



THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



GOD GOES WITH US

REV. DR. JOHN A. HINKLE, JR., SENIOR PASTOR

As we enter a new year, I am fully aware that I have been doing this life thing for a while. To be exact, I have gone around the sun 57 times. I think I have lived a pretty full life, though I am also aware that I have not always fully taken advantage of things that have been handed to me. Several years ago, I determined that I would change this about me so when I am invited to do something I do my best to say yes. I have discovered the trick to accomplish such a task is to do your best to be present in the moment. For years now I have shared with you the theological meaning of the word "Providence." Providence means nothing is by chance and that God has a purpose for every minute of our lives. Thus, when someone asks me to do something, whatever that something is,... I need to be aware that God is working in my life.

I understand this more as I reflect on the year that was. We never know what a new year might hold for us, but as the new year fades in the past, it should not surprise me how God put in my life people and places that to the world seem like chance encounters, but, on reflecting, I know they are examples of God working in my life.

Almost six years ago to the date I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. The diagnosis itself did not come as surprise since my father had prostate cancer. I just thought my prostate cancer diagnosis would happen when I was closer to 72 than 52. I am grateful that after my diagnosis and leading up to surgery and beyond, God put Dr. Greg Stewart in my life. Greg is a great doctor and he has become a good friend. I never had any doubt that Greg would take care of me, but what I was not aware of is that six years later in 2024 Greg would take care of my family also when my father was diagnosed with bladder cancer. I will not go into detail all that Greg did for my family, but I have been amazed that God used my getting prostate cancer so that I would know Greg, both for my own treatment and later for my family.

I am not sure what this new year holds for me, and that is okay, because I know wherever we are going, God is going with us.

Follow Rev. Dr. Hinkle on Twitter @daltonboy1986 or email him at jhinkle@mborofpc.org



Wonderful Wednesdays resume on January 15. Chef Jessica will return to prepare our wonderful dinners in the Common Room from 5-6pm. We encourage everyone to join us! You may reserve by the week, month, or season for dinner starting in January by contacting Charlotte in the church office: charlotte@mborofpc.org, 615-893-3882, ext.201, or just fill out the green pew cards on Sundays starting in January.



PREACHING IN JANUARY

January 5

“Get While the Getting is Good”

Psalm 147:12-20
Matthew 2:13-23

January 12

Baptism of the Lord and Ordination & Installation Sunday
Rev. Bobby Harding preaching

“Baptism of the Lord”
Psalm 2
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19

Rev. Joyce Merritt preaching

“Is This for Real”
Psalm 36
John 2:1-11

January 26

“What Gets Us Mad”
Psalm 19
Luke 4:14-29



WORSHIP AT FPC

RULING ELDERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2027

On Sunday, January 12, during the 11am worship service, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the ordination and installation of Ruling Elders for the class of 2027.

Being Ordained & Installed: Chris Jackson, Ben Myers, Shannon Wheeler, Teri Windham
Being Installed: Nena Egli, Rogers Harrison, Brian Iske, John Moss

We thank Jim Crumley, Sandra Hawkins, Jill Lanning, Andy Peck, and Bob Potter as they rotate off the Session and continue to serve in the College of Elders.

The 2025 Session Retreat is Saturday, January 25 from 8am-12pm at church.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS THIS SEMESTER

For our first week back on January 15, our organist, Valerie Rains, will teach a special class to explain and demonstrate the incredible changes to our organ. Her class will take place at our regular class time of 6:00pm in the sanctuary.

Starting January 22, our regular adult classes will begin:

- Rev. Dr. Hinkle will begin a class examining the lives of great Reformers in the United States. Class will meet in the parlor.
- Women's Bible Study will cover Kelly Minter's *Nehemiah*. Books are \$25 and are recommended but not required. Class will meet downstairs in Harrison Hall. Contact the office if you want a book.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 KELLY MINTER'S "NEHEMIAH"
 A HEART THAT CAN BREAK
 Starts January 22 at 6pm
 Books are \$25
 Harrison Hall downstairs
 Contact the office:
 charlotte@mborofpc.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS
 STARTS ON JANUARY 22
 WITH REV. DR. JOHN HINKLE
 WE WILL BE COVERING THE LIVES OF THE REFORMERS OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

FPC EVENTS AND UPDATES

FIRST FRIDAY



FRIDAY, January 3rd

9am - 12pm

College St. Drive-thru

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, the church will cancel activities according to county school cancellation. An email will be sent to the congregation and information placed on the website if possible. If onsite worship is canceled, worship will be on our YouTube Channel.

CLERGY STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Hinkle will study in Montreat the week of January 13-20. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Rev. Harding, the church office at 615-893-3882, ext.201, charlotte@mborofpc.org or your caregiver.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20 IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



MONDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

RESUMES MONDAY, JANUARY 27
5:30pm in the Parlor

Morning Circle

Join us January 7th
for fellowship

1st Tuesday of the month at
10am in the parlor
All Women Welcome

SAVE THE DATE!

CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT

**MAY 2-4,
2025**



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY! BY: BILL PATTERSON



Al and Brenda Sellers

New members Al and Brenda Sellers moved to Murfreesboro from Vicksburg, Miss, their home for 44 years, for what seems to be the default motivation for recent new members: their daughter lives here.

Brenda is originally from Memphis, and Al from Forrest City, Arkansas. They met while both were attending Mississippi State University. They married in 1976. After a few years in New Orleans, they moved to Vicksburg where Al was in the oil and gas business and Brenda,

who has a master's degree in counseling, taught in a church kindergarten. "Probably the most fun job I ever had," she said. Her longest-serving job, however, was with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. They have four children and ten grandchildren. Al joked, when pressed about his past church membership, "I went to where the girl is," but was basically a Baptist. "When we moved to Vicksburg, we found a church that was warm and welcoming, just like your church here," Brenda said. They moved their membership in November from First Presbyterian Church in Vicksburg where Al was an elder.

As for pastimes, Brenda and Al like to read, Al keeps a flower garden and Brenda has taken up knitting with the ladies' prayer shawl group at FPC. We are glad to have Al and Brenda in our church.



Carla Truckenbrodt

We welcome Carla Truckenbrodt to the family of First Presbyterian Church by affirmation of faith. Carla was born in the Chicago suburbs but grew up in Clarksville where she was a member of First Presbyterian Church there. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from UT Knoxville.

After working in her uncle's and brother-in-law's office in Gallatin, she moved to Murfreesboro three years ago. Before Gallatin, Carla lived three and a half years in Asheville, N.C. which is

close to Montreat, "my favorite place," she said. Carla had a brain tumor in 2020, and while undergoing radiation she developed aphasia. This condition causes a person to struggle to find the right words, and she wanted to let people know about this when speaking with her.

Carla no longer drives, but she is interested in participating in church activities. She has a "hybrid" dog (too many breeds to pin down!). She has two sisters, one in Gallatin and one in Arizona. We are glad Carla united with FPC.



Dear FPC Family,

Every year during our Thanksgiving meal, we take a moment to share what we're grateful for. This year, as we gathered around the table, one student's words stood out to me and the UKirk board members present. They expressed how thankful they were to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with friends, especially

since school projects required them to stay on campus and miss the opportunity to travel home for the holiday.

While we always wish our students could be with their families, particularly during the holidays, we are glad to be able to offer them a space where they can feel at home. We are deeply thankful for the incredible network of church partners, friends, and supporters like you who make it possible for us to provide a warm meal, a safe space, and a sense of belonging to students who often find themselves far from home.

Blessings,

Rev. Micah Watson, UKIRK MTSU

ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com • www.ukirkmtsu.com • 615-692-2742

FPC YOUTH
JANUARY
 2025

JAN 15 Winter Grad Boxes

JAN 11 MS Dinner and Smyrna Skate
 5:30-9:00 friends are invited too!
 \$15 per person, RSVP to Angela.

JAN 15 RSVP Deadlines: Nicaragua Trip
 (9th-12th Grade) and NaCome
 (rising 6th-9th Grade).

JAN 17-20 2025 HS SkiTreat

Open Cellar

JAN 8th, 15th,
 22nd, and 29th

Sunday Youth Group

JAN 5th, 12th,
 and 26th
 No YG JAN 19th

SAVE THE DATE

Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza
 5:30 PM
 February 5th, 2025



JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 11:24

January Highlights

- Wonderful Wednesday will be back for more fun starting January 15, and we hope to see you there at the return of the season.
- Stay on the lookout for events & faith milestones coming in February!

Summer Camp Registration Is Open!

• Express (Rising 2nd-4th)	June 15-17 and 18-20	\$350
• Springs (Rising 3rd-5th)	June 1-6, 8-13, and 22-27	\$525
• Village (Rising 6th-8th)	June 1-6, 8-13, and 15-20,	\$525
• Eclipse (Rising 6th-12th)	June 22-27 <i>stay up late & sleep in!</i>	\$525
• Ridge (Rising 9th-12th)	June 1-6, 8-13, and 15-20	\$525

www.nacome.org
 Contact Meredith Peck for info on camp assistance

SESSION NOTES BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Reverend Hinkle led our devotion commenting on his favorite Advent hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. The hymn, originally in Latin: *Veni Veni Emanuel*, dates back to the 12th century capturing the longing and anticipation of the coming of Christ. It reflects themes of hope, redemption, and God's promise of salvation.
- The Board of Trustees is planning an event on March 20 open to all members of our church to say Thank You to all who have contributed to the Legacy Fund with a presentation on ways to further support the Fund.
- We will be doing more work with the Salvation Army, and continuing our support of the Isaiah 117 House Doors of Hope, and Habitat for Humanity.
- The New Connections Team continues to focus on new members.

- Reverend Harding and the Youth Ministry are planning a twist in their annual cake auction fund raiser on February 5. It will be a dinner served by our youth followed by a raffle on fabulous items including some cakes. The goal is to raise \$14,000 to support camps and trips in the summer for the youth.
- Also in February on the 23rd our annual Chili Cookoff activity should be on your calendars.
- Cookies and Christmas cards made by our children and tweens were distributed to those who can't get out much delivered by their caregiver.
- The five new elders for the class of 2027 (Rogers Harrison, Chris Jackson, Ben Myers, Shannon Wheeler, and Teri Windham) were examined and approved for ordination and installation on January 12 at the 11 am service.

JANUARY birthdays



- 1- Polly Bullock
- 3- Ridley Bouldin
- 4- Meredith Peck
- 7- Matt McHughes
- 8- Mark Blackwelder, Rachel Pote
- 10- Debbie Edwards, Toby Moore
- 11- Will Fraley, John Scruggs
- 13- John Moss
- 15- Carole Peterson
- 16- Tammy Carroll, Spencer Couch, Bobbie Pierce
- 17- Hank Lampley, Tom Smith
- 18- Olivia Flanagan, Mamie Sevier, Claire Zakhar
- 19- Thomas Bailey, Judy Nichols
- 20- Shelby Bailey Edmonds
- 21- Averie Brasch, Bill Brasch, Katie Brasch,
Laura Harbour, David Parsons
- 22- Joel Paddon, Adam Panter, Shannon Smith,
Sarah Wolfe
- 23- Kristen Harbour
- 24- Annabelle Baughman, Allan Maynard,
Greyson Parker, Kaidence Parker, Helen Sanford
- 25- Beau Bergsieker
- 26- Delaney Petroka, Rhett Petroka
- 27- Dylan Iske
- 29- Toni Leathers
- 30- Chris Speck, Lauren Speck
- 31- Mark Akins

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
www.mborofpc.org

Have an announcement for February?

Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org by
January 19.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill and Beth Brasch
Matt and Lauren Lane

January 4
January 5



Welcome to Charles (Charlie) Roland Sights,
born on November 5, 2024.
Parents: Brian & Abby (Rudd) Sights
Siblings: Jack Emery (6) and Molly Elizabeth (3)
Uncle: Chris (and Natalie) Rudd
Grandmother: Lauren E. Rudd
Great Aunt: Kathy Daniel
Great Grandfather: Glen Emery



Welcome to Malcolm Leonidas Coffey,
born on December 19, 2024
Grandparents: J.T. and Toni Leathers



DIRECTORY UPDATES

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YOUTH DINNER AND RAFFLEPALOOZA

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE DINNER AND CAKE AUCTION



FEBRUARY 5TH
2025
5:30 PM

OUR ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS FUNDRAISER

Introducing the Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza

The VAST is pleased to announce an all new annual fundraiser for our youth summer trips — the Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza! For the past few years we've been wanting to try something new and we're finally ready to go for it. That's right. No more live cake auction. But don't be sad. The youth will still serve a delicious dinner. There will still be some cakes. But also, some gift baskets and a few other surprises. Our goal is to raise \$14,000 and we know that with all of your help, we can do it! So please mark your calendars. We hope everyone will join us on Wednesday February 5 for an unforgettable night of fun!