2:15-24 and 3:1-24, 1 Kings 8:54-61, 2 Samuel 11-12.**

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.



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. The cost for supper is \$7 per person, and the menu includes Homemade Beef Chili, Homemade White Bean Chicken Chili, Assorted Sandwich Sliders, Pizza, Congealed Salad, Cornbread, Fresh Fruit, Full

Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **This week, we will celebrate with our Fall Festival. In lieu of tickets for the Fall Festival this year, we are asking each individual to bring a jar of peanut butter.** We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper at **5:30 P.M.** and our Fall Festival in the Gym afterwards on **Wednesday, October 29!**

Kirkin' o' the Tartan Worship Service & Homecoming will be **Sunday, November 2, 2025** with Brunch at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You are invited to wear your family tartan or the church's tartan - Royal Stuart - in full formal dress kilt or more casual piece of tartan like a scarf, tie, or shawl. Everyone is welcome to attend & participate, regardless of attire.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Jack Price, Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson

College Students: Lewis Herman, Magalie Martin, Isabella Posey

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 45 11:00 A.M.: 87

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 10/19/25: \$4,776

YTD Budgeted Income: \$851,234

YTD Income Received: \$797,018



Hearts of Faith, Hands of Generosity
Giving boldly, trusting God's abundance.

HEARTS OF FAITH

PROVERBS 3:5-6 – “TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN INSIGHT. IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.” TRUE GENEROSITY STEMS FROM THE FAITH THAT GOD’S WISDOM AND PROVISION SURPASS OUR OWN.

HANDS OF GENEROSITY

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19 – “THEY ARE TO DO GOOD, TO BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS, GENEROUS, AND READY TO SHARE, THUS STORING UP FOR THEMSELVES THE TREASURE OF A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE, SO THAT THEY MAY TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE.” GENEROSITY IS PART OF FAITHFUL LIVING.

GENEROSITY AND GOOD WORKS ARE NOT JUST MORAL DUTIES - THEY ARE INVESTMENTS IN GOD’S KINGDOM.

FAITH AND GENEROSITY TOGETHER

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 – “AND MY GOD WILL FULLY SATISFY EVERY NEED OF YOURS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS.” WE CAN LIVE GENEROUSLY BECAUSE OUR NEEDS ARE MET THROUGH THE OVERFLOWING, LIMITLESS RICHES OF GOD IN CHRIST.



OPERATION

Christmas

CHILD

DATES: OCTOBER 19- NOVEMBER 9

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.



Symbolism in the Processional

The following is a guide to the symbolic elements in today's Processional, which precedes the entrance of the Minister and Choir:

Piper—the Great Highland Bagpipe is recognized worldwide as the national instrument of Scotland. Interestingly, in early Kirk records pipers were often fined for playing on the Sabbath!

Beadle—the Beadle in the Church of Scotland is an assistant to the Minister. In the time of secret conventicles, the Beadle had custody of the Scripture, safeguarding it between worship services. Thus, the entrance of the Beadle signifies the beginning of worship.

Crucifer—the Cross serves as a tangible reminder of Jesus' death and our hope for salvation.

Light of the World—the candle represents Jesus as the light of the world (John 8:12) and is carried by a youngster to remind us of the admonition to have childlike faith (Mark 10:15).

U. S. Flag—the symbol of our nation and a reminder that the "Kirking" is an American custom honoring our heritage originated by the Reverend Peter Marshall in 1942.

Christian Flag—a symbol of the Church Universal used by many Christian denominations.

Scottish National Flag—a white cross saltire on a blue field; the Scottish flag is said to date back to the IX Century Battle of Athelstaneford, Lothian, where Angus, high king of Alba (later Scotland) was surrounded by the English invaders. He prayed for victory and saw the clouds form an X shape in the sky which he took as a sign. In gratitude for defeating the English, he adopted this flag and declared St. Andrew as patron saint of Alba, as legend has it that the apostle Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross.

Scottish Royal Standard—the Lion and Tressure is the Royal Standard used by the monarch in Scotland dating back to the XII Century and is universally recognized as a symbol of Scotland.

Royal Stewart Tartan Banner—the Royal Stewart tartan is the official tartan of our congregation and was chosen in honor of our founder, "Father" Thomas C. Stuart.

Tapestries—the Church of Scotland from which we originate uses the Burning Bush as its symbol with the legend *Nec Tamen Consumebatur* meaning "Yet it was not consumed," alluding to Moses receiving the Ten Commandments in Exodus Ch. 3:2. The tapestry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was adopted in 1983 as part of the reunification of the Northern and Southern churches, incorporating symbols of both former denominations.

The Sword—a visual reference to Paul's admonition in Ephesians Ch. 6 to "put on the whole armor of God," in which the sword represents the Word of God. It is also a reminder of how John Knox defended George Wishart's right to preach with a two-handed sword in the early days of the Reformation. The Claymore seen today is the quintessential Scottish two-handed sword.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Kirkin' *o' the Tartan*

WORSHIP SERVICE & HOMECOMING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Brunch 9:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Services 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

The Kirkin' service is an American tradition begun by Dr. Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the United States Senate, to memorialize Presbyterian heritage & reinforce historic beliefs.

Wear your family tartan or the church's tartan - Royal Stuart - in full formal dress kilt or more casual piece of tartan like a scarf, tie or shawl. Everyone is welcome to attend & participate, regardless of attire.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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 27

11:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY

2:30 P.M. CASA, GYM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI CHIH

2:30 P.M. CASA, GYM

7:00 P.M. A.A. MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 - FALL FESTIVAL

3:00 P.M. MAH JONGG, STEWART-CLAYTON RM.

5:00 P.M. TOWER RINGERS

5:30 P.M. FALL FESTIVAL

7:00 P.M. CHANCEL CHOIR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

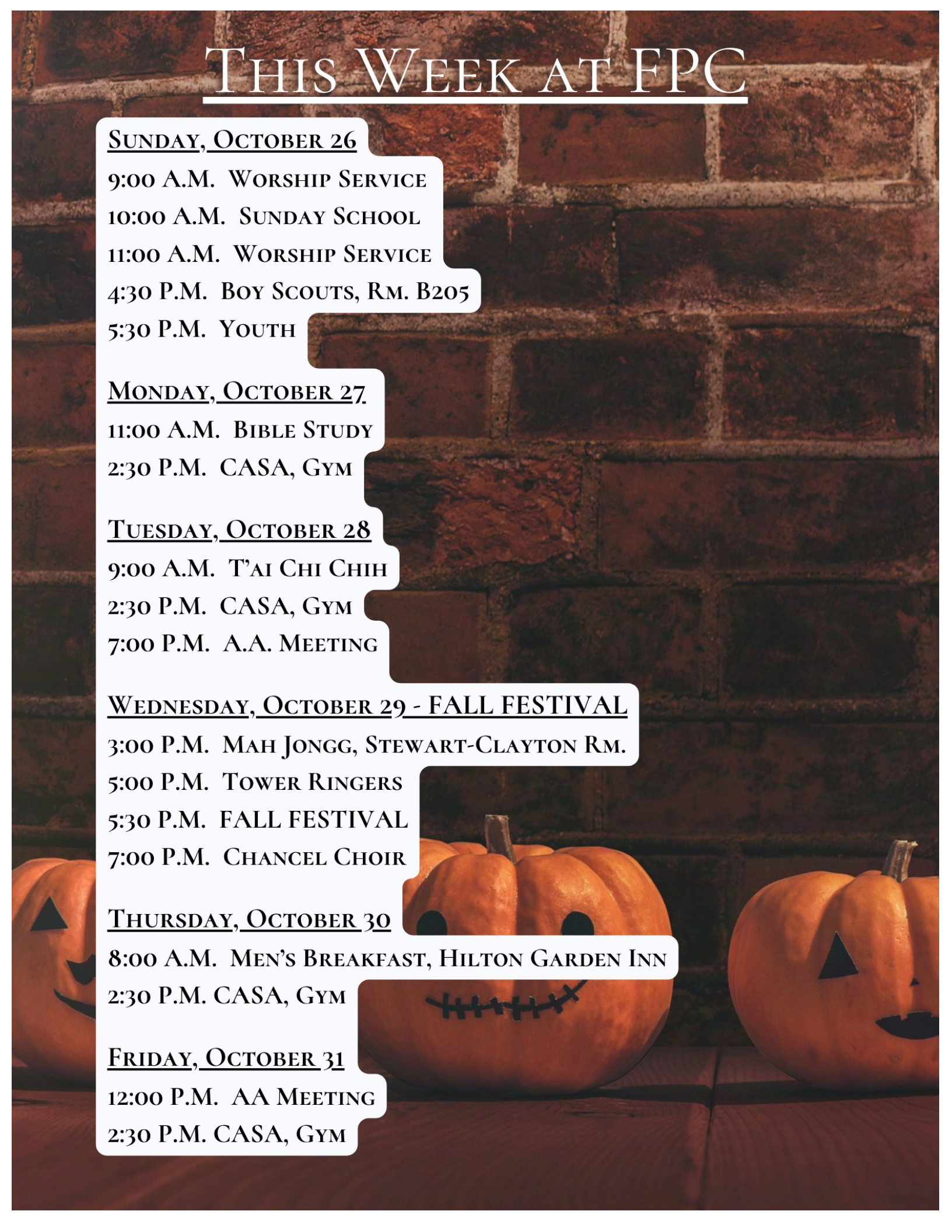
8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST, HILTON GARDEN INN

2:30 P.M. CASA, GYM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

12:00 P.M. AA MEETING

2:30 P.M. CASA, GYM



Cake Walk for the Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival is
Wednesday, October 29, and the
Fellowship Committee needs cakes for
the CAKE WALK!



**TO CONTRIBUTE A CAKE OR OTHER BAKED
ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT
LEE HERMAN:**

662.397.1221

leenh@att.net

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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

