



May 2026

A Newsletter for the Congregation and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS

As many of you know, I have been teaching a New and Prospective Member class during the month of April. We spent three weeks discussing Presbyterian Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Presbyterian Polity. In many ways, however, these things are intertwined. For example, the way we govern ourselves, our polity, derives completely from what we believe about God and people. The way we worship (especially the order of worship) and our sacraments come out of our theology as well, especially our connection to the idea of sola scriptura: Scripture alone should point our way of doing things.

These three topics, theology, worship, and sacraments, along with polity, help combine to create who we are as Presbyterians. And these things lead into this note my mother found that my dad wrote sometime 20-30 years ago, which I think is a good summation of our New and Prospective member class.

“Walk into a Presbyterian church and what do you find?

1. a sense of majesty in worship
2. a strong tradition for preaching
3. shared leadership
4. strong education
5. church bulletins that call attention to community
6. prayer of confession stressing the priesthood of all believers.”

Now I am not sure of where these notes came from. Were they his own thoughts? Was he at some meeting where these things were discussed? Were they his notes from a book? I really don't know, but I think it's so true about the Presbyterian Church and especially about FPC, Tupelo. And it all comes from our theology, worship, sacraments, and polity.

Number one connects to the Reformed idea of the sovereignty of God. Two comes from our Confessions, where it is stated, “The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God” (5.004). Number three is our polity, which comes from the idea that power corrupts, and so we share leadership so no one person is tempted to power. Four derives from our idea of using scripture alone to decide how to live. And to do that, people must be able to read and understand scripture, so we have always emphasized education. Five comes to us through the ideas of working in the world, which happens when we work together. Six reminds us that we are called to a higher calling by being a follower of Christ.

I hope we, as a congregation, will continue to live into our calling to create a church where people see these six things when they come through the door, and I hope that through the Holy Spirit, we can live these callings out.

Grace and Peace to You,

John

Worship With Us First Presbyterian Church



Sunday, May 3

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

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.

[Our YouTube Channel](#)

[Sunday's
Bulletin](#)

[Scripture Lesson](#)

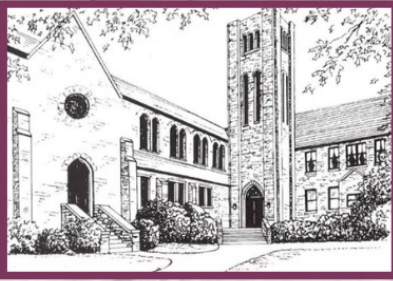
[Children's Bulletins
Ages 3 & Up](#)

[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:

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

LET'S SERVE TOGETHER

May 7

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

May 9

Helping Hands Volunteers
at 9:00 a.m.

May 19

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

April Memorials, Gifts, and Honoraria

*In memory of Phyllis Hawkins
Harper by her children,
grandchildren, and great-
grandchildren. (Bulb Fund)

*In appreciation of the magnificent
Easter Music from Joe & Beverly
Chappell. (Music Fund)

Happy News!

We are excited to announce that JIM
SEILER is CANCER-FREE!!!!
Send your love to Jim, and thank you
for all the prayers you put in on his
behalf!

**Stronger
than
Cancer**

Bible Study Update

Tuesday, May 5

11:00 A.M.

Bolton/Sistahood Room

Acts 13

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.”



Volunteer Drivers Needed

For More Information:

Call: 662.840.0787

400 W Jefferson St

Tupelo, MS 38804

Circle Meetings:

Circle 3: May 4 @ 6:45

Ruth Brock's House

Circle 24: May 12 @ Noon

Frances Sheffield Classroom

Circle 5: May 12 @ 6 pm

Busylad

Welcome!



Sunday, April 12,
2026

We welcomed

*Jordan & Elise
Alexander*

to our church
family!



The Calling of the Fishermen

I am the way.
– John 14:6

Jesus stands on the shore. He sees Peter and Andrew in the boat with their fishing nets and invites them to follow Him to become “fishers of men.” At the bottom is a chi rho flanked by Peter’s symbol-crossed keys and Andrew’s X-shaped cross.

THIS WINDOW WAS GIVEN IN
MEMORY OF MRS. GEORGE
WILLIAM RUFF BY HER CHILDREN
GEORGE, EDITH, BALFOUR, GUY,
AND BEA ANN.

Diapers and Dinner

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
BABY SHOWER HONOURING

Elizabeth Stokes Chandler,
Jake Chandler & Baby Clara

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sunday, May 17, 1:00-2:00

DIAPERS IN SIZE 1 OR 2 AND/OR
GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO

INVITES YOU TO
OUR

Youth SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 3, 2026

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP

10:00 A.M. BRUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Worship Planned and Led by Our Youth



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO

JOIN US FOR

BRUNCH
HONORING OUR

2026 High School Graduating Seniors

MAY 3, 2026
FELLOWSHIP HALL
10:00 A.M.

Congratulations

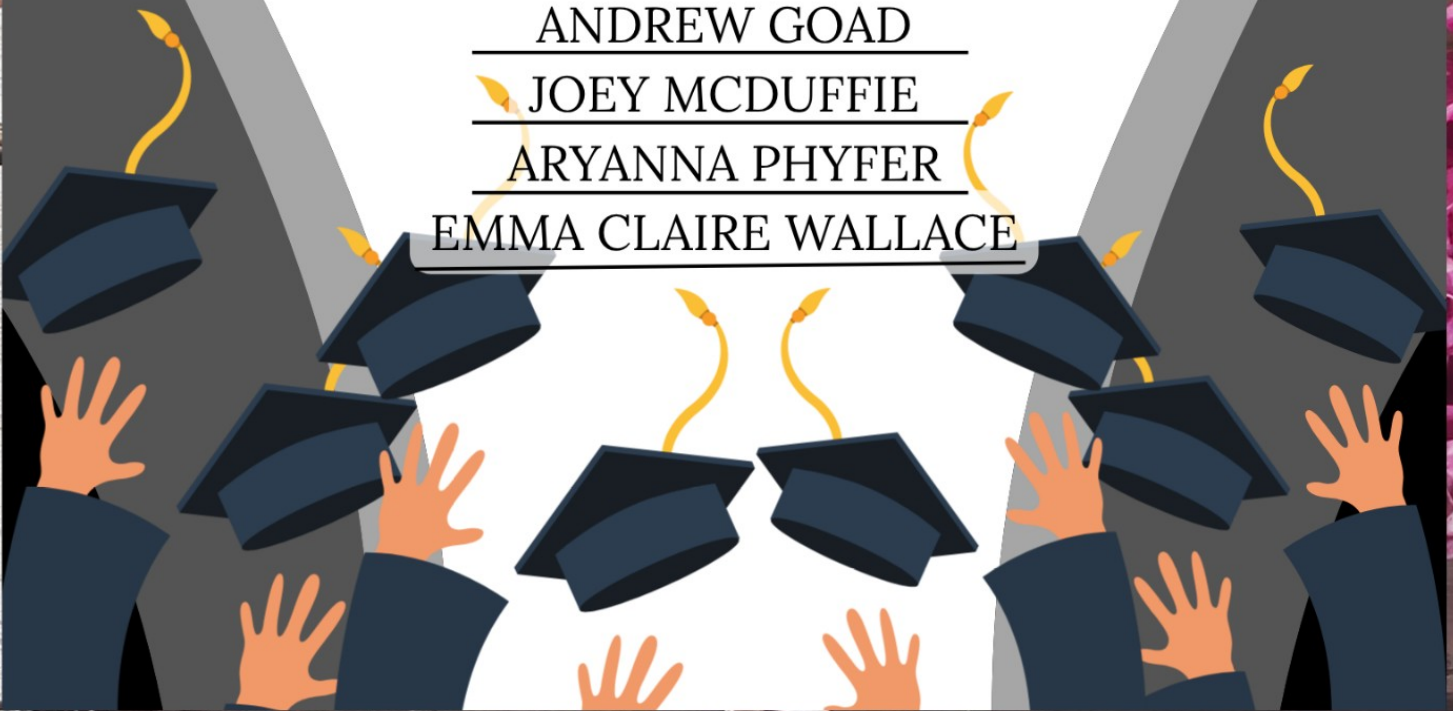
ANNE CROTWELL

ANDREW GOAD

JOEY MCDUFFIE

ARYANNA PHYFER

EMMA CLAIRE WALLACE





The Session

Administrative – Glen Davidson, Sr.

- Discussions relative to renewal of fire and casualty insurance coverages.
- There were also discussions concerning the employment of a part-time Children’s Ministry Coordinator. This is a budgeted item. This position has been posted. This position is responsible for children aged 3 through 12 years old.
- The Committee voted to authorize Jack Wells, Kory Hunter, and Michael Gratz Jr. as designated members to have access to the Bank Deposit box at Huntington Bank.

Christian Education – Corey Littrell

- Youth Sunday planning is underway! It is scheduled for May 3 and will include youth Sunday, baccalaureate service, and brunch honoring our seniors at 10:00 a.m.
 - Our seniors: Anne Crotwell, Andrew Goad, Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, and Emma Claire Wallace.
- 10 youth and 4 adults are scheduled to attend Montreat Youth Conference this summer.
- The Spring Picnic is scheduled for April 29. Pray for pretty weather so we can be outside. Our Cherub and Elementary choirs will perform!
- Combined adult Sunday school beginning May 31, and no Sunday school on May 24, as this is Memorial Day weekend.
- Melissa plans to teach a 6-week study of Ruth for the Combined Summer Sunday School, beginning June 7 and ending July 12.
- August 2 is set as Rally Day to include Blessing of the Backpacks, Presentation of Bibles to our first graders, and brunch during the Sunday school hour.
- VBS will be May 27-29 this summer. They have selected “Just Like Me: Digging In and Growing Deep” as the proposed curriculum.

Congregational Care – Jim Fisher

- Easter devotional books were donated by Lori Dickerson and distributed to homebound members in March.
- Loaves of banana bread were delivered to homebound members in April.
- Cradle crosses and rosebuds were delivered to the Huttos and Chandlers upon the births of their daughters.
- Corey Littrell will serve as shepherd for Jordan and Elise Alexander.
- A baby shower was held for Katelyn and Ivy Wells on March 22.
- May 17 – Baby Shower for the Chandlers- “Diapers and Dinner.”
- June 28 – Wedding Shower for Lynnsee Starr and Cooper Moore
- July 12 – Baby Shower for MJ Whitt
- August 9 – Wedding Shower for Maggie Thomas

Fellowship – Aubre Wells

- Brunch for Seniors on 5/3 in Fellowship Hall
- End of Year Picnic (outside) 4/29. There is no charge, but please make reservations.
- Bingo, Burgers, and Blue Bell (thanks to Trey's Scoops and Brews) Wednesday 6/17 in the gym
- Fall Kick Off 9/2 location TBD

Outreach/Mission – Helen Monts

- The committee did not meet

Property and Grounds – Ben Hunter

- We are using an alternative (non-spraying) mosquito treatment that is working well.
- A new refrigerator was installed in the kitchen. The older fridge had reached the recommended replacement age and had already been serviced once for a new condenser.
- The new hot food heat well line is reported to be working very well. We are working on getting it plumbed for water service to avoid having to fill it manually.
- The striping of the handicap parking spaces was completed and looks very good.
- The Stained-Glass window project is complete, and the two windows originally installed out of order have been corrected. The project was a huge success thanks to Ricky and Pearl River Glass Studios.
- Approved Piano Recital for Sandy Coutoumanos on May 19th from 4:45pm to 8:00pm.
- The annual maintenance of HVAC systems was completed by Comfort Engineering. Session approved required maintenance repairs of \$546.82.

Safety and Security – David Carlisle

- No information.

Worship – Bob Lence

- The Flower Guild is raising the price to \$75 per bouquet starting in June. The expense of flowers is rising, and this increase is needed.
- Sink to be installed in the Flower Guild area
- Move to one worship service beginning May 24 – July 26 for the summer. Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Move communion for May to Sunday, May 24, on Pentecost Sunday and Installation and Ordination of Elders.
- Approved wedding of Walker Gibens at First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, on April 17, 2027

Member Information & Important Dates

- We celebrate the birth of Clara Elizabeth Stokes, who is the daughter of Jake and Elizabeth Stokes Chandler.
- We welcomed Jordan and Elise Alexander to membership at First Presbyterian Church on April 12, 2026
- We welcome our Confirmands to Membership at First Presbyterian Church
 - Henry Brock, Wesley Brock – sons of John and Ruth Brock
 - Mary Crotwell – daughter of Heather and Andy Crotwell
 - Ren Crowell – son of Miriam and Larry Crowell
 - Carter McDuffie – son of Jason and Melissa McDuffie
- We congratulate Erin and Billy Roberts on their marriage; Erin is the daughter of Buddy and Mary Stubbs.

Easter Sunday





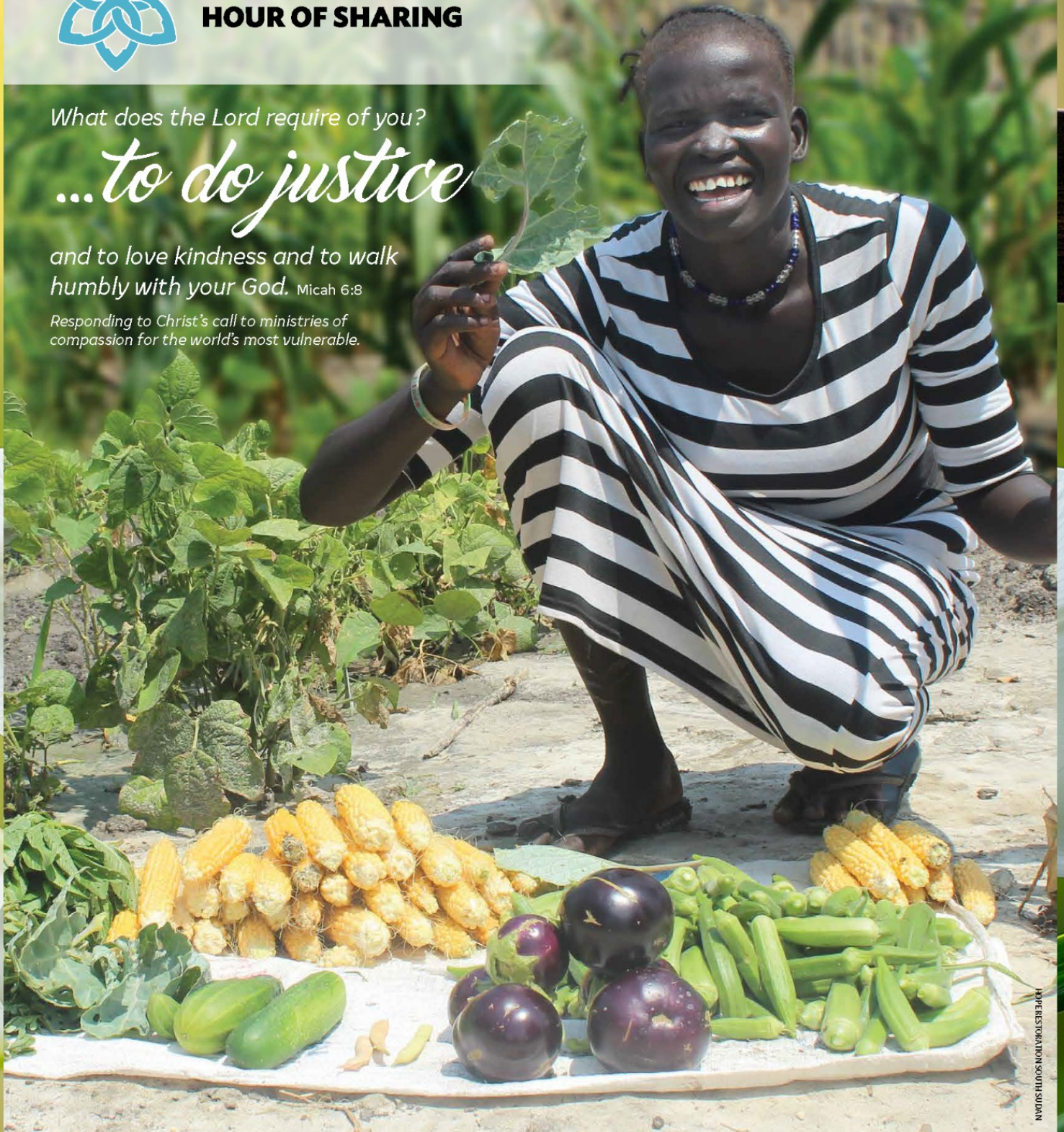
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

*and to love kindness and to walk
humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

*Responding to Christ's call to ministries of
compassion for the world's most vulnerable.*



HOPE RESTORATION SOUTH SUDAN

POS 12138-26-101



Text **OGHS** to **91999** to support these vital ministries, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.



OFFICE CLOSED

FOR

Memorial Day

5/25/26

Martha's Kitchen

Will Not Meet

in May

Save the Date!


Vacation Bible School

May 27-29, 2026

Registration Details to

Come!





You are invited to
celebrate

Sarah Young

In honor of her 90th birthday

Sunday, June Seventh

2:00 - 4:00

**BEL-AIR GOLF
COURSE & CENTER**

2107 Country Club Road

Tupelo, MS 38804

• NO GIFTS PLEASE •

Weekly FPC Schedule

Sunday

Youth Sunday

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

5/3

Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA
6:45 P.M. Circle 3, Ruth Brock's House

5/4

Tuesday

11:00 A.M. Bible Study
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

5/5

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

5/6

Thursday

7:45 A.M. St. Luke's Food Pantry
8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
2:30 P.M. CASA
5:30 P.M. Session Training, Bolton
6:00 P.M. Braver Angels, FH

5/7

Friday

12:00 P.M. AA
2:30 P.M. CASA

5/8

Saturday

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands

5/9

Notes

- Session Meeting is moved to the 13th at 6 P.M.

May BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>31</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Sarra Godwin</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Neil W. White, Jr.</p>					<p>1</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Lisa Johnson</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Drake Cobb Eli Martin</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Reeder</p>
<p>3</p>			<p>4</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Cordie Dabbs Elizabeth Fulgham Miles Grisham</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Duncan McDaniel</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Kimmel Monts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Kim Burleson Martha Dale</p>
<p>10</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Trae Camp</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Louis Armour</p>	<p>11</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Ben Hunter Allie Purnell</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Henry Brock Amy Thomas</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Charles Reece</p>	<p>15</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Stubbs, Jr.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Cam Thomas</p>
<p>17</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Karen Alvarez</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Fagan</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. T.R. Darsey</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>John Hazel</p>	<p>21</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Teresa Biddle Jonathan Crowell Elise Jones</p>	<p>22</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Jim Fisher</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Aubre Wells</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Gay Abney</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ray</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Mark Burleson</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Fleming</p>	<p>27</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Carrie Davidson</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Jason McDuffie</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Hunter Johnson</p>	<p>29</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Fletcher Johnson, Jr. Glenn Allen Koehler</p>	<p>30</p> <p>BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Mila Catherine Monts</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. Bob Taylor</p>

May Schedule 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts 5:30PM Youth					1 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	2
3 Youth Sunday 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	4 2:30PM CASA 6:45PM Circle 3	5 9:00AM T'ai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	6 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM Mah Jongg 5:05PM Tower Ringers 7:00PM Chancel Choir	7 7:45AM St. Luke's 8:00AM Men's Breakfast 2:30PM CASA 5:30PM Session Training, Bolton Room 6:00PM Braver Angels	8 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	9 9:00AM Helping Hands
10 Mother's Day 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	11 2:30PM CASA 5:30PM Committee Meetings	12 9:00AM T'ai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 12:00PM Circle 24 2:30PM CASA 6:00PM Circle 5 7:00PM AA	13 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM Mah Jongg 5:05PM Tower Ringers 6:00PM Called Session Meeting 7:00PM Chancel Choir	14 8:00AM Men's Breakfast 2:30PM CASA	15 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	16 TPSD Graduation
17 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 1:00PM Chandler Baby Shower 4:30PM Boy Scouts	18 2:30PM CASA 5:00PM Steering Committee	19 9:00AM T'ai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA 2:50PM Cook for the Salvation Army 7:00PM AA	20 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM Mah Jongg 5:05PM Tower Ringers 7:00PM Chancel Choir	21 8:00AM Men's Breakfast 1:30PM Shepherd's Center Meeting 2:30PM CASA	22 Last Day of School! (Lee County & TPSD) 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	23
24 Pentecost Sunday Ordination & Installation of Session Communion Two Cents a Meal 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 2:30PM CASA	26 9:00AM T'ai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA 7:00PM AA	27 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA 3:00PM Mah Jongg 5:05PM Tower Ringers 7:00PM Chancel Choir	28 8:00AM Men's Breakfast 2:30PM CASA	29 12:00PM AA 2:30PM CASA	30

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

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First Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

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Tupelo, MS 38802

(662) 842-5681

Visit us online: <https://www.firstprestupelo.org>

