

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

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 16, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,

for soon my salvation will come

and my deliverance be revealed.” - ISAIAH 56:1

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Jesus Loves Me

BRADBURY/DEBUSSY

INTROIT

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

CARL F. MUELLER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the peoples praise You, O God;

let all the peoples praise You.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for You judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon the earth.

Let the peoples praise You, O God;

let all the peoples praise You.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

whose compassion embraces everyone,

gather the outcast and the lost,

heal the wounds of fear and distrust,

and make us a community of reconciliation

that we may embody Your merciful love

and rejoice in Your astounding grace
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 469

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul says that we are “imprisoned in disobedience,” but that God is merciful to all. We live amid the tension of knowing that the Lord is quick to forgive and recognizing that we need to be forgiven. We also live amid the tension of knowing that, through Christ, all things are being made new and recognizing that our broken world needs to be transformed. From the discomfort of this tension, let us offer our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, Your world cries out. The fruits of our disobedience are harming Your creation. You tasked us to be good stewards of Your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on Your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart.

Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for You and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service to You so all Your children will know Your peace.

Forgive us when we fall short and continue to transform Your world, leading us to Your promised kingdom. In Jesus’ name.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

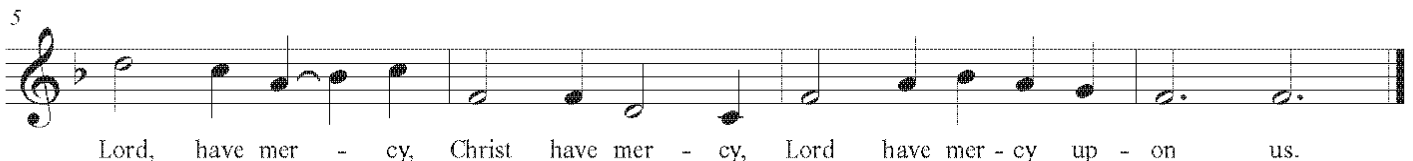
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Paul writes: “I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” God has shown us mercy and God will be merciful to all. Hear and believe this good news: **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 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
**that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

***May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.***

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

PEW BIBLE, PG. 686

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Search me, O God, and know my heart today. Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.

Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride; I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:10-20

PEW BIBLE, PG. 17

SERMON

Matters of the Heart

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. Amen.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 324 *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise You.

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

It Is Well With My Soul

SPAFFORD/BLISS

*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, You tell us that “offerings will be accepted on Your altar, for
Your house shall be called a house of prayer.” Thank You for all that You
have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and
our lives to You. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Wonderful Words of Life
(see insert)

WORDS OF LIFE

POSTLUDE

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

GABRIEL/ROUSE

*BENEDICTION



The graphic is a vibrant fall-themed poster for a 'save the date' announcement. It features a central logo for 'shepherd's center OF GREATER TUPELO' with a green tree icon. Below the logo, the text 'save the date' is in red, followed by 'FALL FESTIVAL' in large green letters. To the left, it says 'FAIRPARK SEPTEMBER 12' and '10 AM - 4 PM'. To the right, a list of activities includes 'LOCAL ARTISTS', 'VENDORS', 'LIVE ENTERTAINMENT', and 'RAFFLE'. The bottom section is orange and contains contact information for vendor inquiries and raffle tickets. The entire graphic is decorated with autumn leaves and stylized rainbows.

shepherd's center
OF GREATER TUPELO

save the date
**FALL
FESTIVAL**

FAIRPARK
SEPTEMBER
12
10 AM - 4 PM

DOWNTOWN | TUPELO, MS

- LOCAL ARTISTS
- VENDORS
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- RAFFLE

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION:
Please text Jean Watson
662.322.2878

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE:
CONTACT MARGARET PARKER
662.687.2027

Wonderful Words Of Life

Philip P. Bliss

Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, Won - der - ful words of life;
Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all Won - der - ful words of life;
Sweet - ly e - cho the Gos - pel call, Won - der - ful words of life;

Let me more of their beau - ty see, Won - der - ful words of life;
Sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, Won - der - ful words of life;
Of - fer par - don and peace to all, Won - der - ful words of life;

Words of life and beau - ty Teach me faith and du - ty.
All so free - ly giv - en, Woo - ing us to heav - en.
Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, Sanc - ti - fy us for - ev - er.

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, Won - der - ful words of life;

Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, Won - der - ful words of life.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF

NO COST SO COME JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP!

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Dinner at 5:30. Games to Follow!
in the Stuart Garden (weather permitting!)

Fun, family friendly event
Light menu of pizza, chicken tenders, pasta
salad, chips, and cookies for dessert



RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED!

Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday

900 AM. Worship
1000 AM. Sunday School
1100 AM. Worship
430 PM. Boy Scouts

8/16

Monday

230 PM. CASA. Gym
500 PM. Steering Committee Meeting
600 PM. Session Meeting

8/17

Tuesday

900 AM. Tai Chi
1100 AM. Bible Study
230 PM. CASA. Gym
230 PM. Cook for the Salvation Army.
Kitchen
700 PM. AA Meeting

8/18

Wednesday

1000 AM. Staff Meeting
230 PM. CASA. Gym
300 PM. Mah Jongg

8/19

Thursday

800 AM. Mens Breakfast Talbot House
130 PM. Shepherd's Center Meeting Rec
Room
230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/20

Friday

1200 PM. AA
230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/21

Saturday

8/22

Notes

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 loving memory of my child, Denise, and my wonderful husband, Bob Williford, by Bonnie Williford.

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, Debra Robison

Liturgist: 9:00: Liz Rose

11:00: Larry Crowell

Greeters: 9:00: Pete & Kathy McMurry

11:00: Anna Brock, Bonnie Williford, Susan Boone

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, August 18 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 25.

For August 23, our scripture passages will be from **Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124, Romans 12:1-8, 29-32, and Matthew 16:13-20.**

Flowers in the Sanctuary Update - As of August 1, the cost per arrangement moved 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 working 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.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: John Gaston, Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash

College Students: Olivia Reynolds, Kailan Reynolds, Walt Rose

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 52 11:00 A.M.: 160

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 8/9/26: \$4,742

YTD Budgeted Income: \$707,392 YTD Income Received: \$740,385

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Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.
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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

