

First Presbyterian Church

Youth Sunday



art by Alice Fagan

Morning Worship Service

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

9 & 11:00 A.M.

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Slow Me Down

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Curtis

God is our waymaker in life,
so we will follow the path He makes for us.
God is our rock,
so we will find our strength in Him.
God is our Loving Father,
so we will love one another through Him.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Witt Wells

Heavenly Father, we praise you always and praise your name on high. We thank you for your word and the scriptures you have prepared for us. Lord you have made us to be kind, serve one another, and you taught us to use our gifts to glorify you. Help us to be thankful for the mercy you give us even when we sin. Thank you for your many blessings to us! We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 302

I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS

CALL TO CONFESSiON

Joey McDuffie

As God guides us to ask, search, and knock for Him, let us confess our sins to Him and to each other.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSiON

Hudson Fisher

All knowing God, as we gather here today, we confess to you that we have fallen short of your ways. We have demanded things when you called us to ask, searched in the wrong places instead of coming to you, and have turned away from you when you encouraged us to knock at your door. We are often unfair in how we treat others even though you call us to love everyone. Forgive us for all of our wrongdoings and guide us back to you.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE**Lord, Have Mercy**

(Congregation please sing)

Kyrie Eleison

Americal folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

5

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Joey McDuffie

For everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

RESPONSE No. 579Gloria Patri**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.***CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Ella Michael Gable, Emma Claire Wallace, Gracie Wallace

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael B. Gratz

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 7:7-12

Pew Bible, P. 7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Well, blue skies and hillsides feel so far away
And I wrote in my notebook that I've seen better days
Than the ones as of late
I can't bear the weight*

*The rain won't stop pouring out my windowpane
And I haven't left my bedroom in 76 days
I wish something would change
'Cause I'm losing faith*

*So I brought it up in a desperate prayer
Lord, why are you keeping me here?
Then He said to me, "Child, I'm planting seeds
I'm a good God and I have a good plan
So trust that I'm holding a watering can
And someday you'll see that flowers grow in the valley"*

*So whatever the reason, I'm barely getting by
I'll trust it's a season knowing that you're by my side
Every step of the way
And I'll be okay*

*'Cause I brought it up in a desperate prayer
Lord, why are you keeping me here?
Then He said to me, "Child, I'm planting seeds
I'm a good God and I have a good plan"
So trust that I'm holding a watering can
And someday you'll see that flowers grow in the valley*

*When I'm on the mountain and looking down below
I'll see a valley of flowers that needed time to grow
And I'll thank you for the rain
The hurt and days of pain*

*And I'll bring it up in a grateful prayer
Thank you, Jesus, for keeping me there
You know just what I need, and you've planted seeds
'Cause you're a good God with a real good plan
And you hold my world in a watering can
So I can have peace 'cause flowers grow in the valley*

SERMON

Lucy Gratz

*UNISON PROFESSION OF FAITH

Wesley Brock

(Taken from the Faith Statements of the Confirmation Class of 2024)

I believe that God exists in the form of a trinity that includes God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. I believe God is a singular, true and living God who created all things and is sovereign over them so that all things will work together for good and His glory. God is: in control, true. I believe that Jesus the Christ is fully God and fully human. Even when we mess up so bad and we shouldn't be forgiven, we still are. Because of Jesus, God does not hold my sin against me. Jesus is: our role model. The Holy Spirit is: always with us. I believe the Holy Spirit is an everlasting presence within us to guide us on the right path to the Lord. No matter where you are or what you're going through, the Holy Spirit will always be with you. I believe that, as a part of the Church and for the unity of all people, it is our calling to God to glorify Him for the grace that has been given for our salvation. The church is a family. The church is: the people who do God's work.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 467 *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ella Michael Gable

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Henry Brock

OFFERTORY

Seek Ye First

*DOXOLOGY No. 592

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

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Carter McDuffie

Heavenly Father, all that we have comes from you. You gave us life and breath. Now accept, we pray, a portion of what you have so graciously given and use it for your holy purposes. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 322

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

*BENEDICTION

Lucy Gratz

POSTLUDE

Go Now in Peace

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship or email him at pastor@firstprestupelo.org.

Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.

Ritual of friendship—Members and Visitors: Please sign the attendance register and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Daintry Thomas.

All children are welcome in worship! Children's activity bags and special bulletins are available for all ages and are located with our regular worship bulletins in the Narthex.

Nursery care is available for newborns through four-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the 11:00 Children's Sermon, preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend "Wee Kirk." This is a time of fun childcare with age-appropriate songs and games.

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

The Youth of First Presbyterian Church:

- ***Seniors:*** Lucy Gratz
- ***Juniors:*** Anne Crotwell, Andrew Goad, Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, Emma Claire Wallace
- ***Sophomores:*** Christopher Curtis, Annelise Fagan, Ella Michael Gable, Michael B. Gratz, Witt Wells
- ***Freshmen:*** Alice Fagan, Gracie Wallace, Kelsey Whitten
- ***Eighth Grade:*** Hudson Fisher
- ***Seventh Grade:*** Wesley Brock, Mary Crotwell
- ***Sixth Grade:*** Henry Brock, Ren Crowell, Carter McDuffie
- ***Helping Lead Music:*** Henry Brock, Ella Michael Gable, Joey McDuffie, Emma Claire Wallace, Gracie Wallace, Witt Wells

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Barbara and Jack Price, Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson

College Students: Lindley Gibens, Maggie Gibens, Walker Gibens

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 55 11:00 A.M.: 104

STEWARSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$19,644	Amount Received 4/27/25: \$16,233
YTD Budgeted Income: \$340,493	YTD Income Received: \$454,421

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall between services at 10:00 A.M. for a reception honoring graduate Lucy Gratz. Adult Sunday School is not meeting today but will resume next week. Children's Sunday School classes are meeting today in their usual classrooms.

The session has approved combined worship services May 25, 2025 through July 27, 2025. During that time, Sunday School will be at 9:30 A.M. and worship at 10:30 A.M.; however, due to the Memorial Day holiday, there is no School on Sunday, May 25.

Our weekly Bible study is temporarily postponed, but it resumes Monday, June 2, at 11:00 A.M. We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room; however, the study sessions will take place on Monday mornings. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship and is open to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join your friends and our visitors at our Spring Picnic! We will enjoy fun and fellowship in Stuart Garden at 5:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 7.

This week's special cost for supper is \$5 per adult with no charge for children. The menu includes Mark Reynolds' Famous Smoked Pulled Pork with all the fixins', Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Chips, and a Variety of Desserts including Banana Split Cake!

Following supper, we will enjoy special music by our Cherubs and Faithbuilders as they present their closing program.

Sign up by Noon Wednesday by using today's Attendance Register, the QR Code in the bulletin, or by calling the church office, 662-842-5681.



THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

Sunday, May 4

9 & 11 A.M. Youth Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Reception honoring graduating senior Lucy Gratz
Children's Sunday School
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Room B205
5:30 P.M. Youth

Monday, May 5

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
6:15 P.M. Circle 3, home of Helen Boerner

Tuesday, May 6

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:30 P.M. Officer Training, Bolton/Sistahood Room
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Library
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Church Picnic and Faithbuilders' Closing Program, Stuart Garden

Thursday, May 8

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym

Friday, May 9

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym

Saturday, May 10

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands Food Pantry

7 MAY | 5:30 P.M.

SPRING PICNIC

**and Closing Program
by Cherubs & Faithbuilders**



Stuart Garden

- Mark Reynolds' Smoked Pulled Pork
- Hotdogs
- Delicious Sides and Desserts

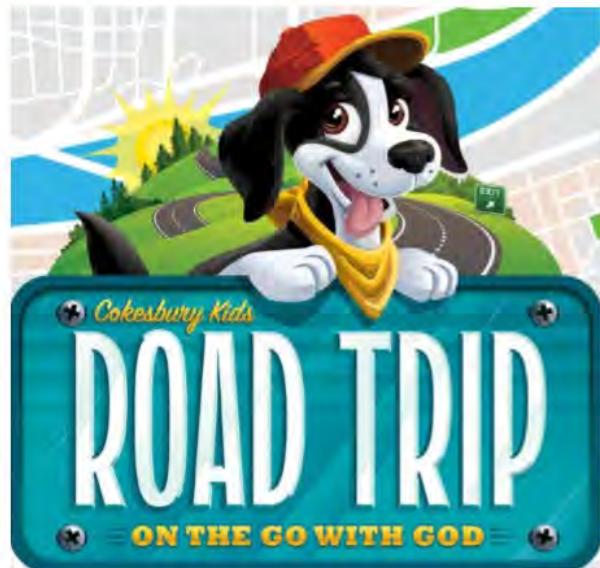
Join Us for Fun & Fellowship!

**\$5 for Adults
Kids Eat Free**



GET READY FOR VBS!

Pack your (imaginary) bags and join us for three exciting mornings of faith, fun, and adventure!



**THREE YEAR OLDS
THROUGH FIFTH
GRADERS!**

We will have Nursery Care
for the Littlest Travelers!

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: If you have any questions or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda Davis, (615) 604-0709.

WHEN:

May 28-30 (Wednesday-Friday)

TIME:

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

WHO'S INVITED:

Three Year Olds through Fifth Graders
We have Nursery Care for the Littlest Travelers!

DAILY SNACKS PROVIDED

...because road-tripping makes you hungry!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Brock, Pastor

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician

Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer

Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist

Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist

Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:

Learn the Word of God in worship and study.

Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.

Lead others to the Word of God in love.

Visit us online. www.firstprestupelo.org

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

