



THE PROCLAMATION



ON CHRISTMAS MUSIC

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

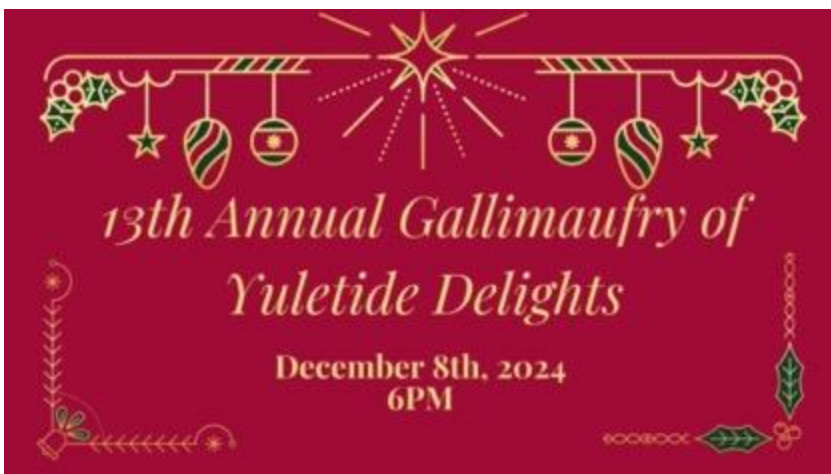
I adhere to a few rules for celebrating Advent and Christmas, and I personally believe the world would be a better place if everyone else followed these simple guidelines. First, in the Hinkle household, we can only put up Christmas decorations on and outside the house on the Friday after Thanksgiving. It is okay to take them down from the attic a few weeks before Thanksgiving as long as they are hidden in some out-of-sight room. Second, no Christmas baking is allowed until after Thanksgiving. All cooking and baking should be focused on Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving only. Finally, at no time should Christmas songs, carols, or hymns be played until Thanksgiving is over. There is one exception to this clause - if you must travel to someone's house for Thanksgiving dinner, it is perfectly acceptable to listen to Christmas on your way home if, and only if, the sun has gone down for the day.

Despite my rules, I really do love Christmas music. On my Apple Music, I have a great Playlist of both secular and religious Christmas music. Who does not love hearing Johnny Mathis singing "I'll Be Home for Christmas" or Perry Como giving his rendition of "Do You Hear What I Hear"? Wherever Leila and I go during this time of year, the first thing I do in the car is hit *play*. I also love to listen to music that focuses specifically on the birth of our Savior, and I especially love less familiar songs such as "Fum, Fum, Fum!"

In many ways, music makes worship during Advent feel so special. Music grounds us in the moment, making us fully aware that something extraordinary is happening before us. The Sundays of Advent are meant to build us to the explosion of joy that is Christmas Eve. This is why, on the first two Sundays of Advent, we focus on Advent hymns: hymns of preparation. This is more difficult than it sounds because there are few "good" advent hymns. This is why we will throw in a few Lenten hymns that connect us to the reason for the birth of Jesus. However, come the third Sunday of Advent, Jocelyn and I surrender, and we start singing Christmas hymns. When no one else is near me I often sing those hymns to myself as I countdown to Christmas morning.

During the Season of Advent, our sermons will focus on four hymns that shape our faith as we prepare ourselves for the birth of our Savior. So, let us come together and make a joyful noise as we prepare ourselves for the birth and return of Jesus.

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



You are cordially invited to join us as First Presbyterian Church presents its **13th Annual Christmas Concert**. The concert will include our combined choirs, our handbell choir, and instrumental arrangements of well-loved seasonal songs for a fun and memorable evening. Please encourage friends and family to share this special Christmas event. The concert is **FREE** and nursery is provided.



December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
A Song of Longing"
Psalm 25:1-10
Haggai 2:1-9

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates –
A Song of Awakening"
Psalm 1
Revelation 3:14-21

December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Joy to the World – A Song of
Completion"
Psalm 100
Isaiah 9:2-7

December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

"Go Tell it on the Mountain –
A Song of Invitation"
Psalm 123
Luke 2:8-20



December 24
Christmas Eve

12:00pm

Travelers' Service

4:00pm

Family Candlelight Service

6:00pm

Communion Candlelight Service

Luke 2:8-20

December 29:

ONE SERVICE 10:15

(no Sunday school)

"What Was This All About"

Psalm 148

Luke 2:41-52



- 12 pm Travelers' Service – this service is perfect for families who travel on Christmas Eve or those who may not want to be out after dark. Includes celebration of the Lord's supper.
- 4 pm Family Candlelight Service – focuses on our children and their families. Nursery will be provided. This service ends with the lighting of candles.
- 6 pm Communion Candlelight Service – a traditional worship service including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and ending with the lighting of candles. Nursery will be provided.

On Christmas Eve we will also collect a special offering for Still Waters Family Ministries. Still Waters supports, equips, and educates families with single parents who are yearning to better their lives. Please invite your family and friends to experience the joy that is Christmas with us.



Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, The Session abides by the following rule of thumb: the church will cancel activities according to Rutherford County school cancellation. An email will be sent to the congregation and information placed on the website if possible.

Online Missions Giving Catalog



The Mission Ministry Team can offer the perfect Christmas gift solution for those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list!

Shop our online Christmas Catalog at www.mborofpc.org in December. Each ministry you can support is listed with a description of their mission and a link to their site or giving page. We can serve Jesus in the lives of people struggling toward full life by supporting the ministries listed below – even more on our site:

- *10,000 Villages*: Providing economic security worldwide to needy families through artistry and fair trade
- *Thistle Farms*: Making a way forward for female survivors
- *41 & Change*: Supporting youth ministry in Nicaragua
- *Still Waters*: A hand up & way forward for needy single parent families with children
- *Doors of Hope*: Breaking cycles of addiction, homelessness & incarceration
- *Coalition for Appalachian Ministries*: Empowering Appalachian artisans to support their community
- *Young Life Nicaragua*: Introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith
- *The Outreach Foundation*: Providing for needs around the world, especially in war or disaster situations



Our Care Team will deliver tins of cookies to people who don't get out much. Members of the Care Team will provide the tins and cookies and arrange delivery. Thank you, Care Team!



Christmas Vacation & Office Hours

- Rev. Harding will be on vacation: December 26 - Jan 1.
- Pat Cox will be on vacation December 24.
- The Church Office will be closed: 12/25-26



SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by Steve Elkins. He focused on Matthew 7 and I John 3:14, encouraging us to love with our actions like Jesus did: feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, and comforting the grieving to include the ostracized, the unpopular, and those the legal system had discarded. His ministry was action oriented.
- Over 500 persons attended our Fall festival! Our community outreach was in action. We thank all the wonderful volunteers who made this event successful.
- We are pleased with the work of Martha Osorio, our new Communications Coordinator.

- We will be giving \$3000 to Isaiah 117 House.
- Insurance rates have increased 59% in the last two years. We are actively seeking competitive quotes.
- There will be one worship service at 10:15am and no Sunday School on December 29.
- Communion was taken to three of our families.
- Our new members, Al and Brenda Sellers are being paired with Jerry and Sandra Hawkins, Dan and Paula Stow with Darrell Elwell and Susie Mocariski, and Marcie Adamson with Trudy Hulett.

We have had a great fall here at FPC! Here are just a few pics

First Presbyterian Choir for the Cure raised \$654 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Joanna and Eve were our enthusiastic walkers!



FALL FESTIVAL!



Several members helped with St. Thomas Rutherford Foundation's fight against breast cancer.



High School Camping



Tween Night Out



Adult Choir Fun!

FPC YOUTH

DECEMBER 2024

DEC 6-8 11th & 8th Confirmation
Retreat

DEC 20 Caroling & Xmas Party
Lampley Residence

JAN 17-20 2024 HS SkiTreat
Sign up by Dec 22 Winterplace, WV

OPEN CELLAR

DEC 4th, 11th, 18th
DEC 25 NO OPEN CELLAR

SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

DEC 8 ALL YOUTH Christmas Concert

DEC 15 Youth Group 6-8pm

DEC 1, 22, & 29 - NO YG



**JOY GIFT PROGRAM
PRACTICE & PIZZA LUNCH**

December 1

Immediately following the 11:00 service. Please make plans for your child to attend, as this practice is important and our final one before the big day!

Pizza Provided! Extra Practice!

**DECEMBER
MEMORY VERSE**

For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

Isaiah 9:6

FPC KIDS JOY GIFT PROGRAM

LIGHT IT UP!

A KID'S MUSICAL SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE

Director Katie Turner

December 4, 2024

At 5PM

RSVP with charlotte@mborofpc.org

FPC KIDS

**Happy Birthday
Jesus Party!**

DECEMBER 8TH AT 9:30

3RD GRADE FAITH MILESTONE

9:30! FEED & BE UPSTAIRS

DECEMBER 1ST

Third Grade Faith Milestone

"Feed and Be Fed" - December 1st at 9:30 in the Common Room - Our 3rd Graders will eat breakfast with each other and several trusted adults in the church while making Christmas cards for our elderly, ill, and members who don't get out much! Contact Meredith Peck with any questions.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party on Sunday, December 8th at 9:30 in the Children's Upstairs wing. Join us for fun, crafts, treats and more as we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

"The Star" Annual Movie Day!

12/22 at 9:30

Upstairs Children's Area

Join us for our annual "The Star" movie day on Sunday, December 22 at 9:30am in the children's Sunday School area. As a special treat, Carol Egles has graciously offered to provide fresh donuts from Donut Country for our movie day. **THANK YOU CAROL!**





- 1- Andrea Elkins, Suzanna Logan, Rod Pencek
- 2- Thomas Dias, Lillian Henry, Christina McNulty
- 3- Jeff Farrar, Jan LaLance
- 4- Terry Panter
- 5- Buddy Boyd, Rob Joyner
- 6- Zack Gray, Liz McDaniel
- 7- Graham Bullock, Terry Pierce
- 8- Martha Boyd, Dave Davis, James Leeper, Suzee Myers
- 10- Peter Hulett, Matthew Moscato
- 11- Gloria Christy, Al Sellers, Hayden Steele
- 12- Julie Corcoran, Patrick Gritton
- 13- Aiden Paddon, Graham Sourek
- 15- Ann Lehue
- 16- Marlyn McBroom, Lily Smith, Hudson Webb
- 17- Chris Rudd
- 18- Emily Mitchell Francis, Jackie Sourek, Tommy Turner
- 20- Jerry Hawkins, Patsy Moss
- 21- Steve Bagby, Becky Coutras
- 22- Christie Arney, Natasha Kam
- 23- Lexie Harding, Marlene Lane, Tony Montagano, Donnie Steele, Katie White, Andrew Young
- 24- Neeley Emore, Tommy Wolohon
- 26- Whit Lampley, Steve Mitchell, Chris Moscato
- 27- Martha Johnson
- 28- Steve Hickok, Cooper Hines, Tim Pote
- 29- Rebecca Cross
- 30- Martha Osorio, Christy Swenson
- 31- Paula Stow

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
www.mborofpc.org
January announcements due:
 by December 15, 2024.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sumner & Ruth Bouldin	December 7
Tom & Casandra Ferrell	December 17
Jerry & Sandra Hawkins	December 20
Chet & Janet Logan	December 21
Reno & Sandy Collier	December 23
Jack & Judy Gritton	December 28
Travis & Caroline Lampley	December 28
Kevin & Jane McNulty	December 28
Bill & Kathy Zuiches	December 30

Still Waters Ministry

would like to thank

EVERYONE

FOR THEIR
 DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS, TIME, AND
 TALENTS
 IN OUR SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISER

First Presbyterian is a wonderful partner of Still Waters Ministry, and we are so appreciative!



A BIG

Thank you!!

Rockvale Cumberland Presbyterian Church would like to thank all of you who donated food toward the Thanksgiving Dinners. With your help, 36 families (160 people!) were served. Among the families that picked up food were a family with ten children, and a single mom with nine boys! All were incredibly thankful and expressed such gratitude to be able to not only feed their families, but celebrate the holiday with a full Thanksgiving meal.

Thank you all!



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On Wednesday night, December 4 our wonderful Chef Jessica will prepare our special Joy Gift Dinner. The meal is FREE, but please make a reservation using a pew card or by contacting the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882, ext. 201 so we have enough food. All donations will be given to our Joy Gift Offering, which supports the Board of Pensions Assistance Program in helping current and retired church workers during a time of urgent need. *Reminder: Salvation Army angel gifts are also due this night.*

Immediately following dinner our FPC Kids and Tweens will perform their Christmas program, "Light It Up: A Kids' Musical Shining the Light of God's Love", for us in the sanctuary. They have worked hard all semester preparing for this performance so be sure to join us!