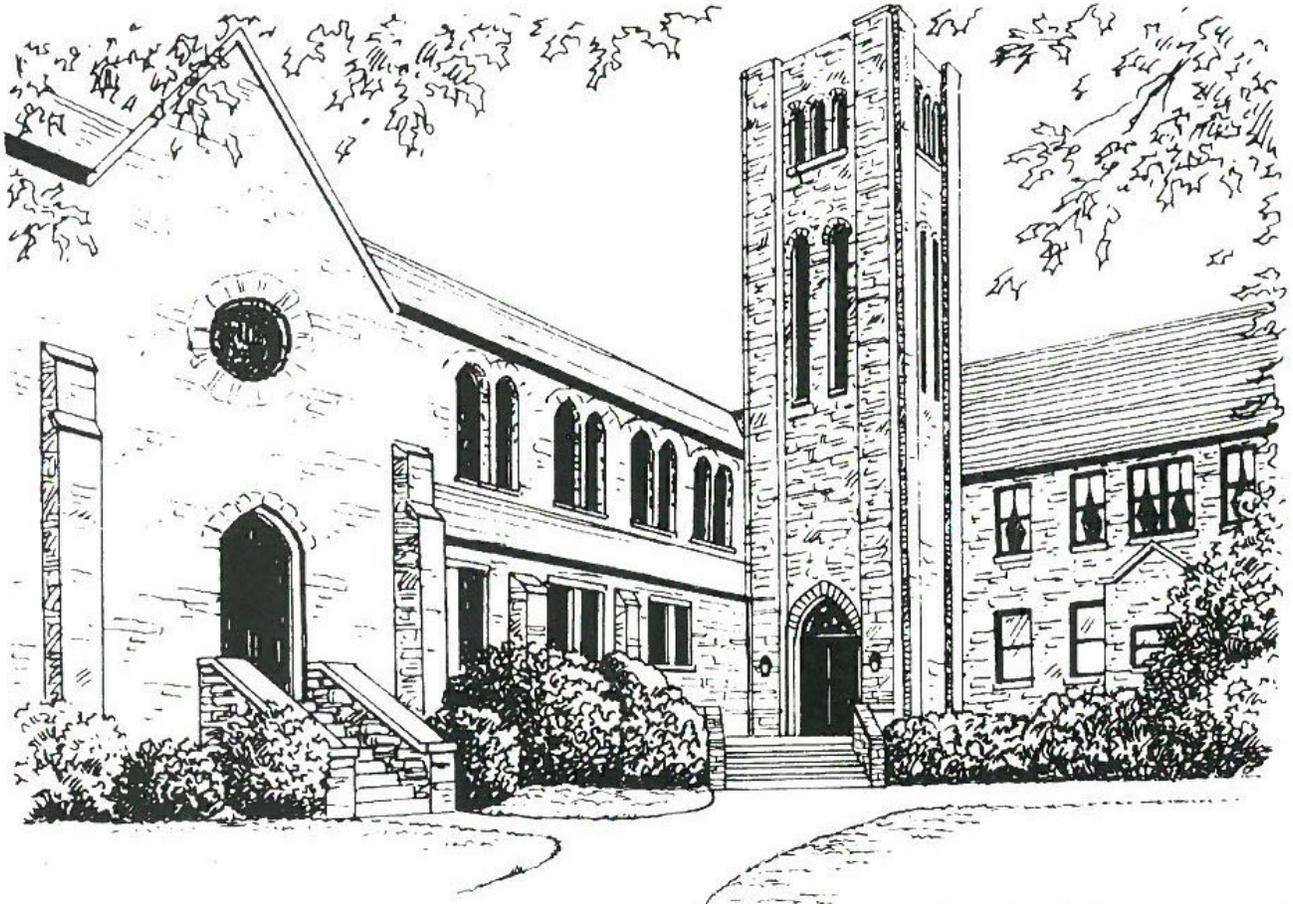


First Presbyterian Church

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

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“So that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:7

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Largo

GEORGE F. HANDEL

INTROIT

How About Your Heart?

HELEN AYCOCK

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One,

You sent the Lord Jesus Christ

to save the world from sin.

Teach us to follow him faithfully,

proclaiming the good news,

that all may come to know

and love the Lamb of God,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

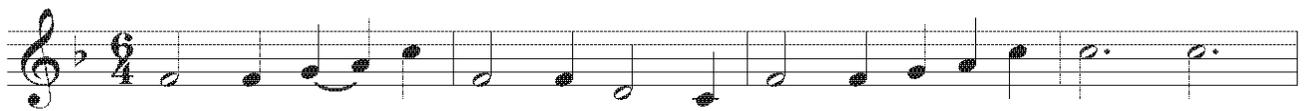
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

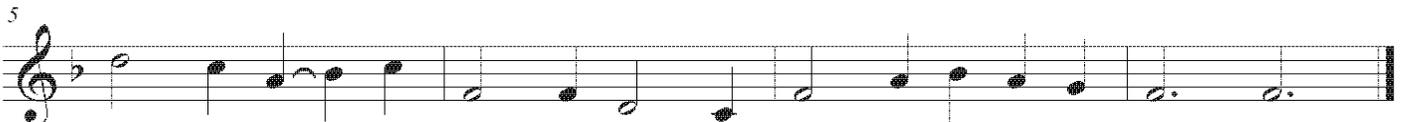
Kyrie Eleison

American 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

God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground. God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

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 40:1-11

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
**He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,**
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
**He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.**
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the LORD.
**Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,**
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
**You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.**
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.
**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.**
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
**Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.**
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."
**I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;**
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.

**I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;**
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.
**Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42

PEW BIBLE, PG. 92

ANTHEM

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

LLOYD LARSON

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store;
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious Donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.*

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred,
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

PEW BIBLE, PG. 165

SERMON

Lacking No Spiritual Gift

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Declaration of Faith*

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 428

We Give Thee But Thine Own

SCHUMANN

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

Simple Gifts

DALE WOOD

*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

Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as vain sacrifice, but as a joyful response for your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in C Major

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

*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 Robertson Aycock and Arden Ray Aycock, Sr. by Buddy, Mary, and Erin 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.

Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilder's during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service. 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: Melissa McDuffie

11:00: Rud Robison

Greeters: 9:00: Twinda Snider, Lucy Nash

11:00: Jack & Aubre Wells Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, January 19.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

For January 25, our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1,4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, and Matthew 4:12-23.**

Sunday, January 25, we will have our **Annual Congregational Meeting** at 10 A.M. In this Congregational Meeting, we will present our budget, we will vote on the Pastor's Terms of Call, we will elect elders for the class of 2029, and we will elect a nominating committee for 2026. The following are placed in nomination for the class of 2029: Richard Hastings, Jimmy Milam, Curtis Monts, Mary Pace, Margaret Parker, Daintry Thomas, and Al Wallace IV. The nominees for the nominating committee for 2026 will be Rudy Caldwell, Bill Deas, Beth Anne Ellzey, Alix Roaten, Debra Robison (chair), Chris Rogers, and Anna Yeager. We will not have adult Sunday School that day.

Cuba Mission needs your support! We are in need of over the counter medicine - such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Aleve, - vitamins for children and adults, cold and cough medicine, bedpans, oral hydration packets—such as Liquid IV, PurAqua Hydration, etc.—toothbrushes, sunglasses, and regular glasses. Please place all donations in the **Cuba Mission Box** in the **Breezeway. Pills, chewable, and gummies are preferred to liquids due to weight reasons.**

 **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 supper is free and the menu includes soups and pizza. Our Wednesday night program is going to be a discussion about where we want to see First Presbyterian, in 5, or 10, or 20 years from now. What ministries do you hope to see us doing? What activities are we hosting in our buildings? Who are we being called to be? Because of the importance of this type of work, we want to include everyone's voice. We will split into smaller groups so each person can share their hopes and dreams for the future of First Presbyterian Church. We are asking everyone to make every effort to attend next Wednesday night. We will eat at 5:15 and begin our Visioning

Meeting at 6:00 with a short devotional followed by our small group discussion sessions. Please make every effort to attend. We want to hear your voice and what the Holy Spirit is leading you to say. We also ask that you be praying for this night and this discussion, that we all are listening to one another and to the Spirit during this process. We also ask that you make reservations for Wednesday night as early as possible so we can order an accurate amount of food. The dinner will be free so there is no impediment to coming to the gathering. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

Our Introit this morning - *How About Your Heart?* - was written by Helen Aycock, mother of Mary Stubbs and Randy Aycock.

Souper Bowl Sunday is two weeks away on Sunday, February 8! Please donate what you would spend on a meal if you ate out. We will serve Vegetable Beef Soup, Chicken Soup, Chili, Vegan Soup, Cheese Toast, and something for the children. We thank you for your support.

February 14, we will host our **Single's Valentine's Day Brunch**. Keep your eyes posted here and in our weekly *Tower* for updates to come!

Ash Wednesday will be on February 18, this year. We will have two services, one at noon and one at 6:15 P.M. in place of our Wednesday Night Program. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Sunday, February 22, the **Billy Roberts/Erin Stubbs Wedding Shower** will start at 12:00 P.M. Please come and show love and appreciation to this couple as they prepare to join together as one.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Lucy Gratz, Olivia Hastings, Lewis Herman

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 49 11:00 A.M: 120

This Week at FPC

Saturday, January 17

PYC RETREAT

9:00 am Helping Hands

Sunday, January 18

PYC RETREAT

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Office Closed

2:30 pm CASA

5:15 pm Steering Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 20

9:00 am T'ai Chi Chih

2:30 pm CASA

2:30 pm Cook for Salvation Army, Kitchen

7:00 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, January 21

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:30 pm CASA

3:00 pm Mah Jongg

5:05 pm Tower Ringers

5:30 pm Wednesday Night Program

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 22

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

2:30 pm CASA

Friday, January 23

12:00 pm AA Meeting

2:30 pm CASA



FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SUPPORT OUR CHURCH YOUTH

- DONATE WHAT YOU WOULD SPEND ON A MEAL IF YOU ATE OUT
- SOUPS SERVED: VEGETABLE BEEF, CHICKEN, CHILI, VEGAN, CHEESE TOAST, AND SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN

We thank you for your support

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

www.firstprestupelo.org
662.842.5681



Cuba Water Mission

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!

How You Can Help:

- Sponsor a family or individual that is going to Cuba
- Share our cause with your network
- Donate the items listed below to our collection box in the breezeway:
 - over-the-counter medicine - such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Aleve
 - vitamins for children and adults
 - cold and cough medicine
 - bedpans
 - oral hydration packets—such as Liquid IV, PurAqua Hydration, etc.
 - toothbrushes
 - sunglasses and regular glasses



Medical Supplies



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

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

Monetary Donations Appreciated

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

