



# THE PROCLAMATION

*"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"*



## LESSONS ON LIVING IN THE SEASONS

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

I remember a time in my life when, as a child, I yearned to be a teenager, convinced that once I reached that milestone, everything would somehow be different. But, when I finally turned thirteen, nothing much changed—except the number itself. At thirteen, I found myself longing for sixteen, eager for the day when I could finally hold a driver's license. At sixteen, I looked toward eighteen, anxious to leave home, start college, and step into the wider world.

College brought new hopes of graduation, of entering what I then called "the real world." Little did I know such a world would eventually lead me to seminary. Once in seminary, my sights were fixed on ordination, the moment I could finally graduate, serve the church, and wear the title "Reverend." In my mind, that title would somehow transform my life. Of course, it didn't. Life went on, not with dramatic shifts but with steady, faithful steps forward. I share this with you because it reflects how many of us move through life—always looking ahead, waiting for some future moment to arrive, hoping it will bring fulfillment or change. And yet, as we all discover, each milestone comes and goes, and life continues.

For much of my ministry, one of the few things I never said, "I can't wait for," was retirement. In fact, the only time I ever thought about retirement was in vague, far-off terms—mostly wondering where in the world we might live when that day finally came. I simply set the thought aside because it seemed so distant.

But now, I need to let you know: I've started thinking about future retirement. That doesn't mean it's around the corner, but it does mean I am preparing for when that day arrives. I am 58, which, for anyone who can do the math, places my retirement somewhere within the next six to eight years. I doubt that comes as a surprise to many of you. In fact, I reflected on this not long ago in a sermon. I said then, and I'll repeat it now: I love you, but I don't love you enough to stick around into my seventies. And as Leila gently reminded me afterward, you love me too—but probably not enough to keep me around into my seventies either.

One of the steps I'm taking in this season of preparation is to attend the CREDO Conference this October, a program offered by our denomination's Board of Pensions. The conference focuses on the health and wholeness of ministers, with special attention to the transition into retirement. It addresses practical issues like finances, but also spiritual ones—how we prepare our hearts and lives for a new chapter of service, rest, and purpose.

As I reflect on this stage of life, I am deeply grateful. I have been in ministry for thirty-one years, blessed beyond measure to serve three remarkable congregations. And now, the question before me is simple but profound: how do I finish well?

I can promise you this: I do not intend to coast. My desire is to give my very best in this final season of ministry. I want to save the best for last as together we continue to live out our shared purpose: To know Christ and make Christ known.

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

## Preaching in October



Political chaos, assassinations, protests in the streets, political unrest. I am not even speaking of this day and time. I am speaking of 1967. In the late 60's, our nation found itself in troubling and uncertain times as the church wrestled with these constant, troubling events. To better understand the role of the church in such a time, the Presbyterian Church wrote what we now call the Confession of 1967. This four-part series explores themes from the Confession of 1967 (C67), emphasizing the church's mission and identity in the world. Each sermon draws from both the Confession and the Book of Romans, addressing the challenges and joys of being the church.

### October 5

"Reconciliation in Jesus"

*Psalm 137*

*Romans 5:1-11*

### October 12

"The Church as Servant"

*Psalm 66*

*Romans 12:1-8*

### October 19

"The Uniqueness of the Pew"

*Psalm 119:97-104*

*Romans 14:1-12*

### October 26

**Reformation Sunday**

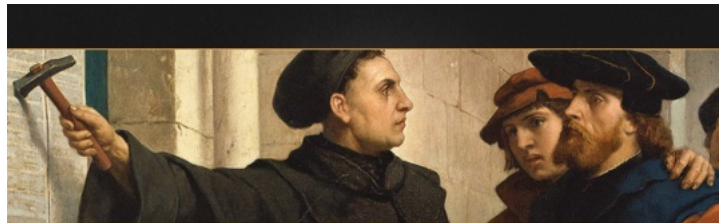
"For King and Kingdom"

*Psalm 65*

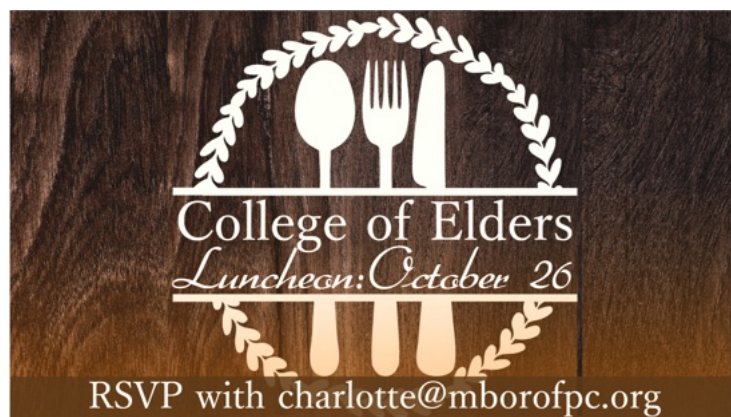
*Romans 8:18-25*



## FPC MINISTRIES, NEWS, & WORSHIP



**REFORMATION**  
*Sunday*  
**Sunday, October 26**



RSVP with [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org)

**NOTE: NO Wonderful Wednesday  
October 8 due to Fall Break.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: OCTOBER 19**

A Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 19 at 10:40am to hear and act on a report from the Ruling Elder Nominating Committee on those who agreed to be ordained and installed as Ruling Elders of our congregation for the class of 2028.

Ordained and Installed: Sandy Collier, Will Fraley, Dr. Matt Layman, Paula Stow

Installed: Jackie Jenkins, Kim Joyner, Chet Logan, Tim Pote

### **FIRST FRIDAY**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**9am - 12pm**

**College St. Drive-thru**

Please bring family and child friendly non-perishable food items for our local food banks, Greenhouse Ministries and Nourish Food Bank.

Just drive-thru the College St. portico and a volunteer will take your items from your car for you. Thank you!

**NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY**  
**SALVATION ARMY**  
**COMMUNITY MEALS**  
 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:  
 STARTS THURSDAY, OCTOBER  
 9TH  
 4-7PM

YOU MAY SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT KAREN HICKOK AT:  
[HICKOKMUSICSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com) TO VOLUNTEER





The Salvation Army serves meals to those in our community who are facing food insecurity. The Mission Ministry Team has agreed that we will volunteer for the Community Meals at the Salvation Army once a month from 4-7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Volunteers will assist with packaging, serving, table set-up, and cleanup. All volunteers MUST wear pants and closed-toe shoes. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old - those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who always remains with them. You may scan the QR code to volunteer or you may also contact Karen Hickok at: [hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com](mailto:hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com). Our first date is Thursday, October 9.

*Salvation Army Work Day*  
**Saturday, October 4**  
**9am-12pm**

- PAINTING AND REPAIRING KETTLE STANDS
- CLEANING OUT AND REPAINTING GARDEN BOXES
- PLACING THE PAVERS IN THE GROUND TO CREATE A HOPSCOTCH AREA
- ANGEL TREE GROUP PREPARATION

COME FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MORNING!

CONTACT KAREN HICKOK AT: [HICKOKMUSICSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com) OR  
 334-728-5516 TO VOLUNTEER

**Salvation Army Workday Saturday, October 4 from 9am-12pm:** We invite all our church family to participate in a workday at the Murfreesboro Salvation Army building. There are several projects:

- painting and repairing the kettle stands
- cleaning out and repainting the garden boxes,
- placing the pavers to create a hopscotch area
- Angel Tree group preparation
- Various other projects around the building

We hope you can come for all or part of the morning! Contact Karen Hickok [hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com](mailto:hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com) or 334-728-5516

**Cake**  
**AUCTION**  
**LIVE AUCTION, BUY IT NOW, AND SILENT AUCTION**  
 BENEFITING  
 NOURISH FOOD BANK AND GREENHOUSE MINISTRIES  
**NOVEMBER 12**  
**5PM**  
**DURING WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY**  
 RSVP WITH CHARLOTTE AT  
[CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG](mailto:CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG)



**SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY,  
 NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

### **CAKE AUCTION TO BENEFIT HUNGER PROGRAMS IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY**

On this Wonderful Wednesday in November the Mission Committee will hold a cake auction to raise money for the charities that respond to the hunger problem in Rutherford County. We need volunteers to bake cakes for auction, or cupcakes for sale during the evening. We also need everyone to come for the meal and the bidding.

To volunteer contact Bob Hunt at [Robert.Hunt@mtsu.edu](mailto:Robert.Hunt@mtsu.edu), or Charlotte at [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org).

The meal will be a regular Wonderful Wednesday meal and Jessica will make her ever popular Poppyseed Chicken! If you have standing WW reservations, you're all set but we need reservations from everyone else so Jessica makes enough food! Join us as we show our support for our local hunger programs!

### **CLERGY VACATION & TRAVEL**



**Rev. Dr. Hinkle** will be on vacation October 5-11 and attending the CREDO Conference October 21-27.

**Rev. Harding** will be on study leave October 8-14.

If you have a pastoral emergency during these times, please contact The Church Office or your Caregiver.







## October Events



- **Prayer Shawl Ministry Mondays 4pm**
- **Men's Bible Study Mondays 5:30pm**  
*no MBS October 6*
- **Wonderful Wednesdays**  
**October 1, 15, 29 (dinner/classes)**
- **First Friday Food Drive**  
October 3, 9am-12pm
- **Women's Morning Circle**  
October 7 at 10am
- **Red Cross Blood Drive**  
October 10, 12pm-6pm, (sign up)  
*redcross.org or the church office*
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Faith Milestone**  
October 12, 9:45am
- **Fall Festival**  
October 22, 5-7pm
- **Reformation Sunday**  
October 26, 8:30 & 11am
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Faith Milestone 11:00am**
- **College of Elders Luncheon**  
October 26, after 11am service




### THANK YOU from Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church

As most of you know, Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church was completely destroyed in the California wildfires (see below). Rev. Dr. John Todd was their pastor for many years.

They are very grateful for your generosity both in the financial gifts you gave them as well as the silver communion plate presented to John and Jo. They appreciate your prayers for their church family. Thank you!



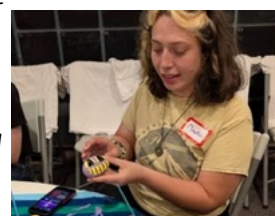
**Rev. Dr. John and Jo Todd accepting a silver communion plate for Pacific Palisades!**



### UKirk Update: Kicking off a new semester!

We are glad to share that the fall semester is off to a good start at UKirk MTSU! Over the past few weeks, we've welcomed both new and returning students.

We began the year with a craft night, creating a low-pressure space for students to connect. Together we painted rocks, made friendship bracelets, and tie-dyed shirts (which we hope to have UKirk logos printed on soon!). Our first devo of the semester drew from UKirk National's *UWorship* resource, offering a creative rewrite of Psalm 23. It closed with these words: "We are not alone, we have everything we need to start this new semester. We are beloved, made in your image. Children of God. We are at home in the house of God forever. Amen."



We connected with students at MTSU's annual student organizations fair and hosted a front-lawn cookout at the UKirk house. It's been wonderful to see new friendships forming and energy building for the months ahead. We're excited for this semester! *Rev. Micah Watson, UKIRK MTSU*  
[ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com](mailto:ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com) • 615-692-2742

## SESSION NOTES BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotional was led by Chris Jackson who shared with us how Rev. Hinkle, Mary Catherine Sevier and Ross Hines have had a positive, spiritual influence on his life.
- We received a thank you note from Jennifer Lowe of Murfreesboro City Schools for our contributions to their backpack program.
- The Board of Trustees reported that Bernie Steen and Bill Richmond have reached the end of their terms and will be replaced by David Sevier and Mary Martin.
- The College of Elders Luncheon is Reformation Sunday, October 26 after the 11am service.
- The proceeds from our annual cake auction this year will be given to the Nourish Food Bank and Greenhouse Ministries and will take place November 12.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month we will be helping serve meals at the Salvation Army. Contact Karen Hickok.
- Dave Davis organized a welcome back dinner for the MTSU students.
- The Care Ministry continues to distribute flowers from the Sunday services to members needing care at their homes along with prayer shawls.
- Enrollment in our Preschool program is down from last year causing financial concerns and thoughts about restructuring.
- A resolution was passed honoring former minister Reverend Dr. Harry Hassall recognizing his positive impact on our congregation from 1964 through 1976.



FPC YOUTH

# October

# 2025

October 22

Fall Festival!

October 25

7<sup>th</sup> Grade 20 Q Hike

October 1, 15, and 29

Wednesday MS Small Groups  
6-7pm

October Oct 5, 19, and 26

Sunday HS Youth Group  
6-8pm





## Fall Events

In addition to weekly Sunday School at 9:45 and Wednesday night choir, classes and fun at 6pm following 5pm dinner, please take note of the following special dates:

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Break, no WW

**October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45**

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Faith Milestone: *The Sacraments*

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

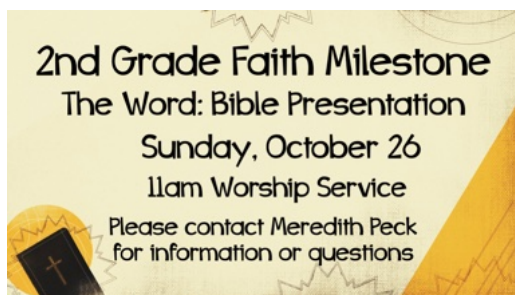
Fall Festival, 5-7pm

**October 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 service**

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Faith Milestone - *Bible Presentation*

**October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for Preschool-6<sup>th</sup>  
"THE GREAT PUMPKIN HUNT!"**

Join us while we search for pumpkins hidden throughout the church – including the elusive GOLDEN PUMPKIN! The more pumpkins you collect, the better your chances are to win prizes!



## First Presbyterian Preschool News



We want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to ROSCOE BROWN for coming to talk to our kids on September 18<sup>th</sup>! A special thank you to SUSAN COUCH for the fun goodies and to our Tech, NATHAN, for sharing his knowledge and spending fun time with our littles! As you see by the smiles, we had a wonderful day!!

For more info about our school: [preschool@mborofpc.org](mailto:preschool@mborofpc.org)



- 1- Mike Petroka, Rusty Walker
- 2- Bob Hunt
- 3- Nicholas Mayes, Nolan Leeper, Lorelai Varilek
- 4- Judy Gritton, Jackie Jenkins
- 5- Ross Hines
- 7- Tim Glascoe
- 8- Laura Follis, Howard Wilson
- 9- Adele Brogli, Jack Hunton, Stacy Webb
- 10- Scout Harding
- 12- Will Logan, Christine Lombardi
- 13- Tammy Mogul
- 14- Natalie Rudd
- 15- Mancy Sanders, Harriet Webb
- 16- Britton Fraley
- 17- Kay Boyd, Jackson Livesay, Jade Turner
- 18- Tom Foley, Brian Iske
- 19- Jack Gritton, Betsy Ledbetter  
Don McKinney
- 20- Ruby Fournier, Baylor Parker
- 21- Abbey Logan, Katie Peachey
- 22- Sandy Collier, Matthew Wilson
- 23- Bob McBroom
- 24- Emily Anderson, Hunter Powell
- 25- Kathy Corlew, Lana Lemons
- 26- Helen Luster, Victoria McHughes,  
Michael Mayes, Joanna Riggs
- 27- Handani Kam
- 28- Effie Carroll, Barb Prince
- 29- Gentry Adamson, Amy Nance Walker
- 31- Susie Mocarski, Charlie Wendt



- |                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Jake & Shelby Edmonds     | October 7  |
| Avent & Marlene Lane      | October 10 |
| David & Rochelle Willis   | October 12 |
| Adam and Maria Webb       | October 13 |
| Matt & Katie Peachey      | October 15 |
| Matthew & Rachel Callaway | October 16 |
| Shelby & Emily Hunton     | October 20 |
| Bill & Rita Shacklett     | October 27 |

#### **From the Mission Ministry Team: Still Waters Ministries Needs 3 Skilled Volunteers:**

- There is a need for a "big brother" to help a young 3rd grade boy who has no male role model in his life.
- A client requests that a lawyer look over (not draft) a proposed parenting agreement to make sure that the proposed draft covers all the bases.
- A volunteer who is qualified to give a single-parent dating presentation and answer questions. This presentation would be given on a Sunday evening.
- 1 or 2 Thanksgiving dinner gift boxes. A box would include a frozen turkey; stuffing mix; instant mashed potatoes; dessert; canned vegetables (quantities enough to feed six). All donations need to be delivered by 23 November. To volunteer, contact Bob Hunt at: [Robert.hunt@mtsu.edu](mailto:Robert.hunt@mtsu.edu).

#### **Tents Needed for Fall Festival! Contact Angela Rogers or Rev. Dr. Bobby: [angela@mborofpc.org](mailto:angela@mborofpc.org)**



**The Proclamation** is a monthly newsletter of  
**First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro**  
**Have a November announcement?**

Submit it to Charlotte: [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org) by  
October 18, 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

Rev. Dr. John A. Hinkle, Jr.  
[jhinkle@mborofpc.org](mailto:jhinkle@mborofpc.org)

#### Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

Rev. Dr. Bobby Harding  
[bobby@mborofpc.org](mailto:bobby@mborofpc.org)

#### Music Director

Noah Rice  
[noah@mborofpc.org](mailto:noah@mborofpc.org)

#### Director of Children's Ministry

Meredith Peck  
[meredith@mborofpc.org](mailto:meredith@mborofpc.org)

#### Organist

Valerie Rains  
[valerie@mborofpc.org](mailto:valerie@mborofpc.org)

#### Preschool Director

Karen Winford  
[preschool@mborofpc.org](mailto:preschool@mborofpc.org)

#### Nursery Director

Celeste Brown  
[Celestegio22@gmail.com](mailto:Celestegio22@gmail.com)

#### Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Lynn  
[charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org)

#### Financial Secretary

Pat Cox  
[patcox@mborofpc.org](mailto:patcox@mborofpc.org)

#### 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



### Fall Festival Time! October 22 from 5-7pm

Concessions will include popcorn, hotdogs, nachos, drinks, and popsicles for free! We have lots of activities for everyone, including inflatables, carnival rides and games!

As you know, it takes a lot of volunteers to make this great night a success so feel free to scan the QR code in the above graphic to sign up – there's something everyone can do. Like signing up in person? Paper sign-up sheets are in the Common Room.

**Please spread the word for our FREE party for the whole community!**