



# THE PROCLAMATION



## LIVING GENEROUSLY

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

While I was in Montreat last month, Charlotte called to remind me that she really needed all my information for February's *The Proclamation* sooner rather than later. Having worked with Charlotte for many years, I knew it was her loving way of telling me she wanted everything now and not later. So that is what I did, and this is what I want you to know...

On the Monday after I arrived in Montreat, with a touch of cabin fever, I got in my car and went for a drive. I drove around Montreat first. I am amazed at the work that has taken place since Hurricane Helene. I was worried that summer conferences would be canceled, but I learned that Montreat is already hosting conferences and groups without missing a beat. This is not the case with the Swannanoa Valley. Not much has changed since I was last in the area during Thanksgiving except that snow is on the ground. The amount of loss is unspeakable and pictures fail to express the needs that still exist for the community as families now find themselves living in borrowed RVs and even tents. I remember when I got back to my cabin, sitting on the couch, just saying to myself, "There but for the grace of God..."

I do not say, "There but for the grace of God" lightly, as if somehow I am lucky and some fool is not. When those words come out of the mouth, I mean them as a prayer. In moments of disaster, such as Hurricane Helene or the fires of Pacific Palisades and the surrounding areas, I count my blessings while, in the same breath, asking God how I can be a blessing to others. I believe the same is true for First Presbyterian Church. We are people who have been blessed by the Grace of God. So the question must be asked, "How are we a blessing to others?"

The month of February has been set aside for Stewardship Season. This year's campaign is entitled, "Sacrifice: Living a life of Generosity." As I reflect on the grace given to me over the years, I have become aware that I can live life out of scarcity or out of abundance. Living life out of scarcity means believing that God's blessings are finite, so when we give, it would be better to hold something back. Living life in abundance believes and confesses that all good gifts have come from the very hand of God. I will let you know that a church that lives in abundance is a church that trusts God and casts a vision for the future seeking to make this world a better place. This is what I have witnessed in the life of First Presbyterian Church ever since I arrived in Murfreesboro.

So, as we pray together, "There but for the grace of God," let us seek how we can live this sacrificial life for a God who blesses us daily. In book news, I have finished the *Nazi of Copley Square* and *Thousand Years*. I am starting *Where Men Win Glory*.

Follow Rev. Dr. Hinkle on Twitter @daltonboy1986 or email him at [jhinkle@mborofpc.org](mailto:jhinkle@mborofpc.org)

### ❄️ INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY ❄️

In the event of inclement weather, The Session uses the following general rule: 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 Sunday worship is canceled, worship will be on our YouTube Channel.





**Stewardship Season**

**February 2**

“The Courage to Sacrifice”

Psalm 71:1-6

Philippians 1:18-30

**February 9**

“The Beauty of Sacrifice”

Psalm 138

Philippians 2:1-11

**February 16**

“Sent to Sacrifice”

Psalm 1

Philippians 2:19-30

**February 23**

**Dedication Sunday**

“The Gain of Sacrifice”

Psalm 37:1-11, 39, 40

Philippians 3:1-11



WORSHIP AT FPC

PREACHING IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

The month of February marks the Stewardship Season in the life of First Presbyterian Church. Our Chairs for this year’s campaign are Tim and Rachel Pote. We have watched Tim and Rachel grow up through the years, first as college students and now as young parents who not only call First Presbyterian Church home, but through their time, talent, and tithe are giving themselves to the purpose of our congregation “To Know Christ and Make Christ Known.” This year’s campaign is “Sacrifice: Living a Life of Generosity.”



FROM THE ORGAN COMMITTEE

At last week’s Wonderful Wednesday, the congregation was invited to the sanctuary to hear our organist, Valerie Rains, present a show and tell of our newly refurbished organ. This coincided with a timely visit by the artists from the Luley Organ Company who had been here for the past few days for their finishing touches. They gave a wonderful demonstration of the different kinds of organ pipes and the sounds they make. They exhibited many of the tonal improvements made with the addition of new pedal reed stops, a new Festival Trumpet, and the Zimbelstern (which makes the sparkling bells sound). As they were in the process of re-installing the new facade pipes to the back wall, we were able to see their lovely new finish compared to their old burnished look. An enthusiastic and engaged crowd asked many good questions and Valerie played 3 organ pieces for us to hear many of the changes made.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our congregants and the organ committee would again like to thank Luley for their incredible work; Eric Egli for being our on-site representative; and the congregation for their patience and support throughout the process. A special dedication for this rebuilt organ will be planned sometime in the future.

## FPC EVENTS AND UPDATES



*Annual*  
**CHILI COOK-OFF  
& BROWNIE BAKE-OFF**

**FEBRUARY 23RD  
5PM**

**TRIVIA IS BACK!**

Already tired of winter? Beat the winter blahs by joining us for one of our favorite events: Our Chili Cook-Off/Brownie Bake-Off on Sunday, February 23 at 5:00! Sign up to bring your best chili, soup, or stew or your best brownie secret recipe. Come for trivia, come to eat, it's a fun night for everyone! Sign-up forms will be in the Sunday bulletins. You can also sign up by calling the church office at 615-893-3882, ext. 201, email [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org).



*Save the Date*  
WOMEN'S LUNCHEON  
February 1st  
11:00am-1:00pm  
RSVP to  
[Charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:Charlotte@mborofpc.org)

Price \$15

**All women are invited to our annual Women's Luncheon here at church on February 1, 2025 from 11am-1pm:** Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch professionally prepared by our own Chef Jessica. Reservations required by January 27. Complete this form and place in the offering plate or contact the church office: call 615-893-3882, ext. 201, email [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org). Friends welcome!

**Special Guest Barnabas Vision:** "Christ-focused organization committed to bringing hope to a lost and broken world."

SESSION NOTES BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION  
Notes from the January Session Retreat on January 25, 2025, will be published at a later date.



## MONDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

5:30PM MONDAY NIGHTS  
Church Parlor

The Monday Men's Bible Study has started back. We would welcome any male in the church who is in fellowship and open to God's word in his life. For the next several Mondays, the study will focus on the parables of Jesus. You would be encouraged to buy "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" by Dr. Kenneth Bailey.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

On behalf of the board of the Mountain Retreat Association (Montreat), I would like to thank you for your most generous financial support as we continue to move forward in the wake of Hurricane Helene. Through your gift and the connectional nature of the Presbyterian church, Montreat can move forward confidently as we prepare for the summer conference season. I hope to thank you personally, First Presbyterian Church, in the near future.

**President of Montreat**  
**Richard DeBose**



**FIRST FRIDAY**



**FRIDAY, February 7th**  
**9am - 12pm**  
**College St. Drive-thru**



first  
 presbyterian  
 church of murfreesboro  
 210 North Spring St  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
 www.mborofpc.org  
 (615) 893-3882

Help our local food banks by donating! Just drive-thru the College St. portico and a volunteer will take your items from your car for you. Thank you!



*Wonderful Wednesday*  
**DINNER & FELLOWSHIP**  
 Dinner 5pm    Classes 6pm

*Everyone's Invited to*  
**Palm Burning**  
 5:30 - 7pm    FPC Youth    Spring St.  
 Feb 26th

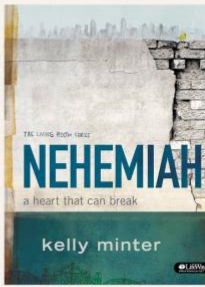



**Morning Circle**  
 Join us February 4th  
 for fellowship  
 1st Tuesday of the month at 10am in  
 the parlor.  
 All Women Welcome.

**WEDNESDAY  
 NIGHT WOMEN'S  
 BIBLE STUDY**

KELLY MINTER'S "NEHEMIAH"  
 A HEART THAT CAN BREAK

Wednesday nights at 6pm  
 Books are \$25  
 Harrison Hall downstairs  
 Contact the office:  
 charlotte@mborofpc.org




**WEDNESDAY  
 NIGHT CLASS**

WITH REV. DR. JOHN HINKLE  
 GREAT REFORMERS OF THE  
 AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

*The Legacy  
 Continues*  
 Mark your Calendars  
 March 20, 2025



FPC YOUTH

# February 2025

**FEB 5**

Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza

**FEB 22**

MS Main Event  
Time TBD

**FEB 26**

Palm Burning

## Open Cellar

Feb 12th, 19th, and 26th

*No Open Cellar on Feb 5th*

## Sunday Youth Group

Feb 2nd, 9th, and 16th

*No YG on Feb 23rd (Chili Cook-off)*







# SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for these Fun Events  
Coming this Spring!

- March 4** 4th Grade Faith Milestone:  
Risk at Climb Murfreesboro
- April 12** Egg Hunt at the Gray Home
- April 13** Children Sing at 11:00am  
Service for Palm Sunday
- April 16** 5th & 6th Grade Faith Milestone:  
Seder Dinner, more info. tba

**FEBRUARY  
MEMORY VERSE**

“WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US”

**1 JOHN 4:19**

Wonderful Wednesdays continue this semester with a  
new twist!

Children will rotate with their small group through choir, a Bible lesson, and an activity from 6:00pm-7:00pm each week. Groups will be composed of a mixture of ages, as we have done for Vacation Bible School. We hope this will help foster relationships and help with group dynamics each week. We look forward to this change!



## SAVE THE DATE!



### VBS

## JUNE 3-5, 2025

Ages 3 (potty trained)  
through 6th Grade.

Dinner provided!



## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS COMING!!

- Student priority registration: Feb 2 - 15
- Church member priority registration: Feb 16 - March 2
- Open Registration: March 3

email Karen at [preschool@mborofpc.org](mailto:preschool@mborofpc.org)  
if you or someone you know would like more information



- 2- Bob Potter, Ragen White, Jennifer Willoughby
- 3- Sam Farrar, Andrew Willoughby
- 4- Reno Collier, Tom Ferrell, Rory Sourek
- 5- Kimberly Leeper
- 6- Campbell Peck, Katie Turner
- 8- Jim Cross, Michael Daniel, Kris Montagano, Adam Parsons
- 9- Lisa Lugos
- 11- Kevin Heusinkveld, Andrea Swenson
- 12- Sloane Ratliff
- 13- Trey Gwinn, Henry Peck
- 14- Reed Peachey
- 15- Beth Brasch, Rebecca Fisher, Mark Follis
- 16- Young Moore
- 17- Cynthia Creque, Janet Logan
- 18- Caroline Follis, Lewis Greer
- 19- Rogers Harrison, Susan Waldrop
- 20- Jill Lanning, Melanie Shipp
- 22- David Sevier
- 24- Bill Bullock, Evans Gritton
- 25- Katherine Layman
- 26- Gregory Lawson, Donald Parente
- 27- Eve Jones, Mary Ashley Manahan
- 28- Hunter Foley

**The Proclamation** is a monthly newsletter of  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
[www.mborofpc.org](http://www.mborofpc.org)  
**Have an announcement for February?**  
 Submit it to Charlotte at  
[charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org) by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Happy Anniversary

Al & Brenda Sellers	February 7
Darrell Elwell & Susie Mocarski	February 13
Will & Abbey Logan	February 16
Kevin & Sandra Wheeler	February 26
Jonathan & Christy Swenson	February 26



Dear FPC Murfreesboro,

Thanks so much for your continued partnership with UKirk! FPC's generous support is a major reason we are able to do what we do. From offering students a welcoming and comfortable space just off campus, to the activities that foster faith exploration and faith building, as well as help students make meaningful connections with each other. We truly appreciate your longstanding commitment to this ministry.

Thanks,  
 Rev. Micah Watson



## SAVE THE DATE!

# CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT

## MAY 2-4, 2025



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

PERMIT #198



## FPC STAFF

Phone: 615-893-3882

Fax: 615-962-9005

[www.mborofpc.org](http://www.mborofpc.org)

## Senior Pastor

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## Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

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[bobby@mborofpc.org](mailto:bobby@mborofpc.org)

## Music Director

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## Director of Children's Ministry

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[vrains@comcast.net](mailto:vrains@comcast.net)

## Preschool Director

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## Nursery Director

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[Celestegeo22@gmail.com](mailto:Celestegeo22@gmail.com)

## Administrative Assistant

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## Financial Secretary

Pat Cox

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## Communications

### Coordinator

Martha Osorio

[communications@mborofpc.org](mailto:communications@mborofpc.org)

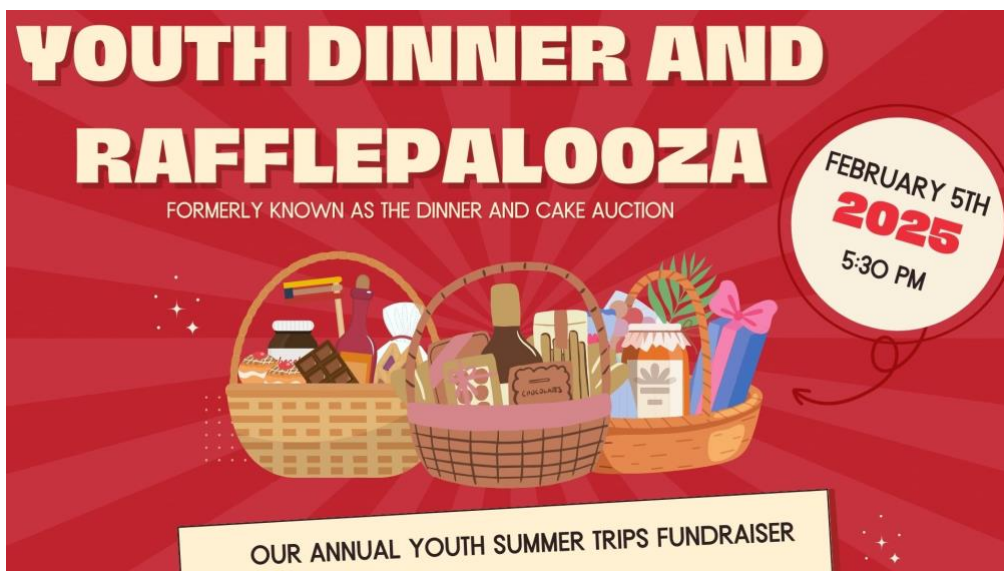
## PT Facilities Coordinator

Joe Rich

[jrich@mborofpc.org](mailto:jrich@mborofpc.org)

## PT Custodian

Tammy Green



We hope you'll sign up to join us for: The Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza! Enjoy a night of fun and giving for a great cause.

Here's how it works: After a warm welcome and brief announcements, you'll be able to make a donation for raffle tickets—just \$10 each, with no limit. Drop your tickets into the buckets for the cakes or gift baskets you hope to win!

We'll also feature a few periodic but exciting paddle auctions—raise your paddle at the announced donation amount, and you'll get to choose from a variety of prizes at our paddle auction tables. *Our Goal: \$14,000!*

Funds raised will help offset costs for our summer youth trips. Our middle schoolers will enjoy a week of worship and fun at NaCoMe, while our high school group travels to Matagalpa, Nicaragua, for a life-changing experience with our Young Life friends.

Dinner is FREE but reservations REQUIRED. Doors open at 5:30 PM—don't miss this incredible night of support and celebration! Just contact the office: [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org), phone 615-893-3882, ext. 201.