

# First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street



## 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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

# Morning Worship Service

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”  
- HEBREWS 11:1

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Slow Me Down*

PROCESSIONAL *Witt Wells, Ashley Atkinson, Hudson Fisher, Wesley Brock*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

MARY CROTWELL

Abraham traveled to the Promised Land, not knowing where he was going.

**Like Abraham, we will trust in God.**

Despite the judgment from others, Noah still built an ark.

**Like Noah, we will have faith in God.**

Moses left Egypt unafraid of Pharaoh's anger.

**Like Moses, we will believe in God.**

Let us worship our God!

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

EMMA MCDUFFIE

As we begin this day of worship, help us focus in on Your presence among us and Your love for us. Thank You for bringing all of us here this morning to celebrate Your grace and mercy towards us. Help us strengthen our faith and our understanding of You. In Your great name we pray, Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 525

*Here I Am, Lord*

HERE I AM, LORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

ANNE FRANCES ATKINSON

As God asks us to follow His plan and give in to His path for us, let us confess the ways we have fallen short and commit to changing our sinful ways.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WESLEY BROCK

**Lord of mercy, forgive us when we neglect the models You have given us.**

**Forgive us when we see their example but fail to emulate it. Forgive us when we have faith but do not act on it. We believe Lord; help our unbelief. Amen.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HUDSON FISHER

Truly I tell you that, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*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

WITT WELLS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-9

CHRIS CURTIS, PG. 10

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GRACIE WALLACE

ANTHEM

*Come Thou Fount*

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12; 12:1-2

ANDREW GOAD, PG. 225

SERMON

Faith

JOEY McDUFFIE  
ARYANNA PHYFER  
EMMA CLAIRE WALLACE

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — taken from the Faith Statements of Our 2026 Confirmands

REN CROWELL

**I believe in God who is the creator of heaven and earth, that He made man in His image, and that His love is unconditional. He has an abundant amount of grace that we should respond to with gratitude. Jesus is our Savior. He is Emmanuel. He is our friend, our brother. I believe the Holy Spirit is for us all. The Holy Spirit is God's sign saying He is still with us always. God's messenger to me and you. The church is a creation of God equipped for God's work. It is the work of the church to share and preach the Gospels, using words if necessary. I believe that my role in the Christian life is to follow in Jesus' footsteps as best as I can and encourage everyone else to do the same.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MICHAEL B. GRATZ

**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

HENRY BROCK

OFFERTORY

*How Great Thou Art*

ANNE FRANCES ATKINSON

\*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.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CARTER MCDUFFIE

**Heavenly Father, You give us the gifts of life and love. We appreciate Your incredible generosity and now ask that You will accept our gifts through our sacrifices. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS

### GRADUATION LITANY

We are gathered together to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our community.

**We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved and many more achievements yet to come.**

One part of your life's journey is complete. You will prepare to begin another phase that will take you to unimaginable places.

As you prepare for your next journey, we hope that you remember the ones you leave behind, who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

**We give blessings of good will and love as you journey forth into the world.**

**We thank you for the laughter and fellowship that you have shared with us and pray that as you begin your next journey, remember the times that we all shared with you.**

Use these memories as a beacon to guide you on your path. Don't look back; continue only forward, while using those memories to create a new path.

**We pray that God will give you strength and determination to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen and sustain your faith.**

Because we are made in the image of God we have been blessed with free will to make choices and decisions.

**We pray that you make wise and rational decisions, always turning to God for help. God hears. God listens. God is always with you. Do not forget that. Always keep in mind that God is around and if you turn to him, he will guide you.**

And now we speak this blessing to you:

Numbers 6:24-26

*The Lord bless you and keep you;*

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;*

*The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 322

*Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

POSTLUDE

*Go Now in Peace*

\*BENEDICTION

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### PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatment:** Scarlett Reeder, Tom McDonald

**Homebound:** Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price, Gladys Wilson

**College Students:** Olivia Reynolds, Walt Rose, Jenkins Wells

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 51    11:00 A.M: 137

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106    Amount Received 4/26/26: \$20,085

YTD Budgeted Income: \$353,696    YTD Income Received: \$518,108.03

## 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](mailto: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 Peggy Ray on the occasion of her 90th birthday by her children, Steve, Margaret, and Beverly.

**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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

**Leading the worship service today:** The Youth of First Presbyterian Church

**Seniors:** Andrew Goad, Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, Emma Claire Wallace

**Juniors:** Anne Frances Atkinson, Chris Curtis, Michael B. Gratz, Witt Wells

**Sophomores:** Ashley Atkinson, Gracie Wallace

**Freshman:** Hudson Fisher

**8th Grade:** Wesley Brock, Mary Crotwell

**7th Grade:** Henry Brock, Ren Crowell, Carter McDuffie

**6th Grade:** Emma McDuffie

## **Greeters and Ushers:**

9:00: Ashley Atkinson, Wesley Brock, Ren Crowell, Mary Crotwell

11:00: Ashley Atkinson, Wesley Brock, Ren Crowell, Mary Crotwell, Chris Curtis, Hudson Fisher

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, May 5 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 13.

**For May 10,** our scripture passages will be from **Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, and John 14:15-21.**

**Volunteers Needed** — We need you to help sub as a camera monitor on Sundays! If you can take a shift (9:00 Worship, 10:00 Sunday School, or 11:00 Worship), please contact Kathy Wallace. We appreciate any help you can give.

**Flowers in the Sanctuary Update** - Beginning August 1, the cost per arrangement is moving to \$75. If you have put your name down already for flowers after this date and would like to remove it, feel free to scratch it out on the calendar by the kitchen. We feel the price is still more than fair compared to the florists, but with prices going up, we had to as well. Thank you for understanding.

Join us for the **Chandler Baby Shower** on May 17 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Theme - Diapers & Dinner! Sizes 1-2 for diapers, please.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School Hour for Brunch honoring our High School Graduating Seniors.

**Circle 3** will meet at 6:45 P.M. on May 4 at Ruth Brock's house.

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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

