

June 2026

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

Siblings in Christ,

I am so thankful for you and for our city. It is so nice to be back in Tupelo after being gone for a week and a half for my doctoral program. Hopefully, only a year and a half more! As some of you may know, the theme of the program I am in is "Belonging to Christ." Last year's focus was on how the church creates disciples. This year, we have studied the Book of Romans to understand how the church nurtures disciples.

As I mentioned in the sermon on Sunday, I have narrowed down the focus of my long-term project or thesis to examine how the pastor, with the session's help, can help nurture unity in Christ for the church. As we live in a society that keeps telling us that anyone who disagrees with us is our enemy, how do we, as the body of Christ, focus on the things we do agree on? Things like the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Things like we are all made in the image of God. Things like nothing can separate us from the Love of Christ Jesus our Lord. I can list Scripture and theology over and over, but you all get the point. We are created to glorify God and enjoy God forever, and it is those things that unite us.

So for the next couple of years, you may hear a lot about unity, both in Christ and with one another. If I choose to do a project, at some point, I may need volunteers to participate in a study group designed to nurture unity and let us see what works toward bringing us together. For we may not always agree on politics, history, social sciences, the effects of technology, how to address poverty, traditions, and more, and more, but we are called to be one body in Christ, and we must be united around the Triune God.

Paul tells us near the end of 1 Corinthians 12, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

That is the unity we will be striving for in the coming years. That we all are together. And as a reminder, Paul ends that chapter in 1 Corinthians 12 but reminding us he will show us still a more excellent way. (Spoiler alert for that more excellent way, read 1 Corinthians 13)

Grace and Peace to You,

John

Worship With Us

First Presbyterian Church



*Sunday, May 31
Service at 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School at 9:30 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:

Tom McDonald,
Mel Whitfield

Homebound:

Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston,
Joy Hyatt

College Students:

Magalie Martin, Aryanna Phyfer,
Ashton Posey

Service Members:

Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

May Memorials

Gifts, and Honoraria

***In honor of our graduating seniors from Sarah Young. (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

***In memory of Scarlett Reeder from Steve & Lucy Nash. (Congregational Care Fund)

***In memory of Scarlett Reeder from Sarah Young. (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

LET'S SERVE TOGETHER

June

June 4

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

June 6

Helping Hands Volunteers
at 9:00 a.m.

June 16

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

Bible Study

Update

Tuesday, June 2

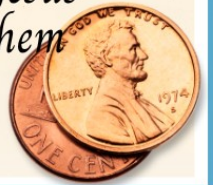
11:00 A.M.

Bolton/Sistahood Room

Acts 17

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 June 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: June 1 @ 6:45

Member's Home

Circle 24: June 9 @ Noon
Frances Sheffield Classroom

Circle 5: June 9 @ 6 pm
Busylad

Martha's Kitchen

Tuesday, June 9

10:00 A.M.

VBS Fun



May Adventures





The Session

Administrative — Glen Davidson, Sr.

- Admin approved John Brock, Kory Hunter, Debra Robison, and Richard Hastings as the committee to interview applicants for Children's Ministry Coordinator.
- Session approved to authorize Jack Wells, Kory Hunter, and Michael Gratz Jr. as designated members to have access to the Bank Deposit box at Huntington Bank. The following names will be removed: Glen Davidson, Sr., Michael Gratz, Sr., James T. Milam, along with any other signees other than the three authorized above.
- Approved \$1,580.25 from maintenance reserves for special plumbing for the steam table in the kitchen.

Christian Education — Corey Littrell

- We currently have 10 youth and 4 adults scheduled to attend Montreat Youth Conference this summer.
- Combined adult Sunday school will begin on May 31st, and there will be no Sunday school on May 24th, as this is Memorial Day weekend.
- VBS will be May 27-29 this summer. "Just Like Me: Digging In and Growing Deep" is the theme.
- 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.
- Discussed substitute teachers for summer and teachers for fall.

Congregational Care — Jim Fisher

- FPC Pals (Armed Forces and College Students) - Lucy and Bill Hillbun - The Hillbuns will have a sign-up list available next month for those who would like to volunteer to serve in this ministry.
- Visitation/Senior Adults — Kathy Wallace — Margaret Parker purchased, and Kathy decorated/distributed to CC members the May happies (strawberries and strawberry candies) for homebound/visitation members. Those who are receiving candies do not have refrigerators. A member of CC will contact MJ about updating the Homebound/Visitation list.
- Martha's — Bonnie Williford/Daintry Thomas — Rochelle said they cooked last month. Rochelle is taking meals to the Rasberries. Be aware that Twinda Snider is having surgery on May 26th. Martha will be taking a meal to her after the surgery.
- Newborns Bonnets/Cradle Cross/Rosebud — Cindy Faucette - Katelyn and Ivy Wells
- Shepherd Center — Margaret Parker - Margaret said the SC Board appointed Gene Watson as the Director. The 3rd SC Festival will be held on September 12th. A Preacher Luncheon was supposed to be organized, but only 1 preacher responded with interest. This luncheon was held to encourage more churches to get involved and spread the word about the need for volunteers to drive. Margaret said that SC board members are needed as well. If anyone is interested, let her know.
- A wedding shower for Cooper Moore and Lynnsee Starr is scheduled for June 28th.
- A baby shower for MJ and Dylan Whitt will be held on July 12th.
- Maggie Thomas' wedding shower is scheduled for August 9th.

Fellowship — Aubre Wells

- *Bingo, Burgers, and Blue Bell (thanks to Trey's Scoops and Brews) will be held on Wednesday, 6/17, in the gym.*
- *Fall Kick Off will be 9/2, with the location TBD.*

Outreach/Mission — Helen Monts

- *We had six people attend the Wine to Water fundraiser sponsored by First Presbyterian Church in Eufaula, AL, on April 16, 2026. John Brock, Tatum Collins, Robin Faucette, Jean Magee, Mary Pace, and Travis Roaten observed the setup, and they attended the function to gather information to decide if this could be an opportunity for our church to host a similar event to raise money for our two water missions. Their responses were positive, and representatives from that church will come to Tupelo in June to answer more questions and share more information with us on how to make our event successful.*
- *The T-shirt sale was a successful fundraiser for the Youth. Mission Outreach started the process of designing and ordering samples and order taking. We split time working the tables to take sale orders on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Members of First Presbyterian can now be recognized when out in the community, and the Youth received \$845.42 from profits.*

Property and Grounds — Ben Hunter

- *Replacement of AED batteries cost: \$269.94. This will come out of the budget line-item Church/Maintenance Supplies — 506850.*
- *Repurposing the scout storage room on the first floor for Maintenance Storage and reallocation of janitorial supplies.*

Safety and Security — David Carlisle

- *Our church insurance company and policy require that we have recorded in the church office a list of all current members of security and monitor teams. This is a requirement in the event of an unfortunate act. The list would be required immediately. This list will be kept in the Church Office for easy access. We will approve the list annually or anytime we approve new members.*

Worship — Bob Lence

- *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.*
- *Pentecost Sunday is May 24th and the new elder class will be ordained and installed.*

Member Information & Important Dates

- *We congratulate our seniors: Anne Crotwell, Andrew Goad, Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, and Emma Claire Wallace.*
- *We welcome the Session Class of 2029*
 - *Daintry Thomas — Administrative*
 - *Jimmy Milam — Christian Education*
 - *Margaret Parker — Congregational Care*
 - *Al Wallace, IV - Fellowship*
 - *Mary Pace — Outreach/Missions*
 - *Curtis Monts — Property and Grounds*
 - *Richard Hastings - Worship*

Thank You for your Service!

Session Class of 2026

Judge Glen Davidson, Sr. - Administrative Committee

Jim Fisher - Congregational Care Committee

Ben Hunter - Property & Grounds Committee

Bob Lence - Worship Committee

Corey Littrell - Christian Education Committee

Helen Monts - Outreach/Mission Committee

Aubre Wells - Fellowship Committee

A decorative illustration featuring a bright yellow sun with rays on the left and a white lighthouse with a red roof on the right, set against a light blue background with a faint mountain range.

Introducing **The Session Class of 2027**

Heather Crotwell - Christian Education Committee

Amanda Davis - Congregational Care Committee

Beth Anne Ellzey - Worship Committee

Mac Godwin - Property & Grounds Committee

Mary Margaret Gratz - Outreach/Mission Committee

Debra Robison - Administrative Committee

Liz Rose - Fellowship Committee




The Last Supper

*Do this in remembrance
of me*
– 1 Corinthians 11:24

Jesus gathered the twelve Apostles around Him to celebrate the feast of the Passover. He stands at the center with the bread and wine, elements of the ritual meal. Judas is alienated at the bottom. Below are grapes and wheat.

THIS WINDOW WAS GIVEN IN
MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM
BUCHANAN FIELDS BY MR.
THOMAS A. FIELDS AND MRS.
ELIZABETH FIELDS REED



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

Trinity Sunday

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Worship
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts
5:30 P.M. Youth

5/31

Monday

7:30 A.M. CASA
6:45 P.M. Circle 3, Member's House

6/1

Tuesday

7:30 A.M. CASA
9:00 A.M. Tai Chi
11:00 A.M. Bible Study
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

6/2

Wednesday

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

6/3

Thursday

7:30 A.M. CASA
7:45 A.M. St. Luke's Food Pantry
8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Talbot House
6:00 P.M. Braver Angels, FH

6/4

Friday

7:30 A.M. CASA
12:00 P.M. AA

6/5

Saturday

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands

6/6

Notes

- Communion & Two Cents a Meal are next Sunday.)
- Committee Meetings on the 8th
- Marthas, Circle 24, and Circle 5 are on the 9th

June 2026

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Birthday Tricia Cockrell Hudson Fisher Lucy Gratz</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Travis Roaten</p>	<p>2 Birthday Melissa McDuffie</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Martin</p>	<p>4 Birthday Charlie Barber Adelaide Monts Haley Ray Mary Elizabeth Williams</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Birthday Sarah Young</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hilbun</p>
<p>7 Birthday Natalie Ellis Carter McDuffie Mark Monts</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Allen Koehler</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Birthday Molly Hazel Gwen Rogers</p>	<p>10 Birthday Jeff McCaleb</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher Johnson, Jr.</p>	<p>11 Birthday Steve Depew</p>	<p>12 Birthday Glenn Thomas</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gable</p>	<p>13 Birthday Mark Ray</p>
<p>14 Birthday Theresa McCormick</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Milam Mr. & Mrs. Presly Wallace</p>	<p>15 Birthday Richard Hastings</p>	<p>16 Birthday Annelise Fagan</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Michael Herman Mr. & Mrs. Robert McAuley</p>	<p>17 Birthday Ann Monaghan</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Bill Deas</p>	<p>19 Birthday Loretta Bruce Buddy Stubbs, Jr.</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Tim Posey</p>	<p>20 Birthday Chris Kramer Judy Thomas</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Trey Leeke</p>
<p>21 Birthday Holly Rogers Emma Yeager</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lence</p>	<p>22 Birthday Ginger Mark</p>	<p>23 Birthday Alice Rogers</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Jenkins</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Birthday Caroline Burleson Ray</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Hank Hutto</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Birthday Mary Crotwell Lori Dickerson</p>
<p>28 Birthday Lisa Nichols</p> <p>Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Tim Whitten</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Birthday Ada Bruce John Collins Mary Stubbs</p>				

June 2026

Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30AM CASA 6:45PM Circle 3, Member's House	2 7:30AM CASA 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 7:00PM AA Meeting	3 7:30AM CASA 10:00AM Staff Meeting 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 7:00PM Chancel Choir	4 7:30AM CASA 7:45AM St. Luke's Food Pantry 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 6:00PM Braver Angels, Fellowship Hall	5 7:30AM CASA 12:00PM AA Meeting	6 9:00AM Helping Hands
7 Communion Two Cents a Meal 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	8 7:30AM CASA 5:30PM Committee Meetings	9 7:30AM CASA 9:00AM Tai Chi 10:00AM Marthas, Kitchen 11:00AM Bible Study 12:00PM Circle 24, Sheffield 6:00PM Circle 5, Busylad 7:00PM AA Meeting	10 7:30AM CASA 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 7:00PM Chancel Choir	11 7:30AM CASA 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House	12 7:30AM CASA 12:00PM AA Meeting	13
14 Anthem Service 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	15 7:30AM CASA 5:00PM Steering Committee 6:00PM Session Meeting	16 7:30AM CASA 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM Cook for the Salvation Army, Kitchen 7:00PM AA Meeting	17 Bingo, Burgers, & Bluebell 7:30AM CASA 10:00AM Staff Meeting 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:30PM Bingo, Burgers, & Bluebell, Gym 7:00PM Chancel Choir	18 7:30AM CASA 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 1:30PM Shepherd's Center Meeting, Rec Room	19 Juneteenth 7:30AM CASA 12:00PM AA Meeting	20
21 Father's Day 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	22 7:30AM CASA	23 7:30AM CASA 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 7:00PM AA Meeting	24 7:30AM CASA 10:00AM Staff Meeting 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 7:00PM Chancel Choir	25 7:30AM CASA 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House	26 7:30AM CASA 12:00PM AA Meeting	27
28 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	29 7:30AM CASA	30 7:30AM CASA 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 7:00PM AA Meeting				

THE SESSION

Rev. John Brock Moderator
Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

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

Class of 2029

Richard Hastings
Jimmy Milam
Curtis Monts
Mary Ellis Pace
Margaret Parker
Daintry Thomas
Al 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!

First Presbyterian Church, PCUSA

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(662) 842-5681

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

