



# THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



## LIVING GENEROUSLY

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

First, let me tell you my mindset as I write this. It is Tuesday, January 20, and most of my mental energy has been spent wondering whether we are about to experience Winter-geddon this coming weekend. And yet, somehow, I must focus long enough to tell you what is happening in the life of the church in February. I could simply tell you to read The Proclamation for all the facts and figures—but where would the fun be in that?

February is best described as a season of moving pieces. For much of the month, we will be in the heart of our Stewardship Season, continuing to focus on the foundation of generosity. And yes, I realize many of you may see Steve and Karen Hickok, the chairs of this year's campaign, delivering their Minute for Stewardship on YouTube. You remember—the snow and everything. Stewardship will conclude on Transfiguration Sunday, when we dedicate our pledges toward the 2026–2027 budget. But that is only part of the story.

On Wednesday, February 18, we will gather to begin our Lenten journey, and many of us will take up a Lenten discipline. If Lent feels early this year, that's because it is—by my calculations, it is the second-earliest it can occur on the liturgical calendar. (Just FYI: next year is the earliest.) Even so, Lent remains a meaningful season as we intentionally draw closer to Jesus by faith.

But there's more. On Wednesday, February 4, we will celebrate the Second Annual Rafflepalooza—an evening of raffles, fellowship, and yes... bingo. Lots of bingo. All proceeds will support our families and youth as they participate in summer activities, including covering costs for the adult volunteers who faithfully chaperone these events.

And let's not forget Wonderful Wednesday, Men's Bible Study, Women's Morning Circle, Pickleball, Women's Luncheon, Chili Cook-Off, and plenty more happening throughout the month. So hold on to your hats—February is coming at us fast.

Follow Rev. Dr. Hinkle on X @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.



## FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

### February 1

"The Practice of Generosity"  
Psalm 112  
Matthew 6:1-4

### February 8

"The Call to Trust in God's Generosity"  
Psalm 37:1-9  
Matthew 6:25-33

### February 15

**Dedication Sunday**  
**Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday**  
"The Transformation of Generosity"  
Psalm 50:1-6  
Matthew 17:1-13

### February 18

**Ash Wednesday**  
"A Holy Fast"  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
Matthew 6:1-8

### February 22

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
"The Problem Beneath the Problem"  
Psalm 32  
Matthew 5:21-26

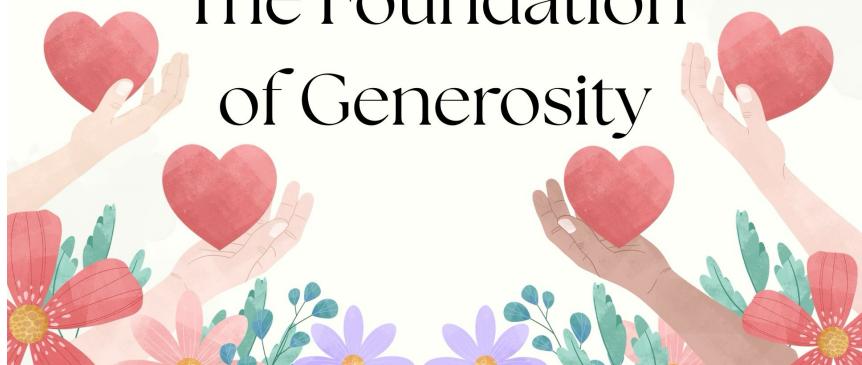
## WORSHIP AT FPC

### PREACHING IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

First Presbyterian Church continues Stewardship season—a time set aside for reflection and renewed commitment as we consider how we care for the gifts God has placed in our hands. Our faith tells us that everything we have belongs to God. When we recognize God as the true owner of all, generosity becomes not an obligation, but a way of life. Leading us in this journey will be our Stewardship chairs, Steve and Karen Hickok. Dedication Sunday is February 15. Please prayerfully consider how God is moving you to be good stewards of what is happening on the corner of College and Spring.

Stewardship Season 2026:

## The Foundation of Generosity



### STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2026

BY: STEVE AND KAREN HICKOK

Generosity is often measured by what we give, but Scripture reminds us that it is ultimately defined by why we give. At the heart of every faithful act—whether it is service, sacrifice, or financial support—is love. As we enter our stewardship season, we are invited to reflect not only on our gifts, but on the foundation from which those gifts flow.

The first three verses of 1 Corinthians 13 speak of many gifts we can offer to God and to our community. These verses affirm that while these gifts are important, none of them is greater than love. The next five verses describe what love looks like in action. The culmination of this chapter comes in verse 13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God, and that the second is just as important: to love your neighbor as yourself.

Without love, we are nothing. In the grand scheme of things, love is everything. It is the very foundation of our faith—and it is the foundation of our generosity. Our stewardship theme this year is "The Foundation of Generosity." During this season, consider why time, talents, and financial resources are given to support the church. Is it out of duty, obligation, guilt, or tradition—or is it out of love? Let it be love.

## FPC EVENTS AND UPDATES

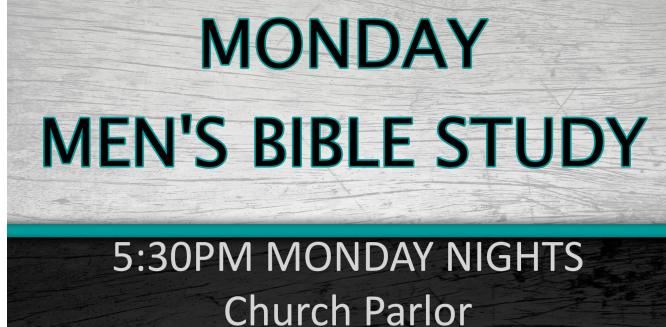


Already tired of winter? Beat the winter blahs by joining us for one of our favorite events: Our Chili Cook-Off/Brownie Bake-Off on Sunday, February 22 at 5:00! Sign up to bring your best chili, soup, or stew or your best brownie secret recipe. Come for trivia, come to eat, it's a fun night for everyone! 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).



All women are invited to our annual Women's Luncheon here at church on February 7, 2026 from 11am-1pm: Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch professionally prepared by our own Chef Jessica. Reservations required by February 1. Just contact the church office: call 615-893-3882, ext. 201, email [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org). Friends welcome!

**Special Guest Read to Succeed:** "Read to Succeed improves lives in Rutherford County by offering free literacy programs and events for adults and children."



Join us for this semester of Monday Men's Bible Study! We welcome any male in the church who is in fellowship and open to God's word in his life. We WILL meet on Presidents' Day.



**Morning Circle**  
Tuesday, February 3  
10am - Church Parlor  
ALL Women Welcome-  
Join us for fellowship!



*Everyone's Invited to*  
**Palm Burning**  
FPC Youth  
5:30 - 7pm      Spring St.  
Feb 11th  
A bear and a deer are sitting around a campfire.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITY

### SALVATION ARMY COMMUNITY MEALS

2ND THURSDAY OF THE  
MONTH  
4-7PM



SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT KAREN HICKOK AT:  
HICKOKMUSICSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM TO VOLUNTEER



The Salvation Army serves meals to those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Our church volunteers for Community Meals at the Salvation Army once a month from 4-7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (next available date March 12<sup>th</sup>). 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 contact Karen Hickok at: [hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com](mailto:hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com).



**Presbyterian 101**  
4 Week Class:  
9:45 am in Classroom C  
**Starts February 8**  
*Whether you're new or just want a refresher, all are welcome.*

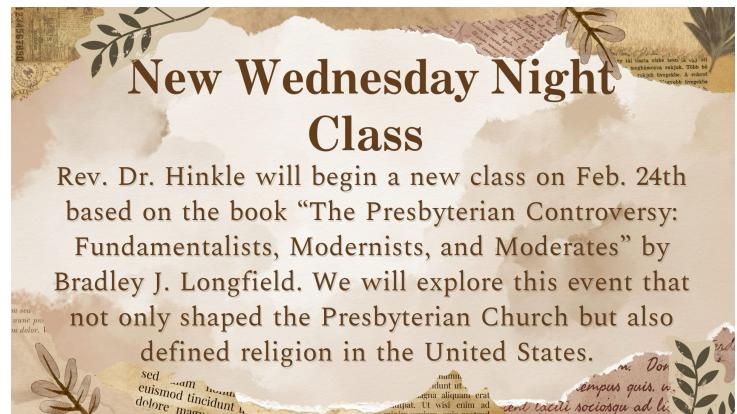
Register with the church office:  
[charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org) / 615-893-3882



**Church Family Retreat**  
Save the Date!  
May 1-3, 2026  
Registration Begins on  
February 27, 2026

## New Wednesday Night Class

Rev. Dr. Hinkle will begin a new class on Feb. 24th based on the book "The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, and Moderates" by Bradley J. Longfield. We will explore this event that not only shaped the Presbyterian Church but also defined religion in the United States.



## Wonderful Wednesday

### DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

Dinner 5pm      Classes 6pm



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

# FPC Youth

# February

# 2026

**Wednesday, February 4th:** Youth Rafflepalooza Summer Trips Fundraiser

**Wednesday, February 11th:** Palm Burning

**Thursday, February 19th:** 11th Grade Faith Milestone: Cemetery Walk

**Saturday, February 21st:** 7th-12th Grade Dinner and Sky Zone. RSVP to Angela by February 13th.

Save the Date for our Church Retreat, May 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

High School Youth Groups  
on Sunday Nights,  
6-8 PM

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>

Middle School Group  
on Wednesday Nights,  
6-7 PM

4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> - Palm Burning,  
and 25<sup>th</sup>



Fun Events Coming this Spring!

**February 22** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Milestone: Risk at 1:30 at Climb Murfreesboro. Meet there – complete online form before arrival

**March 28** Egg Hunt at the Gray Home at 10:00am

**March 29** Our children will be performing a special anthem with our Adult Choir for Palm Sunday at the 11:00am service! Please be sure to attend Wonderful Wednesdays for choir practice as we work on our song. We will also process with palms at both services.



**4th Grade Faith Milestone**

# RISK

**Climb Murfreesboro**

**02.22.26**

**1:30-3:30pm**

Contact Meredith Peck



## 2026/2027 REGISTRATION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

We will be offering a 3 and 4 year old class AND a Kindergarten Readiness class for the upcoming semester.

Tell all of your friends and let's fill the school!

February 1 - 14 Preschool Family Priority

February 15 - 28 Church Member Priority

March 1 - Open Registration



# February Birthdays

2- Ragen White Davenport, Bob Potter, Jennifer Willoughby

3- Sam Farrar, Andrew Willoughby

4- Reno Collier, Rory Sourek

6- Campbell Peck, Katie Turner

7- Trey Randolph

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, 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>.

# February Anniversaries

Al & Brenda Sellers	February 7
Darrell Elwell & Susie Mocarski	February 13
Rick & Reba Heckel	February 15
Will & Abbey Logan	February 16
Dan & Paula Stow	February 25
Kevin & Sandra Wheeler	February 26
Jonathan & Christy Swenson	February 26

*Thank you so  
much for giving!*

Thanks to your generosity, we raised:

- Cake Auction to benefit Nourish Food Bank and Greenhouse Ministries: **\$7,743.75**
- Joy Gift Offering to benefit the Board of Pensions: **\$2,944**
- Christmas Eve Offering for Still Waters Family Ministries: **\$4,655.25**

## Big News from Officer Jay!

Many of you have met our most frequent Sunday and Wednesday Officer, Jay Radzinski. In a new, additional venture helping people, Jay has launched his own non-profit with his therapy dog, Ellie, called WAGS4WELLNESS. Jay and Ellie make personal visits to people who can't get out much, need safe dog-exposure, or just need a little pick-me-up. You can contact Jay and Ellie at [wags4wellness@yahoo.com](mailto:wags4wellness@yahoo.com) or visit [wags4wellness.com](http://wags4wellness.com)



Uplifting visits  
from Ellie the  
therapy dog

Bringing love and happiness to  
individuals and organizations

615-956-8655

[wags4wellness.com](http://wags4wellness.com)

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

PERMIT #198



The Youth Dinner and Rafflepalooza Fundraiser is back with fun and giving for a great cause where everyone goes home a winner. A few changes this year: Parlor doors will open at 5 pm to purchase as many raffle tickets (\$10 each) & bingo cards (\$5 each) that your heart desires. We'll have FOUR games of bingo! Common Room doors open at 5:30 pm, where you will drop your tickets into the buckets for anything you hope to win.

Save money and time with our **pre-sale bundles**. The "Fun Bundle" includes 4 bingo cards and 4 raffle tickets, a \$60 value for only \$50! The "Super Bundle" includes 8 bingo cards and 8 raffle tickets, a \$120 value for only \$100! And the "Epic Bundle" includes 12 bingo cards and 18 raffle tickets, a \$240 value for only \$200! Pre-sold bundles will be ready when you arrive, saving you time, but they will also be for sale the night of the event.

**Our Goal is to raise \$8,000!**

Funds raised will help offset costs for our summer youth trips. Our middle schoolers are returning to The Great Escape Smokies, while our high school group travels to Johnson City for a week with Appalachia Service Project.

Everyone wins a tasty dinner, and reservations are REQUIRED. Don't miss this incredible night of support and celebration! **Contact the office as soon as possible: [charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org)**

## FPC STAFF

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Fax: 615-962-9005

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