



# THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



## ...AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

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

In his renowned poem, "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost presents a traveler standing at the precipice of a decision. Two roads diverge in a yellow wood, and he, acknowledging that each road leads to a separate destiny, chooses "the one less traveled by." This decision, he concludes, "has made all the difference." It is a poetic device that resonates deeply within the Christian soul, particularly as we gather to celebrate Easter; for, at the heart of our faith lies a similar divergence of paths—one broad, well-trodden, and easy; the other narrow, demanding, yet leading to the glorious joy of resurrection.

Easter morning does not merely celebrate an event; it affirms a choice—a road taken by Christ Himself. When faced with the temptation to retreat from suffering, He pressed forward. When offered an easier path, He bore the cross. In so doing, He carved out a road of grace, love, and redemption that we are now invited to follow. Consider, for a moment, the implications of this journey. The world, with its clever cynicism and modern disenchantment, often takes the broader road—a road marked by expedience, self-interest, and comfortable pragmatism. This road is filled with human attempts to engineer happiness to construct meaning from the shifting sands of mere existence. It is the road of self-sufficiency, where we convince ourselves that we are the sole architects of our fate. And yet, it is a road that ultimately leads to despair, for no human edifice can withstand the winds of mortality.

The road Jesus offers, by contrast, is difficult, paved with suffering and sacrifice. It is a road of faith, where the traveler does not always see the destination but walks forward in trust. It is a road that asks us to relinquish control, to love our enemies, to die to self so that we may truly live. And yet, paradoxically, this road—this hard, unglamorous road—is the one that leads to joy. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," Jesus tells us (John 10:10). His resurrection is the fruition of this promise.

As we explored that first Sunday of Lent, Robert Frost's traveler recognizes that the path he chose "has made all the difference." For the Christian, the road of resurrection makes all the difference—not just in some abstract philosophical sense, but in the reality of daily living. Easter is not a quaint tradition of pastel dresses and white buck shoes; it is the very engine of Christian hope. It reorients our journey. It transforms the burdens of suffering into the birth pangs of new creation. It takes the tragedies of this fallen world and, through divine grace, turns them into triumphs. It affirms, above all, that death does not have the final word.

Our Reformed theology, rooted in both rigorous intellect and deep devotion, has long emphasized the sovereignty of God in human affairs. And so, as we consider Easter through the lens of Frost's poem, we are reminded that our steps are not random wanderings in a meaningless void. Rather, we are called to take the road of discipleship—the road of trust in the risen Christ, who has gone before us and prepares a place for us.

On this Easter morning, let us therefore rejoice in the road less traveled. Let us stand at the divergence and boldly choose the path of faith. For it is in this choice that we find not only a distant, heavenly reward, but the present, abiding joy of walking with our risen Lord. And that, indeed, makes all the difference.

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



**April 6**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

"Getting Ahead of Ourselves"

*Psalm 126*

*Matthew 26:36-46*

**April 13**

**Palm Sunday**

"The Road to Zion"

*Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29*

*Matthew 21:1-11*

Children carry palms both services; children's choir sings 11am service

**April 20**

**Easter Sunday**

"Looking for the Living Among the Dead"

*Psalm 118:1-4, 14-24*

*Luke 24:1-12*

**April 27**

"Something That Is Good"

*Psalm 2*

*Genesis 1:27-31*



Minute for Mission with **Gideons**

**GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL**

WORSHIP AT FPC

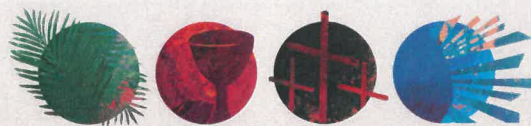


8:30 & 11AM

**EASTER**

APRIL 20, 2025

HE IS RISEN



**HOLY WEEK**

**Monday, April 14 at 12pm**  
First Baptist Church on Main

**Tuesday, April 15 at 12pm**  
First Presbyterian Church with Antioch Primitive Baptist Church

**Wednesday, April 16 at 12pm**  
Central Christian Church

**Thursday, April 17 at 12pm**  
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

**Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm**  
First Presbyterian Church

**Friday, April 18 at 12pm**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Note: no meals following services

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**



THURSDAY, APRIL 17

WORSHIP AT 6:30PM FREE DINNER AT 5:00PM (RSVP)  
NURSERY PROVIDED 6 WEEKS - 5YRS

**THE PIPES, THE PIPES, THE PIPES ARE PLAYING...IN SCOTLAND!**

Dr. Hinkle is tentatively leading a group tour to Scotland in the Spring of 2026. The possible dates for the trip are April 16-24. An introduction to the trip will take place on Wonderful Wednesday, April 23 (2025) at 6pm. This will be in place of Dr. Hinkle's normal Wednesday night class. Bobby Hopkins, who is organizing the trip, will be there and will walk us through this exciting adventure. If you are ready to go or just curious, please come and find out everything that is planned.

## FPC EVENTS AND UPDATES



Greetings First  
Presbyterian Church  
Family,

For well over a decade,

UKirk (and formerly PSF) has been a consistent presence on the quad outside James Walker Library, offering students free coffee and a space for fellowship. This weekly gathering is more than just a caffeine boost—it's a chance for us to step beyond our doors and meet students where they are.

Tahra, a senior, says: *Absolutely love having the opportunity to meet up and have the time to sit down and enjoy an iced coffee with some of the friendliest faces on campus during my busy schedule. Helps especially give a great start to my mornings before classes* 💙

Each week, we welcome an average of six students, though we've had as many as twelve join us at once this year! Whether it's catching up with friends or sharing a conversation with our campus minister, coffee hour remains a meaningful part of our week at UKirk.

Blessings,  
Rev. Micah Watson  
UKIRK MTSU  
ukirk.mtsu@  
gmail.com  
615-692-2742



## April Events

- **Women's Morning Circle**  
April 1 at 10am
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** Mondays 4pm
- **Men's Bible Study** Mondays 5:30pm
- **Wonderful Wednesdays**  
April 9, 23, 30 at 5pm
- **2nd Friday Food Drive**  
April 11 from 9am-12pm
- **Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 12 at 10am at the Gray Home
- **Palm Sunday**  
April 13 children sing at 11am
- **Holy Week Service**  
here April 15 at noon
- **5th/6th Passover Seder**  
April 16 at 5:30pm
- **Maundy Thursday dinner**  
(free but RSVP) April 17 at 5pm,  
worship at 6:30pm
- **Easter** April 20 at 8:30 & 11am
- **D-Group** April 24 at 5:30pm

**D-Group Summer Salad**  
Thursday, April 24th at 5:30 at the  
home of Susan Couch



D Group Summer Salad potluck and meeting on Thursday, April 24th at 5:30 at the home of Susan Couch.

Come over, bring a salad to share and enjoy the company of our fun group of women who have experienced divorce. This month we will share ideas together on how to work with both our ex-spouses and our children to make life a little easier for everyone.

RSVP to Susan Couch: [susanacouch@comcast.net](mailto:susanacouch@comcast.net)

## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY! BY: BILL PATTERSON



### MAGGIE MOORE

So, how did a California physics major who provided motion studies for the film industry end up in Rutherford County, Tennessee? The answer is horses, but we will come to that later.

Margaret Julia (Maggie) Moore joined First Presbyterian Church in January. She is from Orange County, California (we have quite a few members from that area) and a graduate of the University of California, Irvine and the University of Arizona. She put her physics degrees to work in the film industry doing motion studies for action films and car races. But getting up at 5 a.m. every day to make the three-hour commute from Orange County to the studios for 35 years finally got to her. This is where her love of horses comes in. "I have had horses my entire life," Mrs. Moore said. Having friends in this area, which is known for walking horses, appealed to Maggie, so she made the move 17 years ago. She is fully engaged in the walking horse industry, having eight horses total at her Christiana stables. Mrs. Moore spends the summers on the walking horse circuit.

Something else which has occupied her time is her husband's international food testing business. Unfortunately, his declining health has caused them to begin selling off this enterprise.

Mrs. Moore has two stepchildren from a previous marriage, and her husband has two daughters and a granddaughter. She grew up in the Laguna Presbyterian Church in Laguna Beach, Calif, where, she said, the minster since she was in high school, just retired.

Mrs. Moore became more interested in FPC during the on-line services during the pandemic. Ultimately, her visits turned into membership, and we are very glad to have her.



### CYNTHIA BANG

We welcomed Cynthia Bang into the First Presbyterian family last month as she moved from Mobile, Alabama. Born in South Korea, she moved to the U.S. with her family when she was three years old. Although the family lived in several cities, she lived the longest in Mobile, where she graduated from high school. Her younger brother still lives in Mobile with their parents. Then it was off to college at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she majored in biology. She finished her undergraduate degree at the

Montgomery campus of Auburn University, and then she entered the pharmacy program at that institution, graduating two years ago.

So how did she end up in Murfreesboro? "I had a couple of friends who worked at Walgreens (here)," she said. They told her there was a pharmacist position open in Murfreesboro and that it was a good place to live. So, Ms. Bang applied, was hired, and now rotates between stores in this area.

She enjoys hiking, museums, and admits to being a "foodie," trying out interesting food and restaurants. Ms. Bang has a cat, Giselle. A life-long Presbyterian, she googled Presbyterian churches, read reviews of this church, visited, and joined. "Everyone is family here," she said.

FPC is delighted to have Cynthia Bang join our rolls.





FPC YOUTH  
**APRIL**  
**2025**

- APRIL 13 Confirmation Student/Mentor Corn  
Hole Lunch 12:00-1:30 PM
- APRIL 15 11th Grade Confirmation Session  
Meeting at 6:00pm
- APRIL 16 5th & 6th Grade Passover Seder  
Dinner at 5:30pm
- APRIL 17 10th Grade Katharos & PFS Round 3  
(immediately following Maundy  
Thursday worship)
- APRIL 27 Nicaragua Team Lunch and  
Meeting (mandatory) 12:00-2:00pm

WEDNESDAY OPEN CELLAR 5.30PM SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP 6.00PM

APRIL 9TH, 23RD, & 30TH

NO OPEN CELLAR  
 APRIL 2ND OR 16TH

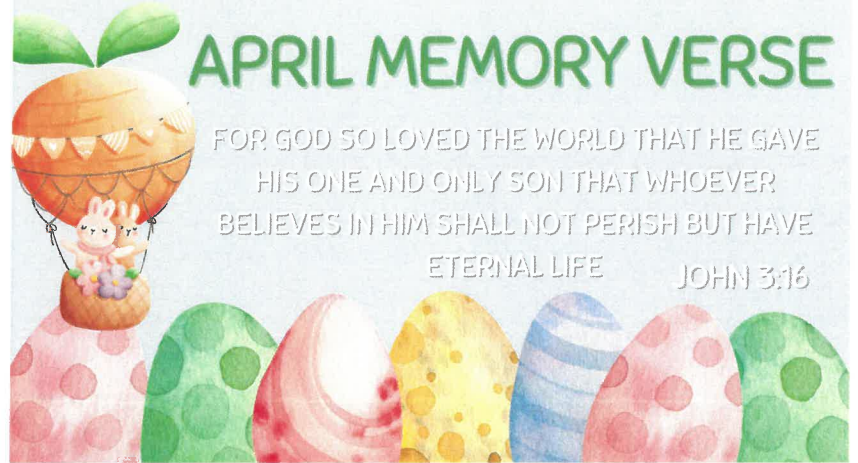
APRIL 6TH, 13TH, & 27TH

NO YG ON APRIL 20TH





- April 12** Egg Hunt at the Gray Home  
724 Veterans Parkway
- April 13** Children Sing at 11:00am  
Service for Palm Sunday
- April 16** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Milestone:  
Seder Dinner, 5:30pm at  
Church, RSVP to  
[meredith@mborofpc.org](mailto:meredith@mborofpc.org)



## APRIL MEMORY VERSE

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE  
HIS ONE AND ONLY SON THAT WHOEVER  
BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE  
ETERNAL LIFE JOHN 3:16

## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Milestone STUDENT & FAMILY PASSOVER SEDER DINNER Wednesday, April 16, 5:30

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**VBS  
JUNE 3-5, 2025**

Ages 3 (potty trained) - 6<sup>th</sup>  
grade, dinner provided. **We  
need Volunteers!** Contact  
[meredith@mborofpc.org](mailto:meredith@mborofpc.org)




### PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13 REMINDER!

CHILDREN PROCESS WITH PALMS AT BOTH  
8:30 AND 11AM SERVICES. CHILDREN'S  
CHOIR SINGS AT 11:00 AM.

## SESSION NOTES

BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by John Moss. He referenced the book of Jeremiah, reminding us God knew us before we were born and knows the steps He has for our lives.
- Discussion is in progress for painting of the sanctuary, exterior lighting, and repairing cracks in the mortar in the columbarium. Thanks to Travis Emore for repairing our grease trap, saving the church over \$1000.
- Three 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands: Reese Hines, Reed Peachey, and Graham Sourek met with the Session to learn about the duties and responsibilities of the various ministries.
- Stewardship reported that the budget is being worked on and we continue to encourage members to make their pledges known.
- The worship team is busy preparing for the Easter services.

- Due to damage to sanctuary cushions and the floor from spilled food, the decision has been made for no food or drink to be allowed in the sanctuary. Serving communion at the Church Retreat at NaCoMe was approved.
- A search committee has been formed to replace our retiring Director of Music. The committee is: Steve Hickok, Eric Egli, David Sevier, Joanna Riggs, and Charles Wendt, with Rev. Dr. Hinkle serving ex-officio.
- We are in conversation with Branches Counseling Center, a mental health organization. Karen Hickok is our liaison to the Salvation Army. We will not be doing an auction for the Still Waters ministry, but our Christmas Eve offering will be given to them.
- Communion was taken to 1 person this month.
- Reverend Harding has his oral defense of his dissertation coming soon and is scheduled to graduate in May 2025.



- 1 Ryan Wendt
- 2 Janice Tyner
- 3 Reese Flanagan, Jodie Jones, Kevin Wheeler
- 5 Janet Blackwelder
- 6 Sue Grubbs
- 7 William Miller
- 8 Logan Baughman, Scott Corlew, Christian Pencek
- 10 Mary Katherine Neely, Kaitlyn Speck Sickler
- 11 Sydney Carroll, Barry Shipp
- 12 Alexandra Piper
- 14 Rachel Callaway, Jocelyn Fisher, Bob Hoffman, Jay Jones, Harrison Tisdal
- 16 Dylan Bouchillon
- 17 Shannon Wheeler
- 18 Sandra Hawkins, Bay McDaniel, Ellie Young
- 19 Justin Jones
- 20 Pat Eisenbeis, Thomas Lane, Bob Peterson
- 22 Kathy Daniel, Andrew Lane, Mollie Lane
- 25 Caroline Lampley, Will Magoon
- 26 Wyatt Greer, Brett Lanning, Ron Nichols, Daniel Wendt
- 27 Lizzie Bagby, Barbara Kidwell
- 28 John Riley Farrar, Carter Lampley
- 29 Sarah White Bagby, Eric Egli
- 30 William Farrar, Rebecca Young



- |                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Joel and Amanda Paddon      | April 23 |
| Trey and Sarah Gwinn        | April 27 |
| Joe and Mary Ashley Manahan | April 27 |

*Thank You*

Dear Members of FPC Murfreesboro,

We here at Doors of Hope wish to thank you for your generous donations. These are items we use daily and we feel blessed!

*This note was sent in a card signed by all the participants in the Doors of Hope Program.*

*Thank You*

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

The Fellowship Team wants to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to our congregation

for their generous financial contributions supporting the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church which was destroyed in the California fires. Thanks to you we raised \$8,345.03!

*thank you*

Thank you for giving \$1,750 for Isaiah 117 House in our Ash Wednesday offering. *Isaiah 117 House provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting placement in the foster care system.*

**Easter Lilies Notice:** This year, in addition to Easter lilies, we will also have hyacinths and tulips added to our arrangements. Ordering information will be in your bulletins soon as we look forward to a beautiful Easter sanctuary!

**The Proclamation** is a monthly newsletter of  
**First Presbyterian Church • [www.mborofpc.org](http://www.mborofpc.org)**  
**Have an announcement for May?** Submit it to Charlotte at  
[charlotte@mborofpc.org](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org) by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

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



## FPC STAFF

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jhinkle@mborofpc.org

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bobby@mborofpc.org

## Music Director

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jfisher@mborofpc.org

## Director of Children's Ministry

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## PT Facilities Coordinator

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## PT Custodian

Tammy Green

**Church Retreat**  
MAY 2-4 2025  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 11

1ST FAMILY MEMBER: \$125	2ND FAMILY MEMBER: \$85
3RD FAMILY MEMBER: \$60	4TH FAMILY MEMBER: \$30
MAX FAMILY COST: \$300	DEPOSIT DUE BY APRIL 25

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BOBBY, CHARLOTTE, OR MEREDITH:  
BOBBY@MBOROFPC.ORG, MEREDITH@MBOROFPC.ORG,  
CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

## Join us for our 2025 Church Retreat: A retreat for EVERYONE

May 2-4, 2025 at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center  
3232 Sulphur Creek Rd, Pleasantville, TN 37033

Retreat begins with dinner at 6:00pm on Fri May 2 – after lunch on Sun May 4

### **COST INFORMATION:** Includes 2 nights lodging, meals, & activities

1st Family Member: \$125	2nd Family Member: \$85
3rd Family Member: \$60	4th Family Member: \$30
Max Family Cost: \$300	

Contact Bobby, Meredith or Charlotte for info regarding financial assistance. It's available! Also, you can pay online by selecting 'Church Retreat' from the dropdown menu ([www.mborofpc.org/give](http://www.mborofpc.org/give))

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** APRIL 11    **PAYMENT DUE:** April 25

Please contact Bobby Harding ([bobby@mborofpc.org](mailto:bobby@mborofpc.org)) or Meredith Peck ([meredith@mborofpc.org](mailto:meredith@mborofpc.org)) with questions

REGISTER ONLINE BY USING the QR CODE IN THE GRAPHIC ABOVE **OR** PRINTED REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AT THE SANCTUARY ENTRANCES.