



# The People of First Presbyterian Church

## OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour  
 Prelude "Where He Leads Me" Norris arr. Berry  
 Welcome and Announcements  
 Choral Call to Worship "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" Suo Gan  
 Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Call to Worship  
 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
**Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**  
 Know that the Lord is God.  
**It is he that made us, and we are his;**  
 we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.**  
 Let us worship God!

+Opening Hymn # 410 "God Is Calling through the Whisper" W Żłobie Leży

Prayer of Confession  
**Good Shepherd, we like sheep are prone to stray. We are tempted to wander down dangerous paths thinking we know better than the shepherd. We are drawn to follow other leaders in search of an easier way or instant gratification. We convince ourselves that we can care for ourselves and do not need a shepherd at all. Forgive us, Holy God. Call us by name and draw us back to you. May we hear your voice clearly, know it, trust it, and follow it wherever you lead. These things we ask humbly in the name of the Risen Christ, Amen. *Moment for Silent Meditation.***

Congregational Prayer Response: **Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!** (From Hymn # 243)

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Bradbury arr. Hopson

## THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination  
 The Word of God Psalm 23 (pp. 474-475)  
 John 10:1-10 (p. 97)

Children's Message 2 Cents A Meal Melissa McDuffie

Sermon "Our Gatekeeper" 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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 # 213 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" Rathbun  
 (Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5)

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 "Quiet Thoughts" Boesiger

+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 # 542 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" God Be With You

+Closing Prayer

+Postlude "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" Sullivan

## Praise Reports

Baby Boys Wes & Benny Ault are both at home. Continued Prayers for this precious little family.

## Prayer Concerns

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

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

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

**Noah Russell Nagy**  
*Continued Prayers*

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

**Toni Oakes**  
*Prayer Requests*

**Hilda Nance**  
*Hillary Richardson's Aunt*  
*Recovery from stroke*

**Harolyn Jones**  
*Recovery from fall (broken knee)*

**Colby Huffman**  
*(Friend of Halli Powers)*

**Baby Boys Wes & Benny Ault**  
*Continued Prayers*

**Wayne Bruchey**  
*Health Concerns*

**Jean Bowen (95)**  
*(The Bowen Children's Grandmother)*  
*Recovery from fall*

**Stephanie Pllum**  
*(Paul & Sandra Mims Daughter)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Jennifer Mearkle & Family**  
*On the loss of her Step-Father*  
*Hines Bostwick*

**The Lane Family**  
*On the loss of Dr. James Lane*  
*(Friend of Marthalie Porter*  
*and mentor to Allee Kate Weathers)*

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

+ 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

#### 4th Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Melissa McDuffie

2 Cents A Meal Offering

Fellowship Meal

Shepherding Group 2

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Prayer Group

1:30 p.m.

"The Wounded Healer"

by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Book Study led by Pam Rhea

### Thursday

5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

### Next Sunday

#### 5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m.

Admin./Finance Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea

12:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

## Session

Dr. Tom Richardson, Moderator, Pro-Tem

Hope DeVenney, Clerk of Session

### Class of 2026

Maridith Geuder-1

Tori Pumphrey-4

Lezli Waits-4

Steve Wilkes-2

### Class of 2027

Fran Brown-1

Marthalie Porter-1

Steve Porter-2

Susan Smith-2

### Class of 2028

Hope DeVenney-4

Tom Hatcher-2

Anna Jones-4

Tom Richardson-3

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

## Diaconate

### Class of 2026

Hope Oakes-3

Eric Waits-4

Sue Hatcher-2

### Class of 2027

Lee Hackett-1

Mary Nelson-1

### Class of 2028

Roger Burlingame-2

Holly Longton-3

Jennifer Mearkle-2

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Attendance: 50**

### Helping Hands Immediate Needs:

Boxed cereals and canned vegetables (not corn or green beans).

### First Presbyterian Church

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

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Church Administrator: Tracie Hanson (662) 328-5992

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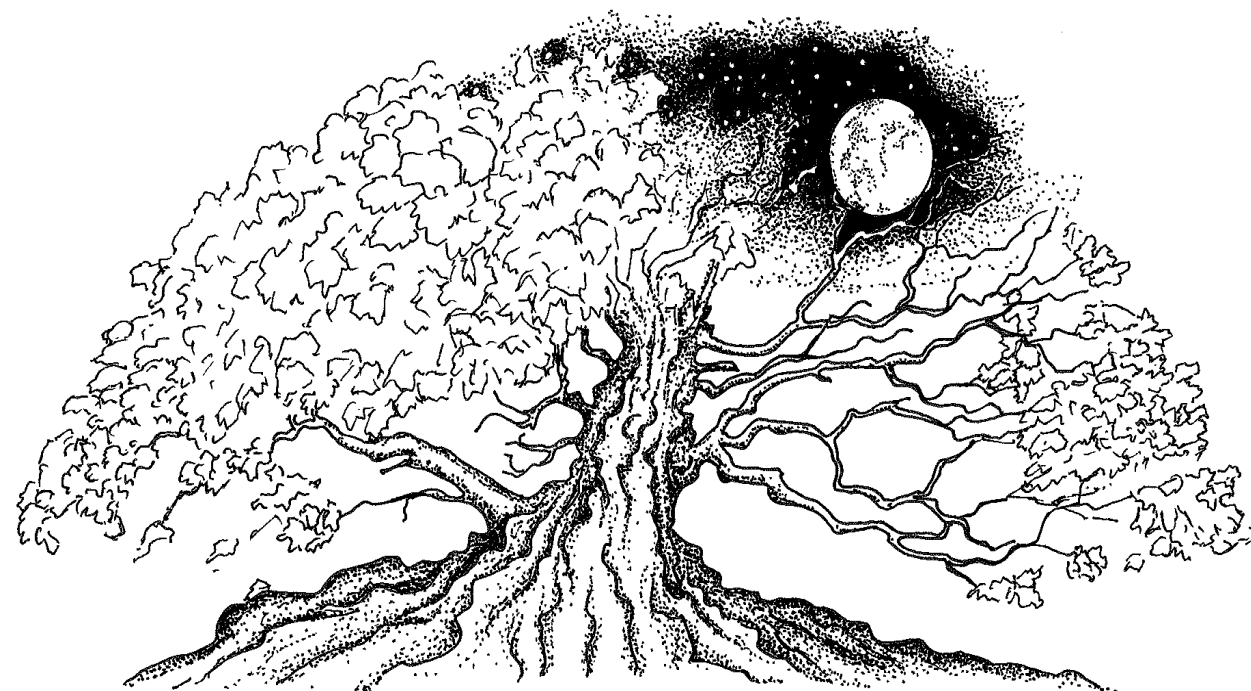
Director of Music: Alexander Nowell

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

“Our Gatekeeper”  
4th Sunday of Easter  
Melissa McDuffie  
April 26, 2026

