The People of First Presbyterian Church

OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour
Prelude "A Prayer of Need" Rodriguez
Welcome and Announcements
Choral Call to Worship "Spirit of the Living God" Living God
Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Call to Worship
God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.
Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!
Once we lived in darkness, but now— as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.
Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

+Opening Hymn # 684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go" Lux Prima

Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We look at outward appearances and fail to see what pleases you. We look with judgment on others and fail to see our own sin. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable. We step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Knowing that you love us, help us to live more fruitful lives. Shine upon us with your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Moment for Silent Meditation.*

Congregational Prayer Response: **My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine!** (From Hymn # 829, Verse 1)

Assurance of Pardon
Choral Anthem "Amazing Grace" Williams
+Passing of the Peace

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination
The Word of God Psalm 23 (pp. 474-475)
John 9:1-17 (p. 96)

Children's Message Marthalie Porter

Sermon "Look Who Can't See Now" Reverend Buren Blankenship

+Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31
To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

+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

Prayers of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory "Offertory on Coming Home" Thomas

+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

Communion Hymn # 314 "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" (Verses 1,2, and 5)
Christ, Be Our Light

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

+Sending Hymn # 816 "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"
Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott

+Charge and Blessing

+Postlude "We Are Called" Haas

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

Praise Reports

Congratulations to Zane Vogel & Katy Longton as they Welcome Baby Girl Liliana June. Welcome to the world little one. Your church family loves you.

Mary Anne Hamblen, Hillary Richardson's Mother, is recovering well from her knee surgery.

Rev. Dr. Greg Goodwiller is recovering well from his broken ankle.

Prayer Concerns

Jon Fortman
Health Concerns

Dorothy Fortman
Recovery from a broken leg

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

Julian Gardner
Continued Prayers

Sherean Harrington
(Hope Oakes Stepmother)
Health Concerns

Noah Russell Nagy
Continued Prayers

Simon Storer
(Friend of Lee Hackett)
Cancer Diagnosis

Toni Oakes
Prayer Requests

Hope Oakes
Health Concerns

Hilda Nance
Hillary Richardson's Aunt
Recovery from stroke

Anita Marie Turner
(Friend of Eric Krieger)
Final Stages of Cancer

Harolyn Jones
Recovery from fall (broken knee)

Hines Bostwick
(Jennifer Mearkle's Step-Father)
Health Concerns

Colby Huffman
(Friend of Halli Powers)

Baby Boys Wes & Benny Ault
Continued Prayers

Please let the church office know if you have any praise reports or prayer concerns.

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
4th Sunday in Lent
8:30 a.m.
Session Meeting
9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School

11:00 a.m.
Communion Worship
Rev. Buren Blankenship

3:00 p.m.
Presbyterian Women
Gathering

Wednesday
12:30 p.m. Prayer Group

Thursday
5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

Friday
Loaves & Fishes
Volunteers Needed

Next Sunday
5th Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School

11:00 a.m.
Worship
Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea

Session

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

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Maridith Geuder-1	Fran Brown-1	Hope DeVenney-4
Tori Pumphrey-4	Marthalie Porter-1	Tom Hatcher-2
Lezli Waits-4	Steve Porter-2	Anna Jones-4
Steve Wilkes-2	Susan Smith-2	Tom Richardson-3

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Diaconate

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Hope Oakes-3	Lee Hackett-1	Roger Burlingame-2
Eric Waits-4	Mary Nelson-1	Holly Longton-3
Sue Hatcher-2		Jennifer Mearkle-2

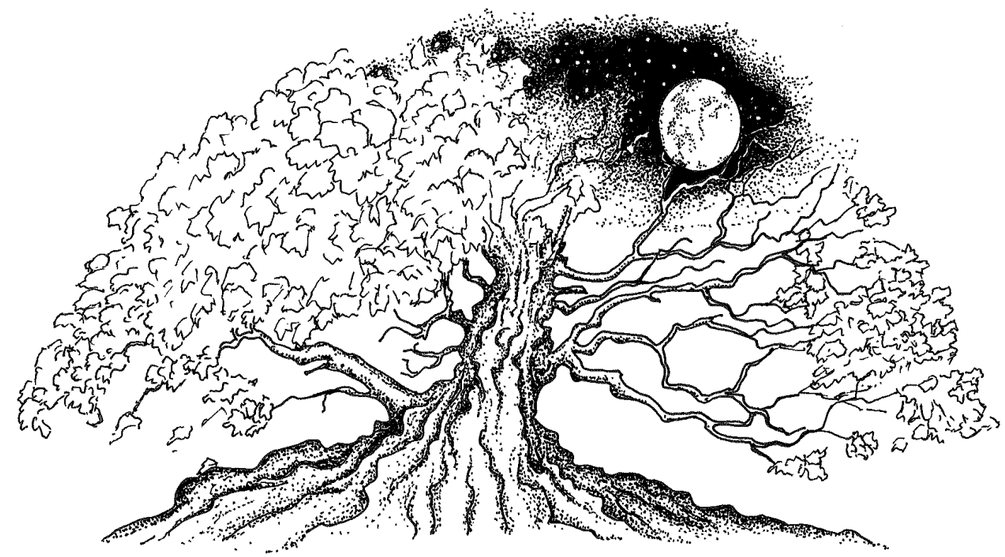
Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Attendance: 43

Helping Hands Immediate Needs:
Canned spaghetti sauces and boxed cereals.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road P. O. Box 9681 Columbus, MS 39705 (662) 328-5992
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
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

"Look Who Can't See Now"

4th Sunday in Lent
Reverend Buren Blankenship
March 15, 2026