



THE PROCLAMATION



SHOWING US HOW JESUS WOULD DO IT

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

As I prepared for my Sabbatical journey, I held in my heart the knowledge of returning home to a changing landscape, specifically the retirement of the incredible Joyce Merritt. The beauty of how destiny unfolds never ceases to amaze me. Thanks to Glenn Lannom, several years ago, I had the opportunity to meet his parents' minister at the Rockvale Cumberland Presbyterian Church - the one and only Joyce. What struck me during this introduction was her wonderful smile and the ability to put one at ease. I thought, "Rockvale is blessed to have her as their minister." Fast forward a few years later, the Personnel Team was in the process of finding someone to fill the role that Dr. Kaye Nickell vacated. We were hitting dead ends, but then I thought of Joyce - not to fill the position because I assumed at the time that she was still serving at Rockvale, but that she might know of other ministers who could meet the needs of our congregation. So I called her up, and we had lunch at the Boulevard. During that lunch, Joyce informed me that she had stepped down as the minister of Rockvale for her to begin a new ministry, Still Waters. I shared with her the needs of First Presbyterian Church, and I wondered if she knew of any possible candidates. We decided to meet back up a few weeks later. When we got back together, Joyce had a list of names, but I told her there was only one person I was interested in: Joyce. Did you know Joyce turned me down, not once, but twice? I am so grateful I asked her the third time.

It is hard to believe how quickly six years have come and gone. Like you, I have marveled at the gifts Joyce brought to our congregation. Often, I observed her from afar and found such peace as I watched her love on our church, and I would think to myself, "That is how Jesus would do it." In the rush of our world, Joyce has the grace to slow us down, pause, be grateful, and find the blessings bestowed upon us. Joyce, to me, is the manifestation of Jesus' great command to love God and to love our neighbor. I witnessed this in the tenderness of her prayers in corporate worship. I also give thanks for getting to know Timothy and the rest of their family.

If I had my way, Joyce would not retire, but I understand why her heart has led her to a new journey. In the meantime, I will cherish my time with her. Someone once wrote, "Goodbyes are not forever. A goodbye is not the end. Goodbye simply means I'll miss you until we meet again." So goodbye Joyce Merritt until we meet again.

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





PREACHING IN THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

**The Church Office will be
closed Monday, September 4
for Labor Day.**

September 3
One Service

“Love for Our Church”

Psalm 105:1-11

1 John 2:7-11

September 10

“The Armor of Light”

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

September 17

“Love for the Least of These”

Psalm 114

Luke 10:25-37

September 24

“Love for the Un-Lovable”

Psalm 145

Acts 9:10-19

Labor Day Sunday:

On Labor Day Sunday, we will
have one worship service at
10:15am. Communion will be
served by intinction. Sunday
School will be at 9am.

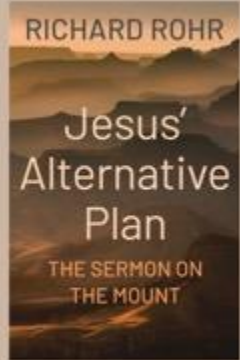
PREACHING IN SEPTEMBER

Once again, in September we will focus on the theological concept of the Reformed faith. We will specifically focus on the second part of the great command and ask, “what does it mean to love our neighbor?”

CATCHING UP

As Dr. Hinkle transitions back into his ministry in September, he is setting time aside on Wednesdays to catch up with what has been happening in the life of members while he has been gone. These conversations will take place from 2pm to dinner on Wonderful Wednesday. If you want to chat with John, please contact Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org. or call 615-893-3882, ext. 201 and reserve a spot.

FPC NEWS AND WORSHIP



**Wonderful Wednesday with
Rev. Joyce!**

- Aug. 23 New Wine; Old Wineskins (from Chapters 1-4)
- Aug. 30 Joining Heaving & Earth (from Chapters 5-7)
- Sept. 6 The Happy Attitudes (from Chapters 8, 9 & Epilogue)

Wonderful Wednesdays

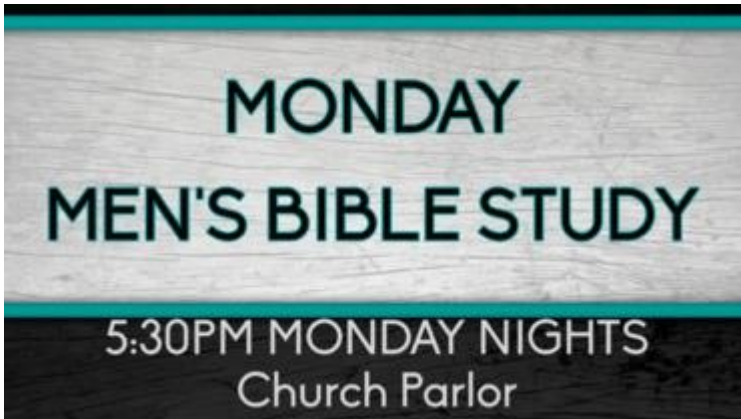


**Wednesday Nights
with Rev. Dr. Hinkle**
**The Scopes Monkey
Trial and its impact
on America religious
life. Starts Sep 20**

**Edward Larson's Pulitzer Prize-winning
book *Summer of the Gods*.**

Rev. Dr. Hinkle will begin a new Wonderful Wednesday class on September 20th which will examine the Scopes Monkey Trial and its impact on American religious life. His lectures will be based on Edward Larson's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Summer of the Gods*.

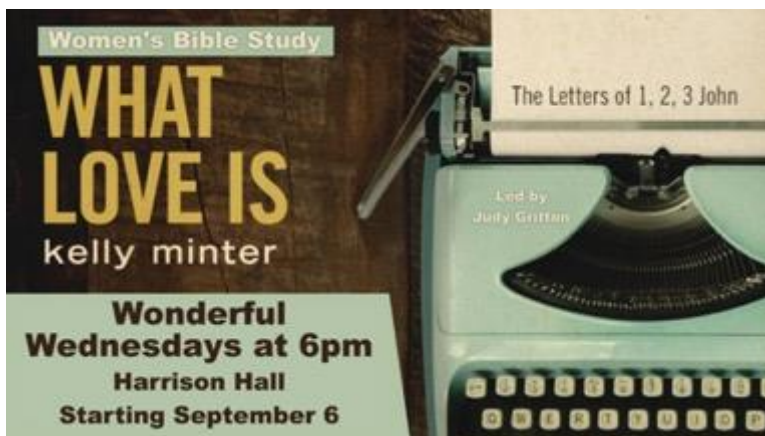
FPC NEWS



All men of the church are invited to Monday Men's Bible Study. We gather every Monday at 5:30pm in the church parlor to carefully study books in the Bible. It is also an opportunity for deeper fellowship. We will not meet on Labor Day Monday so join us on Monday, September 11.



Morning Circle meets Tuesday, September 5 at 10am in the church parlor for all women who are interested in having fellowship with other ladies of the congregation. We will be using the *Sacred Encounters* guides for our study. Books are \$11. The book is not required to join. Join us as we see old friends and look forward to making new ones!


SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

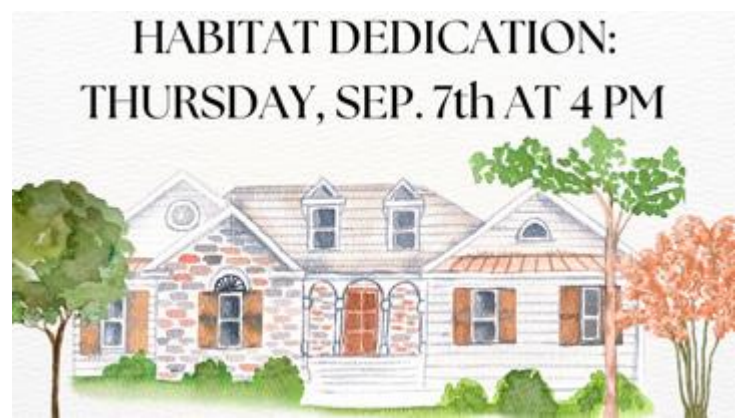
- Our devotion was led by Jim Crumley. Referring to Luke 10:29-37, (The good Samaritan), Jesus exemplifies God's compassion for us and doing good out of love. As we help our neighbors out of love for them, we also can be blessed.
- Fellowship is looking for someone to make coffee each Sunday morning. Please see Judy Gritton or the church office if you feel moved to volunteer to do this.
- Make plans on September 13 to attend a free fellowship dinner in thanking Reverend Merritt for her service to us as she goes into retirement. Make sure to RSVP.
- Make time to look at our new sign on College Street in front of the columbarium.
- Gilday Construction will be replacing the roof over the 1956 (Education) and 1992 (Common Room) parts of our building for a cost of \$272,000. Funds will be borrowed at 4.25% for 20 years. Annual payments will be \$21,200.
- Next year's Christian education events are being planned for growth and enrichment of our young people. There is also a need for an adult Christian education director that is being discussed and evaluated.
- An art auction fundraiser for Still Waters Family Ministries is being planned for November 1.



FPC Family,

It was great being with y'all for two Sundays this past month! Thanks for all the kind words about my sermons, hopefully they were warranted. I look forward to future chances to participate in worship at FPC. Since preaching, I've been full steam ahead on all things UKIRK! We kick the new school year off Saturday, August 26th with our first "Week of Welcome" event. We'll be inviting students new and old to UKIRK Brunch. Our leadership team has done a phenomenal job preparing for this school year. And they've got a ton of cool events, just like UKIRK Bruch, planned to supplement our existing weekly activities! At varying points during the fall semester y'all will be able to find us floating, imitating famous singers (a student favorite!), feasting, and yard gaming with other campus ministries before an MT football game, and sleeping under the stars (in tents...) just to highlight a few of the things we've got planned! Pray that students will continue to find a home away from home, explore faith, and make lifelong friends this year at UKIRK!

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



It has been a long journey full of dedication, giving and grace to finally announce the Dedication Ceremony for Dominique and her family's new home. Thank you to all the volunteers & the congregation who helped make this dream a reality. The Dedication Ceremony is set for Thursday, September 7th at 4pm (held at her home site). Rev. Dr. John Hinkle will present Dominique with the keys and your wonderful donations full of home supplies, Kroger gift cards, hand crafted wooden wall sign and our blessings to this family. Everyone is welcome to this celebration and dedication. You raised the funds. You raised the roof. Now it's time to raise our hearts in joyful praise for the blessings we have been able to share. The address for the home is near 2840 Opportunity Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. The home build is on Humanity Trail. This is Phase 2 of Legacy Points. Those coming to the dedication should pull into Humanity Trail and park down the street. We hope to see everyone celebrate and uplift the family!

Tithes & Offerings
In Person: Place in offering plate during Sunday Service
Online: <https://www.mborofpc.org/give>
Text: Text 73256 "mborofpc" in the message box
By Mail: First Presbyterian Church 2 10 N. Spring St. Murfreesboro, TN 37130
Thank you for supporting the Missions and Ministries of FPC

Wonderful Wednesday
DINNER & FELLOWSHIP
Wednesdays at 5pm Classes 6pm

FPC YOUTH

SEPTEMBER
2023

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION
GATHERING

SPIRIT, GRACE, & LOVE SUN SEPT 10 – 9:30AM

6TH-8TH GRADE EVENT
DINNER AND SMYRNA SKATE

FRIDAY SEP 22 – 5:00PM-9:00PM

6TH-8TH DINNER & SOAR
TOWER

SATURDAY SEP 23

7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

EVERY WEDNESDAY – 5:30PM-7:00PM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

EVERY SUNDAY – 6:00PM-8:00PM

FALL GRAD BOXES

STARTS SEPTEMBER 6TH



A huge Thank You and happy "retirement": to Mrs. Daniela Kam from Sunday School. She has been teaching our Tweens for MANY years and we thank her for her tremendous dedication. We will miss you! We couldn't do Sunday School without ALL of our dedicated teachers!

KIDS/TWEENS CALENDAR

Sunday, September 17th

The children will be singing September 17th at the 11:00 service! We always love to hear their joyful praises!

Fall is for Faith Milestones!

Be on the lookout for information from Meredith regarding dates for Faith Milestones for grades K-3rd this fall. These are special events in the lives of our students, and we want to be sure everyone participates!

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!

Join us for choir, crafts, fellowship, and games each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Tweens, be watching each month for special activities during WW with Mrs. Christa Brown!

Save the Date!

Our children's annual Joy Gift Program will be December 6th immediately following dinner. Be sure to join us on Wednesday nights as we begin our Pageant practice!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

1	Avent Lane, Vance Willoughby
3	Rebecca Speck
4	Kim Mitchell, Teak Brown
5	Drew Howser
6	Denise Dacus, Banks Tisdal
7	Kesha Tisdal, Helen Zelan
8	Zoey Harris, Leila Hinkle, Martha LaLance, Joe Manahan
9	Ava Anderson, Krista Bailey, Will Bales, Caroline Leonard, Bradford Lea, Kathy Liles
10	Betty Childress, Robbie Lugos
11	Hope Emore
12	Bernard Hubbard, Gray Hunton
13	Diarmuid O'Hara
14	Jane Fox, Matt Lane
15	Chris Harris
16	Brian Hughes, Kim Joyner, Luke Wilhoite
17	Tom Sanford, Tom Windham, Kay Wolohon
18	Dale Boyd
19	Leslie Iske, Anne O'Hara, Linda Stevens
20	Braydn Bratcher, Marie Paterik, Susan Young
21	Brooks Bergsieker, Lydia Moore
22	Blake Joyner, Tammy Neely, Kim Vernier
23	Lauren Lane
24	Susan Martens, Chappell Mayes
25	Emily Edwards, Martha Richmond
26	Charlotte Gardner
27	Amelia Fournier, Rob Gritton, Emily Hunton
28	Gail Deckard, Betty Derryberry, Kimberley Mobley, Mark Pinner, Don Prince
29	Reed Elkins, Kathy Jones, Eliana Vanzandt



**Presbyterian 101
4 Week Summer Class:
August 27
September 10, 17, 24
9:30 am in Classroom C**

*Whether you're new or
just want a refresher,
all are welcome.*

**Please register with the Church Office
charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882**

RULING ELDER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robb McDaniel and Jennifer Bailey were selected as chair and co-chair of the Ruling Elder Nominating Committee. The rest of the committee members are: Tracy Webb, Rob Gritton, Sarah Gwinn, Scout Harding and Bill Shacklett. If there is someone you would like the committee to consider to be Ruling Elder, please give those names to one of these committee members. Please be in prayer for the entire committee during the nomination process.



Barbara & Dicken Kidwell	September 3
Roy & Marie Paterik	September 3
Ben & Suzee Myers	September 7
Chris & Rebecca Speck	September 10
Ross & Kathryn Hines	September 12
Bob & Carole Peterson	September 12
Allan & Amy Maynard	September 17
Scott & Kathy Corlew	September 18
Rob & Kendra Steele	September 18
Chris & Beth Moscato	September 19
Mark & Laura Follis	September 19

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.mborofpc.org

Have an October announcement?

Submit to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or
call 893-3882 ext. 201 by September 19, 2023.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

MURFREESBORO, TN 37129

PERMIT #198



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Mark your calendars for Joyce's retirement celebration on Wednesday September 13, starting at 5:00pm. Instead of a regular Wonderful Wednesday, there will be a surprise unique dinner and entertainment with a camping motif, recognizing Joyce and Tim's first love. The program will begin at 6 pm. The dinner is free, but you must RSVP no later than Sunday, September 10. RSVP's can be made with Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 201. Let's join together to share our love of Joyce as she moves to the next phase of her