

First Presbyterian Church  
*Energized by Grace*

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

10:00 AM

# A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

*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 — *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

### SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people in the world. We are ready, God, to hear your word; speak to us, God, and give us courage to do your will. With all our doubts and fears and shortcomings, we have decided to follow Jesus in our time and place. Guide us by your loving Spirit. Amen.*

### CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

### WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

CHORAL PRELUDE — *Be Still*

Karen Marroli

Be still and know that I am God; let peace embrace your heart.

Be still and know that I am God; let fear and anguish now depart.

Though the earthquakes rage, though the tempests roll, though the storms conspire to destroy,

Be still and know that I am God; the earth shall rise again in joy.

Be still and know that I am God; let tranquil hope fill your mind.

Be still and know that I am God; let grief and trouble be left behind.

Though the shadows fall, though the darkness cries, though the night seems endless and dire,

Be still and know that I am God; the morn shall rise in holy fire.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 5:13-16

To disciples, then and now, Jesus has said,

“You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before all...”

**We have come together to be community, to receive light, and to be light.**

**To this end we dedicate ourselves.**

We have come together to be windows through which,  
instructed and illuminated by God, we might see the world more clearly.

**We have come to be windows through which the world might know the light and love of God.**

**To this end we will praise and magnify God.**

Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, lift our hearts,  
lift our voices in the worship of our loving God.

† HYMN 475 — Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

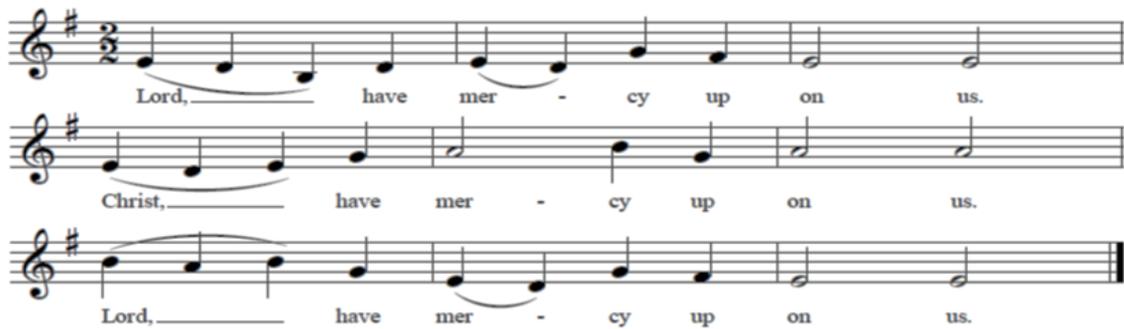
NETTLETON

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You are our light, O God. In your presence, our lives are illumined; our way becomes clearer. Our own light comes from you. Yet we confess to you that we often hide our light under a bushel. Not trusting our perceptions, we do not share our truth with others. Not trusting our abilities, we do not risk sharing our gifts in community. Not trusting our skills in relationship, we do not reach out in friendship; we do not raise issues which should be raised; we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust in you where we cannot trust ourselves. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to reveal your light to the world. 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

Dave Garvey

*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 112:1-9

p. 692

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

MEDITATION — *Far Afield*

Florence Price

GOSPEL READING — Matthew 5:13-20

p. 5

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

SERMON

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

**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 — *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*

George Walker

## 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 314 — Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

† BENEDICTION

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

GREEN TYLER



God.be the love to search and keep me: God be the prayer to move my voice:



God.be the strength to now up-hold me: O Christ.sur-round me: O Christ.sur-round me.

† POSTLUDE — *Festive Piece on Nettleton*

arr. Eurydice V. Osterman

# 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.

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 ages 6 weeks to 4 years. The nursery and pre-school rooms are located in the Education Building, first floor.

**UKIRK**, our college campus ministry, meets for dinner & Bible study on Wednesdays throughout the semester, and other events throughout the year. More information is available at [linktr.ee/ukirkofolemiss](http://linktr.ee/ukirkofolemiss) or on our Instagram [@ukirkofolemiss](https://www.instagram.com/ukirkofolemiss). All college students are welcome!

**The FPC prayer chain** is ready if you or someone you know is in need. Please contact Carlisle Wood at [carlislewood@gmail.com](mailto: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 library of the Education Building.

**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](mailto:fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com), or call the church office.



## TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	Rev. Barrett C. Milner
<i>Liturgist</i>	Carrie Milner
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton R. Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Anne Doty
	Lisa Tollison
	Catherine Servati

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, February 8

9:00 am Sunday School\*  
10:00 am Worship Service\*  
4:30 pm Esther Ethridge Circle  
5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

## Monday, February 9

6:30 pm Troop 45

## Tuesday, February 10

6:00 am Men's Breakfast at Bim Bam Burgers  
5:30 pm Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner

## Wednesday, February 11

5:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 pm UKIRK College Ministry

## Saturday, February 14

10:30 am Piecemakers Quilt Guild

## Sunday, February 15

9:00 am Sunday School\*  
10:00 am Worship Service\*  
11:00 am Carroll Barr Circle  
5:30 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

# CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation  
Rev. Barrett C. Milner  
Creighton R. Holder  
Dave Garvey

Frances Saralvarez  
Kaitlin Irby  
Wade Simpson  
Wendy Brady

## *Ministers*

*Pastor*..... bmilnerfpc@gmail.com  
*Director of Music*..... cholderfpc@gmail.com  
*Director of Faith Formation for  
Children & Youth*.....dgarveyfpc@gmail.com  
*Office Administrator* .....fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com  
*Communications Director* .....kohillfpc@gmail.com  
*Property Manager*.....wsimpson13@yahoo.com  
*Nursery Director*.....wendybbrady@gmail.com

# THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our precious daughter and sister, Ann Caroline McIntosh, by her mother Caroline, and her siblings Anderson and Ella.

**The Session** has called a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, February 22, at the conclusion of 10:00 am worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve 2026 Budget, vote on Terms of Call, and elect 2026 Nominating committee. All are encouraged to attend.

**Mardi Gras Parade and Pancake Supper:** Please join us for our annual Mardi Gras Parade & Pancake Supper on February 17! We will meet out on the front lawn of FPC at 5:15 pm and parade around the Square! Come back to the Fellowship Hall afterwards for a delicious pancake treat! Don't forget your best Mardi Gras gear & decorated strollers/wagons!

**FPC Chili Cook Off:** Come one, come all, to the FPC Chili & Crock Pot Cook-off! It will take place directly after 10:00 am worship on Sunday, March 1. Bring your best pot of chili or your favorite crock pot dish, and we'll provide the fixings, drinks, and extras for the kids. Prizes awarded for the best, by popular vote.

**Wednesdays Together:** Wednesdays Together are back for the spring starting on March 4! We will meet for dinner at 5:30 pm, with programming for all ages starting at 6:00 pm. We are thrilled to welcome our very own Kristina Carlson as the leader of our upcoming program! Kristina is the co-author, along with Beth Ann Fennelly, of *Outrageous Kindness... A Mindset, A Method, A Movement*, and she will guide us through an engaging four-week study on how kindness can be practiced in everyday life—and in extraordinary moments. Stay tuned for more information!

**Empty Bowls Fundraiser:** Due to the county wide destruction from the winter storm, Empty Bowls has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 17! It will be held at 11:00 am at the Oxford Conference Center. Make sure to wear your green and come out to support your local Pantry!

**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.

- A 2026 signup is now available to serve as hosts for the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner** held in the fellowship hall the second Tuesday of each month.
- **LovePacks** ([lovepacksoxford.com](http://lovepacksoxford.com)) provides food assistance for over 250 children in the city and county schools. The food item for February is ramen noodles. Drop your donation by the church office.
- **Blessing Bags** are assembled and distributed weekly from the church office to provide meal assistance for our neighbors in need.
- On February 26 a FPC team returns to **Jagüey Grande, Cuba** to enrich our ties with fellow Presbyterians and make plans for the installation of a water purification system. Can't make the trip but would like to contribute? See Fast Facts or call the church office for a list of items our friends have requested to assist them in worship and their various outreach ministries.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**FPC Members:** The Family of Chad Russell (Jeannice Russell's son); Jane Henderson; The Family of Jim Gilbert; The Family of Mary Ann Cropp; Larry Hadenfeld; Henry Paris; The Family of Sarah Smith; The Family of Syd Shaw; Lee Borden; The Family of Max Williams; Vaughn Grisham; William Rogers; Carey Hanson; Katie Ochs; Lilly Biedenharn; 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; Becky Murphey; Ann Dickens; Scottye Boone; Leon McCullouch

**Family and Friends:** Ray Balach; Ray Poole; The Family of Dan West (Emily Freeny); Fel Macias; The Family and Friends of Alma Polk; The Family of Pam Stafford; Friends in Jaguey Grande, Cuba; Jhon Johnson; The Family of Ariadne Welch; Amy Kennedy; The Family of Craig Hayden; The Family of Pat Howard; 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 Lockett; 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:** TSgt 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

Our faith calls us to create worship spaces that reflect the beauty and diversity of God's creation. Black History Month offers congregations a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the artistry of Black musicians and to honor their enduring contributions to sacred music. This month's musical offerings feature works by prominent Black composers whose voices echo today's scripture readings and draw us more deeply into communal worship. Together, today's music centers on themes of rebirth and hope for the future.

*There Is a Balm in Gilead* is a spiritual born out of profound hope. Rooted in Jeremiah 8, the text emerges from one of the most desperate moments in Israel's history, as the people faced exile and persecution while the Babylonians prepared to desecrate their sacred spaces. The chapter closes with haunting questions: "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?" As hymn scholar C. Michael Hawn observes, the enslaved people who sang this spiritual understood its meaning not only in terms of physical suffering but also as an expression of spiritual bondage, captured in the phrase "sin-sick soul." The refrain proclaims enduring hope: *There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.* Emma Lou Diemer's arrangement embodies this promise. Though originally composed for piano solo, the work translates beautifully to the organ, preserving its gentle strength and quiet assurance.

As we and our neighbors continue to recover from the devastating winter storm, Karen Marrolli's *Be Still*, a musical setting of Psalm 46, offers a fitting beginning to worship. This tender piece invites stillness and trust, grounding our prayers for healing and restoration in God's sustaining presence.

Be still and know that I am God; let peace embrace your heart.  
Be still and know that I am God; let fear and anguish now depart.  
Though the earthquakes rage, though the tempests roll, though the storms conspire to destroy,  
Be still and know that I am God; the earth shall rise again in joy.  
Be still and know that I am God; let tranquil hope fill your mind.  
Be still and know that I am God; let grief and trouble be left behind.  
Though the shadows fall, though the darkness cries, though the night seems endless and dire,  
Be still and know that I am God; the morn shall rise in holy fire.

*Far Afield* was composed by Florence Beatrice Price (1887–1953), an acclaimed pianist, organist, composer, and teacher, and the first African American woman to have a work performed by a major orchestra. Although Price enjoyed considerable success during her lifetime, a global renaissance of her music began in 2009, when the renovation of her former summer home uncovered a remarkable collection of manuscripts, books, and personal papers long hidden away. Of her 468 surviving works, 216—nearly half—are piano compositions, including the piece heard today. This work was selected to aid in reflection of the Gospel reading: *You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.*

George Walker (1922–2018) was an award-winning composer, pianist, and organist, and in 1996 became the first African American to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Drawing inspiration from a wide range of genres, including church hymns, Walker forged a distinctive and innovative compositional voice. *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* (Dearest Jesus, We Are Here), a Lutheran hymn from the Baroque period, receives a luminous treatment in this setting. Walker weaves the familiar melody through mixed meters and rich harmonies, illuminating the hymn's original text:

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded.  
You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Eurydice V. Osterman (b. 1950) is a published author, composer, and retired university professor. Her interpretation of the hymn tune *Nettleton (Come, Thou Fount)* offers a joyful response to worship in a form of a theme and variations. Through a series of key changes and shifting voicings—passing the melody between manuals and pedal—Osterman builds toward a radiant full-organ conclusion.

Whether the darkness of life appears in homes without power or in the abuse of privilege by the powerful, it surrounds us in many forms. As we depart from worship today, we do so with the assurance that God's light is always present, and that the darkness will never overcome it. Go, and shed some light today.