

Morning Worship Service

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

We come today asking God to open our eyes to the possibilities all around us, to the people we have overlooked, to the population on the margins.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

This is My Father's World

Diane Bish

INTROIT

Softly and Tenderly

arr. Timothy Johnson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come with thanksgiving to worship God.

People: We come knowing that all that we have, all that we give, all that we will be are gifts of God.

Leader: We come with humility to worship God.

People: We come offering who we are, knowing that we need God's Spirit to be what we ought to be.

Leader: We come with joy and praise to worship God.

People: We come with song and gratitude because ours is a great God, giving and loving. Thanks be to God our Creator, our Redeemer, the Sustainer of our lives.

Leader: Ask us what great thing we know, and we declare the glory of our Lord.

People: Ours is a great God who has created the world and all who dwell therein.

Leader: Ours is a loving God who came in the man Jesus to redeem us and set us free.

People: Ours is an ever-present God who empowers us through the Holy Spirit to declare God's love and redemption to all the world.

Leader: Let us come to this holy time to declare God's greatness, to worship and give thanks. Come, let us praise the Lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised!

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 426 *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: We think about your children, Lord, and we are filled to overflowing with awareness of your love. We know your love has no limits, knows no bounds, and is offered without precondition. Your capacity to love exceeds our capacity to imagine. So we know that there are people whose paths we have crossed that are loved by you, and unnoticed by us. Help us to see them, Lord. Help us to see them, not as people to shun, but as people to love. Help us to see them, not as people to fear, but as people with whom we can share. Help us to see them, not as people to teach, but as people from whom we can learn. Help us to see them, not as people without hope, but as people for whom you are looking. Help us to learn about love by sharing your love with them. Help us to walk with them, and help us all to learn to dance together, filled with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us all to pray, saying,

Unison: **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.**

CALL TO CONFESION

Leader: Trusting in God's hopes for us, let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace. Let us pray together our prayer of confession.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESION

Lord, we confess to being lost. Especially, we confess that we have gone our own way on purpose, and refused to admit we needed your direction. Lord, we admit we liked our way more than your way. That's why we traveled it so far. But Lord, we admit now, out loud, that we got to a point where we knew we were in deep trouble. O Lord, forgive us our arrogance, our stubbornness, our willfulness. Rescue us from the bad we have done. Teach us how to follow you. Bind us with your love, so that we will want to follow close to your ways. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends in Christ, our Lord Jesus stands ready to forgive all we do or leave undone--anything that grieves us or God. God wants to encourage the good we do. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God plants in us not only faith, but also hope and love. Let us be alive in hope and fervent love, that our actions would bear witness to the One who works in our midst--forgiving and strengthening. May it be so.

*RESPONSE – No. 579

“Gloria 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

ANTHEM

Fanny Crosby Medley

arr. Craig Courtney

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 14
Luke 15:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Images of God

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson

UNISON PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

What an honor and privilege it is to come before God and offer to Him our various gifts and offerings. As we do so, let us give with a generous and cheerful heart.

OFFERTORY

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Paul Manz

*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

O God, you desire our love, not hollow worship. We seek to draw nearer to you, not to impress with ceremony. We present these gifts as a demonstration of our desire to love you more fully. We ask that through these gifts we may participate in that great work you have

placed before us as your people. Accept our gifts, and us, that Christ's ministry may lack for nothing and his love be made known to a world, which longs for a savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

*Congregation standing as able.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, please turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers. You may also view the bulletin by visiting our website at www.firstprestupelo.org. See the "Bulletin" link at the top of the homepage.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Erskine Bishop by Chauncey and Ann Godwin.

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. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

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

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 service is live streamed and available for viewing on 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.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris
Liturgist: 9:00-Trey Leeke; 11:00-Julie Gibens
Greeters: 9:00-Pat & Sam Agnew; Jill & Neil White
11:00-Teresa & Kirk Biddle, Judy Billups, Judy Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be sure to join church friends and our visitors for supper and fellowship at 5:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, September 14. The menu: Baked Cheese Italian Spaghetti, Chicken Tenders, Corn on the Cob, Homestyle Green Beans, Broccoli Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar with Fresh Fruit, Peach Cobbler, Chocolate Sheet Cake, Lemon Crunch, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Ice Cream. Sign up by Noon on Wednesday by using the link in Friday's newsletter, calling the church office at 662-842-5681, or emailing frontdesk@firstprestupelo.org.

Following supper Wednesday night, make plans to participate in our Wednesday night fall programs for adults, children and youth, which begin at 6:00 P.M. All programs conclude at 7:00 P.M.

The Fellowship Committee is providing a meal for the THS football team on Friday, September 12. Before the team travels to their "away" game, they will gather in our gym and enjoy a great dinner. The committee has done this for several years, and they would appreciate any extra help. If you need more information, please contact Mitzi Moore at (662) 401-7844.

Got books? The State Hospital is looking for used books to stock the patient library. If you have any books that you have previously perused and placed on that dusty shelf please bring them to the church and put them in Melissa's office or call Lori Dickerson (662) 213-0005, and she will come pick them up. All kinds of books are needed--fiction, non-fiction, self-help, Bible study or puzzle books. Happy Hunting!

The deadline for weekly bulletin and newsletter announcements is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. No exceptions.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Mollie Gratz, Sam Pace, Julie Seiler
Homebound: Sarah Parker, Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Jack Price
College Students: Retta Maxwell, Cooper Moore, Ashton Posey
Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

STEWARSHIP UPDATE

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Weekly Budget: \$16,837 | Amount Received 9/4/22: \$7,475 |
| YTD Budgeted Income: \$689,096 | YTD Income Received: \$691,493 |

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M.: 43 11:00 A.M.: 70

THE SESSION
Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle
Susan Boone
Amy Fagan
Mitzi Moore
Aubrey Patterson, Jr.
Grayson Robbins
Debra Robison

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson
Cindy Faucette
Leslie Geoghegan
Michael Gratz Jr.
Chauncey Godwin
Alice Rogers
Charles Reece

Class of 2025

Richard Hastings
Trey Leeke
Lucy Nash
Chris Rogers
Mary Stubbs
Glenn Thomas
Presly Wallace

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Debbie Merritt, Receptionist

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

Our Website:



MISSION FUNDRAISER: *Family Photography Weekend*

Faith Riley Photography Mini Sessions
Friday & Saturday, September 23 & 24 • \$100

Proceeds go to Good Samaritan Free Clinic

Participants sign up for 15-minute slots at the home of Bill & Doyce Deas, 645 Highland Circle, and receive a portfolio of 10-15 pictures to choose from.

Sitting fee includes 3 PDF images.

An estimated 2-3 week turn around on the images will allow families to use the photographs for Christmas cards or order prints for Christmas gifts.

Church members, friends and family are invited to participate.



Register Here for a Photo Session!

Food & Medicines for CUBA



A group from Mission Outreach plans to go to Cuba in late October to check on clean water systems previously installed. The economy in Cuba is very depressed.

- **Food and medications** are in very short supply, expensive, and in many cases unavailable. A recent fire at the oil storage facility has worsened gasoline shortages and increased electrical blackouts.
- Our group wants to take with us over **counter medications**, such as **Tylenol, aspirin, cold medications, and anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen**.
- **Vitamins of all sorts**--for kids, adults, seniors, and prenatal vitamins are needed.
- **Insect repellants as well as the mosquito bracelets are needed.** Dengue fever has been prevalent in Cuba and is spread by mosquitos.
- **Food items such as powdered milk, dried beans, instant soup or vegetables, and dried fruit are needed.**

Our partners in Cuba, with whom we have worked for 8 years, can distribute these items to those in need.

The situation is such that we cannot just ship them, **they must accompany folks traveling to the country.**

We would ask you to prayerfully consider donating the above products to our partners in need in Cuba. If a monetary contribution is better for you, please indicate "Meds for Cuba" and leave in the church office.

Thank you,
Jean Magee Robin Faucette Mary Pace



THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube
10:00 A.M. Sunday school
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

2:30 P.M. CASA
5:15 P.M. Congregational Care Committee, Guatemala Room
5:30 P.M. Christian Education Committee, Session Room
Fellowship Committee, Frances Sheffield Classroom
Outreach/Missions Committee, Jr. High SS Room
Worship Committee, Library
6:45 P.M. Circle 3, CharCutie Tupelo
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
11:30 A.M. Jr. Auxiliary Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
12:00 P.M. Circles 2 and 4, Sheffield Room
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

2:30 P.M. CASA
2:30 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton Room
5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall
6:00 P.M. Adults, Faithbuilders & Youth
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
1:30 P.M. Shepherd's Center, Recreation Room
2:30 P.M. CASA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting
Fellowship Committee providing lunch for THS Football Team, Gym
2:30 P.M. CASA