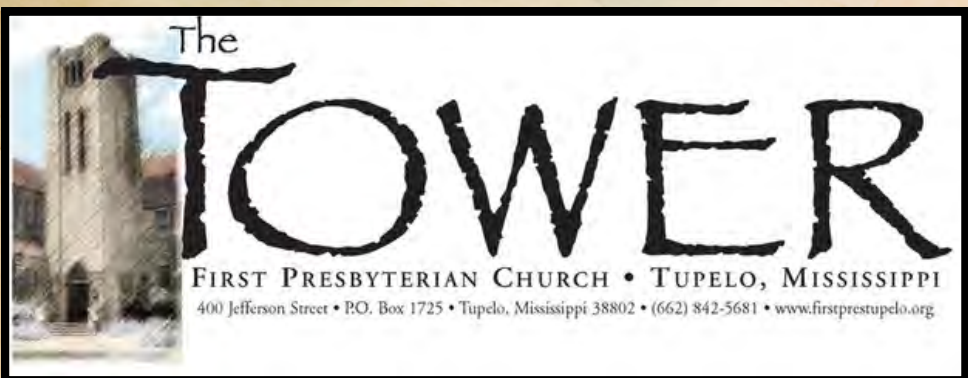




September 2026

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

Friends, Fellow Members, and Siblings in Christ -

As John is out of the office studying this week, he asked if I would share a few words with you about this year's Capital Campaign that has officially begun.

Some of you may have missed something Sunday night at the Capital Campaign Dinner. Did you know we fed 150 adults and approximately 20 children in 20 minutes? We started the program 10 minutes early and finished on time. Behind the scenes were dozens of folks that set tables, folded napkins, setup tables and chairs, shot video, edited video, prepared the agenda, approved the agenda, called and invited folks to attend dinner, picked up drinks and pizza for the kids... Whew! I'm sure I missed some folks, but my point is that the membership of our church is amazing. When we need help, you are available. You are setting a wonderful example for others in our congregation. As we move forward into our stewardship season and Capital Fund Campaign, keep that in mind. What we do now is setting an example for years to come. The folks that volunteered in the 1960 campaign gave us the education building and library area. The 1990 campaign gave us the kitchen, gym, and more Sunday school rooms. What will the next campaign chair say we have left for them to enjoy? We have the opportunity to make a difference that will last for another 20-30 years. Then the next group can take the lead. Thanks to the congregations of First Presbyterian that have come before. Please keep stewardship and this year's Capital Campaign in your prayers as we search for God's will for First Presbyterian Church of Tupelo.

Buddy Stubbs
Capital Campaign Chair

Worship With Us

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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 Bulletins
Ages 3 & Up](#)

[Bulletin](#)

[Children's Bulletins
Ages 7 & Up](#)

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!



Weekly Prayer List

Cancer Treatment

Emily Barber

Homebound

Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston, Joy Hyatt

College Students

Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, Ashton Posey

Service Members

Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

Bible Study

Update

Tuesday, September 22

11:00 A.M.

Bolton/Sistahood Room

Acts 28

MEN'S BREAKFAST



September 24

8:00 AM

Talbot House

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

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MONDAY OF EACH WEEK

Dessert bar included with all meals.

NEW PRICING

DINNER SERVICE
STARTS AT
5:30 PM

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.*

Wednesday Night Meal

September 23 – 5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Program: The Shine Foundation

MENU

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Purple Hull Peas
Rolls
Salad
Dessert Bar
Kids: Chicken
Tenders & Tots

\$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.*



CLICK HERE
to sign up
by MONDAY

Bible Study Update

Tuesday, September 22

11:00 A.M.

Bolton/Sistahood Room

Acts 28



Circle Meetings

Circle 3: First Monday @ 6:45 pm
Member's Home

Circle 24: First Tuesday @ Noon
Frances Sheffield Classroom

Circle 5: First Tuesday @ 6 pm
Busylad



Christian Sympathy

Robert Dean, the brother of Betty Reece, passed away on Friday, September 4. His graveside service was held Monday, September 7 in Leland, MS.

SERVE WITH US

Join us this Saturday, September 19, from 9-11 AM to serve our community at the St. Luke's Food Pantry

*Note: If you are willing and able, we need some people to come at 7:30 AM to help set up and some people to stay for 30 minutes after closing to help put things away *

2653 South Eason Blvd.

2027 Guatemala Mission Trip

Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, September 23

6:15 PM

Mission Room

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



Monthly Updates

August Memorials, Gifts, & Honoraria

***In memory** of Annette Thornton, Jack Price, Lanta
Craig, Loren Zimmerman, Larry Hancock,
Lauren Hancock Patterson, Scarlett Reeder,
Tom McDonald, Billy Hunter, and Mollie Gratz
from Chauncey & Ann Godwin.
(Music Fund)

***In memory** of Lauren Patterson
from Judy Griffie.
(Flower Guild Fund)

The Sistahood Sunday School Class made it their goal to help revive Montreat, NC, from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which made landfall in 2024.

RENDERING

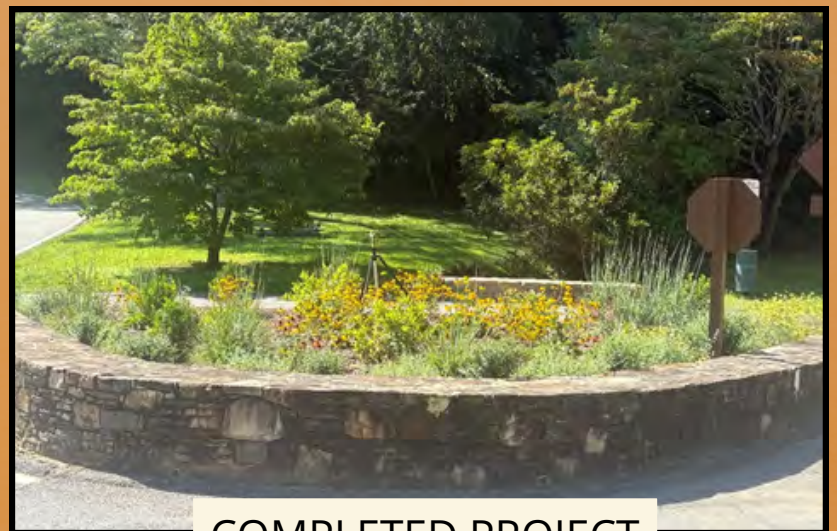


Emily Jarrett (former member of FPC Tupelo) and the youth at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke were able to work on this project during their time in Montreat this past summer.



BEFORE

The sunday school class worked with Cathie and Frank Dodson of Montreat to revitalize the flower bed at the intersection of Assembly, Kanawha, and Virginia Roads in Montreat, NC.



COMPLETED PROJECT







The Session

Administrative – Debra Robison

- The Capital Campaign will begin on September 13, 2026, with dinner for the entire congregation.
- Wednesday evening meals to be catered by Krisha Mims. The price to be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children with a maximum of \$40.00 per family. Reservations must be made by Monday of each week.

Christian Education – Heather Crotwell

- Our church sent 12 campers and 2 volunteer staff to Camp Hopewell this past summer. This is up from 5 campers in 2025. From the sounds of it, a great time was had by all with plans to return next summer.
- Nine youth and three adults participated in Montreat Youth Conference from July 19–25. It was a wonderful week.
- The youth are excited for the annual Back to School Trip coming Saturday, August 15. We will go to Birmingham for the day and enjoy laser tag and a water park before coming back home! Currently six youth and two adults are scheduled for this trip.
- Rally Day was a great success. CE is thankful to all who made this day possible.
- Preschool Update
 - This summer a team of people worked one Sunday afternoon to do general cleaning and organization of the space. This went well! It was mentioned a similar project should be scheduled for upstairs.
 - Frames for children's artwork were hung on the walls, and art has been added to them.
- A 'nursing room' for mothers is being created in the room adjacent to the nursery. Will be adding a comfortable chair, side table, and lamp for this space.
- Lori Dickerson's class to study Amy Jill Levine's book 'The Difficult Words of Jesus'.
- Purchase two platform rockers for the nursery to meet safety regulations.

Congregational Care – Amanda Davis

- Byron and Bettie Fellows are moving to Jackson, will follow up for Bread for the Journey.
- Committee members selected students to sponsor for the upcoming school year. Starbucks cards were handed out for first contact. There are 18 college students. Lucy and Bill Hilbun will continue contact with our Military members, Patrick Hastings and Andrew Ray.
- The Marthas will prepare the meal for the Presbytery meeting which will be held at FPC Tupelo on Tuesday, October 6 at Noon. They will plan on preparation for 60. Help is needed for greeting, set up, serving and clean up. Please contact Amanda Davis to volunteer.
- New Member Packets: We will add a map of campus, list of committees and their responsibilities, and a printed directory to the packets.
- Newborn Bonnet was presented to MJ. Whitt.
- Notes of Bereavement were sent to the Reederes and McDonalds.
- Visitation notes were sent to 8 families.
- Special Projects: CCC sponsors a Valentine's Party for singles in our congregation every other year. We will be sponsoring the event again in February 2028. Note was made that "Souper Bowl" weekend could conflict with this. Committee will discuss further.
- Wednesday Night Cards: Downloadable cards were purchased from Morgan Darsey by the church. Bonnie Williford will meet with MJ in the office to choose the designs and make the arrangements for printing.

Congregational Care (continued)

- Shepherd Center: Fundraiser will be held September 12 at Fairpark from 10:00–4:00. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$25.00. Contact Margaret Parker for more information.
- Flower Delivery: All is going well.
- Pictorial Directory: Kathy Wallace will coordinate the planning for a pictorial directory for our congregation. The plan is for a more casual/informal approach to acquiring photographs of members. More information will be forthcoming in future meetings. Sandy Grimm will assist with the possible use of Canva in producing the directory. If any committee member would like to assist with this project, please contact Kathy Wallace.
- Update CCC Guidelines/Procedures – Anne Marie Littrell has volunteered to lead the Guideline and Procedure Review the CCC Guidelines
- Mary Stubbs reminded everyone that the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” will be held on September 27th, 2026, in Tupelo at Ballard Park. Everyone is encouraged to “Go/Wear Purple” on the day of the event. Registration will begin at 2:00 p.m., Opening Ceremony & Walk will begin at 2:30 p.m. Churches are being encouraged to get involved by wearing purple to support Alzheimer’s Awareness. Let’s show up at First Presbyterian! Contact Mary Stubbs, Kendall Boulton (225–888–5678), or go online to find out more information about fundraising, registering, donating, and walking details.

Fellowship – Liz Rose

- Fall Kickoff Wednesday, September 2nd
- Fall Festival – October 28th
- Thanksgiving Luncheon – November 22nd
- Farewell Brunch for Melissa McDuffie at 9:30 a.m. and one service at 10:30 a.m.
- The decision has been made to move the Easter Brunch to Palm Sunday. Our Palm Sunday Brunch will be Sunday, March 28, 2027, between services.

Outreach/Mission – Mary Margaret Gratz

- Al Wallace, IV, has volunteered to be chef for our Wine to Water Fundraiser. Ruth Brock is chairing the subcommittee. We are working with Al to set a date on the calendar for that event.
- We served 75 in July at the St. Luke's Food Pantry project (was Helping Hands). The 'new' address is 2653 South Eason Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38804.
- We served 73 in July at Salvation Army. Presly Wallace can no longer cook for Salvation Army as the day (3rd Tuesday of each month) conflicts with work obligations. Our committee members are working together to schedule volunteers to sign up for a month or more to take on this responsibility. If you or you know someone who wants to volunteer, please contact Mary Margaret Gratz.
- The Cuba Water Mission Trip that had been scheduled for November 26, 2026, is cancelled. We are working towards rescheduling it for after the first of the year.
- The Guatemala Water Mission Trip information meeting is being rescheduled in the coming weeks.

Property and Grounds – Mac Godwin

- No meeting this month

Safety and Security – David Carlisle

- No new information to report

Worship – Beth Anne Ellzey

- Usher guidelines are being updated to state ushers need to report 30 minutes prior to service.
- Will wait until end of year to repair communion tankard and tray.
- Outdoor Worship Service in October 18 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Carols of Christmas – Chancel Choir's "Carols of Christmas" on Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m. (one service)
- Hanging of the Green – November 22, after the Thanksgiving luncheon.
- Lucille and Morris Jones Stienwinder will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m. service. They are the children of Jeff and Maddie Stienwinder, who will also be joining the church that day.

Member Information & Important Dates

- Congratulations to Cooper and Lynsee Moore on their recent marriage on May 30th. Cooper is the son of Mitzi and Jeff Moore.
- Congratulations to Andrew and Mary Burke on their recent wedding on August 2nd. Mary is the daughter of Mitzi and Jeff Moore

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

9/20

Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:00 P.M. Steering Committee
6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

9/21

Tuesday

9:00 A.M. Tai Chi
11:00 A.M. Bible Study
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

9/22

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 Program & Meal
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

9/23

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast,
Talbot House
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

9/24

Friday

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

9/25

Saturday

9/26

Next Week:

- Thursday – St. Luke's

September 2026

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Birthday Carolyn Burkett Thomas Groome IV Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Biddle	2 Birthday Bess Francis Henson Scott Walsh	3 Birthday Rick Smith Jill White	4 Birthday Amanda Montgomery Steve Nash	5 Birthday Camille Caples Bryan Thomas Ellis George White
6 Birthday Claude Clayton IV Andrew Goad	7 Birthday Susan Marisco	8 Birthday Judy Smith Silvia Spires	9 Birthday Mac Godwin Alix Roaten Kathy Wallace	10 Birthday Mary Henson Kirk Reeder	11 Birthday Sammy Perryman Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hazard	12 Birthday Afton Gable Andy Godwin Jeff Moore
13	14	15 Birthday Claire Johnson	16	17 Birthday Barry Mark Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Tim Myers	18 Birthday Ella Michael Gable Jeff Reeder	19 Birthday Gil Monaghan
20 Birthday Margaret E. Murphey Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Al Wallace IV	21 Birthday Trey Leeke David Williams	22 Birthday T.R. Darsey Judy Griffie Kevin Martin Brittany Rogers	23 Birthday Babe Gratz Maddin Hutto Travis Roaten	24 Birthday Suzy Zimmerman	25 Birthday Jimmy Milam Twinda Snider Edie Thomas Tim Whitten	26
27 Birthday Mike Ray Jr. Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Ellis	28 Birthday Kirby Faucette Camille Claire Peters	29 Birthday Wesley Brock Anniversary Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Thomas	30 Birthday Lexye Devita Hathcock			

September 2026

Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA, Gym 7:00PM AA Meeting	2 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:05PM Tower Ringers 5:30PM Wednesday Night Program/M meal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	3 7:45AM St. Luke's Food Pantry 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 2:30PM CASA, Gym	4 12:00PM AA Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym	5
Communion 6 Two Cents a Meal 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	7 2:30PM CASA, Gym 6:45PM Circle 3, Member's House	8 9:00AM Tai Chi 10:00AM Martha's, Kitchen 11:00AM Bible Study 12:00PM Circle 24, Sheffield Rm 2:30PM CASA, Gym 6:00PM Circle 5, Busylad 7:00PM AA Meeting	9 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:05PM Tower Ringers 5:30PM Wednesday Night Program/M meal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	10 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 2:30PM CASA, Gym	11 12:00PM AA Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 5:30PM Haynes/Griffie Rehearsal	12 5:30PM Haynes/Griffie Wedding
13 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	14 2:30PM CASA, Gym 5:30PM Committee Meetings	15 9:00AM Tai Chi 2:30PM CASA, Gym 2:30PM Cook for the Salvation Army, Kitchen 7:00PM AA Meeting	16 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:05PM Tower Ringers 5:30PM Wednesday Night Program/M meal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	17 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 1:30PM Shepherd's Center Meeting, Rec Room 2:30PM CASA, Gym	18 12:00PM AA Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym	19
20 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	21 2:30PM CASA, Gym 5:00PM Steering Committee 6:00PM Session Meeting	22 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA, Gym 7:00PM AA Meeting	23 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:05PM Tower Ringers 5:30PM Wednesday Night Program/M meal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	24 8:00AM Men's Breakfast, Talbot House 2:30PM CASA, Gym	25 12:00PM AA Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym	26 9:00AM Helping Hands
27 9:00AM Worship 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Worship 4:30PM Boy Scouts	28 2:30PM CASA, Gym	29 9:00AM Tai Chi 11:00AM Bible Study 2:30PM CASA, Gym 7:00PM AA Meeting	30 10:00AM Staff Meeting 2:30PM CASA, Gym 3:00PM Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton 5:05PM Tower Ringers 5:30PM Wednesday Night Program/M meal 7:00PM Chancel Choir			

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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Google calendar to see the latest FPC news!

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