



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
— CHURCH —
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

Pastor Search



Core Values

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

We are committed to fulfilling this mission by focusing on the following four core values:

Worship

God expects His people to worship Him.

In John 4:23, Jesus tells the woman at the well that God is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Since worship is important to God, we place a high priority on corporate worship consistent with Biblical teachings.

Learn

In John 8:31, Jesus states that His disciples will be devoted to His Word. Accordingly, we are committed to studying the Bible together with the goal of living out our faith in the everyday. The Bible is paramount in all of our ministries, as congregants are encouraged and empowered to participate in deep study of the Word.

Love

In John 13:34-35, Jesus gives another distinguishing characteristic of His disciples: that they will love other disciples. “By this,” Jesus says, “all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” We are intentional about loving one another through our worship, fellowship, and community groups.

Reach

When Jesus was about to return to heaven, He charged His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). This Great Commission applies not only to the first twelve disciples but to all who have put their faith in Christ. In joyful obedience, we support missions in the US and abroad, care for our neighbors through mercy ministry, and extend our hands to our community.

Our History

First Presbyterian Church of Gulfport (FPC) was founded on February 17, 1899, by eight charter members. FPC grew steadily from humble beginnings, meeting in school buildings and rented spaces, into a settled congregation. Early leaders such as the Rev. Dr. J.D. Mooney and Rev. Dr. D.L. Temple helped establish the church and oversee construction of its first permanent building in 1903. Over the decades, several pastors guided the church through periods of growth, new building projects, and community outreach.

During World War II, the church operated the “Church House,” serving more than 70,000 servicemen before they left for the war front. In 1983, the congregation joined the Presbyterian Church of America. In 2005, the church facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and under the leadership of Dr. Guy Richard, a new campus was dedicated in 2010. During this time, we served one another and the community through Camp Hope. FPC continued to grow in membership and ministry under Dr. Toby Holt until he was appointed president of New Geneva International Theological Seminary in early 2026. Presently, the church continues its ministries while prayerfully seeking its next pastor, building on more than a century of faith, service, and leadership.

Our Family

Membership

2025 average attendance of 225, up 14% from 2022.
Current membership of 324.

Leadership and Staff

I Teaching Elder	4 Ruling Elders
II Deacons	8 Staff Members

Budget

Budget of \$790,000 for 2026-2027 fiscal year.



Our Ministries

Women

The Women's Ministry aims to help every woman in our congregation to know Christ personally and to commit to extending His kingdom in her life, home, church, community, and world. We meet regularly for Bible studies, fellowship, and other special events.

Men

Throughout His ministry, Jesus committed Himself to building and strengthening a core group of men. We seek to continue Jesus's example in our men's programming, including Bible studies, Saturday breakfasts, and informal fellowship opportunities.

OWLS

FPC's "OWLS" (Older Wiser Loving Saints) is a ministry for adults 55 and above. Our OWLS meet once a month for lunch and fellowship as well as other special activities throughout the year.



Children

The Children's Ministry is one of our greatest strengths. We provide a gospel-centered foundation for our children, helping parents lay the groundwork for ongoing spiritual growth.

Our approach is thoughtful and intentional, ensuring that our methods and curriculum are rooted in God's Word.

We work hand-in-hand with parents and guardians, to impart the wisdom of Scripture to every child.



Young Adults

Our Young Adults Ministry seeks to strengthen its members' faith through fellowship and the study of God's Word.

The Young Adults meet for a meal and study on the first Tuesday of every month and once a month for an activity.



Our Ministries

Youth

The Youth Ministry at FPC is an active and thriving ministry to students.

Our purpose is to nurture students in their relationship with Christ, to equip them to serve in the name of Jesus, and to prepare them for the trials and tests that they will face in the years ahead.

Offerings include Sunday school, Wednesday night activities, summer and fall retreats/mission trips, game nights, and lock-ins.



Missions

We demonstrate our commitment to the Great Commission by placing great importance on missions. For the past five years, 12% of FPC's budget has been dedicated to missions. Our Missions Committee coordinates missions opportunities that our congregants can participate in, both locally and abroad. The Committee also serves as the primary point of contact with our church's missionary partners.

Mercy Ministry

Our diaconate-led mercy ministry seeks to reach local image-bearers who are suffering difficult personal and financial situations. Recognizing that financial support alone is an insufficient solution to poverty, our deacons seek to walk with mercy ministry recipients through their struggles to lead them to Christ.

Music

Our adult choir, accompanist, children's choir, and other talented musician-congregants worship and glorify God through hymns, psalms, and instrumental music.

Wednesday Night Activities

Every Wednesday during the local school semesters, we gather together to enjoy a fellowship dinner prepared by volunteers. After the meal, adults gather in the sanctuary for Bible study while our youth participate in discipleship and fellowship activities, and children take part in Bible Club and choir.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

As part of our Wednesday night activities, we offer free ESL classes, giving attendees the opportunity to encounter the Word of God and participate in curriculum-based lessons with our congregant-teachers.

Community Groups

At FPC, we believe that participating in community groups is vital to forming meaningful relationships within our church family across all ages. Our six Community Groups meet regularly at various locations along the Coast.



Our Community

Gulfport is the second largest city in Mississippi with a population around 73,000. It is located in Harrison County with a population around 214,000. Some of the top schools in the state are found in Gulfport, as well as ample homeschooling opportunities. Multiple college and junior college campuses can be found along the coast or within a short drive.

“The Coast” hosts many festivals and events, including the Peter Anderson Festival, Cruisin’ the Coast, the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, seafood festivals, concerts at the Coast Coliseum and The Sound, and more. Twenty-six miles of man-made beach stretch from Biloxi to Pass Christian, offering an array of excellent dining experiences. An hour and fifteen minutes to the west is New Orleans, and two hours east are the beaches of Alabama and Florida. Local shopping resources include Gulfport Premium Outlets, Crossroads Center (Gulfport), and The Promenade (D’Iberville). Access to the Gulf offers recreational boating and fishing opportunities year-round.

Resources: www.mscoast.org/community-resources

Pastor Profile

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a senior pastor who loves the Lord and people, is passionate about Scripture, and holds doctrinal views aligned with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). The pastor will faithfully preach and teach God’s Word, administer the sacraments, provide pastoral care, and lead the congregation in discipleship. Working alongside the session, diaconate, and church staff, the senior pastor will guide the church in Gospel-centered ministry.

Desired Skills and Attributes

- Biblical exegetical skills, preaching, and teaching
- Collaboration and team building
- Discipleship and leadership development
- Pastoral vision and care
- Interpersonal relationship building through active listening and conflict resolution
- Theological understanding of the Church
- Strong oral and written communication
- Technological proficiency
- Ability to build partnerships in mission and ministries across diverse groups
- Ability to oversee or delegate responsible financial management



Application

For more information about the application process,
please reach out to the Pulpit Committee:
Search Committee Chairman: Robert Cain, RE
Email: search2026@fpcgulfport.org

First Presbyterian Church
10885 O'Neal Road, Gulfport, MS 39503
Phone: 228-863-2664
Web Page: <http://www.fpcgulfport.org>



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