

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

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.” - MATTHEW 14:19

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Variations on “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”* JACK JONES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All who are thirsty,

Come to the living waters of God.

All who are hungry,

gather around the bread of life.

Quench your thirst and eat your fill.

Let our spirits be nourished by God’s provision,

and let your heart be satisfied with God’s good work!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Grace and Mercy,

we call on You, knowing You will answer.

Show us Your steadfast love.

As we gather together,

give us our food in due season,

and satisfy the desire of every living being,

that we might know more fully

what it is to be Your people. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA



CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to confession not because we believe we are bad people, but because we know there are areas of our lives that stand in need of God's healing touch. And God, Who is more ready to forgive than we are to confess, will hear us with a loving ear, ready to heal any brokenness within us or between us ...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You have revealed Yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Everything we need to know about You has been shown. Your goodness, mercy, healing and renewal are on full display. But sometimes we do not see what is right before us. Sometimes we miss the miracle. We misunderstand You, and so we misunderstand the world. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the ability to see You as You reveal Yourself. Renew within us the capacity to perceive Your way in the world, for this life, and in the life that is to come. We pray in Jesus' name, and for His sake...

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

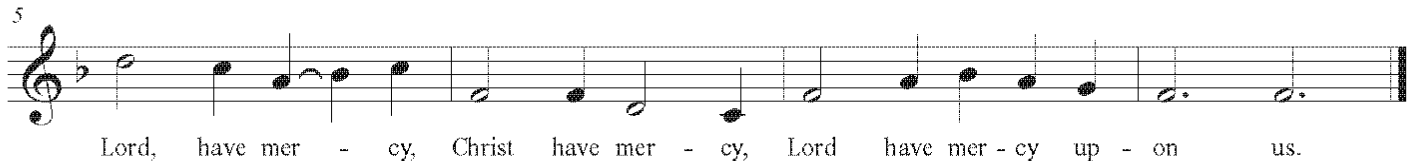
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see: everything has become new.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to God's self through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Believe the promise 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 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

**The LORD is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.**

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

**He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.**

The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(see insert on page 5)

Two Cents a Meal Offering

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

PEW BIBLE, PG. 685

ANTHEM

One Bread, One Body

FOLEY/HAYES

Chorus:

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. (chorus)

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (chorus)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:13-21

PEW BIBLE, PG. 16

SERMON

Abundance

REV. JOHN BROCK

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Leader: Today, we have brought our backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children, youth, and teachers gathered here.

Children, Youth, Teachers: We will trust in God.

Leader: These backpacks will be full of work to do, work that has been done, books to read, and all the tools to complete our work.

Children, Youth, Teachers: We will trust in God.

Leader: Some days there will be so much stuff in these backpacks that we might find it difficult to even carry them. On other days, they will be light as a feather. But each day, these backpacks represent the work required of those gathered here. And, just like everything else, we bring these before God, asking for a special blessing as we begin a new school year.

Children, Youth, Teachers: We will trust in God.

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students, youth, and teachers.

Leader: They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to the study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Children, Youth, Teachers: God, we will trust in you.

People: We ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the work of each person gathered here and will be carried from home to school and back again. As the students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day.

Leader: We pray as well for all our students, teachers, and administrators in our schools. May they be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded of the call on each of their lives by you. May they be encouraged, feel safe, and know their value to this community.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who we seek to follow day by day. **Amen.**

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Declaration of Faith - 1977*

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.

**The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,
together with his people's response in faith.**

**It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church
towards the kingdom of God,
his just and loving rule over all.**

**It is the story of the one God,
who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

**That story is still unfolding
and in faith we make it our own.**

It forms our memory and our hope.

It tells us who we are and what we are to do.

To retell it is to declare what we believe.

COMMISSIONING OF 2026-2027 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

(see insert on page 7)

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 505 *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* ST. FLAVIAN

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Balm in Gilead

ROBERT POWELL

*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

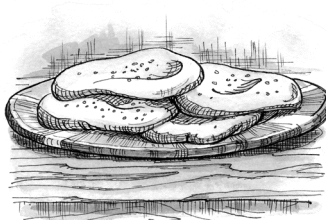
**Holy God, the world and all that is within it was made at Your Word. You
have blessed us with countless gifts of love. Receive then, our offerings as
commitments of our intention to see the world through the eyes of Your
love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS



Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers

Leader: At the celebration of baptism, we pledge to nurture one another in the faith. You, as teachers, carry a particular joy and responsibility. Do you believe in your heart you are called by Christ's church, and therefore by Christ, to this teaching ministry?

Teachers: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Leader: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to give yourselves to this calling, with grace, energy, and love, and to be guided by the Spirit and the Word of God?

Teachers: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Christians, let us acknowledge the gifts and calling of your sisters and brothers.

Congregation: We receive you as servants of Christ; we pledge to support you in your service. We will encourage you with works and prayers. We will consider ourselves co-workers with you in the service of Christ.

The Charge

Servants of Christ, accept the service with which you have been entrusted. Do not neglect the gift that is in you. Present yourselves to God as approved workers, ever faithful to the Spirit of God.

Remember always that Jesus called you as friends as well as servants. Attend to prayer, for without God you can do nothing.

Let us pray.

O God, giver of all good gifts, we commend ourselves and our brothers and sisters to your constant love and guidance. Fill them with grace and grant them the strength and peace of your Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
(see insert)

HOLY MANNA

POSTLUDE

Deo Gracias

JOHN DUNSTABLE

*BENEDICTION



Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday

900 AM. Worship

1000 AM. Brunch

1100 AM. Worship

430 PM. Boy Scouts

Rally Day!

Communion

Two Cents a Meal

8/2

Monday

230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/3

Tuesday

900 AM. Tai Chi

1100 AM. Bible Study

230 PM. CASA. Gym

700 PM. AA Meeting

8/4

Wednesday

1000 AM. Staff Meeting

230 PM. CASA. Gym

300 PM. Mah Jongg

8/5

Thursday

745 AM. St Lukes Food Pantry

800 AM. Mens Breakfast Talbot House

230 PM. CASA. Gym

600 PM. Braver Angels Fellowship Hall

8/6

Friday

1200 PM. AA

230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/7

Saturday

8/8

Notes

• Next Week

- Monday - Committee Meetings
- Tuesday - Marthas
- Saturday - Helping Hands Volunteers

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 given to the glory of God in honor of the birth of our daughter, Julia Chappell Davis on August 15, 2017 by Amanda and Will Davis.

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: 9:00: Melissa McDuffie

11:00: Trey Phyfer

Greeters: 9:00: Virginia Toliver, Jim Fisher

11:00: Helen Boerner, Kim Burleson, Robin & Cindy Faucette

Crucifers: 9:00: Bryson Hunter

11:00: Gia Ellis



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, August 4 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 23.

For August 9, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-18, Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b, Romans 10:5-15, and Matthew 14:22-33.**

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.



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.



Next Sunday, **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.

Join us for **Brunch** between services today!

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.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price

College Students: Olivia Hastings, Lewis Herman, Aryanna Phyfer

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.: 138

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 7/26/26: \$9,314
YTD Budgeted Income: \$618,968 YTD Income Received: \$686,155

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.

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

