

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

10:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24; Isa. 44:6-8; Ps. 86:11-17; Rom. 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

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.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Prelude*

Ellen Jane Lorenz

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Fanfare and Procession*

William Endicott

Premiere of a new work composed for C. Holder

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship the living God,
**who knit us together when we were yet unnamed,
and welcomes us with a parent's embrace.**
We have come to worship the almighty God,
**who searches us and knows our hearts,
and still loves us completely.**
We have come to worship the eternal God,
**who seeks us wherever we are
and shepherds us with a guiding hand.**

† HYMN 187 — Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

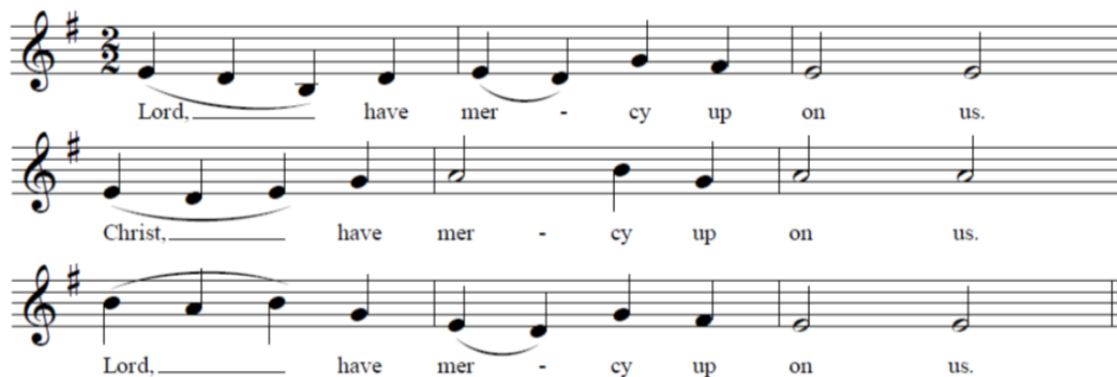
† CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wil Howie

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you have searched us and known us. You know when we cultivate kindness and our lives bear fruit that blesses the world. You know, too, when our words sow seeds of discord and our actions choke out generosity and grace. When we produce more weed than wheat, forgive us. As we wait with eager longing for your reign to be revealed in our midst, plant within us gifts of love and mercy, so that we might live as children of the kingdom and bear fruit that enriches your harvest. 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.**

*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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

p. 824

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

HYMN 29 — O God, You Search Me

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

Verse 1: All voices
Verse 2: Upper voices
Verse 3: Lower voices
Verse 4: All voices
Verse 5: All voices a cappella

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

p. 17

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON — "Faithful in the Field"

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 — *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*

arr. Cindy Berry

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 370 — This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

† BENEDICTION

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

GREEN TYLER



POSTLUDE — *Siyahamba* (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

arr. Vicki Collinsworth

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.

Parents of nursery aged children please note: a nursery is provided from **8:45 am - 11:15 am** for the following ages: 6 weeks - 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 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 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, or call the church office.



ONLINE GIVING



WEEKLY FAST FACTS

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	Rev. Barrett C. Milner
<i>Liturgist</i>	Rev. Wil Howie
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton R. Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Marty Mauldin
	Laura Montgomery
	Matt Nielson
	Lisa Tollison

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 19

10:00 am Worship Service*

Thursday, July 23

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 20

5:30 pm Session Meeting

Friday, July 24

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, July 21

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ Bim Bam Burgers

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 19

10:00 am Worship Service*

Wednesday, July 22

9:00 am Vacation Bible School

12:00 pm Adult Book Study

**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 - Irma Buchanan (2026)
& Ashley Callery (2028)
Children & Youth Faith Formation - Brynne Quick (2026)
& Corey Mauldin (2027)
Clerk of Session - Catherine Servati (2026)
Finance - Richard DeVoe (2028)
Membership & Hospitality - Matt Nielson (2026)
& Angela Manley (2028)
Mission - Laura Montgomery (2026)
& Michael Portner (2028)
Personnel - Al Ling (2027) & Trey Byars (2028)
Property - Hank Spragins (2027) & Anne Doty (2028)

DIACONATE

Class of 2026: Stefanie Goodwillier, Marty Mauldin,
Brad Mayo, Kathy Neff, Nina Patrick

Class of 2027: Heather Harris, Caroline McIntosh,
Monte Ochs, Dee Walker (clerk)

Class of 2028: Rebecca Black, Jessica Holder,
Elizabeth Miers, Ben Pettis, Lisa Tollison (moderator)

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 FF for Children & Youth..... dgarveyfpc@gmail.com
Office Administrator fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com
Communications Director kohillfpc@gmail.com
Property Manager..... wsimpson13@yahoo.com
Nursery Director..... wendybrady@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 my sister, Christine Blackburn, and in honor of her 73rd birthday, by Michael Blackburn.

Adult Book Study: Join us this July for a thoughtful discussion of Walter Brueggemann's *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW*. Together we will explore Brueggemann's compelling invitation to rediscover Sabbath as God's gift of freedom, rest, and faithful resistance to a culture of endless productivity and consumption. We will meet Wednesdays from 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm. More details on the study is located in this week's Fast Facts.

Vacation Bible School: Join us NEXT WEEK for Vacation Bible School. All students PreK4 through rising 5th grade are welcome!

August Summer Lunches: August Summer Lunches are back! Join us after worship on Sundays in August for food and fellowship. Lunch will be provided by a different ministry team each week. The Men's Sunday School Classes will be serving BLTs, chips, and watermelon on August 2. Make sure to stick around after worship and join us. Keep an eye out for the different menus each week in Fast Facts.

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.

- **In Good Order.** Need a helping hand? FPC volunteers are available to assist members who may need a little extra help with a yard project or light home repairs. If you would like assistance or know of someone who does, call the church office at 662-234-1757.
- **Memory Makers of Oxford** (memorymakersoxford.org) is a respite day service for those with memory loss. They welcome donations of items on their wish list or volunteers to assist with programming. For more information call 662-234-3332.
- FPC has partnered with our sister church in Jagüey Grande, Cuba, to install a **Living Waters for the World** water purification system this November. The system consists of many parts--from a \$4 PVC valve to the \$1,000 ozonator. No contribution is too small (or large!). If you would like to participate, see Fast Facts for more information. Muchas gracias!

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements dates are available August 2, 23, and September 6, 13, 20, and 27. 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.

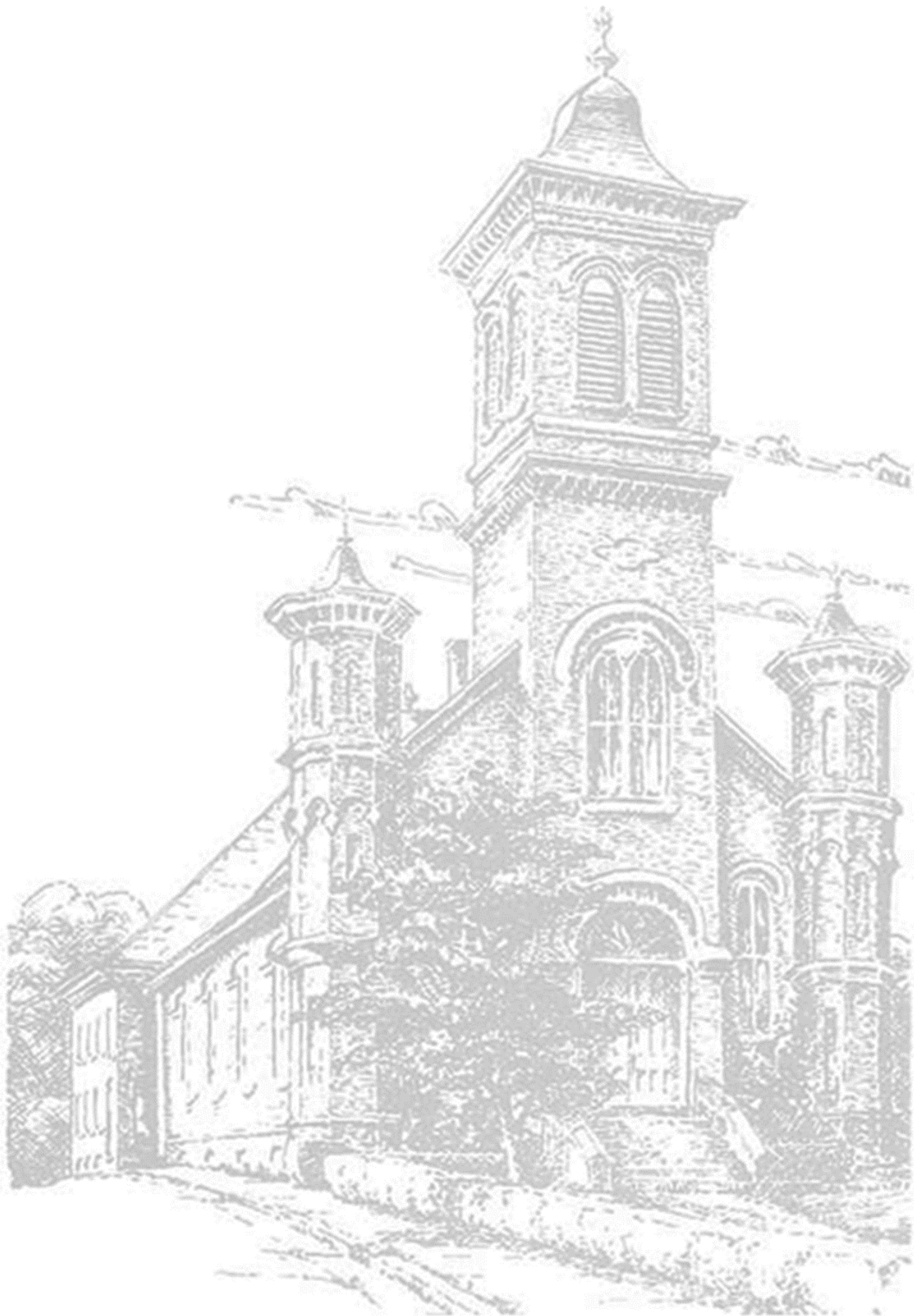
REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: Toni Joyer; Catherine Lawhorn; The Family of Tommy Smith; The Family of Richard Atkinson; The Family of Chad Russell (Jeannice Russell's son); Jane Henderson; The Family of Jim Gilbert; Larry Hadenfeld; The Family of Sarah Smith; The Family of Syd Shaw; Lee Borden; The Family of Max Williams; Vaughn Grisham; Lilly Biedenharn; Kay Tyler; Duke Goza; Keith Hayward; Becky Murphey; Ann Dickins; Scottye Boone; Leon McCullouch

Family and Friends: The Family of Jean Stevens and Blake Thacker; Beth Mitchell; Hannah Borden Miller; Ed Parker; Our sister Presbyterian Church in Jagüey Grande, Cuba.; Clifford Cobb; The Family of Carolyn McClinton; Ray Balach; Ray Poole; The Family of Dan West (Emily Freeny); Fel Macias; 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 Helen Dupree Brandon; Richard Bremer; Helen Luckett; Minor Atkinson; Melissa Cribbs; 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 26th Special Tactics Squadron, based in Cannon AFB, Clovis, NM

*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.*



First Presbyterian Church 924 Van Buren Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655 fpcoxford.net 662-234-1757