



THE PROCLAMATION



A HOLY DAY: PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR CHRIST'S COMING

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

Every year, Advent asks us to pause in a way the world rarely does. While the culture rushes ahead to lights, shopping, and sentiment, the Church takes a deep breath. We wait.

We remember that the story of Christmas begins long before Bethlehem — in the promises of God spoken through prophets, in centuries of longing, and in the quiet hope that God would one day make all things new.

Our Advent preaching series, "A Holy Day," reminds us that Christmas isn't just a holiday — it's a holy interruption. It is the moment when heaven touched earth, when the infinite became an infant, when the promises of God found their "Yes" in Christ Jesus.

Advent is not only about looking back to the birth of Jesus but also looking ahead to His return. The same Lord who entered our world in weakness will come again in glory. That means Advent is not sentimental; it's profoundly hopeful. It teaches us to live between two arrivals — the cradle and the crown — with faith, courage, and joy.

The Gospel of Luke shows us that the first Christmas was not about power or comfort, but about God's faithfulness to ordinary people: a young woman who said "yes," shepherds who believed good news, and a world too distracted to notice what God was doing. That hasn't changed much. God still works in quiet places and humble hearts. He still brings peace to chaos, joy to sorrow, and love to those who thought they were forgotten.

So, as we light the candles of Advent — hope, peace, joy, and love — we are not merely counting down to Christmas. We are bearing witness to a deeper reality: that God keeps His promises, that the Light has come into the world, and the darkness has not overcome it.

This season, let's prepare not only our homes and calendars, but our hearts — for the Christ who has come, who is with us now, and who will come again.

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

*14th Annual Gallimaufry
of Yuletide Delights*

Christmas Concert

December 14th, 2025
6PM
nursery provided

Everyone is cordially invited to join us as First Presbyterian Church presents its **14th Annual Christmas Concert: A Gallimaufry of Yuletide Delights**. The concert will include our choirs, handbells, instrumentals and other musical surprises 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. Join us also for a reception in the Common Room immediately after the concert.



December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

"A Holy Hope: A Song of Joy"

Micah 5:1-5a

Luke 1:46-55

December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

"A Holy Peace: Prepare the Way"

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-7

December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

"A Holy Love: A Light to the World"

Isaiah 60:1-7

Luke 2:8-20

December 24

Christmas Eve

12:00pm

Travelers' Service

4:00pm

Family Candlelight Service

6:00pm

Communion Candlelight Service

"A Holy Night: Glory to God in the Highest"

Isaiah 52:1, 2, 7-10

Luke 2:1-20

December 28:

ONE SERVICE 10:15

(no Sunday school)

"A Knock at the Door"

Psalms 148

Matthew 2:1-12



- 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.



Christmas Vacation & Office Hours

- Rev. Harding will be on vacation: December 26 -Jan 1.
- Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be on vacation December 26-January 3.
- Pat Cox will be on vacation December 24.
- The Church Office will be closed: 12/25-26

FIRST FRIDAY



Friday, December 5
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru



SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS: NEW MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITY WINTER MEETING

If you have served in the armed forces, we invite you to attend a meeting of Soldiers Helping Soldiers on Monday, January 26, at 11:00 a.m. At this meeting, we will explore ways to support new veterans in transitioning to daily life. If you have any questions, please speak to Rev. Dr. Hinkle.

Members of our Care Team are serving as Santa's Helpers and will deliver tins of cookies on December 9 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!

Morning Circle

Tuesday, December 9
 10am - Christmas Lunch
 at Through the Grapevine

ALL Women Welcome! Meet us at
 Through the Grapevine
 RSVP to Polly Bullock: pgdbullock@yahoo.com!



SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Remember that all Angels are due by December 3 at the Joy Gift Dinner.
- First Presbyterian Church has committed to ring the Red Kettle bell on Saturday, December 6 from 9am-6pm at Kroger Old Fort. You can use the sign-up genius link below to choose your time. The day is divided into hour slots and can be filled by 1-2 people. Children are encouraged to ring with their parents. It's a wonderful way for them to learn the gift of giving back to those less fortunate.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49AEA728A1FFC07-59796447-redkettle>

- We still need new toys and youth boys' clothing items for the general Salvation Army Angel Tree Store. Drop off items in the 2nd floor children's area. by December 3.

Finally, we need 5 adults to help with Angel Tree Gift Return on Monday, December 8 at Salvation Army Headquarters on Main St. Contact Karen Hickok: hickokmusicstudio@gmail.com

Church Family Picture Directory! IN PROGRESS...!

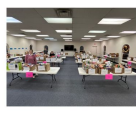


Send your recent picture to:
charlotte@mborofpc.org
 by December 10!

Don't have a pic? Contact the office.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

THANKS TO YOU, We provided a full Thanksgiving meal as well as pantry staples to **52 families (over 250 people!)**. We also took 2 full truckloads to Nourish Food Bank!



LOVE, YOUR FRIENDS AT ROCKVALE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!



MEET SUSIE ROOKER

We welcome Susie Rooker to our First Presbyterian Church family. She has had a long career in the health care field, being the first nurse practitioner in Rutherford County. Susie was born in Murfreesboro, but her family moved to Cocoa Beach, Florida, moving back here in 1953. She completed nursing school in Nashville, and when Vanderbilt University opened a nurse practitioner program, she entered it and graduated.

Dr. William Shacklett hired her to work in his office. "I thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. "I got to get out of working nights and weekends." She later began working for National Health Corp. In 1984, Dr. Carl Adams urged Mrs. Rooker to start a hospice program, and she stayed with it until retirement.

A widow, Mrs. Rooker lives on the family farm. She has a son in Murfreesboro and a daughter in Washington state and four grandsons. As for pets, "I have 12 cows," she joked, plus a watch dog. She enjoyed horses, and used to ride hunters and jumpers and even was a judge of fox hound trials.

She got to FPC over time. "I worked with Debby Garth (wife of former pastor David Garth) and came here a couple of times. I floated around but couldn't find a good fit, but this (FPC) is a good fit for me," she explained. "Which church can help me be the Christian I want to be?" Mrs. Rooker wants to be plugged in here and is making her contributions to our ministries.



MEET DAVID AND JO HOOD

While not exactly new "members" of First Presbyterian Church, David and Jo Hood have entered "fellowship" with FPC. David is an ordained pastor of word and sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, while Jo is an ordained deacon of word and service in the ELCA. We will explain that later.

David is from Nashville and an MTSU graduate. Jo is a native of Savannah, Ga. and graduate of Newberry College in Newberry, S.C. Both grew up Lutheran. David, now retired, pastored churches in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina, and, among other denominational duties, served as interim pastor at Advent Lutheran Church here in Murfreesboro. Jo served as Director of Youth and Children's Ministries in several churches.

How did they end up at FPC? They have three daughters, all who live in Murfreesboro. One of their daughters, Erin, is married to Trey Nunley, son of Ann Nunley. Ann invited them to hear the demonstration of the renovated Moeller organ (David studied organ under Margaret Wright while at MTSU) and to the Wednesday dinner before that. "We kept coming back on Wednesdays," David said. Also, "we were looking for a liturgical church, and I wanted to join a choir. I never was able to do that when I was a pastor." Jo is involved with the Care Team and makes home-made greeting cards. We are happy to have the Hoods with us here at FPC.

SESSION NOTES

BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by Krista Bailey. She shared that her most influential person in the life of our church is Meredith Peck who has shared the gift of steady presence with our children, making them feel comfortable and welcome. She is also enheartened by the lifelong faith of many of the residents in Adams Place as she assists them in care.
- The Board of Trustees has invested our Legacy Fund with Merrill Lynch in the Standard and Poor VOO Fund.
- We received a gracious thank you note from Isaiah 117 House.
- Our Food Drive in November was a huge success and helped Rockvale Cumberland Presbyterian Church feed 52 families and over 267 people a full Thanksgiving meal as well as pantry staples. Thank you!
- Our Missions Cake Auction netted \$7,500 which will be donated to Nourish Food Bank and Greenhouse Ministries.
- Our 8th & 11th grade confirmands are looking forward to their retreat at NaCoMe December 5-7. The annual Youth Christmas Party and Caroling is December 19.
- We also received a thank you note from Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church in California for our support. They are currently meeting in a local elementary school while their church is rebuilt.
- On December 28, we will have one service at 10:15 and we will not have Sunday School.
- Sherri Poole was hired as our new 2nd Custodian.

FPC YOUTH

December 2025

DEC 5-7 8th & 11th Confirmation Retreat

DEC 14 12th Grade Mile Marker Lunch:
★ Adolescence. RSVP to Angela by 12/7

DEC 19 Caroling & Christmas Party at the
Harding's. RSVP to Angela by 12/10

Middle School
Small Groups

• NO High School
Group in December.
See you January 11th!

DEC 10 Special Dinner
and YG, 5:30-7:00

★ High School Ski Treat

JAN 7 Big Game Fun
(no dinner) 5:30-7:00

★ JAN 16-19
Winterplace, WV
\$220: RSVP to Angela by
12/22

Middle School Summer
Trip (rising 6th-8th)

★ High School
Summer Trip

• JUL 4-8, 2026
The Great Escape
Smokies: \$225

JUN 7-13, 2026
Appalachia Service

https://forms.gle/5GTej
o8z9WELyfKp9

• Project Mission Trip: \$225
https://forms.gle/5GTej
o8z9WELyfKp9





Joy Gift Dinner & Children's Christmas Program

December 3rd at 6:30pm

RSVP with
charlotte@mborofpc.org
All donations will be given to
PC(USA) Board of Pensions.

3rd Grade Faith Milestone:

FEED AND BE FED

December 7 at 9:45am

contact Meredith Peck: meredith@mborofpc.org

3rd Grade Faith Milestone: Feed and Be Fed

December 7th at 9:45 in the Common Room - Our 3rd Graders will eat breakfast together with 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.

December Memory Verse

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

Isaiah 9:6

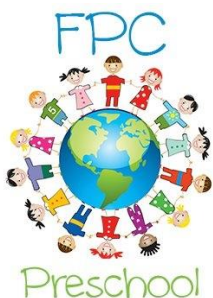
FPC KIDS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS PARTY
& STAR MOVIE!**

DECEMBER 21ST AT 9:45

Happy Birthday Jesus Party & Star Movie on Sunday, December 21st at 9:45am in the Children's Upstairs wing. Join us for fun, treats and more as we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

REMINDER: We are collecting new toys and BOYS' youth clothing for the general Salvation Army Angel Tree Store in the upstairs children's wing. The deadline is December 3 at the Joy Gift Dinner.



A benefit for the education
of our littlest people

**5 GUYS
AND 1ST PRES
PRESCHOOL**

**SWING BY
5 GUYS BURGERS,
GRAB LUNCH OR
DINNER, AND HELP
THE PRESCHOOL!**

**DECEMBER 15 • MONDAY
ALL DAY
536 N THOMPSON LANE**

We are so excited to have a 1ST PRES PRESCHOOL fundraising day at FIVE GUYS BURGER AND FRIES! We will get 20% of sales, \$1 for every shake, and 10% of all gift card sales. Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

Kindergarten Readiness!

Monday - Thursday, 8:30-1:30
Low Class Size

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL WILL
HAVE A KR CLASS STARTING AUG 2026!**

CONTACT US
615-893-4760
preschool@mborofpc.org

- ✓ Certified Teacher
- ✓ Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum
- ✓ For younger school aged children and those that miss the cutoff



- 1- Andrea Elkins, Suzanna Logan, Rod Pencek
- 2- Thomas Dias, Lillian Henry, Christina McNulty
- 3- Jeff Farrar, Jan LaLance, Judith Trimble
- 4- Terry Panter
- 5- Buddy Boyd, Rob Joyner
- 6- Zack Gray, Liz McDaniel, Kayla Willoughby
- 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- Lily Smith, Hudson Webb
- 17- Chris Rudd
- 18- Emily Mitchell Francis, Jackie Sourek, Tommy Turner
- 19- Amy Glascoe
- 20- Jerry Hawkins, Patsy Moss
- 21- Steve Bagby, Becky Coutras
- 22- Christie Davenport, 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, Lea Lea Sands
- 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 16, 2025.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sumner & Ruth Bouldin	December 7
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

Thank You

Dear First Presbyterian
Church Family,

We greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers, as well as the prayergrams, flowers, cards, calls, texts, meal, and visits we received during Rick's recent health issues and hospitalizations. All helped lift our spirits during a difficult time. Rick is glad to be home!

Blessings to you all!

Rick and Cindy Prescher



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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130



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

FPC STAFF

Phone: 615-893-3882
Fax: 615-962-9005
www.mborofpc.org

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. John A. Hinkle, Jr.
jhinkle@mborofpc.org

Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

Rev. Dr. Bobby Harding
bobby@mborofpc.org

Music Director

Noah Rlce
noah@mborofpc.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Meredith Peck
meredith@mborofpc.org

Organist

Valerie Rains
valerie@mborofpc.org

Preschool Director

Karen Winford
preschool@mborofpc.org

Nursery Director

Celeste Brown
Celestegeo22@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Lynn
charlotte@mborofpc.org

Financial Secretary

Pat Cox
patcox@mborofpc.org

Communications

Coordinator

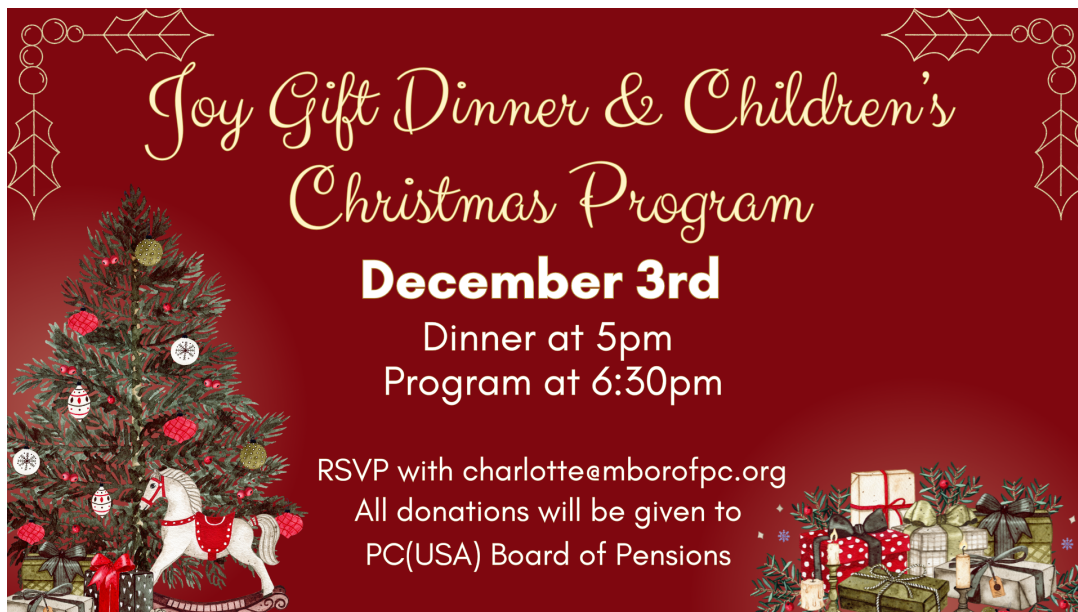
Martha Osorio
communications@mborofpc.org

PT Facilities Coordinator

Joe Rich
jrich@mborofpc.org

PT Custodian

Sherri Poole



*Joy Gift Dinner & Children's
Christmas Program*

December 3rd
Dinner at 5pm
Program at 6:30pm

RSVP with charlotte@mborofpc.org
All donations will be given to
PC(USA) Board of Pensions

On Wednesday night, December 3rd 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, "Sing, Children, Sing", for us in the sanctuary. They have worked hard all semester preparing for this performance so be sure to join us!