



December 2015

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

Siblings in Christ.

Happy Advent!

When I was a student and a teacher, I really counted years through the beginning of the school year. Yes, in the real world, January starts the year, but in the school world, it was always August, the time of year when everything was new once again.

In the church, our new year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Sunday, November 30, is the beginning of the church year. We will read from Romans, "how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep." We will sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and light the Advent candles in hope, peace, joy, and love.

We do all these things in preparation for Jesus' coming into our lives. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming or arrival. Jesus is arriving in our lives, and that should change who we are and how we interact with the world. When Paul writes for us to wake from sleep, we are to realize that Christ is here, and we are to live lives worthy of Christ's presence in our lives.

In order to reflect more deeply on Jesus' coming into our lives, both then and now, we have Advent devotional books in the office that you can pick up and use during this season of reflection. There are also many Advent study books at pcusastore.com if you would like to choose one for yourself.

Also, on Wednesday, December 3, I am going to teach a class on what the Advent and Christmas season would have looked like in First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, in 1925. We will look at the Presbyterian traditions of that time as well as what Christmas would have been like for our ancestors.

I hope you will find space in this time of new beginning, of a new church year, to realize the true presence of Christ in your life.

Grace. Peace.. & Love.
John

A plate of decorated cookies is visible in the bottom right corner of the page, partially overlapping the signature.

Worship With Us *First Presbyterian Church*

Sunday, November 30

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

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.



Our YouTube Channel

Sunday's

Scripture Lesson

Children's Bulletins
Ages 3 & Up

Bulletin

Children's Bulletins
Ages 7 & Up

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!



Bible Study **WILL RESUME**

JANUARY 5, 2026



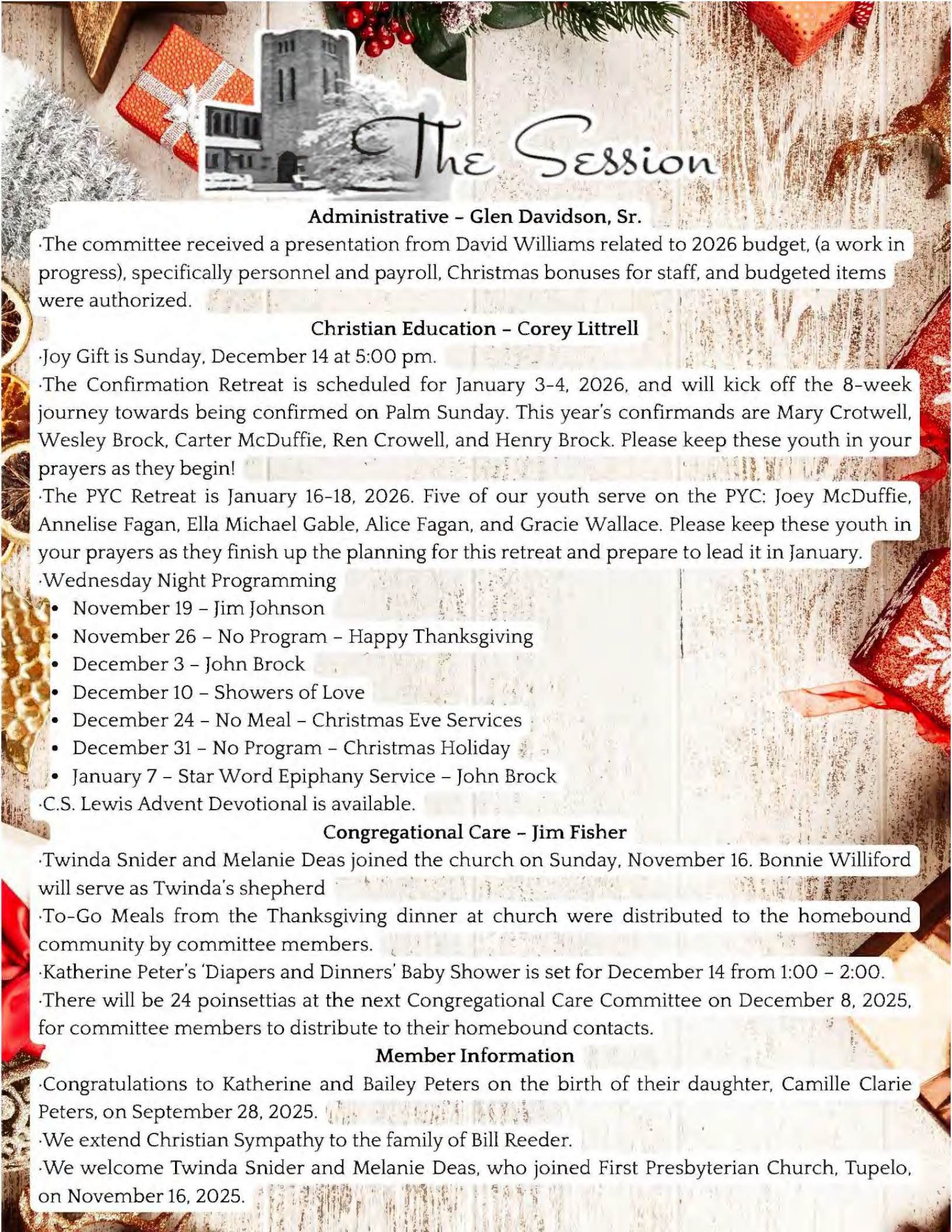
Volunteer Drivers Needed

For More Information:

Call: 662.840.0787

400 W Jefferson St

Tupelo, MS 38804



The Session

Administrative – Glen Davidson, Sr.

The committee received a presentation from David Williams related to 2026 budget, (a work in progress), specifically personnel and payroll, Christmas bonuses for staff, and budgeted items were authorized.

Christian Education – Corey Littrell

Joy Gift is Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm.

The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for January 3-4, 2026, and will kick off the 8-week journey towards being confirmed on Palm Sunday. This year's confirmands are Mary Crotwell, Wesley Brock, Carter McDuffie, Ren Crowell, and Henry Brock. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they begin!

The PYC Retreat is January 16-18, 2026. Five of our youth serve on the PYC: Joey McDuffie, Annelise Fagan, Ella Michael Gable, Alice Fagan, and Gracie Wallace. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they finish up the planning for this retreat and prepare to lead it in January.

Wednesday Night Programming

- November 19 – Jim Johnson
- November 26 – No Program – Happy Thanksgiving
- December 3 – John Brock
- December 10 – Showers of Love
- December 24 – No Meal – Christmas Eve Services
- December 31 – No Program – Christmas Holiday
- January 7 – Star Word Epiphany Service – John Brock

C.S. Lewis Advent Devotional is available.

Congregational Care – Jim Fisher

Twinda Snider and Melanie Deas joined the church on Sunday, November 16. Bonnie Williford will serve as Twinda's shepherd

To-Go Meals from the Thanksgiving dinner at church were distributed to the homebound community by committee members.

Katherine Peter's 'Diapers and Dinners' Baby Shower is set for December 14 from 1:00 – 2:00.

There will be 24 poinsettias at the next Congregational Care Committee on December 8, 2025, for committee members to distribute to their homebound contacts.

Member Information

Congratulations to Katherine and Bailey Peters on the birth of their daughter, Camille Clarie Peters, on September 28, 2025.

We extend Christian Sympathy to the family of Bill Reeder.

We welcome Twinda Snider and Melanie Deas, who joined First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, on November 16, 2025.

Fellowship - Aubre Wells

- The Fellowship Committee met to recap the Fall Festival and Kirkin. We received a lot of help from folks outside our committee for the Fall Festival. Lee and Liz did a great job organizing! Reportedly had approx. 130 jars of peanut butter delivered to Helping Hands. Kirkin was well attended, and the food seemed 'just right'! Thanks to Alice Rogers for coordinating so well with the Worship Committee.
- Fed the THS Soccer teams on 11/17. Lee Herman was the representative for that event.
- Thanksgiving Luncheon was in the gym on 11/23 after the 11 am service. Lucy Nash was chair.
- Nothing else on the calendar until 2026.

Outreach/Mission - Helen Monts

- Outreach Mission met and voted on and unanimously approved to distribute the \$3,000 from our budget line item for local ministries in the following way:
 - Boys and Girls Clubs of North Mississippi - \$500
 - Catch Kids - \$500
 - SAFE - \$500
 - Tree of Life Clinic - \$500
 - Shepherd's Center - \$250
 - CASA - \$250
 - Doniphan Dance Project - \$250
 - El Centro - \$250
- The Guatemala Mission Trip has been scheduled for February 3-10, 2026.

Property and Grounds - Ben Hunter

- Comfort HVAC repair \$1505.88.
- Sanctuary use for Claire Leeke approved.
- Property and Grounds Committee reviewing the handicap parking spots in the church parking lot to add additional handicap parking.

Safety and Security - David Carlisle

- P&G is looking into some options to deter public picture taking in the Columbarium during funerals and special services.

Worship - Bob Lence

- Kirkin' O' the Tartans service was well attended and a beautiful service. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee and Alice Rogers for their partnership.
- Hanging of the Green; Sunday, November 23, after Thanksgiving Luncheon.
- Joy Gift Program Sunday, December 14 - 5 pm. Cookie reception to follow.
- Chancel Choir Program December 21 - 9 am and 11 am Services
- Longest Night Service Monday, December 22 - 6:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Services December 24 - Three Services 4 p.m. primarily for young children and no communion, 5:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. with communion served.
- Approved one service on Sunday, December 28, at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School.

DECEMBER

Wednesday Night Programs

DECEMBER 3:

1920's
Christmas

by John Brock

DECEMBER 10:



*Showers
of
Love*





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TUPELO, MS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

DATE	TIME
12.03.2025	5:30PM

PROGRAM: 1920'S CHRISTMAS BY JOHN BROCK

MENU:

TAZIKI'S GREEK GRILLED
CHICKEN AND BASMATI
RICE, FRIED CHICKEN
TENDERS, ROASTED
VEGETABLES, HOMESTYLE
GREEN BEANS, ROLLS,
TAZIKI'S GREEK SALAD,
FRESH FRUIT, FULL SALAD
BAR, AND ASSORTED
DESSERTS

**SIGN UP BY NOON
WEDNESDAY:**



\$7 per person



OFFICE CLOSED

FOR

Christmas

12/25/25

Welcome!



Sunday, November 16, 2025
We welcomed Twinda Snider
to our church family!

Welcome!



Sunday, November 16, 2025
We welcomed Melanie Deas
to our church family!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Your children are welcome to join us for a night of crafts - making Advent wreaths for your home, crafts to share with our shut-ins, and more - reminding us that even the smallest hands can share the greatest love this season. Come be a part of a night filled with warmth, creativity, and the spirit of giving!



REGISTER:



INFORMATION:

Sunday, November 30
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
For Children of All Ages
Crafts, Dinner, & Hot Cocoa Bar!

OUR ADDRESS:

400 W. Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS 38804
First Presbyterian Church,
Fellowship Hall



Prayers for the Week

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder,
Jim Seiler

Homebound: John Gaston, Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash

College Students: Tyler Goad, Charlie Gratz,
Lucy Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

MEMORIALS, GIFTS, AND HONORARIA

*IN HONOR OF BILL HILBUN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY FROM BONNIE & GLEN DAVIDSON.
(GUATEMALA MISSION FUND)

*IN LOVING MEMORY OF BILL REEDER FROM TOMMY & MARGARET THOMPSON.
(UNDESIGNATED MEMORIAL FUND)

*IN MEMORY OF BILL REEDER AND IN HONOR OF LEE WILSON REEDER FROM
JUDY MELLO. (UNDESIGNATED FUND)

*IN MEMORY OF BILL REEDER FROM SARAH YOUNG. (PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY
FUND)

*IN MEMORY OF BILL REEDER FROM BUDDY & MARY STUBBS. (UNDESIGNATED
MEMORIAL FUND)

*IN MEMORY OF BILL REEDER FROM GLEN & BONNIE DAVIDSON.
(UNDESIGNATED MEMORIAL FUND)

*IN MEMORY OF BILL REEDER FROM LYNN & BRENDA MOODY. (MEMORIAL
GARDEN FUND)

*IN HONOR OF JOHN BROCK AND THE CHURCH STAFF FROM LEROY & LOU ANN
McCARTY. (PASTORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND)



LET'S SERVE TOGETHER

December

12/4 ST. LUKE'S FOOD
PANTRY
AT 7:45 A.M.

12/16 COOK FOR THE
SALVATION ARMY
AT 2:30 P.M.

12/20 HELPING HANDS
VOLUNTEERS
AT 9:00 A.M.

2 CENTS-A-MEAL

Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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."





Join us in showering
**Katherine, Bailey, and
Baby Camille Peters**

with

DIAPERS & DINNER

Baby wipes, Huggies diapers (size 2+),
Local restaurant or grocery gift cards

December 14th

1:00-2:00 PM

**First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall**



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



PREPARE THE WAY

ISAIAH 40

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
5:00 P.M.



THE PERFECT GIFT.



Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to 91999 to learn more or to give
or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy.



First Presbyterian Church Choir Program

SUNDAY,

DECEMBER 21, 2025





Youth
Serve @
Salvation
Army

Save the Date

YOUTH EVENTS

2025

December

21

Christmas Party

M I S S I O N

C U B A

Your generosity can make all the difference. By donating, you help children and families in need get access to basic necessities and a brighter tomorrow. Join us in making an impact!

What we need:

Over-the-counter
meds - Tylenol,
Advil, Aspirin, Aleve

Vitamins - for
children and adults

Cold and cough
medicine & Bedpans

Oral hydration
packets - Liquid IV,
PurAqua Hydration,
etc.

Toothbrushes

Sunglasses and
Regular Glasses

Pills, chewable, and gummies are preferred to liquids due to weight reasons.

Please place all donations in the Cuba Mission Box in the Breezeway.

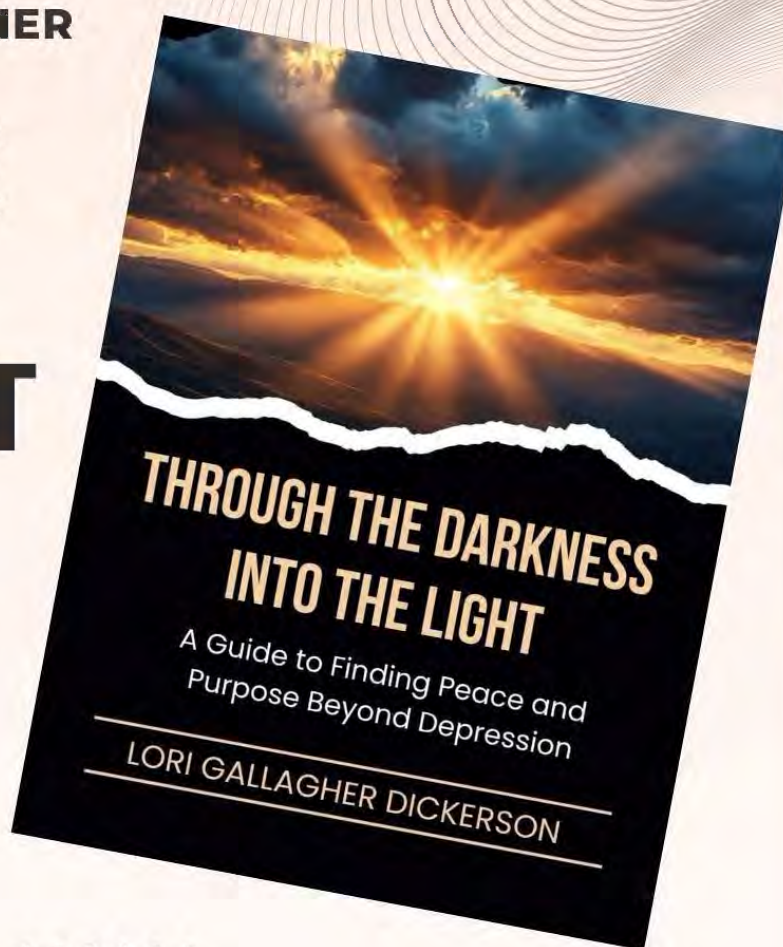


BY: LORI GALLAGHER
DICKERSON

THROUGH THE DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT

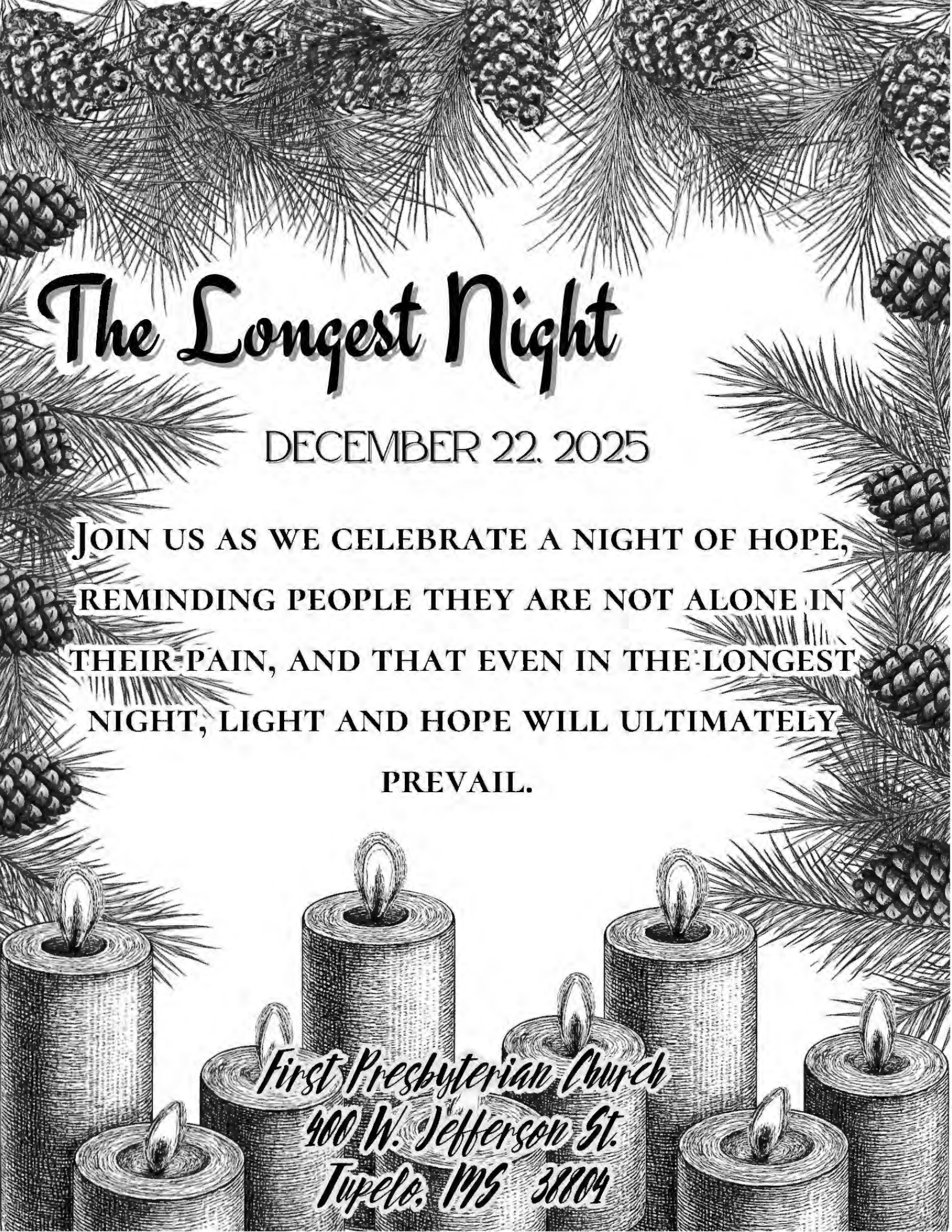
A GUIDE TO FINDING
PEACE AND PURPOSE
BEYOND DEPRESSION

AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON



Through the Darkness Into the Light is a book of encouragement and hope for anyone who is dealing with mental illness. Originally published as *Beauty from Ashes, A Gift of Encouragement*, it tells the story of Lori's journey through severe clinical depression using excerpts from the journals that she kept while in the throes of the acute illness. Lori compares her experience with the stages of a butterfly: the transformation from a lowly caterpillar to the beautiful new creature that emerges from its cocoon equipped and ready to show others the way to reclaiming their lives.

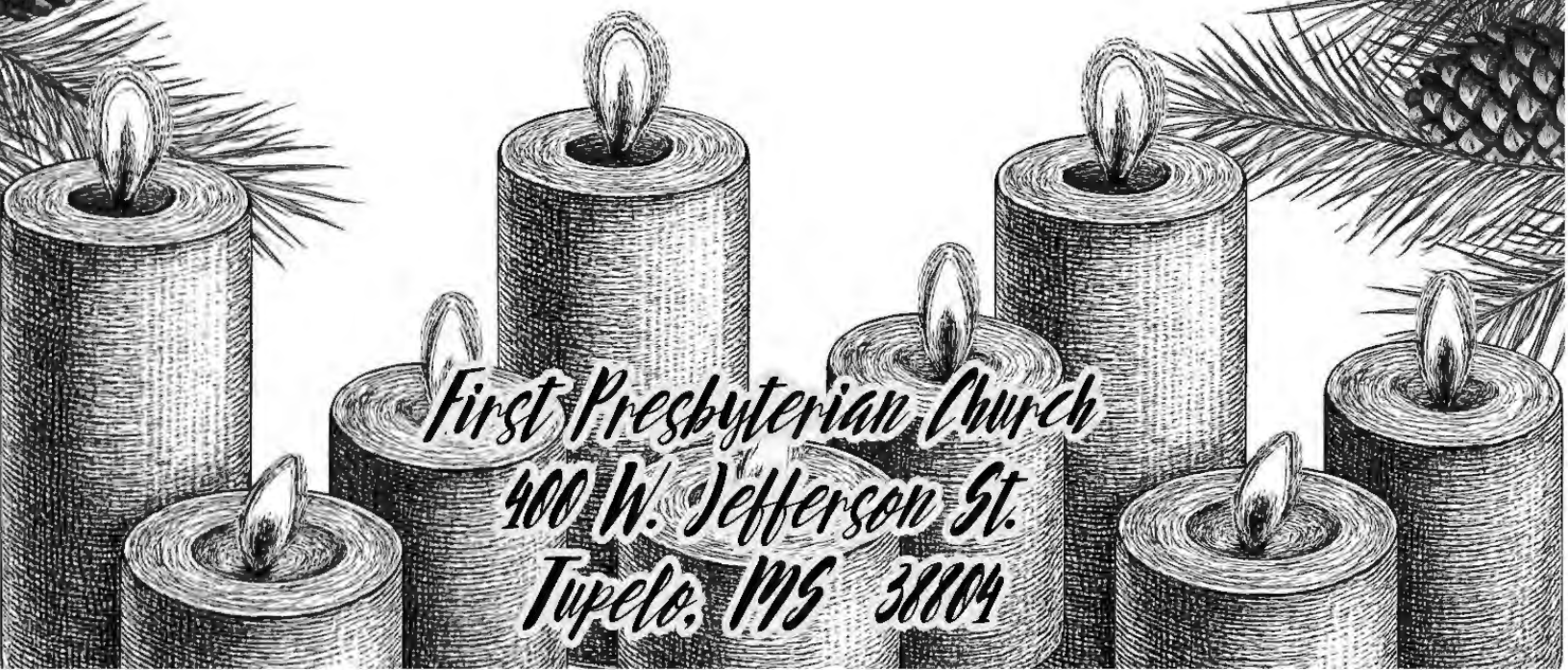
This revised edition includes two new sections: a list of the methods that were most effective in guiding her toward wellness and a Bible study about depression in the Scriptures. Lori's story offers hope to those who find themselves surrounded by the darkness of this illness and gives understanding to those loved ones who feel helpless in the face of such suffering. Some of God's greatest leaders in Scripture experienced severe hopelessness. The examples they set in coping with such intense emotion offer the example for us to follow as God's beloved children. It is Lori's fervent prayer that God will use her story to light the way for those who follow behind her on this challenging journey.



The Longest Night

DECEMBER 22, 2025

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE A NIGHT OF HOPE,
REMINDING PEOPLE THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN
THEIR PAIN, AND THAT EVEN IN THE LONGEST
NIGHT, LIGHT AND HOPE WILL ULTIMATELY
PREVAIL.



*First Presbyterian Church
400 W. Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS 38804*

Happy Day Veterans



This Week at FPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
4:00 P.M. ADVENT MADE WITH LOVE
4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS, RM. B205

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

2:30 P.M. CASA GYM
6:45 P.M. CIRCLE 3, MEMBER'S HOME

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 A.M. TAI CHI CHIH
2:30 P.M. CASA GYM
7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

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, DECEMBER 4

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, DECEMBER 5

12:00 P.M. AA MEETING
2:30 P.M. CASA GYM



December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Birthdays:</i> TAYLOR NEAL	2 <i>Birthdays:</i> JACKSON CALDWELL	3 <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. JOEY HUTTO	4 <i>Birthdays:</i> KATHERINE PETERS	5	6
7 <i>Birthdays:</i> TIM POSEY CANNON ROGERS <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. CURTIS MONTS TIT	8	9	10 <i>Birthdays:</i> BUTCH COCKRELL JR. BARBARA MCCULLOUGH	11 <i>Birthdays:</i> BRILEY GREY MONTGOMERY RUBY KATHRYN PATTERSON OLIVIA REYNOLDS	12 <i>Birthdays:</i> GLEN DAVIDSON JR.	13 <i>Birthdays:</i> DOYCE DEAS SARAH HARDISON SHEREE LENCE TOM McDONALD
14 <i>Birthdays:</i> COREY LITRELL HOLLY WALKER <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. RUD B. ROBISON JR.	15 <i>Birthdays:</i> SAM AGNEW CARL COMER	16 <i>Birthdays:</i> LARRY CROWELL TV	17 <i>Birthdays:</i> AMANDA DAVIS	18 <i>Birthdays:</i> JANE BLACK <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. BARRY WALKER	19 <i>Birthdays:</i> JACK PRICE <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. COREY LITRELL	20
21 <i>Birthdays:</i> CARSON CLARK JENNIFER MARTIN	22 <i>Birthdays:</i> KIRK BIDDLE	23 <i>Birthdays:</i> GARRA OWENS BARRY WALKER KELSEY WHITTEN	24 <i>Birthdays:</i> AMY FAGAN KIRSTEN MASON	25	26 <i>Birthdays:</i> MARK COBB LACY LUCKETT <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. JOHN GASTON SR.	27 <i>Birthdays:</i> BOB LENCE MARGOT MYERS <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. JEFF MOORE
28 <i>Birthdays:</i> EMMA CLAIRE WALLACE <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. BOBBY DALE MR. & MRS. STEVE DEPEW	29 <i>Birthdays:</i> NORA CAMP MARY SHEA ROGERS <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. ANDY LUCKETT	30 <i>Birthdays:</i> MAGGIE GIBENS	31 <i>Birthdays:</i> HELEN MONTS LIZ ROSE <i>Anniversaries:</i> MR. & MRS. RON RICHARDSON			

Happy Birthday and Anniversary
to You!

December

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 2:30PM CASA 6:45PM CIRCLE 3, MEMBER'S HOME	2 9:00AM T'ai CHI 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	3 10:00AM STAFF 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM MAH JONGG 5:30PM WED. NIGHT PROGRAM 7:00PM CHANCEL CHOIR	4 7:45AM ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY 8:00AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 2:30PM CASA 6:00PM BRAVER ANGELS, FH	5 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	6
7 COMMUNION 2 CENTS A MEAL 9:00AM WORSHIP 10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM WORSHIP 4:30PM BOY SCOUTS	8 2:30PM CASA 5:30PM COMMITTEE MEETINGS	9 9:00AM T'ai CHI 12:00PM CIRCLE 24, SHEFFIELD 2:30PM CASA 6:00PM CIRCLE 5, BUSYLAD 7:00PM AA	10 10:00AM STAFF 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM MAH JONGG 5:00PM TOWER RINGERS 5:30PM WED. NIGHT PROGRAM 7:00PM CHANCEL CHOIR	11 8:00AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 2:30PM CASA 4:00PM NE & ICC CHOIRS, SANCTUARY	12 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	13
14 JOY GIFT OFFERING 9:00AM WORSHIP 10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM WORSHIP 1:00PM PETERS' BABY SHOWER, FH 4:30PM BOY SCOUTS 5:00PM JOY GIFT	15 2:30PM CASA 5:00PM STEERING COMMITTEE 6:00PM SESSION MEETING @ JOHN BROCK'S HOUSE	16 9:00AM T'ai CHI 2:30PM COOK FOR SALVATION ARMY 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	17 10:00AM STAFF 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM MAH JONGG 7:00PM CHANCEL CHOIR	18 8:00AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 1:30PM SHEPHERD'S CENTER MEETING 2:30PM CASA	19 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	20
21 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY CHURCH CHOIR PROGRAM 9:00AM WORSHIP 10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM WORSHIP 4:30PM BOY SCOUTS 5:30PM YOUTH, HOME OF MICHAEL B. GRATZ	22 THE LONGEST NIGHT 2:30PM CASA	23 9:00AM T'ai CHI 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	27 9:00AM HELPING HANDS VOLUNTEERS
28 9:00AM WORSHIP 10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM WORSHIP 4:30PM BOY SCOUTS	29 2:30PM CASA	30 9:00AM T'ai CHI 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	31 10:00AM STAFF 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 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
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

Connect with Us



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First Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

400 W. Jefferson Street

Tupelo, MS 38802

(662) 842-5681

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

