



# The People of First Presbyterian Church

## OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour  
Prelude “You Are My Hiding Place/Hiding in Thee” Ledner, Arr. Fettke  
Welcome and Announcements  
Choral Call to Worship “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!” Darwall’s 148th  
Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Call to Worship  
Praise the Lord!  
**Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!**  
Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
**praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**  
Praise him with trumpet sound;  
**praise him with lute and harp!**  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
**Praise the Lord!**

+Opening Hymn # 12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” St. Denio

Prayer of Confession  
**Holy God, hear us this morning as we confess to you. You have called us to be imitators of Jesus, but we trust our own way more. You have called us to serve those around us, but we are more comfortable closing our eyes to the needs around us when they become overwhelming. You have called us to reconciliation and forgiveness, but we cling to the things that divide us and the painful reminders as justification for our resentment. Forgive us for the ways that we have failed to live as your people. Gracious God, unite us together as we are united in you. We pray these things in name of Jesus, Amen.** *Moment for Silent Meditation.*

Congregational Prayer Response: **Hymn #355 O hear our cry, O Lord; now hear us as we pray. You guide us a shepherd leads, so keep us in your way. O Come; Lord, come; restore and save us now.**

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem “O My Soul, Bless God the Father” arr. Ehret

## THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Word of God Matthew 22.34-46 (p. 24)

Children’s Message 2 Cents A Meal Melissa McDuffie

Sermon “Understanding the Answers” Melissa McDuffie

+Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)  
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+The Gloria Patri, # 581 *Glory Be to the Father*  
**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.**

## OUR RESPONSE

+Hymn of Praise # 4 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich

Prayers of the People

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.**

Call for the Offering

Offertory “Prayer for Comfort” Taylor

+Doxology # 606  
**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.**

+Prayer of Thanksgiving

## SENDING

+Sending Hymn # 303 “God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian” Church United  
(Verses 1 and 4)

+Blessing and Benediction

+Postlude “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer” Havergal

## Praise Reports

Emmett Richardson is feeling much better after his recent appendix surgery.

## Prayer Concerns

**Jon & Dorothy Fortman**  
*Health Concerns*

**Allison L. Jones**  
*(Scott Jones' Mother)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Sherean Harrington**  
*(Hope Oakes Stepmother)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Simon Storer**  
*(Friend of Lee Hackett)*  
*Cancer Diagnosis*

**Toni Oakes**  
*Prayer Requests*

**Hilda Nance**  
*(Hillary Richardson's Aunt)*  
*Recovery from Stroke*

**Rowland Jennings**  
*Health Concerns*

**Boyd Hardy**  
*(Friend of the Gaskin Family)*  
*Cancer Diagnosis*

**Chris Hannon & Adele Elliot**  
*(Friends of Eric Krieger)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Friend of Marthalie Porter**  
*Prayer Concerns*

**Steve Pieschel**  
*(Friend of the Gaskin Family)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Peggy Barksdale**  
*(Tracie Hanson's Mom)*  
*Continued Recovery*

**Scott Starkweather**  
*Recovery from Fall*

**Peter Ryan**  
*(Friend of Pam Sullivan)*  
*Undergoing Cancer Treatment*

**Frances Graham**  
*(Xander Nowell's Grandmother)*  
*Recovery from Surgery*

**Roger Swartz**  
*(Larry Swartz's Brother)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Maggie Mistilis**  
*(Larry Swartz's Sister)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Robert White**  
*(Friend of Taylor Richardson)*  
*Recovery from Fall*

+ Indicates a time to stand as you are comfortable in doing so.  
**Please join in unison reading of the bold print.**

THE CHURCH AT WORK

We welcome you to  
First Presbyterian Church!

A **Nursery** is available in the Education Building for the youngest worshipers (birth - Kindergarten).

**Restrooms** are located on both floors in the Education Building. Follow the signs or ask a friendly face who will be happy to help you find anything you need.

Today  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School

11:00 a.m.  
Worship/2Cents A Meal  
Melissa McDuffie

Wednesday  
12:30 p.m.  
Prayer Group  
  
1:30 p.m.  
“Falling Upward”  
Book Study led by Pam Rhea

Thursday  
PCDP Fall Festival  
  
5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

Next Sunday  
23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
9:00 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal  
  
9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School  
  
11:00 a.m. Communion/  
All Saints’ Service  
Rev. Buren Blankenship

Session

Dr. Tom Richardson, Moderator, Pro-Tem  
Hope DeVenney, Clerk of Session

| <u>Class of 2027</u> | <u>Class of 2028</u> | <u>Class of 2029</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fran Brown-1         | Hope DeVenney-4      | Keith Gaskin-2       |
| Marthalie Porter-1   | Tom Hatcher-2        | Ed Oakes- 3          |
| Steve Porter-2       | Anna Jones-4         | Lezli Waits- 4       |
| Susan Smith-2        | Tom Richardson-3     | Steve Wilkes –1      |

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Diaconate

| <u>Class of 2027</u> | <u>Class of 2028</u> | <u>Class of 2029</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Lee Hackett-1        | Roger Burlingame-2   | Amanda Bowen– 2      |
| Mary Nelson-1        | Holly Longton-3      | Robert Hill– 3       |
|                      | Jennifer Mearkle-4   | Taylor Richardson– 4 |

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Sunday, October 18, 2026 - Attendance: 73

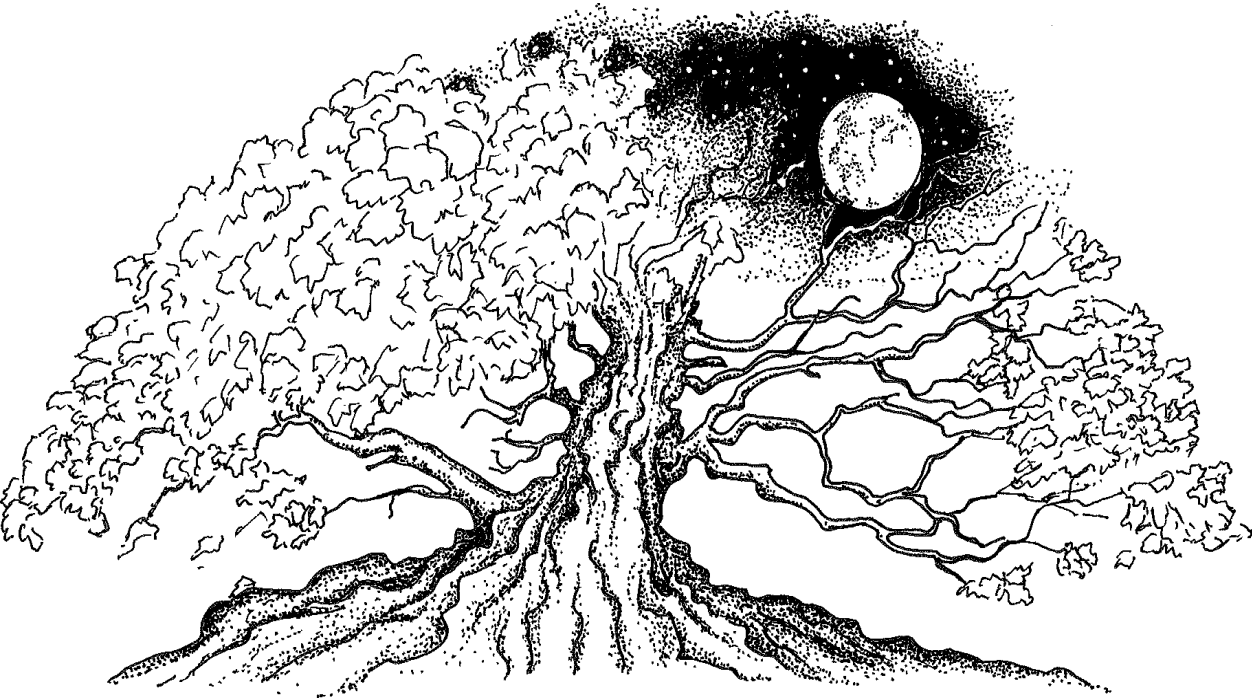
Helping Hands Immediate Needs:

Breakfast cereals, ramen noodles, and 1 lb. bags of rice.

First Presbyterian Church

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Moderator, pro-tem: Dr. Tom Richardson (662) 574-9636  
Email: tcrichardson425@gmail.com  
Clerk of Session: Hope DeVenney (662) 549-5479  
Email: Hope.DeVenney@outlook.com  
Church Administrator: Tracie Hanson (662) 328-5992  
Email: firstprescolumbus@gmail.com  
Director of Music: Alexander Nowell  
Accompanist: Shirley Ellis  
Tech Coordinator: Halli Powers  
PCDP Director: Lezli Waits  
Custodian: Rowland Jennings

First Presbyterian Church  
Columbus, Mississippi



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

“Understanding the Answers”  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
Melissa McDuffie  
October 25, 2026

