

First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street
Tupelo, Mississippi



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

662.842.5681

Morning Worship Service
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2026

10:30 A.M.

“For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”
- ISAIAH 55:12

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies

DALE WOOD

INTROIT

We Plow the Fields and Scatter MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS, 1782

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All who walk in shadow, come into the light!

God’s Word lights the way for us.

God has promised to abide with us.

So let us commit to walk in God’s ways.

All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God.

God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, who sows the seeds of our faith,
till the soil of our hearts and minds
so that what You plant might be nurtured
into fullness of life;
for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 551 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR



CALL TO CONFESSION

In Christ, there is no condemnation,
for perfect love casts out sin.
In the sureness of that perfect love
let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, Your word falls on thorny ground
when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth
crowd out Your place in our lives.
Forgive our frail and human ways
and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,
for You are our hope for deliverance.**

(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

Siblings in Christ,
when deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
God forgives our transgressions.
Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens you
and waters your soul in its parched and hardened places.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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 65:9-13

You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

PEW BIBLE, PG. 686

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

ARR. DENNIS JANZER

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

PEW BIBLE, PG. 13

SERMON

Good Soil

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Theological Declaration of Barmen*

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world.

So we reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans. Amen.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 322 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Prelude

WILLIAM H. HARRIS

*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

**You call us to sow Your word in all times and places,
even when the ground is hard and shallow.
For faith is a gift that comes from You,
and fruitful discipleship is the work of Your Spirit in us.
May the gifts we offer this day
spread the good news of life abundant in Christ. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 324

Open My Eyes That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

FREDERICK SWANN

*BENEDICTION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Join us for a night of fun for the whole family!

SUNDAY, JULY 12
5:00 PM

Roxie & Claude Clayton's House
2011 West Jackson St.
Tupelo, MS 38801





RALLY DAY 2026

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”

- Proverbs 3:5

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

WORSHIP SERVICES at 9 & 11 a.m.
with presentation of Bibles to our
upcoming first graders, commissioning
of incoming teachers, recognition
of outgoing teachers &
blessing of the backpacks

BRUNCH at 10 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

Today!

Please join us for a

BABY
Showery

honoring

DYLAN & MJ WHITT

1:00pm on Sunday, July 12, 2026

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

Registered on Amazon



Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday

Family Night

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
1:00 P.M. DYLAN & MJ WHITT'S BABY SHOWER
4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS
**5:00 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT AT CLAUDE & ROXY
CLAYTON'S HOUSE**

7/12

Monday

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM
5:30 P.M. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7/13

Tuesday

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM
9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI
11:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY
7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

7/14

Wednesday

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM
10:00 A.M. STAFF MEETING
3:00 P.M. MAH JONGG

7/15

Thursday

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM
8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST, TALBOT HOUSE
**1:30 P.M. SHEPHERD'S CENTER MEETING, REC
ROOM**

7/16

Friday

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

7/17

Saturday

7/18

Notes

- Montreat is the 19th - 25th.
- Cook for the Salvation Army on the 21st.

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 today to the glory of God and in honor of Molly Chamberlain in celebration of her birthday from Keith, Elizabeth, Oliver, and Miles Grisham.

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 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 our 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: 10:30: Sheree Lence

Greeters: 10:30: Bryan, Natalie, Gia, Chris, & B. Ellis

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Jon Timothy Posey, Walt Rose, Jenkins Wells

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.: 134

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 7/5/26: \$9,088
YTD Budgeted Income: \$618,968 YTD Income Received: \$643,422

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, July 14 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 21.

For July 19, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis 28:10-19a, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-15, and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.**

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.

We will continue with **ONE SERVICE** until Rally Day on August 2. Worship with us at 10:30 A.M. and Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.



The Nominating Committee is beginning its work to propose a slate of elders for the Class of 2030. If you have any suggestions for members of the church you would like the Committee to consider, please use the QR code provided.

We will have a **baby shower** in the Fellowship Hall after church today at 1:00 P.M. for our church secretary, **MJ Whitt**, and her husband, Dylan Whitt. They would be honored to have you attend.

This evening, we will also celebrate with a **family night at Roxie & Claude Claytons!** Come out for a night of fun and fellowship! Festivities begin at 5:00 P.M.



As we prepare to launch our upcoming capital campaign, we want to ensure that everyone who loves and supports our church has the opportunity to be informed and involved. Many people beyond our membership—such as grandparents, former members, and friends of the church—may feel a meaningful connection and want to participate. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving information about the campaign, please share their name, your relationship to them, their email address, and their mailing address with the church office using the QR Code provided or by calling 662.842.5681. Thank you for helping us extend this invitation and include our wider church family in this exciting season.



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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
Jeff Nock, 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

