

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

10:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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 — *Improvisation*

C. Holder

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious God, quiet our hearts and open our minds as we prepare to hear your Word. Help us to lay aside our own expectations and listen for Your voice calling us to follow. Give us courage to take up our crosses with love, humility, and faithfulness. May our worship today draw us closer to you and shape us more fully into the people you have called us to be. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *I Sought the Lord*

Karen Marrolli

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
it was not I that found, O Savior true; no, I was found of Thee.

Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea;
'twas not so much that I on Thee took hold, as Thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but O, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee!
For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul, always Thou lovedst me.

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.

† HYMN 405 — Praise God for This Holy Ground

HEYMONYSTRAAT

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† 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.

† 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING: Psalm 26:1-8

p. 619

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

HYMN 406 — We Are Standing on Holy Ground

HOLY GROUND

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:21-28

p. 22

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Dave Garvey

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 — *Light of a Clear Blue Morning*

Dolly Parton

I can see the light of a clear blue morning; I can see the light of brand new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning. Everything's gonna be all right, it's gonna be okay.

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 312 — Take Us As We Are, O God

ENDLESS FEAST

† 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:

5
God, be the strength to now up-hold me: O Christ, sur-round me: O Christ, sur-round me.

POSTLUDE — *Alleluia Postlude*

Esther Megargel

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



WINE TO WATER REGISTRATION



FAST FACTS

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	Dave Garvey
<i>Liturgist</i>	Rev. Barrett C. Milner
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton R. Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Anne Doty
	Monte Ochs
	Nina Patrick
	Michael Portner

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 30

10:00 am Worship Service*
11:00 am Presbyterian Women
Memorial Service and Luncheon
5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, September 1

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ Bim Bam Burgers
5:30 pm Nominating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

5:30 pm Wine to Water for Cuba Silent Auction

Sunday, September 6

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 - 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)
Worship - Whitney Bolen (2027)

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..... wendybbrady@gmail.com

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Pat Atkinson, Sarah Smith, and Mary Anne Cropp by Presbyterian Women.

Presbyterian Women Memorial Service: All women are invited to the PW Memorial Service and Luncheon immediately after the worship service today. The lunch is catered and will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Wine to Water For Cuba: This Thursday FPC will host a Wine to Water for Cuba silent auction at Off Square Books from 5:30-7:30. Over 25 items ranging from signed Ole Miss footballs, to beach vacations, to original paintings by FPC artists will be auctioned. For a complete list of items see Fast Facts. All proceeds will cover the installation of a water purification system for our sister Presbyterian church in Jagüey Grande, Cuba. The event is open to all, so grab a friend and join in our effort to support our Cuban siblings in Christ. Muchas gracias!

Game Day Parking: The CYFF Team will be selling parking passes in our lot for ALL Ole Miss home football games this year! This is a way to help support the youth on summer trips by keeping the cost of trips down to a manageable price point for families. We have season passes available for a discounted rate of \$350, cheaper than what you would pay if you paid for the games individually and it is a guaranteed spot each week! Email Dave at dgarveyfpc@gmail.com for a season pass or for more information.

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.

- **LovePacks** is an in-school pantry that provides food for 250 children in the Oxford and Lafayette county schools who experience hunger in their homes. For the month of August, ramen noodle packs are requested. Your contribution may be left at the church office anytime.
- The Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner hosts single mothers and their children the second Tuesday of each month in the fellowship hall. FPC volunteers are asked to serve as hosts. It's easy! See Fast Facts for more information and to sign up.

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements dates are available September 13, 27, and October 11, 18, and 25. 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.

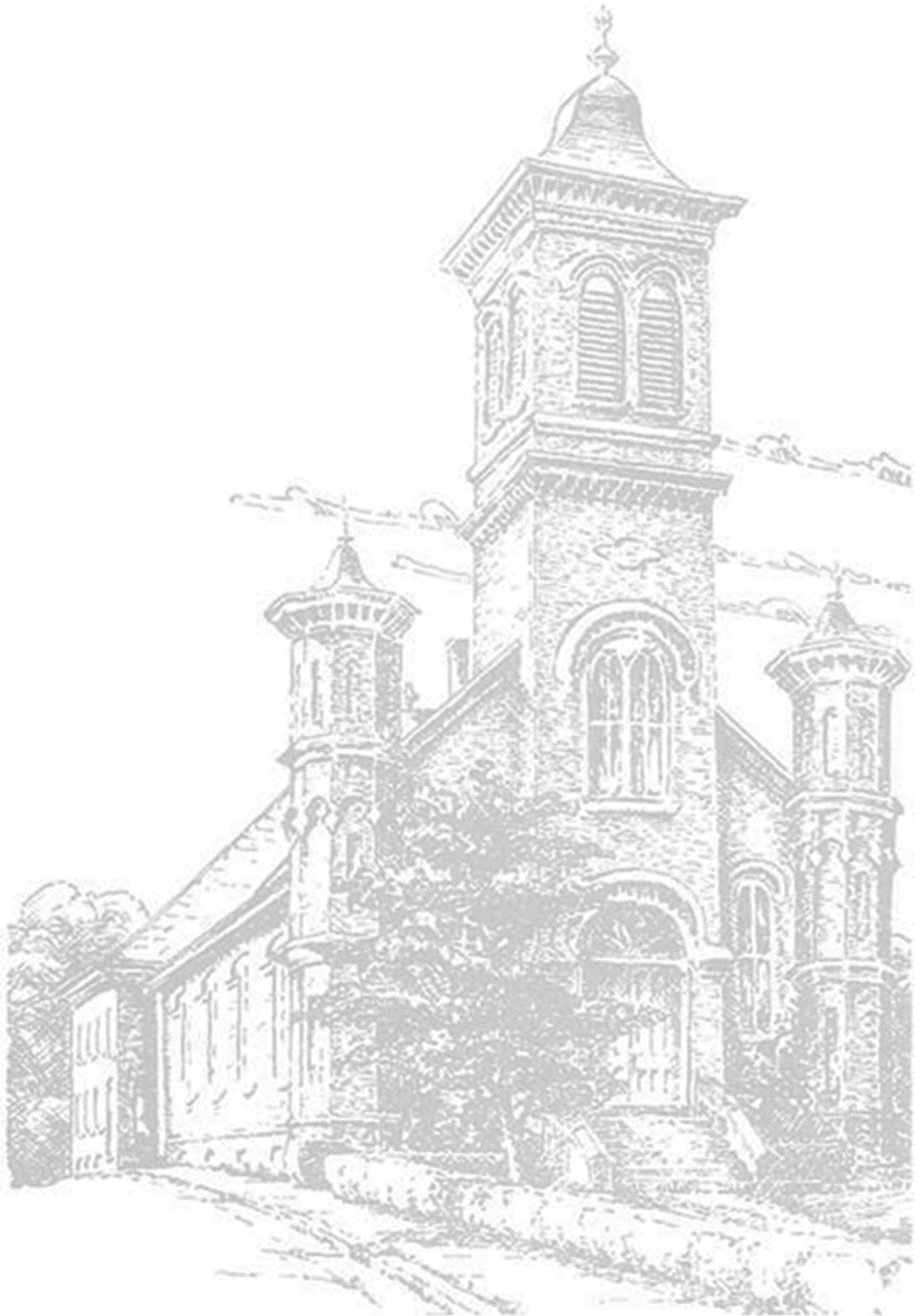
REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: Ann O'Dell; 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 Mary Dale Mitchell; The Family of Dick Marchbanks; The Family of Marshall Roberson; The Family of Thomas Hines; Our friends in Jagüey Grande, Cuba; 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; 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; 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