



THE PROCLAMATION



TO LIVE WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

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

Here is a confession... I have noticed lately how easily I lose sight of the blessings that have been bestowed upon me. It is not intentional. Most days, when I wake up and put my feet on the floor, I know I am a blessed man.

Start with the basics. I live in a house. I sleep in a bed. I have more clothes than I know what to do with. I have coffee to drink and food to eat. I say this knowing how many Americans cannot take these simple things for granted. What has become ordinary to me would be an extraordinary blessing to someone else.

Go a little deeper. When I wake up, I wake up with Leila beside me. Well... not quite beside me, because between us are Maggie and Jake. But waking up next to Leila reminds me that I am loved. She has loved me for 34 years, for better or worse, and I cannot imagine life without her.

I have a son who calls me almost every day, a career he loves, and a church home that has claimed him as their own. I have two amazing parents. And even though sometimes it feels like they are children with rights, I would not have it any other way.

And lastly, I have you. It is my greatest privilege to lead a congregation that loves me, prays for me by name, and allows me to serve alongside you as we worship a God who loves us all. I do not take that privilege lightly. I know all of this. And yet, it is remarkably easy to lose sight of these blessings.

I know why. I take my eyes off what God has given me and focus instead on events over which I have no control and people I will never meet. If I spend too much time reading the news, I can feel my mood change. The political arguments, violence, divisions, and seemingly endless stream of bad news begin to shape how I see the world. Before long, I am dwelling on what is wrong rather than giving thanks for what is right, worrying about tomorrow rather than appreciating what God has given me today.

Gratitude requires intention. It asks us to stop long enough to recognize the blessings already in front of us.

That is one of the gifts of Thanksgiving. It invites us to pause and reconsider what truly matters. Not because the world's problems have disappeared or our lives are free from disappointment, but because even in difficult circumstances, there is goodness for which we can give thanks. Thanksgiving does not ask us to pretend that life is always good. It reminds us that even when life is hard, God remains faithful.

So, this November, may we refocus our attention. May we spend less time consumed by what we cannot control and more time appreciating the people we love, the community that sustains us, and the grace of God that carries us through every season of life.

May we never become so distracted by the troubles of this world that we fail to recognize the blessings of the life God has given us. And may we never be so busy counting our troubles that we forget to count our blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving. And may we all learn, day by day, to live with grateful hearts.

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



Preaching in November

November 1

All Saints' Sunday

"Perseverance of the Saints:
Held All the Way Home"
Psalm 43
Hebrews 12:1-6

November 8

"Light That Reveals the Truth"
Psalm 70
John 8:12-18

November 15

"The Life That Lives"
Psalm 123
John 11:17-26

November 22

Christ The King Sunday

"The Meaning of Everything"
Psalm 100
John 1:1-5, 14-18

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

"O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel"
Psalm 80:1-7
Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent Note: In the season of Advent, our preaching series will focus on great hymns of the season. We will explore how the words of these hymns bring deeper meaning to our desire not only to remember the birth of our Savior, but to wait in patient anticipation for His return.



as well as future capital improvements of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for continuing to plant seeds for our future missional endeavors.

ALL SAINTS' OFFERING: NOVEMBER 1

On Sunday, November 1 we will collect our annual All Saints' Offering during worship. Our All-Saints' Offering goes to our Legacy Fund to support both ongoing mission and ministry



A Called Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 1 at 10:45 am to hear and act on nominations made by the Ruling Elder Nominating Committee (RENC). On behalf of the RENC, chair and co-chair Ross Hines and Jennifer

Willoughby are pleased to announce the following nominations of those who agreed to be ordained and installed as Ruling Elders of our congregation for the class of 2029.

Ordained and Installed: John Bratcher, Rick Heckel, Marcie Richmond

Installed: Krista Bailey, Steve Elkins, Shelby Hunton, Katie Peachey, Al Sellers



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING JANUARY!

We are in the process of creating a new info only directory of all our church members. Do you have address, email, or phone changes since last

fall? Did you get rid of that landline? Noticed that we don't have your birthday recorded? Reach out to the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 0 by DECEMBER 15th.



Rev Dr. Hinkle vacation: November 21-28
Rev. Dr. Harding vacation: November 23-29
If you have any pastoral issues, please contact the church office or your caregiver.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 26.

FIRST FRIDAY



FRIDAY, November 6th
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru

Help us help local families in need be prepared for Thanksgiving!

This year, we will once again partner our November Food Drive on November 6th with Rockvale Cumberland Presbyterian Church for their Thanksgiving Food Giveaway. They will box full, uncooked Thanksgiving meals and provide them to local families in need. We need:

- Canned – corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin/fruit and sweet potatoes/yams
- Boxed – stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, Corn Muffin mix
- Gift Cards to Kroger which will be used to buy turkeys

EVERYONE is invited to

Second Sunday Social Hour

4:30-6:00pm

Join us for our **FREE** monthly events full of fun and fellowship! These events are open to our entire church family. Friends are always welcome, the more the merrier!

November 8th

Hot Dogs, S'Mores, and The Great Pumpkin Roll

at the Heusinkveld/Peck Farm

Please bring chairs or a blanket



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias are available to order in memory or in honor from Nov 1-27 by contacting the church office:

charlotte@mborofpc.org OR call 615-893-3882, ext. 201.

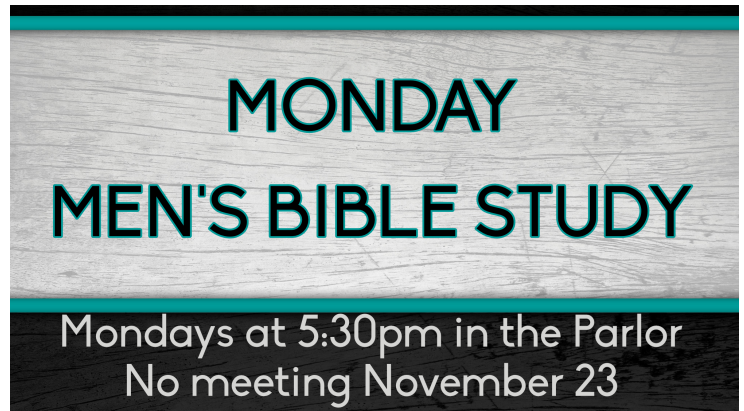
More information coming soon.



SESSION NOTES BY: ERIC EGLI, CLERK OF SESSION

- John Moss led our devotion on the topic of spiritual growth.
- The Ruling Elder Nominating Committee, led by Ross Hines and Jennifer Willoughby, presented the candidates for the Class of 2029 Session: *Returning*: Krista Bailey, Steve Elkins, Shelby Hunton, Katie Peachey. *New Elders*: John Bratcher, Rick Heckel, Marcie Richmond, All Sellers (elder in a previous church). Elders rotating off are Patsy Coleman, Ross Hines, Hollis Hulett, and Jennifer Willoughby. We thank them for their service. The nominations were approved and a Congregational Meeting is scheduled for November 1 at 10:45am in the sanctuary.
- Our Wonderful Wednesday chef, Jessica, is coming up on her 10th anniversary. The Fellowship Team made a motion which was approved to collect a love offering for her since she is not a formal staff member of the church – the donation box is in the common room. Deadline November 8.





SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

It's that time of year when the Salvation Army kicks into high gear with Kettle Ringing and the Angel Tree Program and our church is continuing with our commitment to support these programs.

We will have our angels for our angel tree early in the month of November. Once we get them from Salvation Army, we will have **30 angels** in the Welcome Center for adoption. Salvation Army requests that we follow the instructions that will be on the board specifically. As always, all gifts will be due by the Joy Gift Dinner on December 2. Thank you!

And...we have 2 more opportunities for you!

December 3: Volunteering in the Angel Tree Warehouse

December 5: Volunteer for Kettle Ringing

We will have signups available soon for the December.

ANNUAL JOY GIFT DINNER AND CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: DECEMBER 2nd at 5pm

Mark your calendars for our Annual Joy Gift Dinner & Program on Wednesday, December 2 starting at 5pm! Enjoy the gift of a free meal and a delightful performance from our FPC Kids & Tweens, who have been working hard on this year's program. Dinner is FREE with an option of donating to the PC(USA) Board of Pensions to support retired ministers in time of need. RSVPs are required for those who plan to come so we can make sure we are able to serve everyone.

TO RSVP: charlotte@mborofpc.org or by calling the church office at 615-893-3882 ext. 201 by November 30. We hope to see you!

Also, From Director Noah Rice: **SAVE THE DATE!** Our Annual Christmas Concert, known affectionately as our 15th Annual Gallimaufry of Yuletide Delights, will take place on December 13 at 6pm. Be there to celebrate with us and invite family and friends.



FPC YOUTH *November* 2026

Nov 6th–8th

High School Camping Trip.
Cost: \$75 per person

Nov 15th

10th Grade Confirmation Mile
Marker, during Sunday School
in the Vault. RSVP to Angela by
November 8th.

Nov 21st

**Monthly Youth Event (7th–12th
Grade)** Dinner & Movie \$20 per
person. RSVP to Angela by
November 8th.

Save the Date and RSVP for early December events

December 4th–6th – 8th & 11th Grade Confirmation
Retreat. RSVP to Angela by November 22nd.

**Sunday HS Youth
Group
6–8pm**

1st, 15th, & 22nd

**Wednesday MS Youth
Group
6–7pm**

4th & 11th



Events & SAVE THE DATE Schedule

Weekly Sunday School at 9:45 and Wednesday night choir, classes and fun at 6pm following 5pm dinner

- **November 4th and 11th** - Our children will be practicing in the sanctuary for our Joy Gift Program both Wednesdays. We will not have a Sunday afternoon practice this year, so please be sure to have your child/children attend for these dress rehearsals!

- **November 8th** - Second Sunday Social Hour at Heusinkveld/Peck Farm - 4:30-6:00pm *Please bring chairs or a blanket*

- **November 18th** - NO WW class due to the Missions Cake Auction

- **December 2nd** - Joy Gift Program 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Children will dress and practice at 5:45. Joy Gift Dinner at 5pm (FREE) just RSVP.

- **December 13th** - 3rd Grade Faith Milestone: Feed and Be Fed at 9:45am upstairs in the SS wing

- **December 20th** - Happy Birthday Jesus Party and annual Star Movie!

*There will be no Second Sunday Social Hour in December due to the Christmas Concert. Please attend the concert instead!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRESCHOOL THANKS ALL OF YOU for your financial support of our Preschool program. Your gifts to our ministry raised: **\$3,216.00** and we are grateful to each one of you.

Please remember and spread the word that we have plenty of room in both our 3-year-old and 4-year-old classes. We have highly trained, dedicated, and loving teachers to help our precious littles get a good start in life. Contact Director Karen Winford: preschool@mborofpc.org

November Birthdays

3-Nov	Mary Wilson Bailey, Tara Bouchillon
4- Nov	Joyce Merritt
5- Nov	Savannah Fraley
6- Nov	Lang McDaniel, Waverly Peck
7- Nov	Jim Crumley, Wyatt Petroka
8- Nov	Annette Heusinkveld, Hollis Hulett, Paul Lane, Jack Seage
9- Nov	Jean Potter
10- Nov	Matthew Neal, Roy Paterik
14- Nov	Nancy Ammerman, Fort Gwinn
15- Nov	Bruce Bailey, David Grubbs
16- Nov	Dick LaLance, Vicki Wendt
17- Nov	Dicken Kidwell
18- Nov	Adalyn Gritton, Lucas Moscato, Sherri Poole
19- Nov	Brad Richmond, Maria Webb
20- Nov	Laura Beth Bergsieker
21-Nov	Dot Perkins Smith
22- Nov	Bill Patterson, J. T. Leathers
23- Nov	Ellie Moore, Reba Heckel
24-Nov	Bill Richmond, Chip Steen, Aubrey Turner
25-Nov	Diane Parker, Tom Tyner, Tracy Webb
26- Nov	Lynn Clayton, Pam Kious
27- Nov	Jackson Lannom
28- Nov	Ellen Himebaugh
29- Nov	Sharon Parente, Dylan Pencek, Jack Pencek
30- Nov	Kristi Baughman, Chase Ledbetter

November Anniversaries

Walt & Charlene Baxley	November 5
Joseph & Emily Anderson	November 7
Jamie & Wendy Jenkins	November 7
Marty & Wendy White	November 7
Eric & Nena Egli	November 9
Travis & Hope Emore	November 16
Bill & Martha Richmond	November 19
Rod & Rae Pencek	November 22
Barry & Melanie Shipp	November 28

Thank You Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Words cannot express how much I appreciate all the love and acts of kindness shown to me during Earl's illness and death.

Your visits and those who sat with him brought comfort. Your many prayergrams and prayers brought peace. The abundant food was helpful and delicious. Your numerous cards were loving and uplifting. Your calls, texts, and emails showed concern and interest, and helped us to not feel so alone throughout this difficult journey.

My deepest thanks to all.

With grateful love, Sue Pond

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.



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

Have an Announcement for December?

Submit to Charlotte@mborofpc.org; by

November 18, 2026.

First Presbyterian Church

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Missions Live & Silent Cake Auction: *Families in Need*

November 18 at 5pm (during Wonderful Wednesday)

benefiting Doors of Hope, Isaiah 117 House, & Still Waters Family Ministries

As Isaiah 1:17 states: "take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Everyone is invited! Important: The meal is a regular Wonderful Wednesday meal, so 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 local families in need.

We need: Bakers: - *Live & Silent Auction* - we need baked (mostly cakes) items for the night of the event and 'future date' offers
- *Buy-It-Now* cupcakes only

Help with set-up/clean-up

Everyone to come for the meal and the bidding.

To bake/bring items/help: Contact charlotte@mborofpc.org or call the church office.

To RSVP for dinner, you can email Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or use a green pew card.