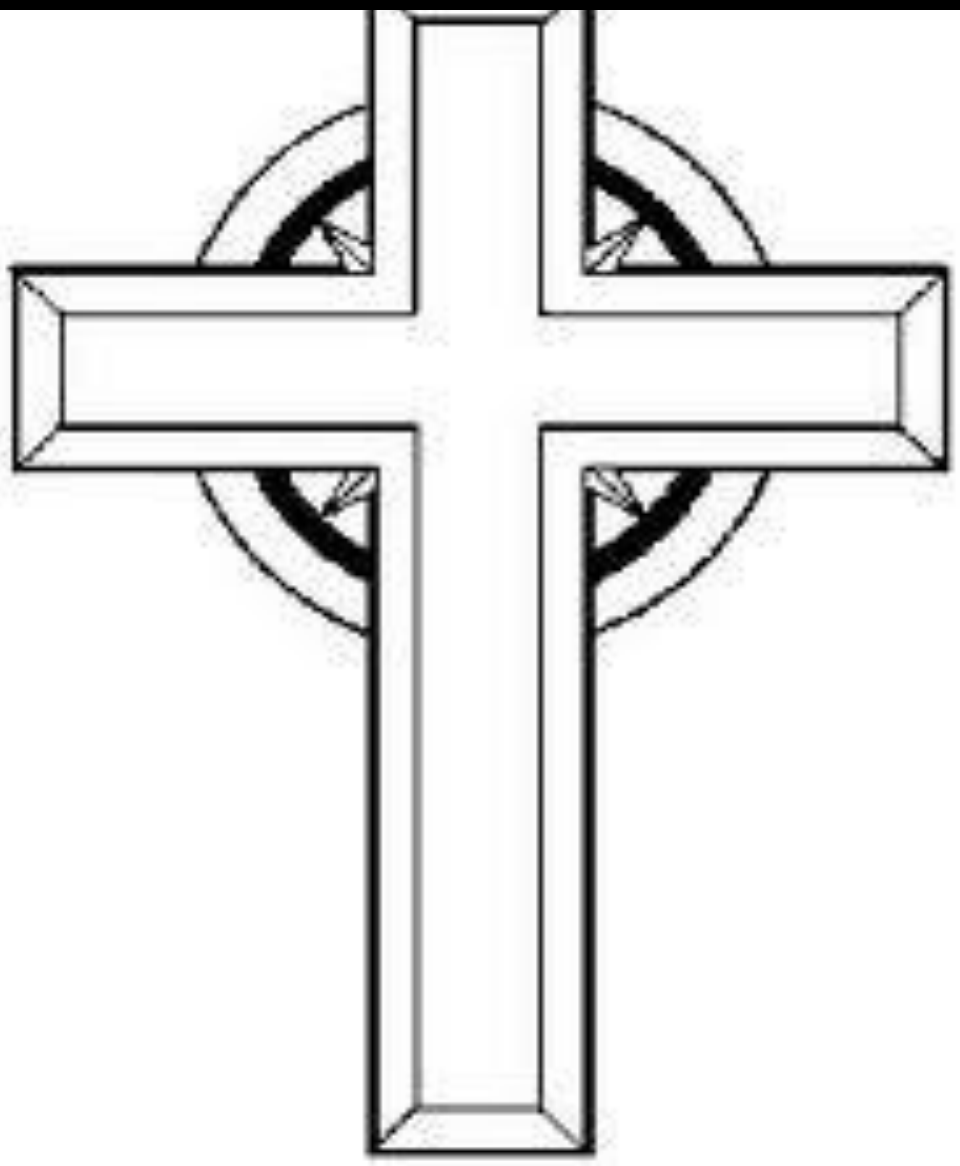
A Publication of First Presbyterian Church• Columbus, Mississippi

The First Word



November 2026

November 1
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Semicontinuous:
Josh. 3:7-17
and Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37;
Complementary:
Mic. 3:5-12 and
Ps. 43;
1 Thess. 2:9-13
Matt. 23:1-12
All Saints' Day:
Rev. 7:9-17 and
Ps. 34:1-10, 22;
1 John 3:1-3;
Matt. 5:1-12

November 8
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Semicontinuous:
Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25 and
Ps. 78:1-7;
Complementary:
Amos 5:18-24 and
Ps. 70;
1 Thess. 4:13-18;
Matt. 25:1-13

November 15
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Semicontinuous:
Judg. 4:1-7 and
Ps. 123;
Complementary:
Zeph. 1:7, 12-18 and
Ps. 90:1-8 (9-12);
1 Thess. 5: 1-11;
Matt. 25: 14-30

November 22
Christ the King/Reign of Christ
Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24 and
Ps. 100 or Ps. 95:1-7a;
Eph. 1:15-23;
Matt. 25:31-46

November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
Isa. 64:1-9 and
Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Cor. 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

First Word Reflection
All Saints' Day
A Reflection from November 2022, written by BJ Chain.

This month we have All Saints' Day, when we remember the saints in our lives that have gone before us. Along with the memorial, it is a day for self-reflection. The self-reflection is partly to help us focus on the present. Jesus taught often to focus on today since tomorrow has its own challenges. To remain present has become increasingly difficult as anxieties about the future seem to increase with each passing year.

It is in times such as these that we are reminded of what is important in life. Life on earth is challenged by many unknowns and by the known fact of our unknown deaths. Still, even in its finitude, life is precious. Even God eternal mourns for illness and death despite knowing it is not the end.

In the John 11 story of Lazarus, we have the last sign in the Gospel of John. The first half of the Gospel of John is referred to as the Book of Signs. These signs are meant to reveal more and more about who God is and who Jesus is. In addition, these signs also cause issues with Jesus's opponents. What we need to know now is that Jesus has narrowly avoided being stoned twice before this story. Everyone in this passage is confronted with the realities of life and death. Even the disciples know the dangers of returning with Jesus to Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrives, he is met with anger and sadness, both his own and the crowd's. Amid all this, Jesus weeps for Lazarus despite his certainty that he would see his friend again. Today, Jesus weeps for all our friends and family, as we do, despite our assurance in the resurrection. We will see our friends again, and we won't soon forget them. We remember them and love them despite their physical absence.

We are uncertain of many things, especially now. But we are certain we have a God of compassion and vulnerability who knows our suffering better than we do. We have a God who died for us that, even though we may experience it, death no longer grips us in the way it once did. In continuing to remember and to love these saints, they still teach us how to go on living. In this, they are still very much alive.

I'll leave you with the words of William Penn. William Penn wrote at the death of a beloved member of his family, "Those who love beyond this world are never separated." Then he added, "Death cannot kill what never dies."

Blessings,
BJ



November Birthdays

Martha Jo Mims	November 2
Holly Longton	November 3
Cole Monroe Conway	November 15
Lezli Waits	November 15
Jonathan Enriquez	November 17
Colin Krieger	November 18
Tiffany Caldwell	November 19
Tom Porter	November 19
Cathy Young	November 19
Laurie Hatcher	November 30

November Pulpit Supply

November 1, 2026 – Rev. Buren Blankenship

November 8, 2026 – Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea

November 15, 2026 – Rev. Chip Hatcher

November 22, 2026 – David Mills

November 29, 2026 – Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea

MS Food Network
Stokes Beard Elementary
Delivery Schedule:

Thursday, November 5th~Tom & Emma Richardson
Thursday, November 12th~Volunteer Needed
Thursday, November 19th~Lee Hackett
Thursday, November 26th~No Delivery

Please show your support by signing up today.
The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.









"Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Thank you to
our faithful children's
message volunteers.
You are a blessing.

Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.







JOIN A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY

Nursery Care
9:45 a.m – 12:00 p.m.
Nursery Care is available in the Education Building for ages birth to kindergarten.

Children's Sunday School
Grades 1 & 2 – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Grades 3 & up – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School children will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.
Children's Message – During Worship
Children's Lesson – Ages 4 – Kindergarten
Please pick up children in a timely manner after the service.

Adult Sunday School – Tom Richardson
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
The Agape Sunday School class (Tom Richardson, teacher) has begun a study of the gospel of Matthew. Matthew is the gospel for this year in the lectionary readings. We are following the gospel lectionary readings each week, but we are also looking at background texts to help understand each Sunday's selection. The lectionary readings can be found in First Word or at pcusa.org under the "Worship with Us" tab. The class meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the parlor of the education building.

Prayer Group
Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.
The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday in the Parlor.
All are welcome to join us.

Join us for Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Parlor

3200 Bluecutt Road

Columbus, MS

All are welcome!

For information regarding the weekly FPC Prayer Group, please contact Cathy Young at 662-386-5750.

JOIN US FOR



Faith, Food, and
Fellowship

Saturday, November 7th
8:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705

Presbyterian Women
You're Invited

Join us as we continue our
United Through Christ,
Bound to Each Other:
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians
Horizons Bible Study

Sunday,
November 8th
3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705

lowndes county
LOAVES & FISHES
more than just a meal

First Presbyterian Church

"Come up The Hill to worship; go down The Hill to serve."

First Presbyterian Church will be serving Loaves & Fishes Friday, November 20, 2026

Volunteers are needed. Show your support by signing up today!

An opportunity to serve people with food insecurity in our community—
and an opportunity for fellowship and joy as we unite to do this important work.




















November
Fellowship Lunch
Join us
Sunday, November 22nd
Following worship
Shepherding Group 1
will provide fried chicken.
Please bring your favorite
side or dessert to share.

Christmas Adopt-A-Family

WE ARE COLLECTING MONETARY DONATIONS NOW THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH.

OUR FAMILY IS A SINGLE MOTHER OF FOUR AND A GRANDMOTHER OF THREE. SHE IS TAKING CARE OF ALL SEVEN CHILDREN ON HER SINGLE INCOME. THE FATHERS OF THE CHILDREN ARE NOT IN THE PICTURE, ONE IS DECEASED AND ONE IS IMPRISONED.

WE HOPE TO GIVE THIS LOCAL FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR LEAVE IT IN THE OFFICE.



Fresh Start Village “Tiny Homes”

October 29th was a joyful day for First Presbyterian Church! Representing the congregation, Hope DeVenney, Pam Sullivan, and Tom and Emma Richardson delivered "Starter Pack" boxes filled with dish ware, glasses, mugs, cutlery, and other kitchen essentials to the ten "tiny homes" in The Fresh Start Village on Airline Road in Columbus.

Sandra DePriest, Project Coordinator for The Village, met them and briefed them on progress toward occupancy of the homes, anticipated for early December. She also told them about the Open House at The Village on December 1, 2026, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., to which the public is invited.

Our commitment to providing (and eventually to resupplying) the Starter Packs was initiated in April 2023 and marked the first "Matthew 25" project of our congregation, a project embraced with enthusiasm. In fact, the boxes were filled by late summer of 2023, and until last Thursday they were stored beneath the wooden Cross in the "Christian Chaos" room in the educational building, all in readiness for delivery.

Residents of The Fresh Start Village will live in the tiny homes for three to six months while they prepare for employment and independent living. We are inviting residents to take the contents of the Starter Packs with them as they move to more permanent housing--our gift to them through the grace of Christ to us.















SCOTTISH HERITAGE SUNDAY
KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN
OCTOBER 18, 2026















PCDP had a little

POTION COMMOTION

in the Kinder-Prep class.

We had so much fun making potions and mixing colors.
















PCDP

CW Farms Mobile Fall Festival

October 29, 2026




































What a Blessing this year has been!

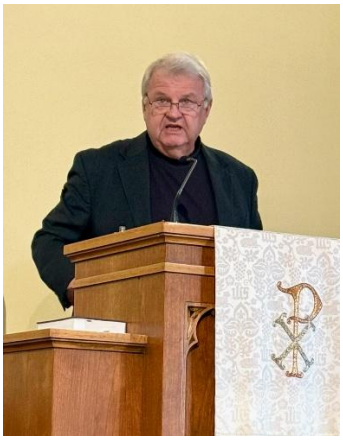
















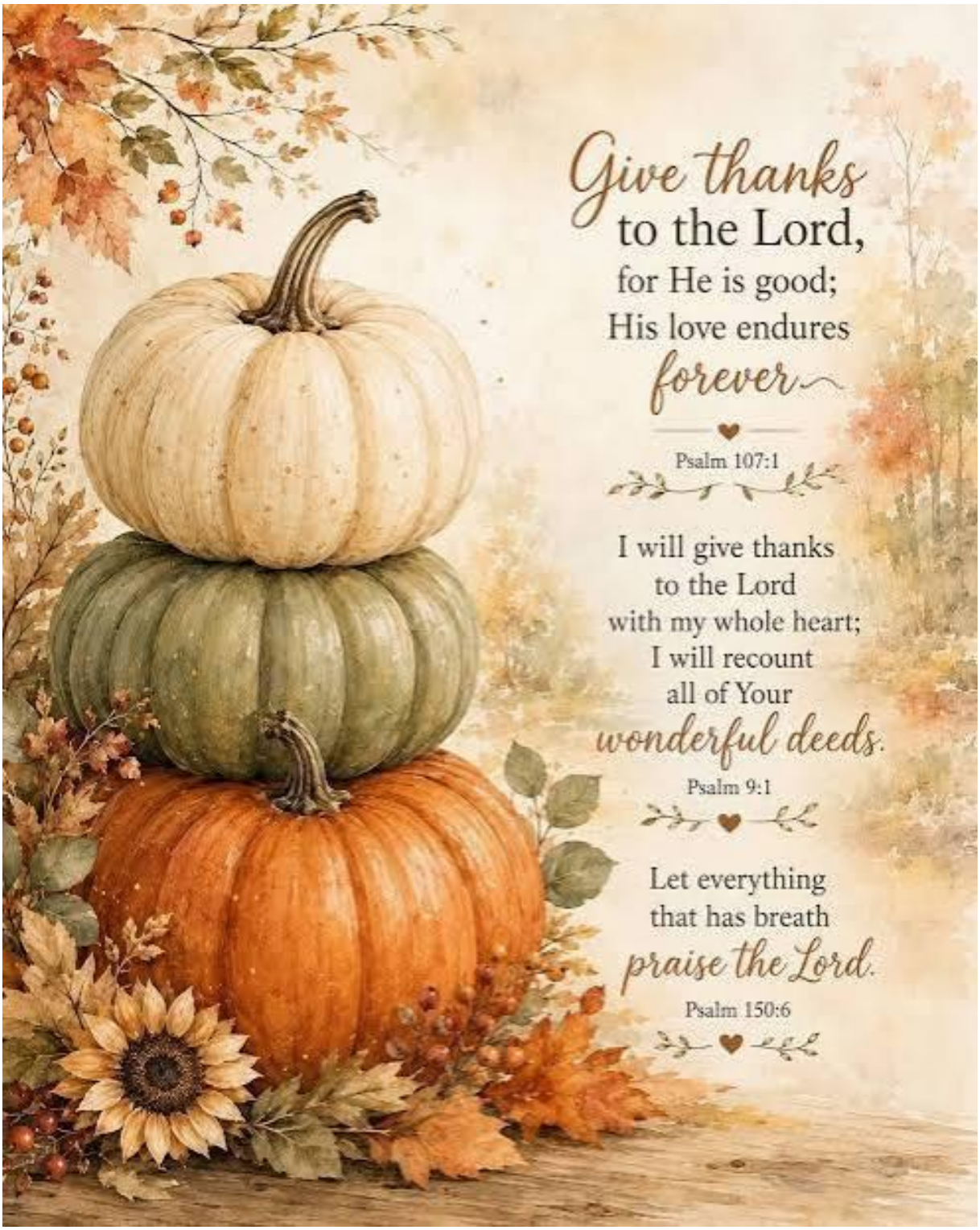




Looking forward to new beginnings!



Pictured: Hope DeVenney, Anna Jones, Thomas Richardson, Tom Richardson, Lezli Waits, Jo Shumake, Melissa McDuffie, and Hope Oakes


Give thanks
to the Lord,
for He is good;
His love endures
forever
Psalm 107:1
I will give thanks
to the Lord
with my whole heart;
I will recount
all of Your
wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9:1
Let everything
that has breath
praise the Lord.
Psalm 150:6