

First Presbyterian Church  
*Energized by Grace*

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

11:00 AM

# A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12;  
Matthew 18:21-35

*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 — *Movement*

Elisabeth Stirling

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*You have broken into our lives, O God, with the recreation of this new day. You have breathed new life into our sleeping souls and have put a song in our hearts. So we come today to offer you our thanks and praise. Pour down the blessings of your Spirit upon each one here this morning, that we may perceive your nearness once more. Amen.*

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

INTROIT — *Word of God*

Bernadette Farrell

*Word of God, renew your people, make us now your living sign.  
Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 103:1, 11*

People of God, bless the Lord,  
**bless God's holy name.**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is God's steadfast love for us.**  
Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

† HYMN 33 — *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show*

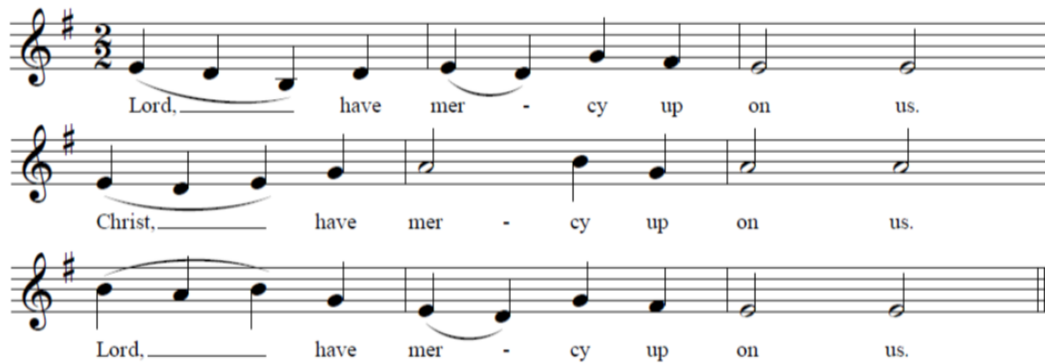
LLANFAIR

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of everlasting mercy, hear our prayer today, as we bring our lives before you. We come as people who dwell on the past. We want to face your new day with life and hope in our hearts, but many times the events of our own lives weigh us down. We forget to forgive one another. We dwell on our own past mistakes. We refuse to bury dead issues and worn-out memories. Free us, free us from ourselves, God, so that we might walk your new pathways, alive with grace, through Jesus Christ. 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 103:1-13

p. 681

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

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Here I Am, Lord*

arr. John Leavitt

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

p. 24

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

SERMON — "Freedom in Forgiving"

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 — *Improvisation*

Creighton Holder

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 446 — *How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions*

MEIRIONYDD

† 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 — *Llanfair*

Albert L. Travis

# 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 - 12:15 pm** for the following ages: Infants (0-1 years), Babies (1-3 years), Preschool (3-5 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](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 Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 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>	Rev. Andy G. Spaulding
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton R. Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Lindsey Estes
	Drew Mauldin
	Laura Scott

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 17

9:00 am Worship Service\*  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service\*  
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

## Monday, September 18

5:30 pm Session  
 6:30 pm Troop 45

## Tuesday, September 19

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ The Beacon  
 9:45 am Lula Gregory Circle  
 12:00 pm Gerry Duvall Circle  
 5:30 pm Arc Benders Book Study  
 5:30 pm Carroll Barr Circle  
 6:00 pm UKirk

## Wednesday, September 20

8:15 am Men's Bible Study  
 10:00 am Bible Study - 1 & 2 Timothy  
 4:30 pm Bibles & Brews  
 5:30 pm Chancel Choir  
 6:00 pm Youngish Adults Kick Off Party

## Thursday, September 21

6:00 pm VIP Dinner @ Bo and Karen Elliott's

## Sunday, September 24

9:00 am Worship Service\*  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service\*  
 12:00 pm Church Wide Picnic  
 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* - Mary Haskell (2023) & Carole Haney (2025)  
*Children & Youth Faith Formation* -  
 Kathryn Elliott (2023) & Catie Hester (2024)  
*Clerk of Session* - Drew Mauldin (2023)  
*Finance* - Richard DeVoe (2024) & Brent Hardin (2025)  
*Membership & Hospitality*- Lee Miers (2023) & Angela Manley (2025)  
*Mission* - David Shaw (2025)  
*Personnel* - Goodloe Lewis (2023) & Melissa Hall (2024)  
*Property* - Bradley Goodwillier (2024) & Bo Elliott (2025)  
*Worship* - Hale Freeland (2024)

### DIACONATE

*Class of 2023* - Chloe Lloyd, Laura Lovelady,  
 Allison McCord, Shae Orrell, Adam Quick  
  
*Class of 2024* - Patrick Bolen, Tommy Cribbs,  
 Lindsey Estes, Kathy Orr Griffith, Jennifer Williams  
  
*Class of 2025*: Teresa Flautt, Scotty Jimenez,  
 David McPhail, Laura Scott, Laura Whitten

## CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>		Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i> .....	bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Rev. Andy G. Spaulding	<i>Associate Pastor</i> .....	aspauldingfpc@gmail.com	5
Rev. Allison C. Wehrung	<i>Pastor, UKirk Ministry</i> .....	ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com	
Creighton R. Holder	<i>Director of Music</i> .....	cholderfpc@gmail.com	4
Dave Garvey	<i>Director of Faith Formation for 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 . . .

*The flowers in the sanctuary were given to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Helen "Babe" Carr, who left us on September 20, 2021.*

**Church Wide Picnic:** Its Time for our annual FPC Picnic! It will be held **next Sunday** on our front lawn immediately following the 11:00 worship. We will provide burgers, hot dogs, chips, and all the fixings. Households with the last name **A-L**, please bring sides. Households with the last name **M-Z**, please bring desserts. Seating will be provided, but individuals and families are more than welcome to bring their favorite tailgate chairs and picnic blankets.

**Wednesdays Together:** On September 27, a new church-wide opportunity for fellowship, faith formation, and music ministry will commence. Weekly gatherings will begin at 5:30 pm with a light dinner in the Fellowship Hall, followed by programming for all ages at 6:00. The book we will be discussing each week is "Six Theme Everyone Should know in Psalms". Copies of the book are available in the church office. A \$10 donation would be appreciated.

**Youngish Adults:** Please join us for our kick off party! It will be held **next Wednesday, September 20**, at Adam & Brynne Quick's home from 6-8 pm. Bring your favorite appetizer and drink!

**VIPs:** Our first event of the fall will be at Karen and Bo Elliott's from 6-8 pm **next Thursday, September 21**. It's time to sign up so we will know how much to prepare. For this event, you will only need to bring your beverages. Please call or stop by the church office to sign up. Please remember that we do not have the church bus anymore, so carpool if possible.

**Mission Opportunities,** Join us! The Mission Team meets the first Monday of each month at 5:00. We seek creative and effective means to serve "the least of these." Call the church office or contact David Shaw, [missionteam@fpcoxford.net](mailto:missionteam@fpcoxford.net), to become more involved. All FPC members from PYF through VIP are invited to serve in the following outreach programs. Please read Fast Facts for more information and to sign up.

- Need a helping hand? **In Good Order** is a group of FPC volunteers 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, please contact the church office.
- **The Oxford Community Market ([oxordcommunitymarket.com](http://oxordcommunitymarket.com))** is more than just a farmer's market. A half dozen programs are in place to make fresh produce and nutritious food available to those who otherwise are not able to afford it. A variety of volunteers are always needed. If you would like to join in the fun, download the Group Me app and enter "OXCM Flower of Life Volunteer." Calls for volunteers are posted regularly. For more information call the director, Betsy Chapman at [662-816-7413](tel:662-816-7413).
- FPC continues to host the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner ([doorsofhopeoxford.org](http://doorsofhopeoxford.org))** in the Fellowship Hall the second Tuesday of each month. Successful alumni of the program share a meal with current clients to offer encouragement and support. FPC host volunteers are needed for the fall.
- **LovePacks ([lovepacksoxford.com](http://lovepacksoxford.com))** 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 donations of snack pack pudding are requested. Drop your contribution by the church office anytime.
- **Leap Frog ([theleapfrogprogram.org](http://theleapfrogprogram.org))** is an after-school literacy and tutoring program serving sixty at risk students in Oxford and Lafayette county. FPC volunteers are again need to provide nutritious snacks for these students two afternoons a week.
- **Memory Makers of Oxford ([memorymakers@maxxsouth.net](mailto:memorymakers@maxxsouth.net))** is a respite day service for those with memory loss. Structured activities provide enrichment for participants while allowing caregivers a much-needed break from the daily responsibility of caring for their loved one. For more information on how you can assist in this outreach call [662-234-3332](tel:662-234-3332).

**Sanctuary Floral Arrangements** dates are available October 1, 15, 22, 29, and November 5, 12, 19, and 26. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at [mfancher42@gmail.com](mailto:mfancher42@gmail.com) or call 662-701-9604. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.

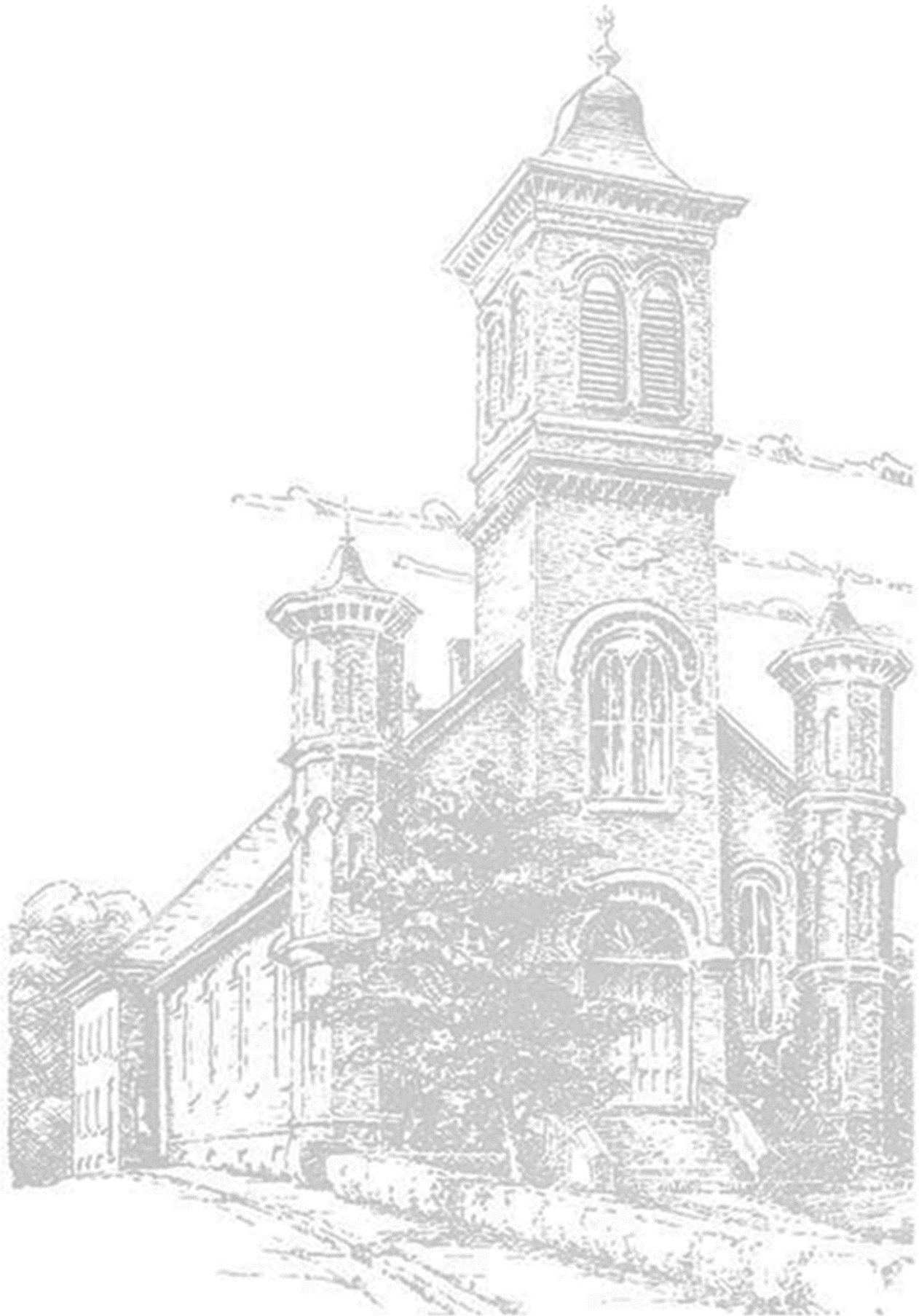
## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**FPC Members:** Curtis Wilkie; Family of Tommy Patrick; Ann Dickins; Margaret Fancher; Louise Waller; Sally Booke; Mrs. Pat Atkinson; The Family of Charles Montgomery; The Family of William "Wylie" Coleman; The Family of Nancy Rogers; Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Keith & Cheryl Hayward; Scottye Boone; Jean Blackston; Leon McCullouch

**Family and Friends:** Family and Friends of Dr. Jack Davis Brown; Susan Treas-Ewing; Margaret Burnett; Family of Dr. Macklyn Ward Hubbell; 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.*



*First Presbyterian Church 924 Van Buren Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655 [fpcoxford.net](http://fpcoxford.net) 662-234-1757*