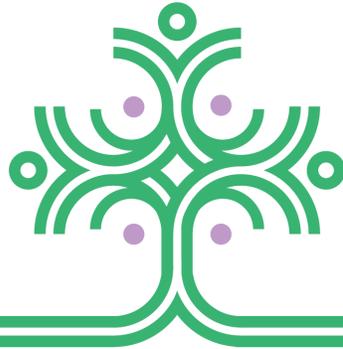


*Second Sunday of
Lent*



the good news is..

great love for
God & neighbor

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

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

First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804

662.842.5681

www.firstprestupelo.org

Morning Worship Service

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love.”

- LUKE 7:47a

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Andante

GABRIEL FAURÉ

INTROIT

Oh How Good Is Christ the Lord

VICKI HANCOCK WRIGHT/JEFF REEVES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God’s love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and merciful God,

You have heard our cries and delivered us from death and despair.

You receive us in our sin and speak forgiveness over our lives.

Like the woman at Jesus’ feet, we come with gratitude and longing.

Teach us to love You boldly and faithfully.

Open our eyes to see Christ in the hungry and the stranger,

the sick and the imprisoned.

Turn our worship into compassion
 and our gratitude into service.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Whatever You Do
 (see insert)

ST. DENIO

Whatever You Do

St. Denio

Carolyn Gillette

Welsh folk tune

What - ev - er you do to the least ones of these, I
 When poor, wait - ing chil - dren pray hun - ger will end; when
 When we reach to oth - ers in flood - strick - en lands and
 "Lord, when did we see You?" Your teach - ing is clear that

5
 tell you in truth that you do un - to me. Lord
 those long for - got - ten cry out for a friend; when
 of - fer our hearts there, and of - fer our hands we
 when we serve oth - ers, we're serv - ing You here. And

9
 Je - sus, you taught us. May we learn a - new that
 thirs - ty ones whis - per, "O Lord, where are You?" We
 no - tice, Lord Je - sus, the gift of Your grace; We
 when Your church heeds You and helps those in pain, then

13
 when we serve oth - ers, we al - so serve you.
 hear, in their long - ing, that You're call - ing too.
 see in the crowds of the suf - f'ring Your face.
 out of the cha - os, hope ris - es a - gain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith,
 we long to love others as God loves us,
 but that work is easier said than done.
 We lose our way.

We become distracted.
 We grow fearful.
 We need God's grace.
 Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.
 So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
 Join me in being transformed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
did we see You hungry and give You something to eat?
Did we see You thirsty and give You something to drink?
Did we see You alone and offer You compassion?
Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that You have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray.

(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

Faith family,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:
We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

*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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 116:1-9

I love the LORD because He has heard
my voice and my supplications.
**Because He inclined His ear to me,
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
**Then I called on the name of the LORD,
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**
Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is merciful.
**The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, He saved me.**
Return, O my soul, to Your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with You.

**For You have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
*I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:35-40

PEW BIBLE, PG. 29

ANTHEM

This Is My Commandment

LARRY SHACKLEY

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:36-50

PEW BIBLE, PG. 66

SERMON

Great Love

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 NO. 391 *Take My Life* HENDON

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Variation on a Hymn for Lent* 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

**Gracious God, You have delivered us and forgiven us much. In gratitude,
we offer these gifts to You. As love was poured out at Jesus' feet, so we pour
out what You have first given us. Use these offerings to serve Christ in the
hungry, the stranger, and the suffering. Turn our gratitude into generosity
and our worship into faithful service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Who Is Thy Neighbor?
(see insert)

CHRISTMAS

POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

DON HUSTAD

*BENEDICTION

Who Is Thy Neighbor?

AMAZING GRACE

William Peabody

The Southern Harmony



Who is thy neigh - bor? He whom thou hast
Thy neigh - bor? 'Tis the faint - ing poor whose
Thy neigh - bor? He who drinks the cup when
Thy neigh - bor? Pass no mourn - er by; per -



pow'r to aid or bless; whose
eye with want is dim; oh,
sor - row drowns the brim; with
haps thou canst re - deem a



ach - ing heart or burn - ing brow thy
en - ter thou his hum - ble door with
words of high sus - tain - ing hope, go,
break - ing heart from mi - ser - y; go



sooth - ing hand may press.
aid and peace for him.
thou, and com - fort him.
share thy lot with him.

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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of our friend and neighbor, Annette Thornton by Kathy & Pete McMurry.

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: Joey McDuffie

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

Greeters: 9:00: Amy Ray and Tracy Kramer

11:00: Jeff & Mitzi Moore, Grayson & Bess Robins, and Alix Roaten

Crucifers: 9:00: Carter McDuffie

11:00: Jonathan Crowell

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, March 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 5.

For March 8, our scripture passages will be from Mark 6:32-44, Ephesians 3:20-21, 2 Kings 4:1-7, and Psalm 145:10-18.



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 Chicken and Broccoli Divan with Rice on the side, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Macaroni and Cheese, Strawberry Pretzel Salad, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! Our program will be *Thanks* by John Brock. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, March 4.

We will **not** have a Wednesday Night Program and Meal next week for Spring Break..

The Spring Flower Bulb Drive is going on now! If you would like to make a gift to the bulb fund with an honorarium or memorial in the name of a loved one, please send your donation to the church office by Thursday, March 26. Envelopes may be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary or on the table outside of the office door.

Lenten Lunch will be held at St. Luke United Methodist on Thursday, March 5 at 12:00.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: John Gaston, Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash

College Students: Lucy Gratz, Olivia Hastings, Lewis Herman

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 59 11:00 A.M: 125

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,424

Amount Received 2/22/26: \$7,311

YTD Budgeted Income: \$176,848

YTD Income Received: \$343,721

WEEKLY

FPC Schedule

SUNDAY

TWO CENTS A MEAL

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP

COMMUNION

10:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS

5:30 P.M. CONFIRMATION

3/1

MONDAY

11:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY

2:30 P.M. CASA

6:45 P.M. CIRCLE 3

3/2

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI

2:30 P.M. CASA

7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

3/3

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M. STAFF MEETING

2:30 P.M. CASA

3:00 P.M. MAH JONGG

5:05 P.M. TOWER RINGERS

5:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

7:00 P.M. CHANCEL CHOIR

3/4

THURSDAY

7:45 A.M. ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY

8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST

2:30 P.M. CASA

6:45 P.M. BRAVER ANGELS

3/5

FRIDAY

12:00 P.M. AA

2:30 P.M. CASA

3/6

SATURDAY

3/7

Notes

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS ON

THE 8TH.

HELPING HANDS AT 9:00 a.m. ON

THE 14TH.

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

