

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

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 1:25

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Visison

DALE WOOD

INTROIT

God of Grace and God of Glory

ARR. OVID YOUNG

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6:8)

What does the Lord require of you,

but to do justice,

love kindness,

and walk humbly with God?

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Redeeming God, You come to us in Christ

to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity.

Guide us by the wisdom of the cross,

and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 210 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION

With what shall I come before the Lord? We come, knowing we’ve lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift. But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God.

Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before You in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear Your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in Your way each and every day. Lord, hear our prayer ...

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE


Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole.**

*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.



BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY (9:00 SERVICE)

As we say farewell, we want you to know that we will miss you. We love you. We send you forth as disciples of Jesus Christ and as ambassadors of friendship, spreading the love of God in your new surroundings. As you go, we admonish you with these words: Go in the spirit of Christ. Be steadfast in your devotion to Him.

Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.

Know that your ministry with us has served the cause of Christ in this community. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.

May your deepening commitment to Christ become your starting point as you enter into a new relationship with another community, another congregation.

Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.

And always remember that even though we will be separated in space, our common love for Jesus Christ will find us together always in His spirit.

Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER

God of Abraham, the sojourner, You are also the God of modern travelers. As You traveled with Abraham and Sarah, go with The Agnew family. Keep them faithful to You, in prayer, worship, and service, in the many new relationships before them. Bless their new home and their new environment. May our friendship with them endure, and may we ever be one in Christ's name. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF THE GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM (11:00 SERVICE)

Leader: In accepting the charge to be a member of this Guatemala Mission Team, have you been persuaded by the love of God and a sincere desire to promote God's glory in the gospel for Jesus Christ?

Team Members: **I have been so persuaded.**

Leader: Do you accept this task, pledging your faithfulness in service and opening your heart for the enrichment which others may share with you?

Team Members: I do so pledge.

Leader: Do you commit yourself as a partner in obedience to the Christ of the one church and with other Christians, confident that we are all sisters and brothers of the One Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Team Members: I do so commit myself.

Leader: In humble reliance upon divine grace, do you promise to be faithful and diligent in all you do, to be an example of Christian love and to serve in hearty cooperation with your colleagues in mission and ministry?

Team Members: I do so promise relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of this church, will you open your hearts to the ministry of this team and pray for them as servants of Christ?

Congregation: Yes, we will with God's help.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 15

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?

Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**

who do not slander with their tongue

and do no evil to their friends

nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised

but who honor those who fear the LORD;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

PEW BIBLE, PG. 4



*Come, if you are lonely,
My door is open wide.
All of you are welcome, come and step inside.
Enter with My blessing, no one is denied.
Come sit at My table, come sit by My side.*

*REFRAIN: Come, if you are thirsty, I will pour the wine.
If you hunger, take this bread, sit with Me and dine.
Ev'ry weary traveller, ev'ry troubled soul,
rest for just a moment and leave the table whole.*

*The feast I spread before you,
the cup that we will share,
the bread we'll break together,
I've lovingly prepared.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

PEW BIBLE, PG. 166

SERMON

God's Strange Wisdom

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

Wisdom, Power and Love
(see insert on page 9)

ST. AGNES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Aria

GEORGE F. HANDEL

*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, thank You for the many blessings of our lives. Bless these
gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for
those who need them most. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S 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.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven

JOHN RUTTER

*BENEDICTION

WEEKLY

FPC Schedule

SUNDAY

9:00 A.M. Worship

10:00 A.M. Congregational Meeting

11:00 A.M. Worship

4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

5:30 P.M. Confirmation

Two Cents a Meal
Communion

MONDAY

11:00 A.M. Bible Study

2:30 P.M. CASA

6:45 P.M. Circle 3

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi

2:30 P.M. CASA

7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Guat. Team departs

WEDNESDAY

10a Staff Meeting

2:30p CASA

3p Mah Jongg

5:05p Tower Ringers

5:30p Wednesday Night Program

7p Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

7:45a St. Luke's Food Pantry

8a Men's Breakfast

2:30p CASA

FRIDAY

12p AA

2:30p CASA

SATURDAY

Notes

SouperBowl Sunday is on the 8th.

Single's Valentine's Day Brunch is on the 14th.

Wisdom, Power and Love

ST. AGNES

William Cowper, 1772

Isaac Watts, 1698

Christ and His cross is all our theme;
But souls en-light-ened from a-bove

The mys-t'ries that we speak
with joy re-ceive the word;

were scan-dal to the Phar-i-sees
They see the wis-dom, pow'r and love

and fol-ly to the Greek.
shine in their dy-ing Lord.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston

College Students: Isabella Posey, Jon Timothy Posey, Ross Reeder

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

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 Judy Joyner Hodges by Dan & Frances Joyner Brasfield.

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 every 2nd and 4th Sunday. 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: Trey Phyfer

Greeters: 9:00: Pete & Kathy McMurry

11:00: George & Wanda Dent, Mark & Helen Monts

Crucifers: 9:00: Carter McDuffie

11:00: Gia Ellis

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, February 2 at 11:00 A.M. We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study Acts 3.

For February 1, our scripture passages will be from **Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, and Matthew 5:1-12.**

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 cost is \$7 per person, and we will enjoy Presly's Red Beans and Rice, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Corn Spoon Bread, Tater Tots and Cheese Sticks, Congealed Salad, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be The Boys & Girls Club by Zell Long, Tommy Oliver, & Evie Storey. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, February 4**

Souper Bowl Sunday is next 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, Glenn Thomas's World Famous Corn Chowder, 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.

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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

