

The

TOWER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

400 Jefferson Street • P.O. Box 1725 • Tupelo, Mississippi 38802 • (662) 842-5681 • www.firstprestupelo.org

February 2026

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

Siblings in Christ,

For the second year of my doctoral program, we are focusing on Paul's letter to the church in Rome. As written in the syllabus, "we will explore the richness of the church's calling to holiness by focusing on Romans and its interpreters through the centuries to better nurture disciples." That's a heavy thing to think about, our calling to holiness.

Thinking about this calling to holiness, I have been reading a book of sermons on Romans for the class. In it, the author of the sermons contends that sin is not primarily something we do wrong. Rather, sin is a cosmic force that overwhelms us. The Rev. Fleming Rutledge writes, "Sin is 'mankind's essential illness,' it is a condition we are all heir to, it is a demonic Power that enslaves us and binds us and prevents us from being either free or good."

The words that I keep thinking about are: "prevents us from being either free or good." I think of this when I look at the world right now, at all the hate and division, at the violence and cruelty. I think of all the things that prevent us from being free or good. Personally, I like to think almost all of us want to be free and good, but the forces of sin in this world propel humans to hurt and divide. It sure seems hopeless.

But Paul, in Romans, tells us that this sin is not the final word. We look at the news and see all the hatred and despair, and we think it will always be this way. But the story of Jesus Christ is that it will NOT always be this way. Through Christ Jesus, we are freed from the powers of Sin. And it is Christ's work in us, not the work of ourselves.

Rutledge writes, "In the knowledge of the 'other point of power,' you can go forward with confidence to do those good works that God has prepared for you to walk in. Then truly, you can do great things that you thought you could never do. You can visit a prison, mentor a child, forgive your spouse, fight against prejudice, change an attitude, reach out to an enemy, oppose a wrong—not in order to gain credit or shore up your self-esteem, but because God is working his purpose out in your very own life."

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. - Romans 8:2

Grace and Peace to you,

John

Worship With Us

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 1

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

Congregational Meeting at 10:00 A.M.



Our YouTube Channel

**Sunday's
Bulletin**

Scripture Lesson

Children's Bulletins
Ages 3 & Up

Children's Bulletins
Ages 7 & Up

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!





Monthly Updates

Weekly Prayer List

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark,
Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Barbara Price, Jack Price,
Annette Thornton

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

Service Members: Patrick Hastings,
Andrew Ray

LET'S SERVE TOGETHER *February*

February 5
St. Luke's Food Pantry
at 7:45 a.m.

February 14
Helping Hands Volunteers
at 9:00 a.m.

February 17
Cook for the Salvation
Army
at 2:30 p.m.

January Memorials, Gifts, and Honoraria

*In honor of Charles & Betty Reece, Judge Glen and Bonnie Davidson, Dan & Francis Brasfield, Pete & Kathy McMurry, Donna & Larry Kreeb, Josefina Rayburn, Glenn Thomas, Bill & Lucy Hilbun, and in memory of Ottis Tims from George & Wanda Dent. (Guatemala Water Mission)

*In honor of Ruby Kathryn Patterson from Bonnie & Glen Davidson. (Congregational Care Fund)

*In memory of Jesse Davis from Lou Ann & Leroy McCarty. (Chancel Choir Fund)

*In memory of Jesse Davis & Edna Bounds from George & Wanda Dent. (Guatemala Water Mission)

*In memory of Edna Bounds from Mary Elizabeth Williams. (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

*In memory of Jesse Davis from Mary Elizabeth Williams. (Fellowship Fund)

Bible Study Update

Monday, February 2

11:00 A.M.

Bolton/Sistahood Room

Acts 3



Two Cents a Meal

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."



Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

Date **2.4.2026** | Time **5:30pm**

Program: The Boys & Girls Club
by Zell Long, Tommy Oliver, & Evie Storey

Menu:

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!

**\$7 per
person**

**Sign Up As Soon as
possible**



February Wednesday Night Programs

February 9

Boys & Girls Club

February 11

TBD

February 18

Ash Wednesday Service

February 25

Lenten Prayer
Study
"Help" by John
Brock



FEBRUARY 8, 2026

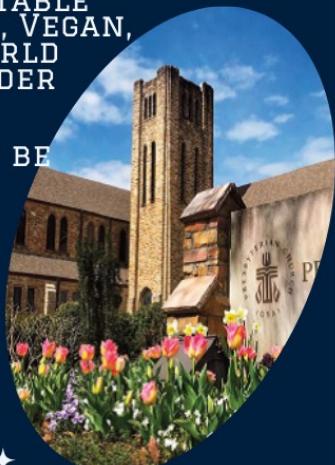
SUPPORT OUR CHURCH YOUTH

- DONATE WHAT YOU WOULD SPEND ON A MEAL IF YOU ATE OUT
- SOUPS SERVED: VEGETABLE, BEEF, CHICKEN, CHILI, VEGAN, GLENN THOMAS'S WORLD FAMOUS CORN CHOWDER
- CHEESE TOAST AND SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

We thank you for your support

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

www.firstprestupelo.org
662.842.5681



First Presbyterian Church

invites you to a

SINGLES *Valentine's Day* BRUNCH

Saturday, February 14 | 11:00 a.m.
FPC Fellowship Hall



May invite one guest.
Transportation provided, if needed.

Call (662) 842-5681
or scan the QR code
to reserve your spot.



February Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Robert Fisher Penny O'Quinn Amy Aycock Ray	2 Bethany Hazel Brooks Hutto Andy Luckett	3 Carolyn Livingston	4 Hank Owens MJ Whitt	5 Jane Michael Leeks	6	7 John Parker
8 Leslie Banks Joey McDuffie Kay Stanford	9 Pat Tynew Hal Boerner James Camp Joel Zimmerman	10	11 Lanta Craig Analyn Kirksey Ed Neelly	12	13 Emma Counce Abbey Hastings	14
15 Bill Davis	16 Wallace Neelly	17 Lucy Nash	18	19 Bess Robins	20 Field Thomas	21 Bennett Mark
22	23 Lilah Kate Ray	24 Lauren Bridges Meagan Nichols	25 Anna Yeager	26 Britt Rogers III	27	28 Bryson Hunter Daintry Thomas



February Anniversaries

2/1 Mr. & Mrs. Byron Fellows	2/10 Mr. & Mrs. Ivy Wells	2/13 Mr. & Mrs. Will Davis
2/16 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Rogers	2/21 Mr. & Mrs. Robin Fauchette	2/21 Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Whitfield
	2/27 Mr. & Mrs. George Dent	

Congregational Meeting.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

10:00 A.M.

NO Adult Sunday School

Sunday, February 1, 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.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

12:00 pm

&

7:00 pm

Circle Meetings:

Circle 3: February 2 @ 6:45
Member's House

Circle 24: February 10 @ Noon
Frances Sheffield Classroom

Circle 5: February 10 @ 6 pm
Busylad

BRIDAL SHOWER



STUBBS & ROBERTS

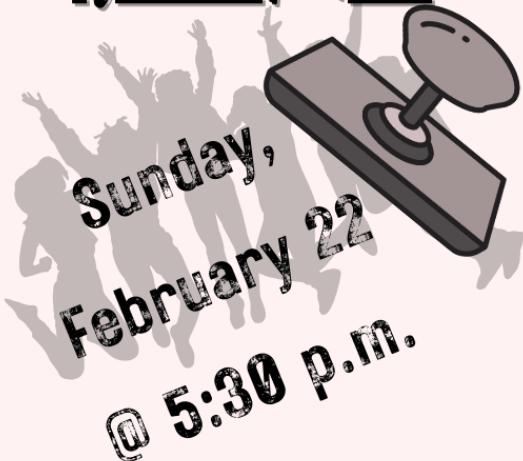
HONORING

Erin Stubbs & Billy Roberts

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
1:00-2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL

*Registered at Reed's,
Jody's, and Amazon*

Youth Meets



Confirmation Dates

FEBRUARY 1
at
5:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 8
at
1:30 P.M.

(following SouperBowl Sunday meal)

FEBRUARY 15
at
4:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 22
at
5:30 P.M.

What about the staff?

Pastor **Ricky Kimbrell** representing Word of Life Church in Tupelo, Mississippi, delivered the invocation in the Mississippi State Senate today. He was accompanied by his wife Annette Kimbrell.

"All Mighty, Gracious, Heavenly Father.

I come to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

I pray for these fine men and women who are representing my Mississippi as the 20th state of our great United States of America.

I pray that You would lead, guide, and direct the work that they do for all of OUR Mississippi.

Lord, I pray that You would give them the wisdom that only comes from You.

Lord, help them to be bold when they need to be bold and humble when they need to be humble.

Lord, we pray for a unified Mississippi Senate, and we pray that Your will be done.

Lord, when the Ds and Rs divide us, let the A and the M unite us, united as Americans and united as Mississippians.

We pray this in the name that is above every name.

The name of your son, Jesus Christ, Amen."



Ricky
Prays for
the
Mississippi
State Senate

January Youth Adventures



Packing Lunches





The Session

Administrative – Glen Davidson, Sr.

- 2026 Budget approved by the session along with the Pastor's Terms of Call. This will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Christian Education – Corey Littrell

- Joy Gift is Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m.
- Confirmation is underway with 7 confirmands. The retreat at Camp Hopewell, January 3-4, was a wonderful beginning, followed by our first class on January 11. This is a great group of youth, and we are looking forward to going through this process with them. We have two youth joining us from First Presbyterian Church in Amory, who have been a wonderful addition. Please keep all our youth in your prayers over the coming months: Henry Brock, Wesley Brock, Mary Crotwell, Ren Crowell, Piper Davis, Lillie Hathcoate, and Carter McDuffie.
- On January 11, eighteen of your youth met to assemble sack lunches for the guests at Saint's Brew. These lunches consisted of a sandwich, a bag of chips, a brownie, a bottle of water, and a little note of encouragement. All supplies were donated by the youth parents! They did a wonderful job!
- It was a while ago, but the 'Advent Fair' went incredibly well! We had 15 families attend with a Fellowship Hall full of children!
- Our youth attended the PYC Retreat January 16-18, 2026. Four of your youth serve on this council and have planned and will lead this retreat: Joey McDuffie, Annelise Fagan, Alice Fagan, and Gracie Wallace. In total, 16 of our youth and 2 adults will attend!
- Wednesday Night Programming
 - a. February 4 – North Ms Boys and Girls Club
 - b. February 18 – Ash Wednesday Services (Noon and 6:15 p.m.)
 - c. March 11 – No Program – Spring Break
 - d. March 25 – Confirmands Present Faith Statements
 - e. April 1 – No Program – Holy Week
 - f. April 29 – Closing Picnic
- The Sistahood will study "Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes" by Rabbi Evan Moffic. They will also study "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" by Adam Hamilton as their Lenten Study.
- During the Lenten season of Wednesday Night Programs, we will offer a program centered around Anne Lamott's book "Help, Thanks, Wow." This will be a three-part study on prayer. John Brock will lead this study.
- We will conclude our Wednesday Night Programs on April 29 with our traditional Cherub and Faithbuilder Program in the Stuart Garden.

Congregational Care – Jim Fisher

- FPC Pals (Armed Forces and College Students) 2 new college students: Anne Crotwell and Aryanna Phyfer.
- Bonnie Williford delivered a meal to Anne and Chris Kramer. The Martha's will drop off a meal to Toni Martin and her mother, who is now living with her.
- Newborn Bonnets – Cindy Faucette will be delivering bonnets at the baby showers. Maddin and Hank Hutto are expecting the arrival of their little girl, Mamie Elizabeth, on February 25, 2026. Aubre and Jack Well's son, Ivy, and his wife, Katelyn, are expecting the arrival of their little girl on May 13, 2026.
- December 14, we hosted a Baby Shower for Katherine Peters.
- Poinsettias – Christmas Poinsettia delivery went well! 24 Poinsettias delivered
- The Shepherd Center is still looking for a new Director.
- Wedding Shower for Erin Stubbs will be Sunday, February 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Fellowship – Aubre Wells

- Did not meet in January

Outreach/Mission – Helen Monts

- Guatemala Water Mission trip is February 3-10, 2026. Eight people will be going, and they are reinstalling two systems.
- Souper Bowl Sunday is February 8, 2026. It is a fundraiser for the Youth and the Cuba Mission trip. A variety of soups will be served, including a vegetarian option.
- Cuba Mission Trip is on hold at this time.
- T-shirt sales have begun. This is a fundraiser for the Youth.

Property and Grounds – Ben Hunter

- Stained Glass Window Project Update
 - a. The west half has been removed and is being worked on at the studio.
 - b. The eastern half was planned for removal two weeks ago.
- Approved Restriping handicap parking spaces to increase to a total of nine for a total of \$881.

Safety and Security – David Carlisle

- No information.

Worship – Bob Lence

- Christmas is packed away, and we will look at using blue candles in the Advent wreath next year.
- John Brock will be out of the office on Sunday, February 8, and Melissa will preach.
- Ash Wednesday is February 18 at noon and 6:15 p.m.
- Beginning with February Communion, all Elders serving communion will process in with the offering. Elders will stand and wait for the two Elders placing elements and all sit at same time.

Member Information & Important Dates

- A Congregational Meeting is to be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The 2026 budget, Pastor's Terms of Call, and Nominating Committee for 2026 will be presented, and the Elder Class of 2029 will be elected.
- We welcomed Carla and Eddy Holland to membership at First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo on December 21, 2025.

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

Guat. Team departs
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

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.

2026

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Two Cents a Meal Communion 9a Worship 10a Congregational Meeting 11a Worship 4:30p Boy Scouts 5:30p Confirmation	2 11a Bible Study 2:30p CASA 6:45p Circle 3	3 9a T'ai Chi 2:30p CASA 7p AA Meeting	4 10a Staff Meeting 2:30p CASA 3p Mah Jongg 5:05p Tower Ringers 5:30p Wednesday Night Program 7p Chancel Choir	5 7:45a St. Luke's Food Pantry 8a Men's Breakfast 2:30p CASA	6 12p AA 2:30p CASA	7
8 SouperBowl Sunday 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 4:30p Boy Scouts	9 11a Bible Study 2:30p CASA 5:30p Committee Meetings	10 9a T'ai Chi 10a Martha's 12p Circle 24 2:30p CASA 6p Circle 5 7p AA Meeting	11 10a Staff Meeting 2:30p CASA 3p Mah Jongg 5:05p Tower Ringers 5:30p Wednesday Night Program 7p Chancel Choir	12 8a Men's Breakfast 2:30p CASA	13 12p AA 2:30p CASA	14 Valentine's Day 9a Helping Hands 11a Single's Valentine's Day Brunch
15 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 4:30p Boy Scouts 5:30p Confirmation	16 President's Day 11a Bible Study 2:30p CASA 5p Steering Committee 6p Session Meeting	17 9a T'ai Chi 2:30p CASA 2:30p Cook for the Salvation Army 7p AA Meeting	18 Ash Wednesday 10a Staff Meeting 2:30p CASA 3p Mah Jongg 5:05p Tower Ringers 5:30p Wednesday Night Program 7p Chancel Choir	19 8a Men's Breakfast 1:30p Shepherd's Center Meeting 2:30p CASA	20 12p AA 2:30p CASA	21 Cuba Team departs
22 9a Worship 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 12p Stubbs Wedding Shower 4:30p Boy Scouts 5:30p Confirmation	23 11a Bible Study 2:30p CASA	24 9a T'ai Chi 2:30p CASA 7p AA Meeting	25 10a Staff Meeting 2:30p CASA 3p Mah Jongg 5:05p Tower Ringers 5:30p Wednesday Night Program 7p Chancel Choir	26 8a Men's Breakfast 2:30p CASA	27 12p AA 2:30p CASA	28 Cuba Team returns

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



Visit our website, join us on Facebook, or visit our Google calendar to see the latest FPC news!

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