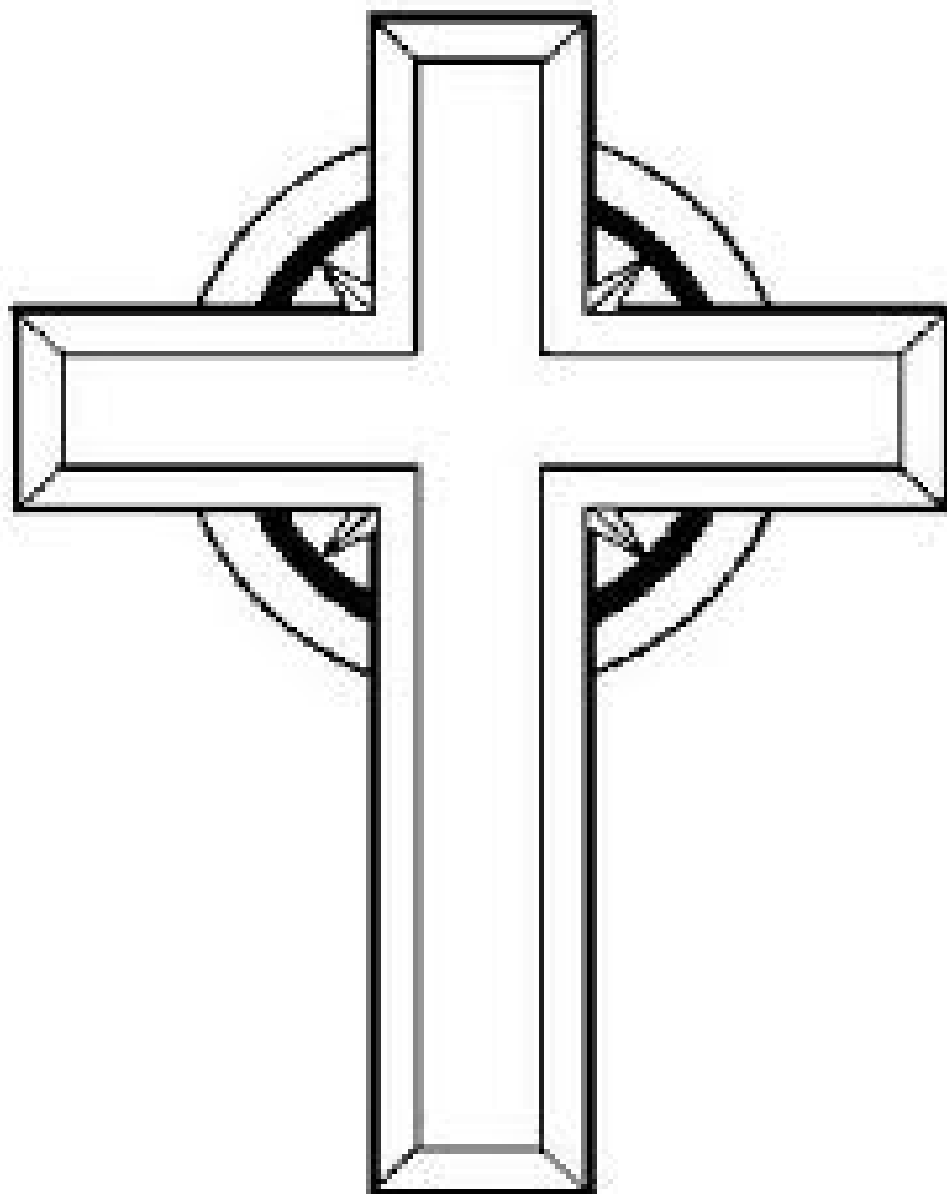


A Publication of First Presbyterian Church • Columbus, Mississippi

The First Word



**JANUARY
2026**

January 4
2nd Sunday of Christmas
Jer. 31:7-14
and Ps. 147:12-20;
Eph. 1:3-14;
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 6
Epiphany of the Lord
Isa. 60:1-6
and Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14;
Eph. 3:1-12;
Matt. 2:1-12

January 11
Baptism of the Lord
Isa. 42:1-9
and Ps. 29;
Acts 10:34-43;
Matt. 3:13-17

January 18
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Isa. 49:1-7
and Ps. 40:1-11;
1 Cor. 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

January 25
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Isa. 9:1-4
and Ps. 27:1, 4-9;
1 Cor. 1:10-18;
Matt. 4:12-23

From the Announcements at the January 4, 2026 Worship Service

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege this morning to thank:

- Tom Richardson, Session Moderator Pro-Tem, Hope Devenney, Clerk of Session, and the Session for leading us through a challenging transition;
- Tori Pumphrey for her dedicated pursuit of pastors over the last year;
- All our wonderful visiting worship leaders for their insightful messages which helped us navigate 52 weeks of worship and doing God's work during the week;
- The choir and its leaders (Susan, Shirley, Andrew and Doug) for their music ministry;
- Tracie Hanson, our church administrator, for her work behind the scenes to keep us glued together;
- The church committees, Shepherding groups, Men of the Church, Presbyterian Women and all the other informal, ad hoc groups for keeping us focused on our Matthew 25 mission in the community;
- Lezli Waits and her team for keeping the PCDP a going and growing group of little people who are a delight to see and hear during the week;
- And, all those helped with other parts of the Sunday services: ushers, acolytes, bell-ringers, liturgists, those delivering the children's messages, those taking care of the children, and those working the video/streaming.
- So, . . . Thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks to all of you who were so gracious with your time and your talents in seeing that these essential tasks were completed during 2025. I hope we can count on you again this year and expand the "roster of the willing" in 2026.



PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE REPORTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May this new year be a song of THANKSGIVING,
an offering of PRAISE, and a celebration of GOD'S LOVE
in HIS Amazing GRACE. All the praises for a HAPPY 2026!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sandra Mims
Continued Prayers

Brennen Bowen
Continued Prayers

Toni Oakes
(Ed Oakes' Sister)
Continued Prayers

Allison L. Jones
(Scott Jones' Mother)
Continued Prayers

Hope Oakes
Continued Prayers

Noah Russell Nagy
Continued Prayers

Mary Anne Hamblen
Hillary Richardson's Mother,
Recovery from knee surgery

Greg Goodwiller
Recovery from broken ankle

Sherean Harrington
(Hope Oakes' Stepmother)
Continued Prayers

Julian Gardner
Continued Prayers

Ginny Oakes
(Ed Oakes' Mother)
Continued Prayers

Simon Storer
(Friend of Lee Hackett)
Cancer Diagnosis

Scott Starkweather
Recovery from fall

Doug & Kandi Aultman & Family
Continued Prayers

Hilda Nance
Hillary Richardson's Aunt
Recovery from stroke



Your FPC Staff would like to extend a sincere Thank You for your very generous love gift this holiday season.

We hope that we have provided you with the support and service you needed and look forward to serving you in 2026 and many years to follow.

A festive birthday banner with a blue and white background. The top features a blue ribbon with white stars and a large white circle. The sides are decorated with clusters of red, yellow, and blue balloons. The bottom features a blue ribbon with white stars and a large white circle. In the center, there is a white rectangular area containing the title and a list of names and dates.

January Birthdays

Allison Krieger	January 4
Melinda Pilkinton	January 7
Lynda Umfress	January 12
Roger Burlingame	January 17

Financial Information:

The information presented below reflects First Presbyterian Church finances as of December 31, 2025.

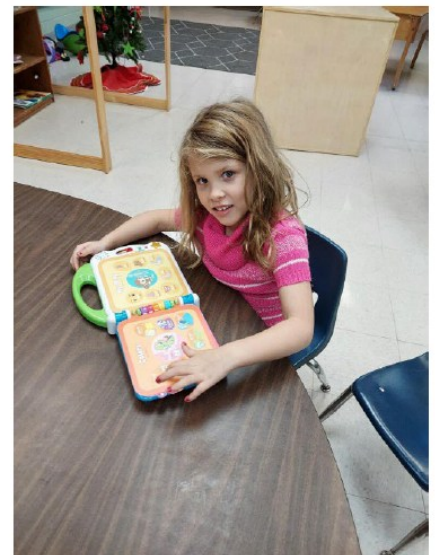
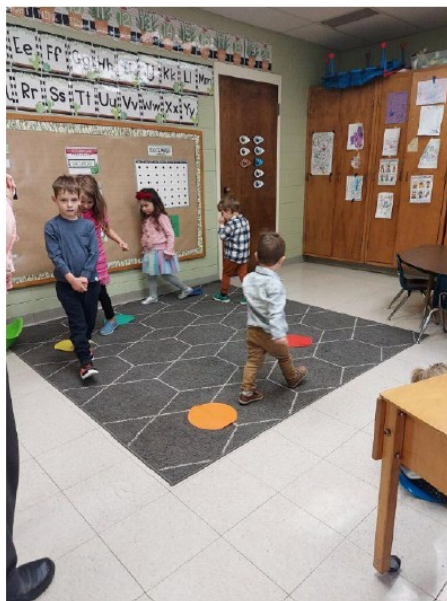
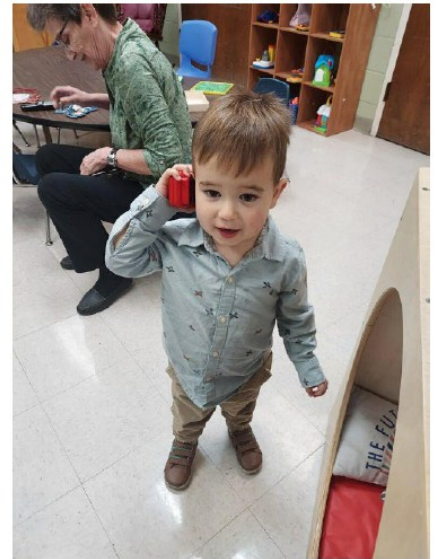
YTD Income:	\$233,538.30
YTD Expenses:	\$173,482.04
YTD Balance:	\$ 60,056.26

2025 Pledge Total	\$163,160.00
December 31, 2025 Total Pledged:	\$163,160.00
December 31, 2025 Total Received:	\$192,695.00



**We are seeking
volunteers for the
Children's Message.
Contact the office if
you would like to help.**







Join us for
Prayer Group
every Wednesday
at 12:30 p.m.
in the Parlor.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705



Join us for fellowship and fun!

Come enjoy some girl time
with your “Hilltop Sisters”.

Presbyterian Women You're Invited

Sunday, January 11
3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705

Pill Bottle Wash and Pack Session
Monday, January 12, 2026
10 a.m.

You are invited to join members of the Congregational Care/Christian Action Committee on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 10 a.m. to wash and pack pill bottles that have been collected. We have LOTS of pill bottles so LOTS of hands will be needed!

These pill bottles will be processed and mailed to Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio. This organization is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization.

The pill bottle ministry “fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.”





First Presbyterian Church will be serving
Loaves & Fishes Friday, January 16, 2026
Volunteers are needed. Show your support by signing up today!





JANUARY FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



Sunday, January 25, 2026
Immediately following worship.

Shepherding Group 3
will provide
fried chicken.
Please bring your
favorite side or
dessert to share.



Baby Book Baskets

Several members of our church are blessed to be adding grandchildren to their families! Please help us welcome these precious ones by giving books to each of these babies. The Baby Book Baskets are located in the church parlor. Please contribute your books to the baskets by Wednesday, January 28.

Steve and Paul Wilkes (twin grandsons)
Holly Longton (granddaughter) (delivered)
John Frazier and Lee Hackett (grandson)

We would also like to thank Georgie Willis of Middletown, PA, for crocheting the blankets lining each of the Book Baskets. Ed Oakes made this lovely gift possible for our sweet babies.

Come Worship With Us Every Sunday!

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.


Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Social Gathering: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Worship: 11:00 a.m.



Join us for Prayer Group every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor. ALL are welcome!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
4 2nd Sunday of Christmas 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea 12:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	8 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Tom & Emma Richardson) 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	9	10
11 Baptism of the Lord 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Johnny Wray 3:00 p.m. PW Gathering	12 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care/ Christian Action Meeting (Pill Bottle Wash & Pack Session)	13	14 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting <i>*All Committee Meeting minutes due to church office.*</i>	15 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Tom & Emma Richardson) 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	16 Loaves & Fishes (Volunteers Needed) 	17
18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Session Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship Thomas Richardson	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Office & PCDDP Closed	20	21 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	22 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Mary Nelson) 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	23	24
25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 11:00 a.m. Worship Melissa McDuffie Fellowship Meal following worship (Shepherding Group 3)	26	27	28 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	29 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Susan Smith) 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	30	31