



# The People of First Presbyterian Church

## OUR GATHERING

|                                |                                       |           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| The Chiming of the Hour        |                                       |           |
| Prelude                        | “Dona Nobis Pacem”                    | Rodriguez |
| Welcome and Announcements      |                                       |           |
| Choral Call to Worship         | “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” | Truro     |
| Prayer of Praise and Adoration |                                       |           |

Call to Worship  
Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.  
**Seek God in the sanctuary.**  
Seek God in the burning bush.  
**Seek God in the burning heart.**  
The Lord is here! This place is holy!  
**We are standing on holy ground.**

|                   |                                                          |     |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| +Opening Hymn #14 | “For the Beauty of the Earth”<br>(Verses 1, 2, 4, and 5) | Dix |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|

Prayer of Confession  
**God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**  
*Moment for Silent Meditation.*

Congregational Prayer Response: **“Hear, O Lord, my plea for justice; listen to my heartfelt prayer. In your just deliberation may I find redemption there.”** (From Hymn # 211)

Assurance of Pardon

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| Anthem | “Lift Up Your Heads” |
|--------|----------------------|

## THE WORD

|                         |                                                             |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Prayer for Illumination |                                                             |                   |
| The Word of God         | Jeremiah 15:15-21 (pp. 674-675)<br>Matthew 16:21-28 (p. 17) |                   |
| Children’s Message      | 2 Cents A Meal                                              | Thomas Richardson |
| Sermon                  | “The Peter Paradox”                                         | Thomas Richardson |

+Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)  
**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God’s dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.**

+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 # 310 | “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”<br>(Verses 1, 4, and 5) | St. Thomas |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|

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 | “Love Divine, All Love Excelling” | Johnson |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------|

+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 # 372 | “O for a World”<br>(Verses 1, 2, and 5) | Azmon |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------|

+Blessing and Benediction

|           |                      |          |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|
| +Postlude | “All Praise to Thee” | Williams |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|

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

## Praise Reports

Hilltop Praises!

## 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*

**Wayne Bruchey**  
*Health Concerns*

**Rowland Jennings**  
*Health Concerns*

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

**Alice Harris**  
*(Friend of the Gaskin Family)*  
*Cancer Diagnosis*

**Gaines Gaskin**  
*Recovery from broken shoulder*

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

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

**Ralph Null**  
*Health Concerns*

**Cecil Vaughn**  
*(Friend of the Gaskin Family)*  
*Health Concerns*

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

**Clear Moore**  
*Surgery Recovery*

**Scott Starkweather**  
*Recovery from fall*

THE CHURCH AT WORK

We welcome you to  
First Presbyterian Church!

A Nursery is available in the  
Education Building for the youngest  
worshippers (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  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.  
Sunday School

11:00 a.m.  
Worship  
2 Cents A Meal  
Thomas Richardson

Following Worship...  
Fellowship Meal  
(Shepherding Group 2)  
Rally Day/Cake Walk  
(Christian Education)

Wednesday  
12:30 p.m.  
Prayer Group  
  
5:00 p.m.  
Worship & Music Meeting

Thursday  
5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

Saturday  
8:00 a.m.  
Men's Prayer Breakfast

Next Sunday  
15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

| <u>Class of 2026</u> | <u>Class of 2027</u> | <u>Class of 2028</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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-1       | Susan Smith-2        | Tom Richardson-3     |

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group.

Diaconate

| <u>Class of 2026</u> | <u>Class of 2027</u> | <u>Class of 2028</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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, August 23, 2026 - Attendance: 62

Helping Hands Immediate Needs:  
Canned Chef Boyardee and boxed cereals.

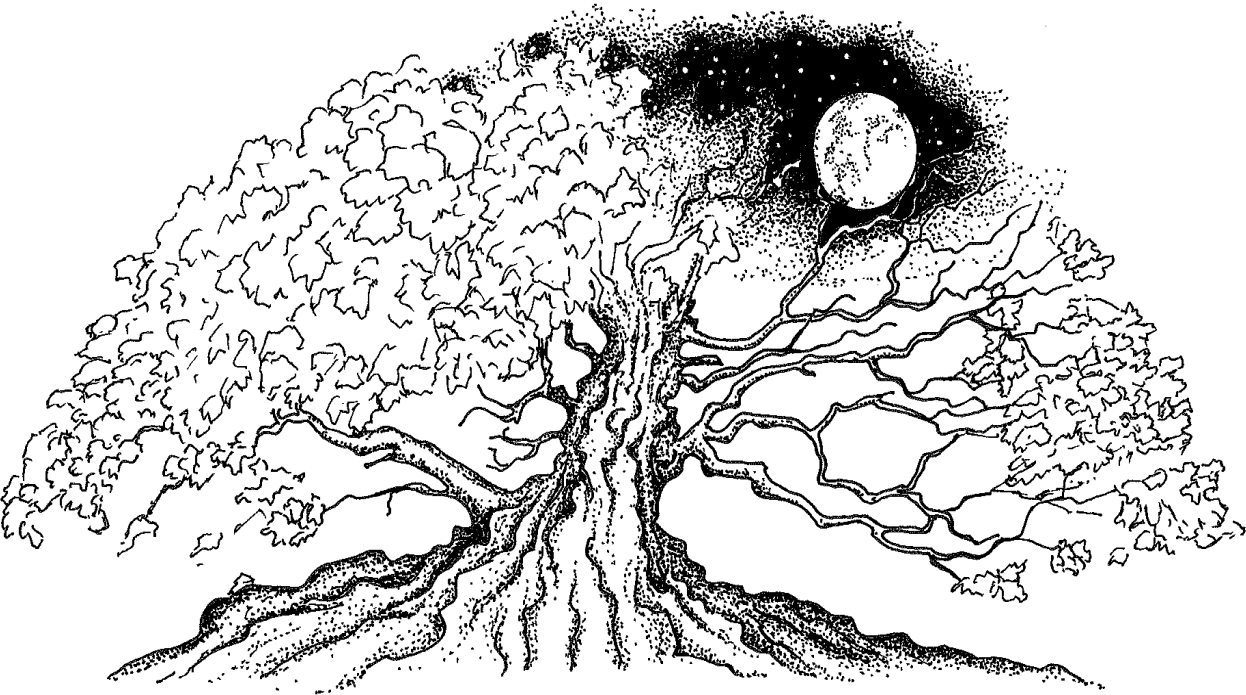
Helping Hands Fan Drive:

Helping Hands is accepting new fans through the summer months.  
If you would like to donate a fan, please drop it off in the Education  
Building. You may also make a monetary donation, please reference:  
Helping Hands Fan Drive and drop in the offering plate on Sunday.

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

“The Peter Paradox”  
14th Sunday after Pentecost  
Thomas Richardson  
August 30, 2026

