



THE PROCLAMATION



THE BLESSINGS OF TRAVEL

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

With Bobby back from sabbatical and the craziness of summer finally behind me, I will be taking two weeks of vacation beginning Monday, October 5. And to start things off, Leila and I are traveling to Iceland. Why Iceland, you might ask? Great question. People who have visited tell me you can pretty much see all of Iceland in a week. After all, it is not a very big island. Of course, I have a feeling that by the time we get home, I may discover that "seeing all of Iceland" and "seeing all of Iceland that you can see in a week" are two very different things.

As you can imagine, I have been reading everything I can find about Iceland and watching far too many travel vlogs. We will eat at Grillmarkaðurinn, famous for its grilled whale steak—a delicacy Leila has already informed me she will not be trying. We are also going to the Blue Lagoon and the newer Sky Lagoon overlooking the Faxaflói Sea. Add some whale watching, a little volcano climbing, and some puffin watching, and I am pretty excited about our trip. But there is another reason I am looking forward to getting away.

Right before I started writing this article, I was finishing up some premarital counseling with a young couple. It was our last session before their wedding. As we wrapped up, the groom asked if I had any more advice. I thought for a moment and said, "Always travel." I meant it. Travel is good for the soul. You learn a lot about the people you travel with. You learn how they handle a missed flight, a wrong turn, a long line, or a hotel room that looked considerably better on the internet.

More importantly, you learn a lot about yourself. You discover what you take for granted, how little you actually need, and that there is more than one way to do almost everything. And, if you are paying attention, you discover that God's world is considerably bigger than the little corner of it you call home.

Leila and I were not able to travel much when we first got married. When you are expected in the pulpit every Sunday, it is hard to get away for a weekend. There have also been seasons in my ministry when travel was more of a luxury than a possibility. That is one of the reasons I am so grateful for you.

Recently, someone asked me what one of the great joys of being the minister of First Presbyterian Church has been. I thought about it for a moment, and the answer came to me: "They have allowed me to travel." And I don't mean simply that you have given me vacation time. Throughout my years here, you have encouraged me to see the world—to go to Scotland and Nicaragua, to visit places I had read about but never imagined seeing, and to spend time with people whose lives are different from my own.

Every time I travel, I come home a little different. I come home with new stories, new questions, and a greater appreciation for God's creation. Most importantly, I come home with a renewed appreciation for the people and place God has entrusted to me. Getting away helps you see home differently.

So, in October, Leila and I will go. We will fly across the Atlantic, see places neither of us has ever seen, eat some things we have never eaten, and probably get lost at least once. And we will enjoy every minute of it. But when we return, I will come home with a deeper gratitude—for the world God has made, for the people we meet along the way, and for the place we are blessed to call home. And I am even more grateful that you have always given me a place to come home to.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a plane to catch.

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

Preaching in October



Our Preaching in October usually focuses on one of our theological confessions in the Book of Confessions. This October, we are going to mix it up. We are going to study TULIP. TULIP is an acronym for five points of Reformed theology. On a side note, this should not surprise anyone, TULIP came out of the Dutch Reformed Church. To give us background for our series, we would reference Dr. Richard Mouw's *Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport*.

October 4

"Total Depravity: Lost Without Knowing It"
Psalm 19
Romans 3:9-24

October 11

"Unconditional Election: Chosen by Grace"
Psalm 138
Ephesians 1:3-10

October 18

"Limited Atonement: A Love That Knows Your Name"
Psalm 99
John 10:11-18

October 25

Reformation Sunday

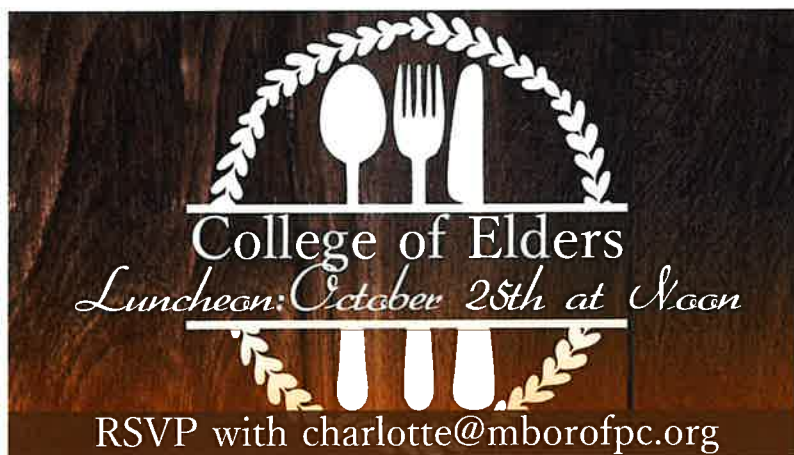
"Irresistible Grace: When God Won't Let You Go"
Psalm 1



FPC MINISTRIES, NEWS, & WORSHIP



REFORMATION
Sunday
Sunday, October 25



NOTE: NO Wonderful Wednesday
October 7 (Fall Break) or October 28 (Fall Festival).

CLERGY VACATION & TRAVEL

Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be on vacation October 4th (following the 11am service) through Sunday, October 18.

Rev. Dr. Harding will be on vacation October 5-9. If you have a pastoral emergency during these times, please contact the Church Office or your Caregiver.



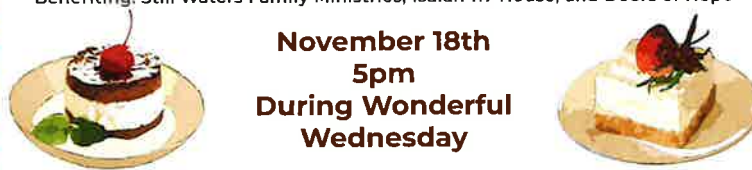
Mission Cake Auction:
Families in Need

live auction, buy it now, and silent auction

Benefiting: Still Waters Family Ministries, Isaiah 117 House, and Doors of Hope

November 18th
5pm
During Wonderful
Wednesday

RSVP with Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org



SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026

MISSION CAKE AUCTION
FAMILIES IN NEED

BENEFITING: STILL WATERS FAMILY
MINISTRIES, DOORS OF HOPE, & ISAIAH
117 HOUSE

The Mission Ministry Team is dedicating this year's cake auction to helping three local agencies that provide for families – women and children specifically. These are Doors of Hope, Stillwaters Family Ministries, and Isaiah 117 House.

As Isaiah 1:17 states: "take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

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. For the live auction, we need cakes. For the silent auction, we need both baked items that are available to take home that evening, as well as 'future date' offers. To volunteer contact Bob Hunt at Robert.Hunt@mtsu.edu, or Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org.

The meal will be a regular Wonderful Wednesday meal and Jessica will be our chef! 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 families in need!

Women's Morning Circle

Tuesday, October 6 at 10am in the Parlor

All Women Invited to join us for Fellowship

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 5:30pm in the Parlor

All Men Invited

Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

School is back in session! Isaiah 117 House has requested Women's XL:

- Wide leg denim pants
- Cotton blend sweatpants
- Relaxed oversized tees
- Casual activewear
- Fitted tops

Please see image for reference.

• Gift cards to Target, Marshall's, Aerie, or WalMart also welcome.



Time to Order Cookbooks!

We are SO excited to share the best of FPC!

Cost: \$20

Order deadline: October 30, 2026

To Order: charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882, ext. 0

Note: Cookbooks will arrive before Christmas!



GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.

American Red Cross

October 23, 2026

12pm - 6pm

To sign up, contact charlotte@mborofpc.org

First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro
210 North Spring St
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 893-3882




Please order cookbooks as soon as you can! We have a limited supply. Priority will be given to pre-orders. If you already pre-ordered cookbooks, we have your order.



A MESSAGE FROM REV. DR. HINKLE

At the September meeting of the Session, Glen Emery, Ruling Elder, stepped down as Clerk of Session; an office he held for over 20 years. He was named by the Session *Clerk of Session Emeritus*. Here are the words Dr. Hinkle spoke in his honor:

In Honor of Ruling Elder Glen Emery

I would like to offer a public word of thanks to Ruling Elder **Glen Emery**, who has served First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro faithfully for many dedicated years as our Clerk of Session.

Glen's service to this church has been marked by faithfulness, diligence, wisdom, and an extraordinary attention to detail. As Clerk of Session, he has carried a responsibility that is often behind the scenes, but is absolutely essential to the life and ministry of this congregation.

He has carefully preserved the actions and decisions of our Session, helped us remember where we have been, and provided the kind of continuity that is so important to the life of a church. His work has not simply been about keeping minutes. In many ways, Glen has helped preserve the history of First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro.

But beyond his work as Clerk, Glen has given himself to this congregation because he loves this church. His service has been an expression of his faith and his commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through First Presbyterian.

For all of these years of faithful service, I believe it is appropriate that we publicly recognize Glen and express our gratitude to him.

Therefore, I would ask that the Session move to name **Glen Emery as Clerk of Session Emeritus**, with the right and privilege to attend all meetings of the Session.

Glen, thank you for your years of faithful service, for your wisdom, for your patience, and for the care you have given to this church.

First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro is a better church because of your service, and we are deeply grateful.

SESSION NOTES

BY: ERIC EGLI, CLERK OF SESSION

- Shelby Hunton led our devotion.
- We are happy to have Bobby back after his sabbatical. He both appreciated and enjoyed his time away.
- We are looking for someone with accounting experience to fill in for Kelley when she is on vacation.
- There will be a New Member Coffee on September 27 between Sunday School and the 11:00 service.
- The cake auction will be November 18 with the theme of *Families in Need*.
- We are increasing the number of Angel Tree children to 30 this year with last year's Angel Tree children being claimed in just a few days.
- With some adjustment of her hours, our chef, Jessica Garner, will be able to continue with preparing Wonderful Wednesday Meals.
- Communion was taken to 2 people.
- Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be on vacation from the end of the October 4 service through October 18.

FIRST FRIDAY



FOOD DRIVE

Friday, October 2

9am - 12pm

College St. Drive-thru

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro. Have a November announcement? Submit it to Charlotte: charlotte@mborofpc.org by October 18, 2026



October 17th 7th Grade 20 Q Hike
*Please RSVP to Angela by
October 11th*

October 28th Fall Festival! 🍁

**Wednesday MS
Youth Group
6-7pm**

**October 14th &
21st**

**Sunday HS
Youth Group
6-8pm**

**October 4th, 18th,
& 25th**





Join us for weekly Sunday School at 9:45 and Wednesday night choir, classes and fun at 6pm following 5pm dinner, please take note of some special dates:

October 7th – Fall Break, no WW

October 11th 2nd Sunday Social Hour, 4:30-6pm

October 18th at 9:45

1st Grade Faith Milestone: *The Sacraments*

October 25th at 11:00 service

2nd Grade Faith Milestone - *Bible Presentation*

October 28th Fall Festival, 5-7pm

1ST GRADE FAITH MILESTONE

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18
9:45AM
SANCTUARY

The Sacraments

CHILDREN & PARENTS:
RSVP TO
MEREDITH

2nd Grade Faith Milestone
The Word: Bible Presentation
Sunday, October 25
11am Worship Service

Please contact Meredith Peck
for information or questions
meredith@mborofpc.org

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE
THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD:
I SHALL NOT BE IN WANT.

PSALM 23:1



Everyone is invited to
Second Sunday Social Hour
4:30-6:00pm
★ Oct 11th ★
Snacks & Family Pumpkin Carving Contest
FREE!
EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH IS WELCOME!
BRING FRIENDS!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Growing little minds and spirits is a difficult task, but oh so rewarding!
This mission of the church needs your help, and you can play an important part by:

1. Keeping the program going financially while we work to grow our numbers.
2. Spreading the word so that we can reach more children.
3. A donation from you will help the preschool in our mission to grow our children academically, spiritually, socially, and to prepare them to be good friends and curious learners.

HELP OUR PRESCHOOL GROW

PLANT A SEEDLING \$25	HELP US GROW \$50
NURTURE A LITTLE HEART \$75	HELP OUR SCHOOL FLOURISH \$100
INVEST IN LITTLE LIVES \$250	

PLANTING SEEDS

VISIT COMMON ROOM OR USE THE QR CODE



-
- 1- Mike Petroka, Rusty Walker
 - 2- Bob Hunt
 - 3- Nicholas Mayes, 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- Dave Highland, Brian Iske
 - 19- Tresha Gray, 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- Kim Marson, Barb Prince
 - 29- Gentry Adamson, Amy Nance Walker
 - 31- Susie Mocarski, Charlie Wendt
-



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

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Words are not adequate to express how grateful we are for the overwhelming love and kindness we have received from our church family at FPC!

We thank you for every prayer, card, meal, text, calls, and flowers.

You have truly been the hands and feet of Jesus to us as we have faced this unexpected journey of recent and upcoming surgeries.

With grateful love, Suzee and Ben Myers

Dear Church Family,

How can I thank you enough for all the prayers, comforting words, flowers, and love you have bestowed upon me during my cancer diagnosis, surgery, and now treatments. The outpour of love and concern FPC extended towards me and my family was truly unexpected, but oh so very much appreciated. Galatians 6:2 reminds us – "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." FPC definitely responded! I was so touched by all the prayer warriors and can't even begin to express how very grateful I am and how much that meant to me. The prayer shawl is absolutely beautiful! Every prayer woven into it is surely felt. I'll cherish it forever. Again, my deepest thank you for embracing us, uplifting us, comforting us, and praying for (and with) us throughout this journey. This church unquestionably has the heart of Christ.

In Christ, Toni, JT, and the entire Leathers Family

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MURFREESBORO, TN 37129
PERMIT #198



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Fall Festival Time! October 28 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.

REMEMBER-Please spread the word for our FREE party for the whole community!