

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To Gather as God's People;
To Grow in Faith, Love and Service;
And to Go into the World as Disciples
Sharing God's Love.

The Presbyterian Press

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FEBRUARY 2026

Frozen Fun & Faithful Joy

Snow may have been scarce, but the sleet and ice didn't stop the fun for our church kids and youth this past week! Bundled up from head to toe, our young ones made the most of winter's visit. From shooting hoops on an icy court and sliding down hills, to making ice angels, roasting s'mores, and simply laughing and playing together, these moments were filled with joy and energy. What a blessing it is to see our children embracing the simple gift of play, even in the cold! **"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."** (Psalm 118:24). As we turn the page to February, we're thankful for these sweet winter memories and for the children and youth who bring so much life, fun, and faith to our church family. More fun snow pictures continued on page 4....



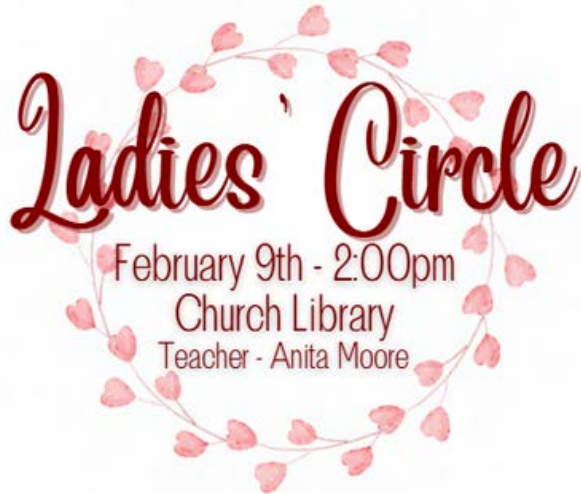
*"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14*



Reminder →

Committee Meetings February 4

(Unless other arrangements have been made.
Dinner will be served at 5:30.
No Adult Bible Study the first Wednesday.)



Ladies' Circle
February 9th - 2:00pm
Church Library
Teacher - Anita Moore

Valentine's Fellowship Night

This Valentine's season, join us for a relaxed fellowship night as we watch *King of Kings* together on Sunday, February 15th at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hosted by our Outreach Committee, we'll share a meal, enjoy movie snacks, and spend time reflecting on the incredible love Jesus has for us and the love we have for Him. It's a simple evening of food, fellowship, and a movie, centered on the greatest love of all. All are welcome.



Valentine's Fellowship Night
A Meal and Movie Night
THE KING OF KINGS
Join us for a relaxed evening of faith and fellowship!
Sunday, Feb 15th at 5 PM
ALL are welcome!

Updated Church Directories

Church Directories will be available to pick up beginning, February 8th. Copies will be available in the office, narthex, and fellowship hall.

Happy birthday

May the abundance of the love of Christ fill all the days of your life!

2/5	Finn Caldwell	2/7	Chris White
2/13	Johnny Dees		

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to sign up to be liturgist and head usher/greeter in February! If you feel led to serve in one of these capacities, please sign up! Sign-up lists are located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the church office!

	Usher Greeter	Liturgist	Children's Church
2/1	Mary Bounds	Debbie Arnold	Sarah Hornor
2/8	Antia Moore	Doug Green	Lea West
2/15	Yulissa Arnold	Mike McNeill	Jennifer Bailey
2/22		Ashley Hagaman	Jodie Arnold

	Communion Servers	Communion Preparers
2/1	Martine & Pierre	Travis Arnold, Martine Boumtje, Susan Dees, Mike McNeill
2/18	_____	_____, _____, _____

Deacon on Duty: Drew Moore (870) 904-2372



MARCH NEWSLETTER CONTENT DEADLINE
February 17

Memorial Gifts

IN MEMORY OF:	BY:
Mike Morgan	Kathy & John Allen Gean
Charles Nathan Cotten	Kathy & John Allen Gean

THE MISSION-EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Mission-Evangelism Committee just completed packing their quarterly delivery for The CALL, providing 14 laundry baskets filled with essential supplies for local foster families. What a beautiful ministry that continues to extend Christ's love through kindness, generosity, and practical support to families in our community. Thank you to everyone who supports this meaningful outreach! The committee is now collecting donations again this quarter of household items and cleaning supplies. If you would like to participate, donation items may be placed in the baskets located in the narthex or fellowship hall. Monetary gifts are also welcome and may be placed in the offering plate—please be sure to note "The CALL" on the memo line.



CELEBRATING A SPECIAL MILESTONE

Happy Birthday, Daisy Helen!!!

Our church family is delighted to celebrate a very special milestone with one of our beloved members, who recently marked her 97th birthday! She enjoyed a joyful celebration surrounded by friends and family at MuleKick, filled with laughter, fellowship, and cherished memories. We are so thankful for her life, her faith, and the many years she has shared as part of our church family. Please join us in wishing her continued blessings, good health, and joy in the year ahead!



First Presbyterian Church



Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026
Service 6:00 pm

Notes of Thanks

Dear FPC,



The donation we received was a true blessing to us and the youth we serve in our community. We strive to provide safe & enriching programs to our youth that help strengthen our community. Strong support from partners like FPC are crucial in making sure we can offer these programs efficiently & effectively. we are truly blessed!

Thank you! We appreciate you! - Chris Ludwig, BGC/M

Dear FPC,

Thank you so much for your continued generosity that helps to support our programs. We are so grateful that you continue to think of us and contribute to the ability of our agency to provide meaningful jobs to the adults that we serve.

Thank you, Emilee Vest



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

We are so overwhelmed by the generosity that you continue to show Magnolia Public Schools each year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the donations you continue to give our students. We are truly blessed by you all! Love, Magnolia School District



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

It is always wonderful to see and share faith and fellowship with the God loving 1st Presbyterian Congregation. What a communion, and 'Fireworks' show. -Pat Downs

We are so grateful for our time you all!! Thank you and loving prayers! Much love, Pamela Downs

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thanks for the donation. It meant the world to me. First Presbyterian Church's support has been a light in this chapter of my life.

Love, Tonya Daniels

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I hope you are doing well. I recently realized that I had missed acknowledging your generous support, which was sent in October, and I wanted to reach out personally to express my gratitude. It is so encouraging to know that churches are looking to support workers overseas. I would love to schedule a time to video chat with you over the next week or two to meet you, thank you "in person," and share a bit about what is going on in my area.

Blessings, Stephen Blum, EPC Missionary

Dear Presbyterian Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to The Stewpot. We are truly grateful for your kindness and faithfulness in supporting this ministry. Your contribution is a beautiful reflection of God's love in action, and it will keep providing hot meals to those with food insecurity in Magnolia. Again, we are thankful for your generosity and your friendship to the Stewpot

Love, Valerie, The Stewpot

Dear FPC,

Thank you kindly for your monetary donation to Southern Christian Mission. Your contribution has been gratefully received! May God continue to bless you in many ways.

Sincerely yours,
Ruthie Sharp, Director

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your contribution of \$1000. There are a lot of worthwhile organizations in Magnolia, and I realize that everyone has a choice on where to give, so it is always an honor for us when people choose Magnolia Specialized Services. Thank you so much for your very generous contribution. It is really appreciated.

Sincerely, Sara Carrington



First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, Arkansas
The Minutes for the Stated Meeting of the Session
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, Arkansas, met for its monthly Stated meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

The following members were present: Elder Jodie Arnold, Elder Travis Arnold, Elder and Clerk Paula Boaz, Elder Martine Boumtje, Elder Cathy Downs, Elder and Treasurer Kathy Gean, Elder Ashley Hagaman, Elder Sue Joyce, and Elder Chris White.

Call to order: Rev. Ray Durham called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Devotional: Elder Ashley Hagaman gave a devotional on "Being Blessed, not Lucky." She referenced the Book of Numbers in the Bible and Dolly Parton. She described her journey as a mother to her son, Wes, who was blessed, not lucky and being able to serve as an Elder on the Session and the impact it has had on her.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kathy Gean reported that there was nothing unusual regarding the budget report. Elder Cathy Downs moved to approve, and Elder Chris White seconded.

Approval of November Minutes: The Session reviewed the November minutes. Elder Sue Joyce moved to approve the November minutes; Elder Jodie Arnold seconded, and session approved.

Correspondence and Requests: Church secretary Brooke Williams requests vacation days for January 8th and 9th. Session approved the request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative-Elder Chris White discussed the janitor's poor services with Session members. He will meet with the janitor and discuss the problem and see if it can be corrected. There was discussion on the distribution of money to community projects and how to get this information to congregation members.

Christian Education-Elder Jodie Arnold reported some changes to Sunday morning classes. The Shout and Sing youth class is cancelled due to the resignation of the teacher. The recent Sunday evening "Tour of Homes" fellowship event was a huge success, and Jodie is already planning next year's event. The next fellowship event will be Sunday, January 4th. It will be pizza, cookies and hot chocolate with outdoor fireworks starting at 5:30pm.

Fellowship-Elder Ashley Hagaman reported her committee had worked at the Stewpot and would be doing the shut-in Wednesday meals in December. She reported that money she had requested (and received) for school needs was no longer needed, Session decided to keep the check and use it for a soup-making project.

Mission/Evangelism- Elders Kathy Gean and Paula Boaz reported that their committee prepared a special Holiday meal for the residents at Southern Christian Mission. The committee also met and discussed a request from SCM for a new washer and dryer and a verbal request from Stewpot. Local charities were discussed for the purpose of distributing our yearly budget. The following gifts were approved:

- \$1,453 Southern Christian Mission (washer and dryer)
- \$3,000 The Call
- \$3,000 Compassion Foundation
- \$3,000 Boys and Girls Club
- \$2,000 Cameroon Mission Medical Equipment
- \$1,000 Unlimited Abilities
- \$1,000 CCAPS (apply to Dr. Bryan's vet bill)
- \$1,000 Magnolia Specialized Services
- \$1,000 Stew Pot

Worship-Elder Sue Joyce reported that her committee met and made Advent plans.

Young Adult Outreach-Elder Travis Arnold reported that his committee sponsored the "Christ in Christmas" award at the Community Christmas Parade. It won second place. Their group covered the cost and shopped for 10 Angel tree names.

Nominating Committee-A nominating committee made up of Mary Bounds, Ashley Hagaman and Kathy Gean have secured three nominees for Ruling Elders, Class of 2028. They are Chris White, Blake Pierce, and Steve Ford. The same committee has secured five nominees for the Pastor Search Committee. They are Travis Arnold, Jennifer Bailey, Steve Crane, Ashley Hagaman and Anita Moore. There will be two announcements for a congregational meeting stating the purpose of the meeting. These announcements will appear in the bulletins on November 23 and 30 with the congregational meeting being held on December 7 for a full vote by members.

Officer Training will be on Saturday, January 10th from 9:00 am to noon.

Adjournment and Prayer

There being no Further Business, Elder Paula Boaz recommended that Session close the meeting, Elder Martine Boumtje seconded, and Rev. Durham closed the meeting with Prayer at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dr. Paula Boaz, Clerk of Session



Presbytery of the Gulf South Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Round-Up Newsletter

A Snapshot of the 35th Stated Meeting – January 23-24, 2026

Grace and Peace to You!

Gulf South Presbytery recently gathered for its 35th Stated Meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church in Covington, LA. We want to extend a huge "thank you" to the staff and volunteers at Faith; their hospitality made us feel right at home.

Leadership & Transitions

- **A New Moderator:** TE Scott Castleman (First PC, Ocean Springs, MS) was installed as our 2026 Moderator. Please keep him in your prayers as he leads us this year.
- **Milestone Retirements:** TE Alan Trafford was moved to the Honorably Retired Roll as of January 18th and TE Gerrit Dawson will be as of May 1st. We are very grateful for their years of service to their congregations and this Presbytery.
- **Transitions:** Past Moderator RE Brandon Queen was approved as our newest Candidate under Care. On a bittersweet note, TE Ron Horgan announced he will step down as Church Health Coordinator due to family health concerns. He will continue to serve until a successor is found; we are grateful for the work that he has done among our churches to encourage evangelism and church health.

Ministry Highlights & Missions

- **Church Planting:** TE Tom Masterson and TE Alfredo Forhans reported on the growth of church planting within the Spanish-speaking community of San Antonio. The Lord is opening doors there!
- **World Outreach:** We received updates on the work in Lebanon and the *Engage 2025* scholarship fund for refugee children. We also heard about the efforts to train and send Cuban missionaries to countries in which Americans would have difficulty evangelizing.
- **Investing in the Next Gen:** Attendance at *Polar Thang!* and *EPIC* is growing. To keep these camps affordable, the Presbytery approved new scholarship funding. For information about volunteering, registration, and scholarships, contact TE Weston Blaha (wblaha@icloud.com).

Business & Preparedness

- **Overtures:** The Presbytery unanimously approved four descending overtures regarding candidates under care. An ascending overture to amend Book of Government 9-3.A "Life and Character of Officers" was discussed at length, but the Presbytery ultimately voted not to forward it to the GA.
- **Disaster Relief:** Led by RE Allen Armstrong, this new committee will be compiling information to help our churches develop local response plans. [\[Click here\]](#) for a resource from the national committee.
- **Serve with Us:** Most Presbytery committee slots are filled, but we still have room for your gifts. If you feel called to serve in a currently vacant position or in the Class of 2029, please reach out to TE Bill Crawford at revbillcrawford@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- **Small Church Summit:** February 24–26
- **Transitional Pastor Training:** March 3–4
- **Next Gen Leadership Summit:** April 21–23
- **EPIC 2026:** June 1–5, 2026, at Seashore Assembly in Biloxi, MS

Gulf South Presbytery will meet at **Diamondhead Community Church** in Diamondhead, MS, on **April 24–25, 2026**. If your church would like to host the September 25-26, 2026, or the January 22-23, 2027, meeting, please contact the Stated Clerk.

Would you like more denominational news and updates? Links to the EPCConnection newsletter, the "In All Things" weekly podcast, as well as the EPC's Facebook page, Instagram account, and YouTube channel, can be found by going to <https://epcconnect.org/news/>.

The Round-Up Newsletter is meant to be shared. If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, tell them to email the Stated Clerk at statedclerk.gsp@gmail.com. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please let the Clerk know.

January Fellowship

So much fun was had at our January Fireworks Fellowship! Laughter, fellowship, and plenty of smiles filled the evening as our church family gathered for a wonderful time together. A special thank you to the Outreach Committee for organizing and hosting such a fun event. Moments like these are a true blessing, reminding us of the joy found in community and fellowship with one another. We're already looking

forward to our next fellowship on February 15th. Be sure to join us and invite a friend or two or three!!



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am-First Fellowship 9:45am-Bible Classes 10:45am-Worship Service 11:00am-Children's Church	2	3	4 5:30pm-Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm-Committee Mtgs Children's Classes Committee Meetings (Unless other arrangements are made.)	5 Finn Caldwell	6 Alton & Georgia Newton	7 Chris White
8 9:30am-First Fellowship 9:45am-Bible Classes 10:45am-Worship Service 11:00am-Children's Church	9 Ladies' Circle 2:00 pm	10 Stewpot	11 5:30pm-Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm-Adult Bible Study Children's Classes	12	13 Johnny Dees	14
15 9:30am-First Fellowship 9:45am-Bible Classes 10:45am-Worship Service 11:00am-Children's Church 5:00pm - Valentine's Fellowship	16	17 Southern Christian Mission	18 5:30pm-Prayer Meeting 6:00pm-Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	21 Keith & Trish DuPriest
22 9:30am-First Fellowship 9:45am-Bible Classes 10:45am-Worship Service 11:00am-Children's Church	23 Ray & Christine Durham	24 Session Meeting 6:00 pm	25 5:30pm-Prayer Meeting Light Meal Fellowship 6:00pm-Adult Bible Study Children's Classes	26	27	28

Love the Lord Your God with all
your heart, soul and mind.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



Sundays:

- 9:30 am - FIRST FELLOWSHIP
- 9:45 am - ADULT BIBLE CLASSES
- 9:45 am - CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY STATIONS
- 10:45 am - WORSHIP
- 11:00 am - CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wednesdays:

- 5:30 PM - PRAYER MEETING
LIGHT MEAL FELLOWSHIP
- 6:00 PM - ADULT BIBLE STUDY/COMMITTEE MTGS*
CHILDREN'S CLASSES

*1ST WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PLACE OF ADULT BIBLE STUDY.



IN OUR
THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

PLEASE EMAIL ANY UPDATES TO THE PRAYER LIST TO FPCMAGNOLIA@GMAIL.COM

Paul Ainsworth, Dalene Baer, Alice Bartushock, Gene Bentley, David Chenoweth, Kim Cleveland, Katherine Connelly, Charles Cotton Family, Bill Dailey, Berkley Dearman, Ray Durham, Sharon Ford, Local Foster Families, John Allen Gean, Julie Townsend Gibbs, Tommy & Adele Green, Kristy Huffman, Mike Jones, Rochelle McMahan, Jeff Miller, Heather Moore, Georgia Newton, Linda Selman, Ella Lou Smith, Kalli Smith, Dudley Talbot, Brandon Taylor, Doug Taylor, Mike Teutsch, Anna Trexler, Daisy Uhrich, Caden Ware, Alicia Watson, Margo Weiser, Casanti Williams, Roger Wyrick.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

1417 N Jackson
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