



THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



LOVE

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

February 14th is the date when most Americans celebrate Valentine's Day. Actually, February 14 is the second most celebrated holiday in the United States - behind only Christmas and just slightly ahead of Halloween. Because of this, the entire month of February brings love to mind for most Americans. Interestingly enough, Leila and I don't exchange gifts or cards on Valentine's Day; and no; it is not because I am not romantic. Instead, we focus on celebrating our first date which took place on February 16, 1991. We do send a Valentine's Day card to our son Tripp, and I call my parents. Nevertheless, February is a month that reminds me of my love for the people in my life and, just as importantly, the love found in the church.

Love is a fundamental aspect of the church's existence. It forms the foundation for faith, community, and spiritual growth. Love is at the core of Christian doctrine, promoting compassion, understanding, and unity among the congregation. It reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ, encouraging believers to embody His love. Love creates a welcoming and supportive environment where individuals find comfort, acceptance, and a shared commitment to kindness and selflessness. Ultimately, the presence of love strengthens the bonds of the church, making it a beacon of light and a testament to the transformative power of Christian love.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of which is love.

PS – I'm just seeing how your reading is going. I have finished the *Nazi of Copley Square* and *Thousand Years*. I am starting *Where Men Win Glory*.

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



February 14th
ASH
WEDNESDAY
 5:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Service
 Dinner is free but reservations required.

FIRST FRIDAY

FOOD DRIVE

Friday, February 2nd
 9am - 12pm
 College St. Drive-thru



February 4

"Called into the World"

Ephesians 1:3-12

Psalms 147:1-11

February 11

**Transfiguration of the
Lord Sunday**

Dedication Sunday

"Created, Connected,
Called"

Matthew 4:18-22

Psalms 50:1-6

February 14

Ash Wednesday

"Where Else Can We Go"

John 6:60-70

Isaiah 58:1-12

February 18

1st Lent

"Follow Me - Fish for
Humanity"

Matthew 4:12-21

Psalms 25

February 25

2nd Lent

"Follow Me - Trusting in
the Promise"

Matthew 8:18-22

Psalms 22:22-31

WORSHIP AT FPC

DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

Our new preaching series will look at the invitation to follow Jesus as we explore the gospel of Matthew. Seven times in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus offers the invitation to follow him. In this series, we will ask what it means for the believer to follow Jesus into the world, especially when following Jesus takes us to the cross.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2024/2025

289

BY JIM CRUMLEY

What is the relevance of the number 289?? Well, if you are as old as I am or just a car enthusiast you would recognize 289 as a Ford V-8 engine used in the Mustang and lots of other cars. But that is not exactly what I was thinking.

In Ontario, Canada, the area code for telephones is 289. That is not what I was thinking either. 289 is 17 squared. Nope, not it. If you said 289 family units of First Presbyterian Church would receive pledge cards for the Stewardship Campaign in the coming week, you would be correct.

The return of 289 pledge cards is the Church's engine that drives all the ministries and activities that proclaim our mission, "To Know Christ and Make Christ Known". When you can estimate your financial gifts in advance and pledge a particular amount, then the leadership of the church can plan and build a better budget for the year.

As we prepare the Church's plan to serve as *God's Created, Connected, and Called in this world* during 2024-2025, how will you join in? While we do not set monetary goals for the Stewardship Campaign, an awesome goal that honors God would be the return of 289 pledge cards. Please pray and consider your gift. Then return your pledge card. You may do it anytime during Stewardship Season or on Commitment Sunday, February 11th.

Here is a prayer that has been helpful to me as I consider how to be a good steward of the gifts God has given me: *Father, you have been so good to me, to my family, to my Church and community, so many blessings that I cannot begin to count them. Lord, I pray that You would develop in me a giving heart that glorifies You, a cheerful heart that desires to give back to You a small measure of the over-abundance that You have poured into my lap. Amen*

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, 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 worship is canceled, worship will be on our YouTube Channel.

FPC EVENTS AND UPDATES



Dear FPC Family,

A week late we are getting the new semester started! Needless to say, due to snow-mageddon we've had to push back

semester kickoff activities here at UKIRK. We are looking forward to our first big event, UCreate! At UCreate we will welcome students new and old back to the UKIRK house for a cookie decorating contest paired with a hot chocolate bar! It should be a very good time! Speaking of good times, the new semester and UCreate aren't really the first UKIRK happenings in 2024. We took eight students to Montreat College Conference! We had a great time attending the conference and hanging out at our rental house eating and playing games!

Peace, Rev. Micah Watson, UKirk MTSU • ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com • 615-692-2742 • ukirkmtsu.com



Women's Morning Circle group invites all women to join us for our new study of the book, *Falling Upward*, by Richard Rohr. We will cover the first 3 chapters at our February 6 meeting. Circle meets the first Tuesday of the month in the church parlor at 10:00am. Feel free to join us whether you plan to read the book or not. Contact Janet Logan if you have questions: jlogan1050@gmail.com.

THE GREATEST GIFT FOR YOUR FAMILY

Rev. Dr. Hinkle is available to help you plan funeral/memorial arrangements. The office has a helpful information booklet and Rev. Dr. Hinkle would love to assist you in making decisions that can help make the service and arrangement process easier for loved ones. Contact the church office if you have any questions or to make an appointment: charlotte@mborofpc.org / 615-893-3882, ext. 201.



All women are invited to this year's One Day Women's Event here at church on February 3 from 11am-1pm: Women's Luncheon featuring Beth Bryant of Isaiah 117 House.

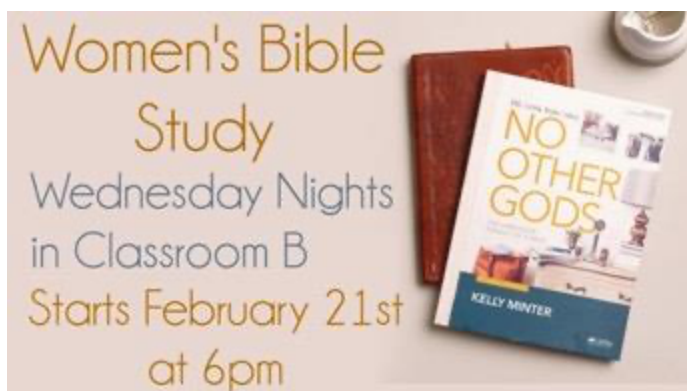
Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch professionally prepared by our own Chef Jessica. Reservations required no later than January 30. Contact the church office: charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 201. Feel free to invite others!

About Isaiah 117 House: Isaiah 117 house provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting placement in the foster care system.





Please join us for a Bridal Shower for Kaitlyn Carroll on Sunday, February 11, from 2-4pm in the church parlor. Kaitlyn is registered locally at The Peddler (online at <https://peddlerinteriors.com/registry/carroll-williams-wedding/>). Other registry information may be found on her wedding website: <https://theknot.com/kaitlynanddrew24/registry>. Her shower is hosted by Leila Hinkle, Tammy Mogul, and Katherine Steele.



WELCOME NORMA CHRISTIANSEN *BY: BILL PATTERSON*

Native Nebraskan Norma Christiansen became our newest member in October after moving (back) to Murfreesboro from Lincoln, Nebraska. She and her late husband Allen Christiansen lived here for 45 years when he was in the advertising and publishing business and she was leading birthing and childcare classes at Rutherford Hospital, later Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Norma is a graduate of the Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing. "I worked in obstetrics until I got to Nashville where I started teaching childbirth and baby care," she said. The classes later included those for parenting, siblings and grandparents. These classes started at St. Thomas in Nashville and then here in Murfreesboro. Mrs. Christiansen ultimately set up such classes in ten hospitals. "I loved it. It was fun working with the public."

Mrs. Christiansen and her husband lived here 45 years, and then 15 years away, in Manchester, Fairfield Glade and then back to Nebraska. After Mr. Christiansen died, her children told her, "Time to come home," she said. So, she obliged. She has a daughter in Murfreesboro, one in Nashville and a son in Nashville. She also has a deceased daughter. There are also four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. To make a connection, her son-in-law is Hal Hassall, son of former First Presbyterian pastor Harry Hassall.

As for her pastimes, "Music is my first love. I was still singing in the choir three years ago, but it was time to stop," Mrs. Christiansen said. She also stopped driving, but her close friend from her nursing days, Laura Harbour, brings her to church. She enjoys reading and leading chair exercises at her retirement home. Welcome back home, Norma! We're so glad you're here.

SESSION NOTES

BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

Notes from the January Session Retreat on January 27, 2024, will be published separately.

What's Happening

IN FEBRUARY WITH FPC YOUTH

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH

Dinner and Cake Auction! Doors open at 5:30pm.

Money raised will help offset the cost of HS to the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation in Jackson, MS, Middle School to NaCoMe, and our next trip with Vida Joven to Matagalpa.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

Senior & Parent Confirmation Gathering

9:30am in Bobby's Office

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

HSYG and Palm Burning

6-8pm

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24TH

6th-8th Grade Event: Dinner and Flashback

Arcade at 5:30pm-8:30pm. Drop off at FPC, Pick up at Flashback (258 River Rock Blvd)

\$10 per person



SAVE The DATE

SAVE THE DATE! We have some important things coming up, so be sure to save the dates!



February Highlights

- Join us for Sunday School each week at 9:30 as we continue to work through Jesus' life and the New Testament!
- Come play, sing, and enjoy time together each Wednesday at 6:00 during Wonderful Wednesdays!
- The children will be helping with table decorations for the Cake Auction, so be sure to attend on February 7th to support our Youth and to see their creations!
- The Children's Worship Kits have been restocked with lots of fun items! We do have one request - PLEASE, PLEASE be sure your children leave these fun items in the bags for the next friend who may use it. We want to make sure they are available for all our friends.
- 4th Grade Faith Milestone - *Risk!* Parents be on the lookout for the final date!
- FPC Egg Hunt - March 23rd at 10:00 at the Gray House
- Kids Sing at the 11:00 Palm Sunday Service - March 24th
- 5th Grade Faith Milestone - *Seder Dinner* - March 27th at the church



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|-----|--|
| 2- | Bob Potter, Ragen White, Jennifer Willoughby |
| 3- | Sam Farrar, Andrew Willoughby |
| 4- | Reno Collier, Tom Ferrell |
| 5- | Kimberly Leeper |
| 6- | Campbell Peck, Katie Turner |
| 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, Rebecca Fisher, Mark Follis |
| 16- | Young Moore |
| 17- | 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- | Beth Barnes, Katherine Layman |
| 26- | Gregory Lawson, Donald Parente, Rob Steele |
| 27- | Eve Jones, Mary Ashley Manahan |
| 28- | Hunter Foley |



Happy Anniversary

Darrell Elwell & Susie Mocarski	February 13
Will & Abbey Logan	February 16
Kevin & Sandra Wheeler	February 26
Jonathan & Christy Swenson	February 26



First Presbyterian Church Preschool Registration Time!

We are already looking forward to our 2024/2025 school year, can you believe it? We will have room for new faces in each of our classrooms, so tell a friend! Registration will be as follows:

- February 4-17 Returning Family Priority Registration
- February 18-March 3 Church Member Priority
- March 4-on Open Registration

Thank you, Karen Winford, *Director of Preschool*

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church

Have an announcement for February?

Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org
by February 19.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PERMIT #198

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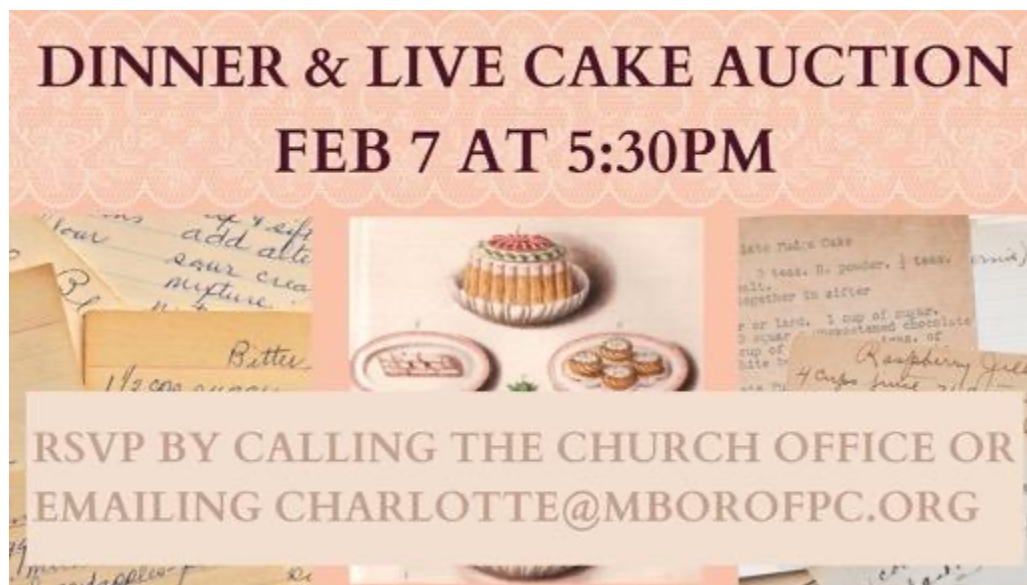
Alanna Diserens

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PT Facilities Coordinator

Joe Rich

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Annual Dinner and Live Cake Auction Feb 7, 2024 @ 5:30pm

Enjoy dinner followed by CAKE and our great auction for a great cause helping offset the cost of summer trips:

- High School to the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation in Jackson, MS
- Middle School to NaCoMe
- Our next trip with Vida Joven to Matagalpa.

The meal is free of charge and prepared by Chef Jessica; however, reservations are required: email charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 201.

Menu: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread.