



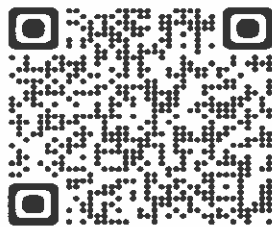
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



Welcome!

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MORNING WORSHIP**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister

The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister

Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We offer our lives in the life of Christ's church as we join together in ministry,
remembering the call of every day from Sunday to Sunday.*

THE GATHERING

Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to worship.

Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude

Largo

G. F. Handel

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Call to Worship

from Psalm 148

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted!

His glory is above earth and heaven.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

*Processional Hymn 645:

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Morning Prayer

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.



mur - mur stilled:
all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
cho - sen band:
take your part:

The image shows a musical score for a Thanksgiving song. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written between the staves. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the first line. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

A RITUAL OF CELEBRATION FOR 2025 GRADUATES

Today, May 18, 2025, we honor our own Cooper Brumfield as he graduates from high school and heads to the university life. We honor all other graduates in our community and wish them also blessings in their pursuits. Let us now join in a litany of thanksgiving to God for such times of growth and change in individual lives and in the life of the church.

Pastor: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

All: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

Pastor: For living together and eating together; for families and friends. For the young with their high hopes and their search for freedom, for growing up and growing old, for time made precious by its passing.

All: **Thank you, God.**

Pastor: For your help in times of doubt and sorrow and for preserving us in temptation and danger.

All: **Thank you, God.**

Pastor: For the church into which we have been called, for the good news we hear and know, for our life together in the Lord.

All: **We praise you, God.**

Pastor: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts us to know deep gratitude as we worship.

All: **We praise you, God.**

Pastor: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope is in him; our joy is in serving him.

All: **God's love is everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: Cooper, as you look to new challenges, do so knowing that God will be with you and that his hand will reach out to guide you. Join with the congregation now in a responsive prayer in which you may acknowledge that you belong to God, who does love and bless you. And we who encourage you today, ask God to strengthen and uphold you even as we hold you in our prayers during this new time of your life.

Pastor and All: **Our Lord and God, you made us and we are yours.**

Cooper: This day and all the days of my life are a gift from God. Thank you, Lord, for the wonder of life.

Pastor and All: **God be with you every day and in every way.**

Cooper: Lord, I place into your hands the choices that I face.

Pastor and All: **Guard all our choices, Lord. May we feel your presence, your purpose for Cooper and your power in him to do good work that will be to your glory.**

Cooper: Everything I work for I place in God's hands. Everything I hope for, I place in God's hands. Everything that I am and that I do, I place in God's hands.

(Congregation, please join in the reading)

Pastor and All: **Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths; ask where the good way is, and walk in it. You will find rest for your souls.** (Jeremiah 6:16)

Pastor: O God, we ask all of these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who reigns in Heaven with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. **Amen.**

Charge to Graduate

Pastor: Cooper, these prayers we offer today are solemn and serious, and the occasion is a momentous one. But know that God who loves you wants you to live your life in joy, to have days that are filled with laughter and fun along with the serious work that lies ahead. Be fruitful as a student and as a friend and as a follower of Christ. Love your life. Love your family. Love your friends. Be kind to those who oppose you. Let the light of Christ shine through you. Read your Bible. Pray often. Continue to grow as long as you live -- grow as a teller of truth; grow as a disciple; grow as a child of God, which you are. Do not let life's hard ways destroy your hope or the child's sense of wonder in you. Give over your life to God. And know that he will guard you as the apple of his eye and protect you in the shadow of his wings. There will be times when you think you are lost. But remember: God knows where you are. And now, God bless you with all the good blessings of his loving care, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession. After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie* (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

Call to Confession attributed to Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

God of life, there are days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down, when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening, when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

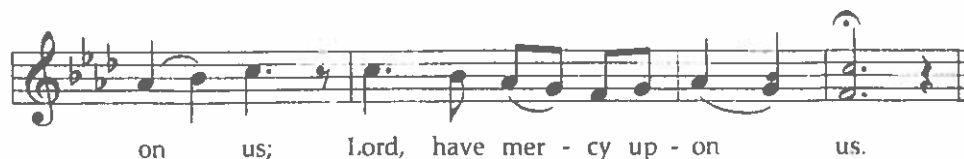
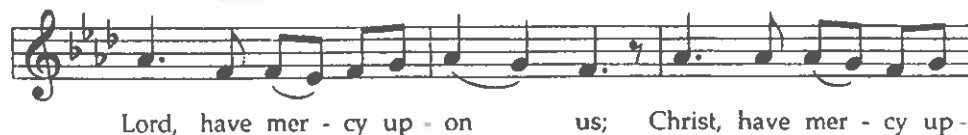
Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Time for Silent Confession

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie



Declaration of Forgiveness

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**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.**

*Greeting and the Peace

The peace of Christ be with all of you today.
And also with you.

THE WORD

Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Lessley, Reader

A Reading from Acts: Acts 11:1-18

Pew Bible Page 158

Reading from Revelation: Revelation 21:1-6

Pew Bible Page 315

*Hymn 529: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529

G Em Am C D G/B



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

Am Dsus D G C Am D G



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,

Em D/F# G Am Dsus D G C Am



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

D G Em C G/B Am D G



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

Pew Bible Page 132

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"The Sea Was No More"

Rev. Dr. Gandy

*Apostles' Creed

Traditional

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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

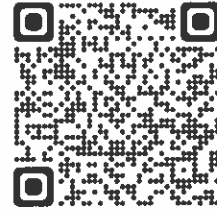
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory Anthem

As the Deer

Words and Music: Martin Nystrom

As the deer panteth for the water, O my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.
You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.
You're my Friend and You are my Brother even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other so much more than anything.
You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.
I want You more than gold or silver only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.
You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

*Response Hymn 609

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures high and low;

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit One.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Offering

THE SENDING

*Hymn 35: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Benediction

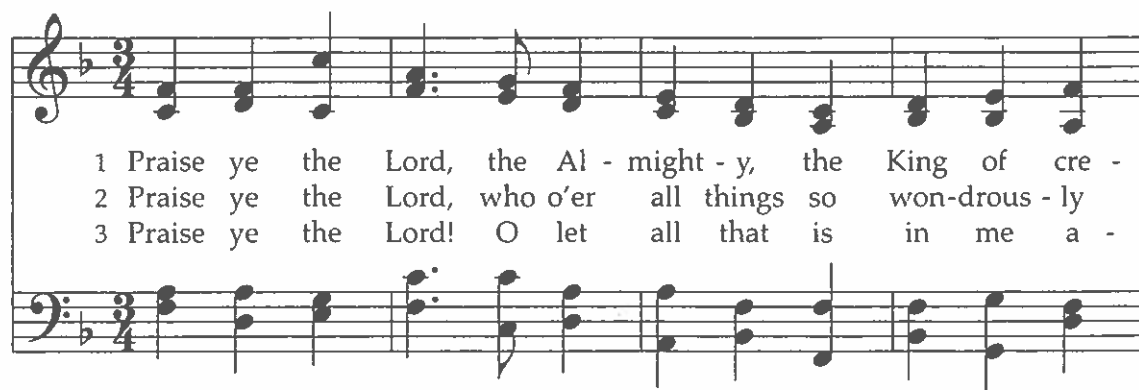
*Postlude

Fanfare

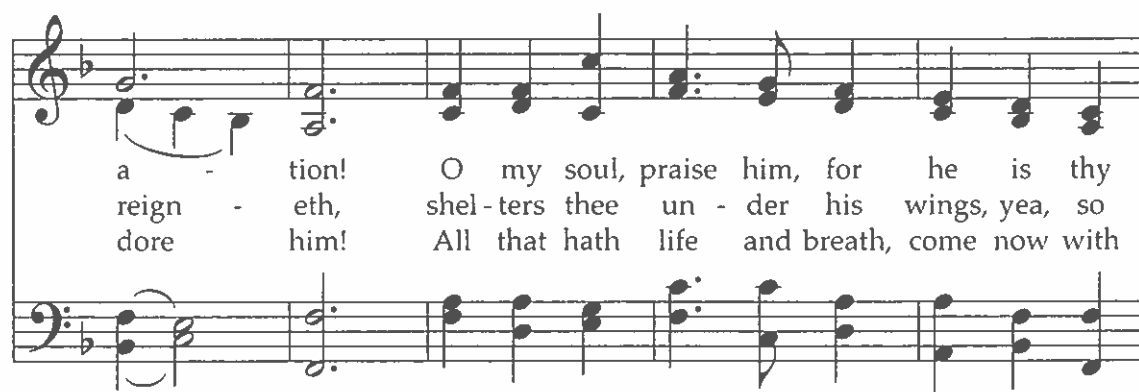
C. S. Lang

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Elfriede and Calvin Seyfarth by Robert Seyfarth.*

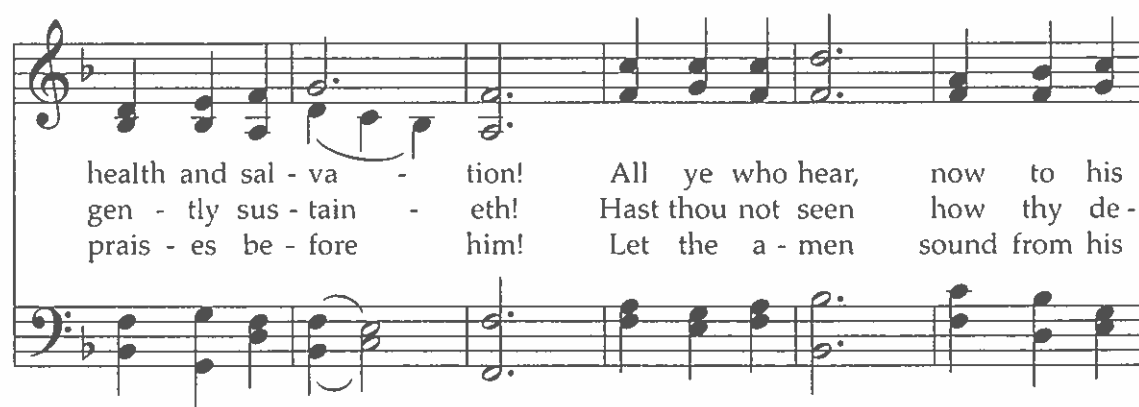
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



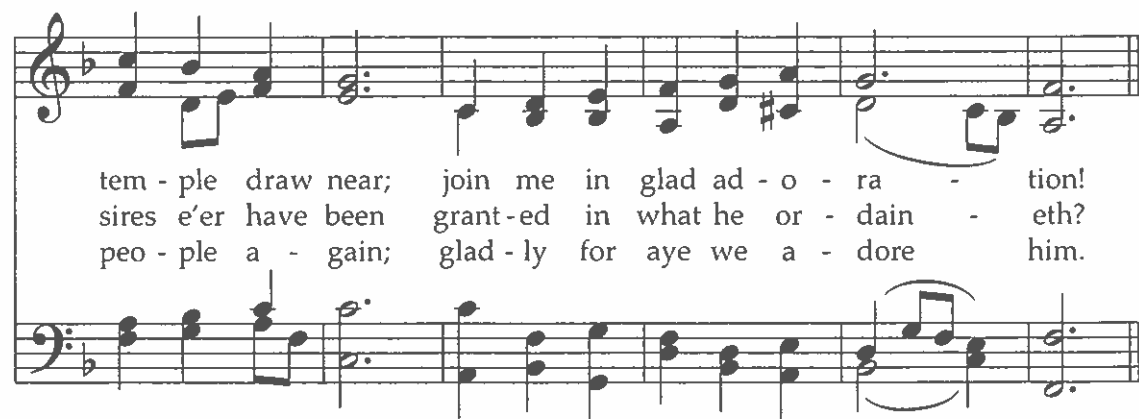
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel-ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is the famous *Largo from 'Serse'* by G. F. Handel (1685-1759). The Anthem at the Offertory is *As the Deer* by American songwriter Martin J. Nystrom (b. 1956). The Postlude is *Fanfare, Op. 85* by New Zealand native composer Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971) and features our glorious new English Tuba.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial: Arts Natchez Gallery at 425 Main Street is hosting "A Time to Remember John Larson." The event will be today, May 18, at 3 p.m. Photographer John P. Larson spent many Sundays worshiping with us at First Presbyterian. Remember his family and close friends in your prayers. Attend the event if you are able.

Children's Sunday School: Elementary Sunday School Class for ages 4 to 9 meets in the youth and children's room across from the gym in the education building at 9:15 a.m. with Christine Borum.

Sunday School: Adult classes on Sunday morning meet with Sammy Gore in the Westminster Room 9:15-10; with Chuck Borum in the parlor 9:15-10; or with Rev. Chase Caldwell upstairs in Stratton Chapel 9-9:45.

Pastor's Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible study will meet Tuesday, May 20, at 11 a.m. in the parlor in Stratton Chapel. Scriptures are Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:22-22.5; and John 14:23-29.

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon: The PW luncheon will be Wednesday, May 21, at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. Officers will be elected and the Birthday Offering will be collected. Baby items will also be collected for the Nursery Mission at Merit Hospital.

Youth Group: First Presbyterian Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 4:15 in the youth room.

Prayer Chain: Anyone interested in participating in the prayer chain, please call the church office and leave your name and phone number.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group will meet again Wednesday, July 9.

Wonderful Wednesday: Come for supper at 5:15 and stay for Bible study, held in the library beginning at 6 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Mississippi Delta Mission Trip: Our congregation is sending a team to Leland Presbyterian Church to serve in that church's local ministry of home repairs and community improvements. The trip will be from June 2-6, and is open to anyone who feels called to serve. To register, or for more information, reach out to Rev. Caldwell at 318-719-2060, or to George Bates at 601-807-5863.

Medicine Bottle Ministry: Keep the empty bottles coming! Thank you again for your excellent response to your mission committee's request for used pill bottles with labels removed. A gracious volunteer has offered to remove labels. Drop the bottles in the baskets with labels still on, if you prefer.

Acolyte Formation: Young people ages 9 to 16 are invited to become acolytes, assisting with worship services on Sunday. Please let Rev. Gandy know if a young person in your family would like to participate.

TLC Food: Prepare a meal that is enough for two servings. Put it in a freezer container. Place a label on top of the container that says "TLC" and gives the date prepared; name of the dish (It can just say "beef stew" or "baked chicken") and your name as cook; write directions on the label for heating or cooking the dish. Please choose dishes that are simple with simple ingredients, not too salty or sweet. Place your dishes in the freezer in the hall outside the kitchen door in the education building for distribution to someone in our congregation when needed. And thank you! Call the church office with any questions.

Monday Prayer: Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with others for people and things that are on each heart.

Pickleball at FPC: The FPC Fellowship Hall Pickleball Court is available to use Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The court must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance for 1 hour. To make a reservation, visit or call the church office at 601-442-2581. All users must check-in with the church office prior to play.

New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

Photo Gallery: Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You may call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

MAY 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03

Sunday Schedule
9:15 Sunday School
Coffee Time
9:45 Choir
Rehearsal
10:30 Worship

10:30-Playschool
Mother's Day
coffee in gym

Noon AA

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

8:30 Exercise Class
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
5 Deacons
7 Boy Scouts
Troop 157

Viking Tours

11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise class
Noon AA
4 Grief Support Group
4:15 Youth
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study
6 Choir

Noon AA

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

8:30 Exercise Class
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
4:15 Finance
5 Session
7 Boy Scouts

Viking Tours
10:30 Pack Food
Boxes
11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise class
10 Rebekah Circle
10 Food Boxes
Noon AA
4 Grief Support Group
NO YOUTH GROUP
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study; NO CHIUR

5 Book Club

Noon AA

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

8:30 Exercise Class
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
7 Boy Scouts
Troop 157

Viking Tours

11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise class
Noon AA
4 Grief Support Group
4:15 Youth
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study
6 Choir

Noon AA

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Stewpot
Sunday

MEMORIAL DAY
Church Offices closed
Playschool Closed

Noon AA

Viking Tours

11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise class
Noon AA; Playschool
Board Meeting
4 Grief Support Group
4:15 Youth
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study; 6 Choir

Noon AA

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

Class of 2027: Bobby Meason, George Bates, Danna Mooney, Ralph Loe

Clerk of Session: Rosemary Hall

Assistant Clerk of Session: Danna Mooney

Treasurer: Stratton Bull

DEACONS

Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Class of 2027: Kristen Graham, Hubert Smith, and Sharon Williams

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, Slade Gagnard, Robert Seyfarth, and Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

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