

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

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

10:30 A.M.

“Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.”
- PSALM 118:132

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God* BENEDETTO MARCELLO

INTROIT *In His Eyes* LESLIE BRICUUSE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,

The unfolding of God’s word gives light and understanding.

Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

Make Your face shine upon Your servants.

We come together to worship the living God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Your kingdom comes hidden and small — a seed, a bit of leaven, a treasure buried in a field — yet it is worth more than everything we own. Give us the joy to sell all for the pearl of great price, and the patience to trust Your harvest even when the net holds both good and bad. Make us wise stewards of Your grace, bringing out treasures new and old, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust Your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for You, working out Your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of Your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear Your good news for the world, even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by Your grace.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

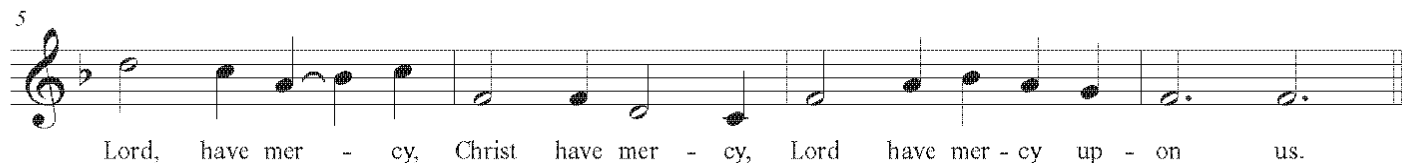
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end. 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

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 118:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant,

because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.
 Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
 and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
 Make your face shine upon your servant,
 and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Kings 3:5-12 PEW BIBLE, PG. 306

ANTHEM *It Is Well with My Soul* ARR. BOB KROGSTAD

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
 whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."*

Refrain

It is well with my soul; It is well, it is well with my soul.

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought: my sin, not in part, but the whole,
 is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*
*And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
 the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 PEW BIBLE, PG. 14

SERMON The Kingdom of Heaven REV. JOHN BROCK

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

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in
 the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty
 claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance
 from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his
 creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our
 life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords —
 areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification
 through him.**

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 441 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* ST. THOMAS

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

Aria

CHARLES CALLAHAN

*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

We give You thanks, O God, for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us. As from even the smallest of seeds, Your kingdom grows. Bless our tithes, gifts and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in Your work of reconciliation, love, and joy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 478 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

POSTLUDE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

PAUL MANZ

2027 Guatemala Mission Trip

✦✦ Organizational Meeting ✦✦

AUGUST 6, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Mission Room

First Presbyterian Church Tupelo

This is not a commitment, but rather an informative meeting to gauge interest and get facts out to those who may be interested.



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

930 AM. Sunday School

1030 AM. Worship

430 PM. Boy Scouts

7/26

Monday

730 AM. CASA. Gym

500 PM. Steering Meeting

600 PM. Session Meeting

7/27

Tuesday

730 AM. CASA. Gym

900 AM. Tai Chi

700 PM. AA Meeting

7/28

Wednesday

730 AM. CASA. Gym

1000 AM. Staff Meeting

300 PM. Mah Jongg

7/29

Thursday

730 AM. CASA. Gym

800 AM. Mens Breakfast Talbot House

7/30

Friday

730 AM. CASA. Gym

1200 PM. AA

7/31

Saturday

8/1

Notes

- Rally Day and Communion Next Sunday with Brunch During Sunday School Hour
- Returning to 2 services next week
- Circle 3 next Monday at 645 pm
- St Lukes next Thursday at 745 am

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 today are given in celebration of the 41st wedding anniversary of Mark and Janice Reynolds, with gratitude to God for His many blessings and faithfulness throughout their years together.

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: Doyce Deas

Greeters: 10:30: Beverly Chappell, Will, Amanda, & Julia Davis

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston, Joy Hyatt

College Students: Maggie Gibens, Charlie Gratz, Lucy Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.: 114

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 7/19/26: \$6,429
YTD Budgeted Income: \$618,968 YTD Income Received: \$676,841

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, July 28 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 22.

For August 2, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15, Romans 9:1-5, and Matthew 14:13-21.**

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 or email the church office at churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org or call at 662.842.5681.

Join us for **Rally Day, next Sunday, 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 will have our **2027 Guatemala Mission Trip Organizational Meeting on August 6, at 5:30 P.M. in the Mission Room.** This is not a commitment, but rather just an informative meeting to gauge interest and get facts out to those who may be interested.



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

