



First Presbyterian Church  
*Energized by Grace*

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

10:00 AM

# A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## Lectionary Texts:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

*This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.*

*We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.*

† Indicates all who are able may stand.



## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Prelude on St. Denio*

arr. Robert Lau

### SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*You hear the cries of your people for justice and mercy; you answer our prayers with the gift of your Son, who bears our burdens and sets us free. Speak your truth to us; purge and refine us; that we may love and serve you alone. Amen.*

### CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

### WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

CHORAL PRELUDE — *I Got Me Flowers*

Daniel Burton

I got me flowers to strew thy way;  
I got me boughs off many a tree:  
But thou wast up by break of day,  
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,  
Though he give light, and the East perfume;  
If they should offer to contest  
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,  
Though many suns to shine endeavour?  
We count three hundred, but we miss:  
There is but one, and that one ever.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 113

Who is like the Lord our God,  
high above the heavens in glory?  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**  
Who raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts up the needy from the ashes?  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**  
Who makes light shine in darkness,  
gives joy in sorrow,  
and brings life out of death?  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

† CALL TO CONFESSION

Lindsay Hall

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Luke 16; Psalm 79:9

**Gracious God, you know our sin: We have squandered the gifts you have given us. We have failed to forgive our debtors as you have forgiven us. We have been unfaithful and dishonest in both small and great things. We are shrewd in seeking wealth and foolish in following your way. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake. Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given and generous in forgiving others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† KYRIE ELEISON



† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news;  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal, 581

**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. Amen.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jason Bouldin

*At this time, all children (pre-K 4 through third grade) are invited to leave the service to attend "Children's Time."  
Children can be picked up on the second floor of the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING: Psalm 113

p. 692

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION — *Elegy*

George Thalben-Ball

EPISTLE READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

p. 254

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON — "Prayer and Public Life"

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† 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 quick 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.**

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *Scherzetto in C Major*

Florence Price

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

† DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

† OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

## GO AND WITNESS IN GOD'S NAME

† HYMN 346 — For the Healing of the Nations

ST. THOMAS

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER



† POSTLUDE — *Postlude on St. Denio*

arr. Robert Lau

# WELCOME!

**First Presbyterian Church** warmly invites visitors to become a member of our family of faith. You may do so in one of the following ways:

- By Profession of Faith - The act of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and sincerely promising to live for Him. Previous baptism is accounted as valid, or the Sacrament of Baptism may be administered at the time of profession.
- By Transfer of Membership - Request our minister to contact your former church for a letter of transfer, where applicable.
- By Reaffirmation of Faith - If you have been inactive or separated from the church for some time or wish to rededicate yourself, you may be received by reaffirmation of faith.

**New Member Classes** will be held after worship on October 12. These classes will inform new members everything FPC has to offer. **New Member Sundays** will be on October 19, where the new members will be welcomed to our membership roll during the 11:00 worship service. If you have any questions, please contact the church office for more information.

**Parents of nursery aged children** please note: a nursery is provided from **8:45 am - 11:15 pm** for the following ages: Infants (0-1 years), Babies (1-3 years), Preschool (3-4 years). The nursery and pre-school rooms are located in the Education Building, first floor.

**The FPC prayer chain** is ready if you or someone you know is in need. Please contact Carlisle Wood at carlislewood@gmail.com or 662-832-8606. All requests are held in strict confidence.

**The church has two portable defibrillators** on site if a cardiac event occurs. One is located in our office hallway by the east stairwell; the other is located in the Fellowship Hall.

**Office Hours** are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

**Tithes and Offerings:** Thank you for prayerfully supporting the missions and ministries of FPC! Every gift is greatly appreciated. Here are some ways to give:

- Completing the pledge card in the friendship register found in your pew
- Online by choosing the tab titled "Giving" at the top of the church website  
(<https://fpcoxford.net/giving/>)
- Enrolling in direct deposit of withdrawal by contacting the church office.
- Scanning the QR Code provided here. Credit Card fees apply.
- Mailing gifts directly to the church office at 924 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS 38655

If you need assistance with any specific ways to give, please contact Frances Saralvarez at fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com, or call the church office.



## TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	Rev. Barrett C. Milner	
<i>Liturgist</i>	Lindsay Hall	
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton R. Holder	
<i>Ushers</i>	Brent Hardin	Laura Scott
	Nina Patrick	Catherine Servati

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 21

9:00 am Sunday School\*  
10:00 am Worship Service\*  
5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

## Monday, September 22

6:30 pm Troop 45

## Tuesday, September 23

6:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bim Bam  
10:00 am Grief Support Group  
6:00 pm VIP Gathering at  
Tina & Tony Montgomery's Home

## Wednesday, September 24

10:00 am Fall Bible Study  
12:00 pm Property Ministry Meeting  
5:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 pm UKirk

## Sunday, September 28

9:00 am Worship at Oxford First United  
Methodist Church  
9:00 am Sunday School\*  
10:00 am Worship Service\*  
5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

*\*Nursery Provided*

**Are you interested in learning more? Do you have ideas to share?  
Your church staff, Diaconate, and ministry team leaders would love to hear from you!**

## SESSION

*Adult Faith Formation* - Carole Haney (2025)  
& Irma Buchanan (2026)  
*Children & Youth Faith Formation* - Brynne Quick (2026)  
& Corey Mauldin (2027)  
*Clerk of Session* - Catherine Servati (2026)  
*Finance* - Brent Hardin (2025) & Richard DeVoe (2027)  
*Membership & Hospitality* - Angela Manley (2025)  
& Matt Nielson (2026)  
*Mission* - Laura Montgomery (2026)  
*Personnel* - Melissa Hall (2025) & Al Ling (2027)  
*Property* - Bo Elliott (2025) & Hank Spragins (2027)  
*Worship* - Whitney Bolen (2027)

## DIACONATE

*Class of 2025:* Teresa Flautt, Scotty Jimenez,  
David McPhail, Laura Scott, Laura Whitten  
  
*Class of 2026:* Stefanie Goodwillier, Marty Mauldin,  
Brad Mayo, Kathy Neff, Nina Patrick  
  
*Class of 2027:* Todd Abbott, Heather Harris,  
Caroline McIntosh, Monte Ochs, Dee Walker

# CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	Ministers	Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i> ..... bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Creighton R. Holder	<i>Director of Music</i> ..... cholderfpc@gmail.com	4
Dave Garvey	<i>Director of Faith Formation for</i>	
	<i>Children &amp; Youth</i> .....dgarveyfpc@gmail.com	9
Frances Saralvarez	<i>Office Administrator</i> .....fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com	6
Kate Hill	<i>Communications Director</i> .....kohillfpc@gmail.com	7
Wade Simpson	<i>Property Manager</i> .....wsimpson13@yahoo.com	
Wendy Brady	<i>Nursery Director</i> .....wendybbrady@gmail.com	

# THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

**Game Day Parking:** CYFF will be selling parking lot spots for the Ole Miss vs LSU game! The spots will be \$50 and sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Season passes are also available for \$400. All proceeds go toward sending our youth to camps next summer! Check Fast Facts for more information.

**VIPs:** We will kick off a new season at the home of Tina and Tony Montgomery. It will be on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:00. It will be casual. You will only need to bring your beverage...appetizers will be provided. Please encourage all FPC seniors to join us. Sign up with Kate in the office so we'll be prepared for all.

**Combined Worship:** Our friends at Oxford First United Methodist Church (formerly Burns United Methodist Church) have invited members of FPC to worship with them on Sunday, September 28 at 9:00, 102 Dylan Avenue. The FPC church bus will be available at 8:15 to provide transportation for anyone needing a ride. In these shared worship experiences we will celebrate our unique differences as well as the ties that unite us as sisters and brothers in Christ. Come and join the joyful celebration!

**Mission Opportunities:** FPC seeks to serve "the least of these." See Fast Facts or call the church office for more details on the following outreaches as well as other opportunities.

- Got a favorite dessert you would like to share? FPC continues to host the Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner the second Tuesday of each month. Prepare your sweet treat and drop it off at the fellowship hall. See Fast Facts for details and to sign up.
- **Lovepacks** is an in-school pantry that provides food for children in the Oxford and Lafayette County schools who experience hunger in their homes. For the month of September, squeezable applesauce pouches are requested.
- FPC is organizing a mission trip to Rolling Fork, MS, **October 22-25**, to assist in the reconstruction of homes destroyed by the tornado there in 2023. No carpentry skills are required, thereby making all able-bodied adults eligible to volunteer! See Fast Fact for details.
- Need assistance with light home repairs or maintenance? **In Good Order** is a group of FPC volunteers available to assist you. Contact the church office.

**Sanctuary Floral Arrangements** dates are available September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Kate at the church office, 662-234-1757, or kohillfpc@gmail.com. Contributions to the flower fund are greatly appreciated. If you want a particular date to provide flowers on a Sunday morning, please reserve that date in advance.

**Sunday Parking:** Our on-site parking for Sunday worship and programming is limited, so we wish to reserve parking access for those with mobility limitations, health conditions, or other challenges. We thank you for your compassion and understanding, and we look forward to making our Sunday morning worship experience as welcoming and comfortable as possible for all who wish to participate.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**FPC Members:** Katie Ochs; The Family of Pat Atkinson; Kay Tyler; Duke Goza; The Family of Corrine Cullen; The Family of Marjorie Selvidge; Keith Hayward; Tommy Smith; The Family of Randy Bolen; The Family and Friends of Margaret Buntin Burnett; Syd Shaw; Becky Murphey; Ann Dickins; Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Scottye Boone; Leon McCullouch

**Family and Friends:** The Family of Lisa Luckett; The Family of Lynda Grimes Ferris; Marshall Roberson; Lynessa Erler; The Family of Rev. Sam Marshall; The Family of Helen Dupree Brandon; Richard Bremer; Family of Elijah Crump; Helen Luckett; The Family of Bob Flautt; Minor Atkinson; Melissa Cribbs; Sarah & Brian LaPrade; Mike Flautt; Steve Mistilis; Sigrid Long; Eileen Cheney and Family; Thomas Hines; Olivia Flautt; Dr. Gladys Memnon and Friends in Bongnotte, Haiti; Doors of Hope Families; Lafayette County Detention Center inmates; Parchman Prison inmates; Haven House residents

**U. S. Military:** SSgt Jason Freeland, USAF 17th Special Tactics Squadron

*Please pray, too, for those with unspecified needs.*

*If you wish to have a name removed or added to this list, please contact the church office.*

## MUSIC NOTES

*Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.*  
Psalm 113: 2-3

Identifying the purpose of music is difficult because there is no singular answer. Music is praise, proclamation, cultural identity, education, therapy, ritual, and entertainment. The list goes on and on, but at its heart, music is meant to express, providing a space for us to process and affirm feelings that run deeper than words. The news has been filled with an increasing amount of heartbreak, and our society seems consistently on the precipice of instability. It's difficult for me to express just how I feel; I imagine you feel much the same. My hope is that today's musical meditations will guide us to the peace that God offers and help us to clearly see how we might answer the call to care for a troubled world.

As we gather and leave worship, we will hear Robert Lau's prelude and postlude on the hymn tune ST. DENIO (*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*). The prelude experiments with lovely harmonies over a solo voice in the melody, while the pedal plays a continuous pedal point that never changes. The pedal creates a foundation for the reflective prelude, while the postlude contrasts with much movement and full organ.

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

The prelude is a beautiful setting of the George Herbert text *I Got Me Flowers* by Daniel Burton. (See the text inside the bulletin.) Burton employs text painting in this work. When the lower voices sing of the "sun arising" the upper voices sing a descant of "Alleluia." The final verse begins with a question, and the voices soar gloriously up to "that one ever."

Herbert's account of the resurrection is intimate and stirring. Written around 1633, it stands in contrast with other poetic themes of the period that call a sleeping loved one to awake and make the most of the days that they have left, for life is short and there is much to do. Rather than finding a slumbering friend, the reader finds Christ already risen at "break of day." The final stanza collapses calendar time; even though we count "three hundred" days (i.e., a fleeting year), there is ultimately only one true day—Easter—because Christ's rising inaugurates everlasting life. We are Easter people, and each time we gather, we bear witness to the Resurrection.

George Thalben-Ball's *Elegy* was not initially written for publication. During World War II, Thalben-Ball improvised a quiet, reflective organ solo as the voluntary after a broadcast Evensong service at the Temple Church. The BBC producer requested that he play it again the next week, and its popularity grew from there. An "elegy" is a work of art created as a lament or meditation on loss, death, or profound sorrow. This enduring musical emblem of remembrance and hope is appropriate for such a time as this.

A "scherzetto" is a shortened "scherzo"—a lively, playful piece. Florence Price's music always brings me joy, and this work demonstrates how sprightly, animated character pieces can be used for worshipful praise.

We sing the response, "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" frequently throughout the year. Consider its text closely today as we pray for God to move our voices and choices to acts of justice and love.