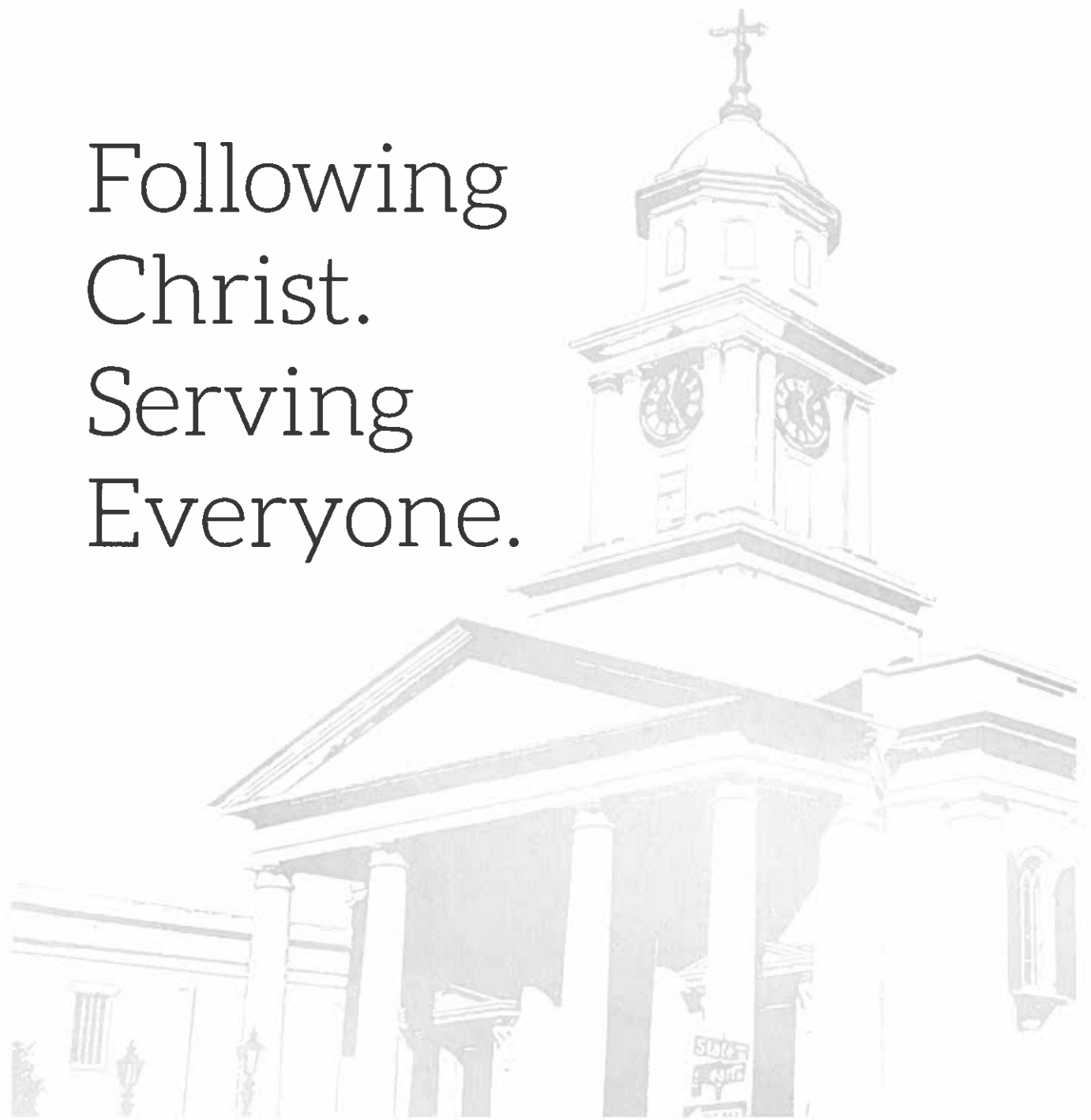




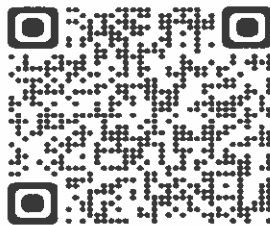
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

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
The Third Sunday of the Season of Creation
October 19 , 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

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

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 *Prelude* Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome Rev. Gandy

Call to Worship

God is King!

Let the earth be glad!

Christ is victor;

His rule has begun. Hallelujah!

The Spirit is at work,
renewing the creation.

Praise the Lord

The Lord's name be praised.

*Processional Hymn 804, verses 1-4: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

These stanzas are drawn from a much longer hymn created for the processional at an English choir festival in 1865. The original text lacked the refrain that gives the hymn so much of its energy and interest. That feature was added by the composer of this tune in 1883.

Confession of Sin

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

Call to Confession

When humans no longer show God's image, all creation suffers. We abuse the creation or idolize it. We are estranged from our Creator, from our neighbor, and from all that God has made. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, the earth is full of your creatures; in wisdom you have made us all, and you have delivered us into one another's care, asking that we love one another as you first loved us. But we have fostered discord rather than unity, contempt rather than respect, ignorance rather than love. Communities, peoples, creatures, lands, seas—they have been set apart, or torn apart, or driven apart, by conflicting claims and thoughtless ambitions. You know our works and our thoughts, Lord. So do this day as you have promised Gather together all our tribes and tongues, and restore us to harmony. Reconcile us in your spirit of peace, and from new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall worship your name. Amen

Time for Silent Confession

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

Kyrie



Declaration of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 5:17 Revelation 21:5

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

In Christ all things are made new; In Christ we are forgiven! Amen!

*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

Doris Ann Benoist, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 32:14-20

Pew Bible Page 808

*Hymn 449: *Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love*

Psalm 85

Epistle Reading: Rev. 21:1-5; 22:1-5

Pew Bible Page 315

Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love 449

(Psalm 85)

1 Show us, O Lord, your stead - fast love, and let your
 2 Mer - cy and truth at last have met; jus - tice and
 3 Lord, you will grant pros - per - i - ty; our land will

sav - ing grace be near; when we re - turn with o - pen
 peace are rec - on - ciled. Truth has a - ris - en from the
 yield its full in - crease. Jus - tice shall go be - fore your

hearts the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.
 earth; jus - tice looked down from heaven and smiled.
 face; the path - way for your feet is peace.

This paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 85 includes some remarkable signs of God's reign: that mercy, truth, justice, and peace exist simultaneously and that the fruits of creation will be abundant. Because we still await that day, this psalm is often associated with Advent.

Gospel Reading: John 6:1-15

Pew Bible Page 118

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Lost in Wonder (and in the Woods)” Rev. Chase Caldwell

*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

Please consider your church when you are making estate plans!

Offertory

The Tree of Life

Text: Eric Routley, 1974

Music: K. Lee Scott

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: Tree of all knowledge, Tree of compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering: see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not his own are tangles in its foliage; our greed has staved it, our despite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing"

All heaven is singing. "Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon. People and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!

*Response Hymn 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Offering

THE SENDING

*Hymn 772: *Live into Hope*

TRURO

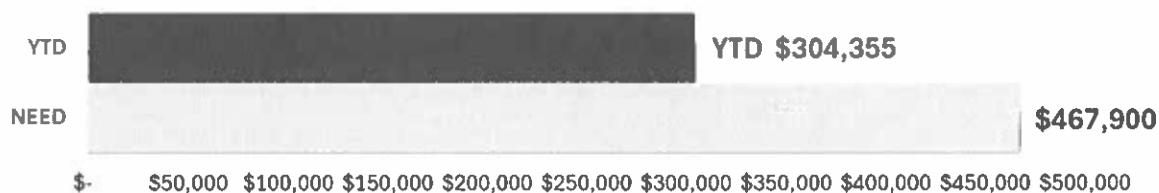
*Benediction

*Postlude

Toccata in g minor

Jean Pasquet

2025 FPC INCOME VS BUDGET AS OF SEPTEMBER 30TH



The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J.T. Coy Jr. and Vida Coy by Jim and Ruth Coy.

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is the haunting *Prelude* by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). The Anthem at the Offertory is a setting of the text by Erik Routley of *The Tree of Life* here set for choir by living American composer K. Lee Scott. The Postlude is the *Toccata in g minor* by French composer Jean Pasquet (1896-1977).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor's Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible study meets Tuesday, October 21, at 11 a.m. in the parlor in Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for study this week are Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14.

Culinary Event: The FPC Culinary Event will be Friday, November 14, at 5 p.m. at Hawthorne in the pool area. Many thanks to the Jenkins family for the invitation to this beautiful space once again. Please fill out the form that is in the bulletin and get it to the office as soon as you are able. With that information, the committee knows what foods might need to be added! The tables will be set up to receive food at 4:30; food will be served beginning at 5 p.m. Thank you for your participation!

Congregational Meeting: The Congregation will meet following worship on Sunday, October 26, to elect elders and deacons for the Class of 2028.

Youth Christmas Musical: Rehearsals for the Natchez Youth Christmas continue this month on October 25 at 1 p.m. in Stratton Chapel. The Christmas program will be presented at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, in the FPC sanctuary. The noted Natchez musician Alvin Shelby directs the program, "Around the World It's Christmas." Please spread the word among the young people you know: there's still time for new singers to join the group – from grades six to twelve!

Toys for Tots!: Though it may seem early to think about Christmas, it is time to begin thinking about how to help ensure some Christmas gifts for children who otherwise might not have any during the traditional season of giving. Please be generous in your giving. There are hundreds of families in our community who will be served by Toys for Tots. Boxes are in the hallway by the church office and in Stratton Chapel. The deadline is Friday, December 5.

Other Christmas Season Dates:

* The annual Caroling on the Steps at our church will be Friday, December 19, at 5 p.m. Plan to be there! Bring family and friends for this festive time singing our favorite carols.

* Lessons and Carols will be in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 21. This is another inspiring event in our Christmas season. Mark your calendars!

* Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, with a full worship service including activities for children.

Children's Choir: Families, bring your children to the wonderful gathering of young people, kindergarten through fifth grade, for music classes on Wednesdays, from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Under the teaching of Becky Meason Jones, children meet in the youth area in the education building.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesday of each week at 6 p.m. Now is an excellent time to join the choir if you have been thinking about doing so! Come to Wednesday rehearsal; or speak to Director of Music and Organist Vincent Bache after the service today if you are interested!

Wild Faith Outdoor Worship: Rev. Caldwell will lead an outdoor worship service Saturday, October 25, at 10 a.m. at Bluff Park, 309 S. Broadway. Bring a chair and dress for the weather.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Youth Group: First Presbyterian Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the youth room.

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

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.

Adult 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



SEASON OF CREATION

October 4-25, 2025

***Join First Presbyterian Church during this special
season as we worship God our Creator
and celebrate God's glory in creation!***

Services for the Lord's Day Sundays at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary

October 5: *God Delights in Creation*

October 12: *God Meets Us in Creation*

October 19: *God Makes All Things New*

Wild Faith Outdoor Worship: Saturdays at 10:00AM Bring a chair and dress for the weather.

October 4: Riverview RV Park

800 Martin Luther King Ave., Vidalia

October 11: Routhland

131 Winchester Rd., Natchez

October 25: Bluff Park

309 S. Broadway St., Natchez

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
Sunday Schedule 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship coffee			8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support 4:15 Children's choir 5:15 Supper/Youth 6 Bible Study/Choir		Noon AA meeting	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Communion	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11 Cong. Dev. Committee 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Deacons' meeting 7 Boy Scouts Troop #157	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise class 10 Rebekah Circle Noon AA 4 Grief Support 4:15 Children's choir 5:15 Supper/Youth 6 Bible Study/Choir		Noon AA meeting	1 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary with Alvin Shelby
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Presbytery Youth Retreat	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance Session 7 Boy Scouts Troop #157 Presbytery Youth Retreat	10:30 Pack Food Boxes 11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise class 10 Food Boxes Noon AA 4 Grief Support 4:15 Children's choir 5:15 Supper/Youth 6 Bible/Choir rehearsal	5 Book Club	Noon AA meeting	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11:30 Fellowship Coffee	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop #157	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support 4:15 Children's choir 5:15 Supper/Youth 6 Bible Study/Choir	Viking Tours	Noon AA meeting	1 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary with Alvin Shelby
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Stewpot	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop #157	Viking Tours 11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support 4:15 Children's choir 5:15 Supper/Youth 6 Bible Study/Choir		Noon AA meeting	

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,
and Robert Seyfarth for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 South Pearl Street

(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)

Natchez, Mississippi 39120

601-442-2581

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fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

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