

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

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 19, 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

A Mighty Fortress Is our God

HAL HOPSON

INTROIT

For God So Loved

DAUERMANN/FETTKE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Surely the Lord is in this place, and we did not know it.

We do not know when and where God’s glorious presence will show up.

Surely we are the Body of Christ.

We cannot say to one another, “I have no need of you.”

Surely our God is a mystery that cannot be contained.

Let us worship our unpredictable and uncontrollable God!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our great redeemer,

enable us to see Your activity among us,

that even as we live in a world

filled with anxiety and scarcity,

we might live with the assurance of Your abundant promise

of protection and grace, and the promise

that You will never leave us nor forsake us;

for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

For the Healing of the Nations
(see insert on page 6)

LAUDA ANIMA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Before a word is on our tongue, God knows it completely. Before we ask for forgiveness, God is at work to set things right. Let us therefore confess our sin and the sin of the world together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, You have searched us and found us wanting. You have known our innermost thoughts and called us to better things. You have set us in this world to love and serve You by loving and serving one another, to worship You by tending to those most vulnerable among us. When we fail, do not abandon us. When we go astray, call us back home.

Search us O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. Root out the wicked ways in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

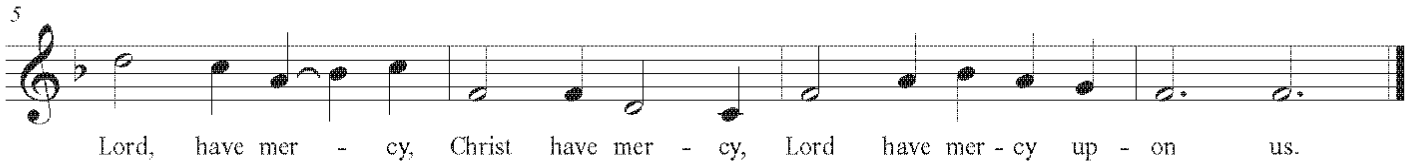
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Where can we go from God's spirit, or where can we flee from God's presence? Even if we take the wings of the morning or settle at the farthest limits of the sea, God's hand will find us and hold us fast. Proclaim the good news with me: **Our God does not abandon us to sin or brokenness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and called back home. Thanks be to God.**

*RESPONSE NO. 579

Gloria Patri

Glorify 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

Teach me your way, O Lord,
 that I may walk in your truth;
 give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

**I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
 and I will glorify your name forever.**

For great is your steadfast love toward me;
 you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

**O God, the insolent rise up against me;
 a band of ruffians seeks my life,
 and they do not set you before them.**

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me;
 give your strength to your servant;
 save the child of your maidservant.**

*Show me a sign of your favor,
 so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
 because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

PEW BIBLE, PG. 673

ANTHEM

Sound the Trumpet

MARK PATTERSON

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

PEW BIBLE, PG. 14

SERMON

More Seed

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Second Helvetic Confession*

**The Church is an assembly of the faithful,
 Called or gathered out of the world.
 They are all citizens of the one city,
 Living under the same Lord,
 Under the same laws,
 And in the same fellowship with all good things.
 Those who are in the Church have one faith and one spirit;
 They worship but one God,
 And in God alone they worship in spirit and truth.
 Hence, we must be very careful not to judge before the time,
 Nor undertake to exclude, reject, or cut off**

**Those whom the Lord does not want to have excluded or rejected,
And those whom we cannot eliminate without loss to the Church.**

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 293 *This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

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

Andante

GABRIEL FAURÉ

*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 sown good seed among us. Receive now the harvest of what You have planted, the good gifts of our lives, time and resources, to further Your kingdom of heaven. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 439 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

POSTLUDE

Bishops' Promenade

NORMAN COKE-JEPHCOTT

*BENEDICTION



For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

LAUDA ANIMA

John Goss, 1869

For the heal - ing of the na - tions,
Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom,
All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing,
You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten

6
Lord, we pray with one ac - cord,
from des - pair Your world re - lease,
let it from the earth be banned:
Your great name on hu - man - kind;

10
for a just and e - qual shar - ing
that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
pride of stat - us, race or school - ing,
for our grow - ing in Your kind - ness

14
of the things that earth af - fords.
all the may come that and go in peace.
dog - mas that ob - scure Your plan.
bring the life of Christ to mind;

18
To a life of love in ac - tion
Show us how through care and good - ness
In our com - mon quest for jus - tice
that by our re - sponse and ser - vice

22
help us rise and pledge our word.
fear will die and hope in - crease.
may we hal - low brief life's span.
earth its des - ti - ny may find.



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



MAGGIE



Thomas

CHRISTIAN

Gaytown

wedding shower

august 9, 2026

one to two thirty pm

fellowship hall



registered at Amazon, Reeds
and Williams Sonoma

Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday

Montreat

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS

7/19

Monday

Montreat

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM

7/20

Tuesday

Montreat

7:30 A.M. CASA, GYM
9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI
2:30 P.M. COOK FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

7/21

Wednesday

Montreat

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

7/22

Thursday

Montreat

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

7/23

Friday

Montreat

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

7/24

Saturday

Montreat

7/25

Notes

- Steering & Session Meeting moved to next Monday
- Rally Day on August 2

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 in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. John Wesley Brock, IIII on his 82nd birthday, by John, Ruth, Jack, Teddy, Wesley, and Henry Brock.

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: Debra Robison

Greeters: 10:30: Keith and Elizabeth Grisham, Fletcher & Claire Johnson

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Barbara Price, Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles

College Students: Daniel Crotwell, Anne Crotwell, Afton Gable

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.: 120

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 7/12/26: \$20,614
YTD Budgeted Income: \$618,968 YTD Income Received: \$670,411

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Tuesday, July 21. Next week, we resume meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room and continue our study with Acts 22. We would love to have anyone join us.

For July 26, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Romans 8:26-39, and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.**

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.

Join us for **Rally Day on August 2** where we will return to our regular Worship Schedule with Services at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. In place of Sunday School on Rally Day, we will have a special brunch in the Fellowship Hall. This is a special service where we give out Bibles to the incoming first graders, enjoy a Blessing of the Backpacks, 2025-2026 Teacher Recognition, and Commission our 2026-2027 Sunday School Teachers. Please join us for this special day.

We are very happy to have **Jamie Gambino playing trumpet** in our service this morning. He is one of our former scholarship singers and just graduated from LSU with a Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance! Welcome home, Jamie.



August 9, 2026, we will celebrate **Maggie Thomas & Christian Zaytoun** with a **wedding shower** in the Fellowship Hall from **1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.** Please join us in honoring them. They are registered at Amazon, Reeds, and Williams Sonoma.



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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

