

ORDER OF SERVICE

(All who are able, please stand)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(To prepare our hearts for worship)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Praise God! Praise the Lord, all creation!
All: Stars glittering with grace, humpback whales singing of hope: all praise our God!
One: Praise God! Praise the Lord, all you people!
All: Twelve year-olds, and 80-plus, wise and those learning to walk: all praise our God!
One: Praise God! Praise the Lord, in every moment, in every place!
All: In church, or relaxing at home; in a class and at the doctor's office: we will praise our God!

*HYMN 134

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Christmas: we still are playing with our new toys, the crèche figures have not been put away; we have the stacks of Christmas cards, but we memorize the words sin has taught us; we set limits on who we will love, we make promises we cannot keep, we fail to see the pain and hurt we cause. God of the angels and shepherds, forgive us. Your Word has come to reshape our lives; your Light has come to show us the way home; your Son has come to make us your family. Have mercy and make us new people. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Silent prayer and private confession)

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ALLELUIA

Hymnal, 587

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

- One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

The Reverend Julie Bailey

THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination:

Sally Heinz

Scripture:

Sally Heinz

Old Testament Lesson, I Samuel 2: 18-20
Responsive Reading, Psalm 148
Gospel Lesson, Luke 2:41-52

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Julie Bailey

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20

All: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

*HYMN 140,

"Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(using debts/debtors)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*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.*

Hymnal, 606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 136,

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(To ponder how we will take God's love out to the world)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

TO OUR VISITORS – Welcome to this service of worship! We hope you experience God's presence among us today. To learn more about First Pres., speak to any member after today's worship service or contact the church office during the week at 525-5619. Come back soon!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE! In 2016, we want to continue to enhance our ministries and much, much more here at First Pres! Pledge cards are available on the round table in the chapel or from the church office.

"THESE DAYS" DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS for January through March 2016 are now available on the round table in the chapel. Please take one for your personal daily devotions.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up on the round table in the chapel. If you don't find one for your family, please contact the church office.

CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS - We continue to be extremely low on, and in some cases completely out of, new women's underwear and sports bras in the Clothes Closet. We are also especially low on men's and women's white tube socks. We are collecting these items in a bin in the chapel, or you may leave them in the church office.

COPIES OF OUR WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE are available on the round table in the chapel. If you would like to receive an emailed copy of this weekly update, please contact the church office.

JEAN LAMAR'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! The family of Jean Lamar invites you to join in a celebration of her 90th birthday next Sunday, January 3, in the chapel, immediately following worship.

REMEMBER YOUR 2015 PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS - Our busy schedules sometimes keep us from being in worship every Sunday, but the work (and expenses!) of the church continue throughout the year. Please remember to keep your pledges and offerings current. **Contributions must be received in the church office by December 31, 2015** in order to appear on your 2015 Contribution Statement.

TODAY IS PENNIES FOR HUNGER SUNDAY. You may place your offerings in the basket in the narthex.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THE PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27:
CARRIE AND SAM MULDAVIN. Each person in the congregation is asked to pray for her during the coming week.

THE CONCERNS OF OUR CONGREGATION:

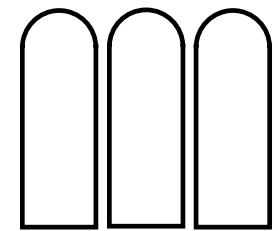
Briana Binnie and Family	Starla Emery & son
Jackie Howard	Dexter Huey
Michael Krause	Karen McDaniel
Don Nunlee	Chuck and Jeannette Polinski
Rose Veazey	Carol Worthington
Kristina Yarbrough	
Our members who are homebound	Our neighbors who are homeless
Those who are having a hard time during the holidays	

THE CONCERNS OF OUR SOUP KITCHEN GUESTS:

- Fred prays for his situation to get better.
- Willy praises God to be cured of cancer, and prays to keep a smile on his face and that God would bless others to live another day.
- Jimmy prays that life gets better, and to see his children.
- Andrew prays to be blessed to see 100 years old.
- Ruben prays for his life to be better.
- Don prays for a job.
- James prays for peaceful holidays and a good new year.
- Richard prays to live in the spirit of Christ.
- Stephen prays for our troops overseas.
- Rico prays for a job, a room, and financial support.
- Genada prays to stop drinking.
- Tammy prays to get her family together and to get a home.
- Sharon prays to get more food at home, for help to get her family back together, for a house, and for her mom to get better.
- Cortavis prays that God would help him change his life, and that his life would be better next year.
- Willie gives thanks to God, and prays to see another day.
- Doris asks for prayers for herself and her family, and thanks God that her daughter was not too badly hurt in a recent car wreck.
- Belinda prays that God will watch over her.
- Helen prays to get busy for the Lord, and to use her spiritual gifts of teaching and encouragement more.
- John prays for his family, and for a computer and printer.
- Marie prays for everyone to be healthy and safe.

DATES AND MEETINGS

Today	2:30 pm	Soup Kitchen, Clothes Closet
Mon., Dec. 28 – Fri., Jan 1		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Wed., Dec. 30	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Jan. 3		SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, EPIPHANY SUNDAY, PENNIES FOR HUNGER
	10:30 am	Coffee & Fellowship, Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Worship, Communion, Ordination and Installation of Elders
	12:00 pm	90 th Birthday Celebration for Jean Lamar
	2:00 pm	Birth Certificates
	2:30 pm	Soup Kitchen, Clothes Closet



First Presbyterian Church



Pastor: The Reverend Julie Bailey
Spiritual Director: The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Bussey-Spencer Patton
Pastor Emeritus: The Reverend C. V. "Bo" Scarborough
Director of Music and Organist: Robert Klingbeil
Lay Reader: Sally Heinz

SESSION MEMBERS

Tony Botto	Vicki Freutel	Sally Heinz
Robert Klingbeil	Carol Rakestraw	Martha Shepard
Nate Vander Linde	Milton Ward	KC Warren
Misti Weaver	Bill York	

Visit us online at:
www.firstpresmemphis.org
www.facebook.com/firstpresmemphis



First Presbyterian Church is a congregation of
The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 27, 2015

WE WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO FIRST.
We are a caring community of all kinds of people from all over Memphis who believe that we are all God's children. With joyful hearts and open arms we welcome everyone to our church regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or economic or family status.

166 Poplar Avenue • Memphis, Tennessee 38103 • 901-525-5619
Established 1828