



September 11, 2026

A Newsletter for the Congregation and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS

Join Us for Worship

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 13

Services at 9:00 A.M.

& 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.

Our
YouTube Channel

Sunday's

Scripture Lesson

Children's Bulletin
Ages 3 & Up

Bulletin

Children's Bulletin
Ages 7 & Up

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!



Monthly edition of The Tower coming soon!



Weekly Prayer List

Cancer Treatment

Emily Barber

Homebound

Barbara Price, Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles

College Students

Lucy Gratz, Lewis Herman, Magalie Martin

Service Members

Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray



Capital Campaign Dinner

Sunday, September 13

5:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church Gym

No cost - Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation



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 this QR Code or by calling 662.842.5681.

Thank you for helping us extend this invitation and include our wider church family in this exciting season.



Wednesday Night Meal

September 16

We need your help each week with desserts!

Desserts can be left on the kitchen island on Tuesday or Wednesday of each week.

Menu

Roast	Rolls
Potatoes &	Salad
Carrots	Dessert
Butter Beans	Kids: Pizza
Creamed Corn	

Program

Exploring Hymns
& Church Music
with Heather Crotwell
& Bob Taylor

Click HERE to
sign up BY
MONDAY



\$10 per Adult

\$5 per Child*

(12 & under)

\$40 max per family

*Kids menu is available to ages 13+
at adult pricing. Please specify
when making your reservation.

Bible Study Update

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Will resume

September 22 at 11 AM

Circle Meetings

*Circle 5: Tuesday, September 15 @ 6 pm
Busylad*



save the date

FALL
FESTIVAL

DOWNTOWN | TUPELO, MS

FAIRPARK
SEPTEMBER

12

10 AM - 4 PM

- 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

Wednesday Night MENU & INFORMATION

WE NEED YOUR HELP each week with desserts!

(Can be left on the kitchen island Tuesday or Wednesday of each week.)

9/23 MEATLOAF MASHED POTATOES PURPLE HULL PEAS <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS & TOTS	9/30 SPAGHETTI GREEN BEANS FRENCH BREAD <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: PIZZA	10/7 ROTEL CHICKEN SPAGHETTI GREEN BEANS FRUIT SALAD <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS & TOTS
10/21 BEEF STROGANOFF SAUTEED VEGGIES FRIED OKRA <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: PIZZA	11/4 BBQ SANDWICHES BAKED BEANS POTATO SALAD <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS & TOTS	11/11 PORK TENDERLOIN MAC & CHEESE ENGLISH PEAS <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: PIZZA
11/18 CHICKEN & DRESSING SWEET POTATO CASS. MAC & CHEESE GREEN BEANS <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS & TOTS	12/2 CHICKEN ALFREDO STEAMED BROCCOLI GLAZED CARROTS <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: PIZZA	12/9 TACO SOUP CHILI CHICKEN GNOCCHI POTATO SOUP <u>SALAD BAR</u> KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS & TOTS

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MONDAY OF EACH WEEK

Dessert bar included with all meals.

DINNER SERVICE
STARTS AT
5:30 PM

NEW PRICING
Adults: \$10/each
*Kids (12 and under): \$5/each
Family: \$40/max

*KIDS MENU AVAILABLE
FOR AGES 13+ AT ADULT
PRICING.
PLEASE SPECIFY WHEN
YOU MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION.*

THIS WEEK @ FPC

Sunday

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

9/13

Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:30 P.M. Committee Meetings

*Wednesday Night Supper
reservations due.*

9/14

Tuesday

9:00 A.M. Tai Chi
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
2:30 P.M. Cook for the Salvation Army
Kitchen
6:00 P.M. Circle 5, Busylad
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

9/15

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Supper
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

9/16

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Talbot
House
1:30 P.M. Shepherd's Center
Meeting, Rec Room
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

9/17

Friday

12:00 P.M. AA Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

9/18

Saturday

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands

9/19

Next Week

Monday – Steering
Committee & Session
Meetings

What does it mean to be a "Presbyterian Woman"?

Being a woman, we wear many hats on any given day. Being a "Presbyterian Woman" is no different. Presbyterian Women was founded many years ago to strengthen the church and to perform duties that churches and communities needed. Today is no different. FPC Tupelo is full of life and love and it takes all of us to fulfill the duties within the church on a daily basis. Each of us have special gifts to share with others and gifts that will enrich the livelihood of this church. With almost all women working these days, it takes more of us to jump in and volunteer our time at church. It can be small things, big things, or even just a single project. But we need YOU! To keep our church alive and thriving, please consider picking an activity, joining a committee and get involved. Currently, there are "asks" for cakes for Wed night suppers, and cakes/treats the Cakewalk for Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child volunteers, Sun night Youth meals, Shepherds for the new members.....What a better way to meet some new people and add spiritual enrichment to your life by serving the church and others.

And lastly, Presbyterian Women has 3 monthly Bible Study groups called "Circle". The groups start Sept 7 and we would be honored to have you join a group. The Bible Study for 26-27 is "United through Christ, Bound to each other"– studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Pick up your book in the church office.

Circle 3 – 1st Monday @ 6:45 in homes Anne Marie Littrell, leader

Circle 24 – 2nd Tuesday @ Noon at the church Vivian Flemming, leader

Circle 5 – 2nd Monday @ 6 at Busylad, Lori Dickerson leader

Hope to see you in Circle!

Lucy Nash

PW Moderator

2026-2027 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Horizons Bible Study

United through Christ, bound to each other

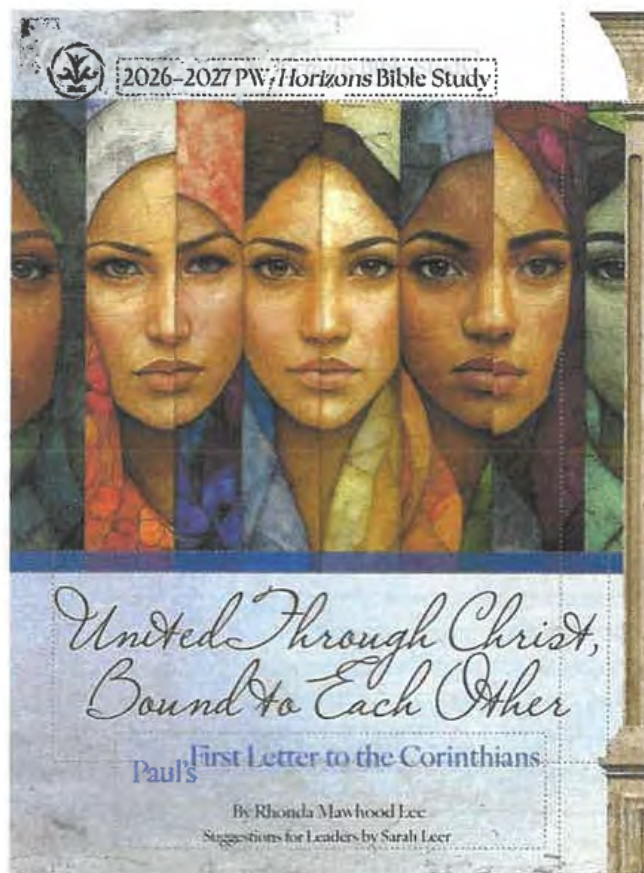
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

It was one messed-up church. There were quarrels and divisions over leadership. People were judgmental toward others and arrogant, believing their opinions were right. There was disagreement about sexual relationships. Christians were filing lawsuits against each other instead of working things out as Christian siblings. There were divisions along economic lines, with a heartless attitude toward poor people. There were fights about who Jesus is, styles of worship and who was spiritually superior. The church in Corinth had an overabundance of problems, some of which we have today.

Surprisingly, the Apostle Paul begins his letter with thanksgiving for the grace given to them in Christ Jesus. He praises their knowledge and abundance of spiritual gifts. The greeting seems ironic because knowledge and gifts have also created such divisions in the community of faith.

Rhonda Mawhood Lee, author of the Bible study "United in Christ, Bound to Each Other," describes the problem in the Corinthian church as "a lack of love that betrayed Christ's saving act in resurrecting Christ." That issue manifests in factions arising from reliance on cultural values rather than Christian ones. Christianity, then and now, was countercultural, and it was difficult for the small group of Christians to stand against societal norms.

Established in 44 B.C. by Julius Caesar, Corinth was made up of upwardly mobile freed persons. It was cosmopolitan, and material goods flowed in and out of its ports. It was known for its art, philosophy, athletic games and debauchery. Sailors brought their own gods with them, and there were structures dedicated to at least 24 different gods in Corinth. J. Paul Sampley, in "The First Letter to the



Corinthians," *The New Interpreter's Bible*, described the city as "wealthy without charm and not the least convivial."

Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians of the basic conflict between the wisdom of culture and God's wisdom, which comes from the Holy Spirit. Greeks look for well-reasoned arguments and Jews want miraculous signs, but Paul preaches Christ crucified, which is sheer lunacy according to the

world's values. Time and again, Paul contrasts what is happening in the church with the patterns of Christian belief.

Throughout the letter, Paul emphasizes unity in Christ and love and respect for each other. Is there a believer whose faith is weaker than your own? Do not do anything that causes a fellow Christian to falter. Do you have important spiritual gifts? Remember that all spiritual gifts are needed. Are you convinced that one leader is far better than another? Remember, we are all servants of Christ.

One of the Beatles' songs is "All You Need Is Love." Paul would agree. 1 Corinthians 13, "The Love Hymn," sings to us of the more excellent way. This chapter is often read at weddings, and appropriately so, yet Paul is writing to a church in conflict, describing a way of life in which people show kindness and patience and do not insist on their own way. Such love rejoices in the truth and shuns boasting. It bears with one another and places hope in God. It is such a loving action that can bind the church together.

Except for lessons eight and nine, the study examines two or three chapters of 1 Corinthians at a time and asks how the letter applies to us today. Lesson five, covering chapters 8-10, is where Paul establishes appropriate behavioral boundaries. In Christ, all things are lawful, but not all things contribute to the well-being of others. Therefore, Paul argues that self-restraint is needed lest we

cause others to waver in their faith. Though the issue for the early church was eating meat sacrificed to idols, contemporary parallels might include patriotism and faith, the consumption of violent media or how we safeguard the alcoholic among us.

In reading 1 Corinthians, it is important to remember that it is a letter, and we do not have the correspondence that prompted Paul to write. Rather, we have fragments of letters that have been pieced together. 1 Corinthians is probably the second letter Paul wrote to the church, with fragments of other epistles woven in.

A stumbling block for both Jewish and Gentile Christians was the resurrection of Christ. No one could have been prepared for Jesus being raised from the dead. Not all Jews believed in a bodily resurrection. "Among those that did, the question of whether Jesus himself had been raised divided Jews who would become Christians from the majority of other people," according to the study. Some pagans emphasized the immortality of the soul. We, like those early Christians, may also find Jesus' resurrection hard to swallow. Paul asserts that Jesus' being raised from the dead is central to the Christian faith.

In "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other," we will come to understand early church conflicts and how some of the same problems persist today. It should provide an engaging study and rich discussion. 🍷



THE REV. ROSALIND BANBURY has served in small, medium and large congregations, and she has a heart for faith formation. She is now retired.

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

Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer

Jeff Nock, Audio/Visual Technician

Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian

MJ Whitt, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Penny OQuinn, Morning Receptionist

Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist

Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

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