



THE PROCLAMATION

"To Know Christ and Make Christ Known"



THE BEST IS YET TO COME

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

At the end of September, I will make my way back to Dalton, Georgia, for my 40th high school reunion. It will be quite a weekend. I will ride in the homecoming parade, attend the football game where our school will honor at halftime the football team that won the region, and, of course, spend Friday and Saturday evenings with classmates, reconnecting and remembering. I suspect there will be plenty of laughter, a few stories that should probably stay within the class of 1986, and the inevitable realization that none of us looks quite like we did forty years ago!

What has surprised me most is how many memories have been rushing back as the reunion approaches. I remember Friday nights under the lights at Harmon Field, hanging out with friends afterward, and having that wonderful feeling that life could not possibly get any better than this. At eighteen, I was convinced that I was living the best days of my life. Looking back now, I realize how wonderfully wrong I was.

Forty years have come and gone, and life has held far more than that eighteen-year-old boy could have imagined. There have been joys and disappointments, friendships and losses, moments of certainty and seasons of doubt. There have been people who have shaped me, including many of you, and a God who has been faithful through all of it. The memories of those Friday nights are precious, but they are not the best that life has to offer. They are simply part of the story God has been writing.

And perhaps that is one of the gifts of growing older: we begin to understand that the best is not necessarily behind us. For people of faith, we can look back with gratitude without living in the past, and we can look forward with hope because our future is held by God. Scripture reminds us, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV). So, forty years later, I think I finally understand what I could not have known on those Friday nights in Dalton: **the best is yet to come.**

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



Dinner
For
Eight
is Back!

Sign Up by September 13
Forms Can be found in the Welcome Center

Dinner for Eight 2026-2027

Share a Meal. Make New Friends. Build Community.

It's not too late to sign up for this year's Dinner for Eight—a great way to get to know members of our church family in a relaxed and welcoming setting, whether you've attended here for years or are newer to the church family. Each group consists of about eight adults—couples, singles, and college students—and meets about once a month throughout the program year. Every group decides what works best for them: homes, local restaurants, potluck meals, or trying a combination of both. All new groups will be organized after

the registration date closes, and you will receive the contact information for the members of your group. Please indicate on the registration form if children will be participating to better help us plan our groups.

SAVE THE DATE! We will have a Meet and Greet on Sunday, September 27th at 4:00pm in the Church Common Room where you can meet your host and other people in your group!



In this walk of faith, our one constant is Jesus Christ. In the month of September, we will explore what this actually means for the believer.

September 6

LABOR DAY WEEKEND: ONE SERVICE AT 10:15am

"Christ in Our Suffering:
When Chains Advance
the Gospel"
Philippians 1:12-30
Psalms 149

September 13

"Christ in His Humility: The
Downward Path to Glory"
Philippians 2:1-11
Psalms 114

September 20

"Christ as Our
Righteousness: A Better
Resumé"
Philippians 3:4-14
Psalms 145:1-8

September 27

"Christ as Our Peace: The
Only Thing That Matters"
Philippians 4:4-9
Psalms 25:1-9

**Worship Notice: We will
have only ONE service
on Labor Day Sunday,
September 6 at
10:15am, Sunday
School at 9am.**

WORSHIP & NEWS AT FPC



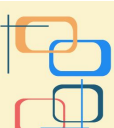
How do I find out what's happening at church?

There are lots of ways to find out all the latest with First Presbyterian Church – from missions to events to classes, we have lots of happenings and we want to make it easy to stay informed!

- Our church website: www.mborofpc.org
- *The Proclamation* is our monthly newsletter. You can receive this by email, mail, or both.
- *Tidbits* is our weekly update email that goes out on Wednesdays
- Our youtube channel is: First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9q23F6dQ3rk9gh0oejVQpg>
 - *Monday Morning Wake-Up Call* is a video weekly update released every Monday on our youtube channel
 - *Saturday Morning Preview of Sunday Morning's Sermon* is a video preview of the upcoming sermon on our youtube channel
 - When watching content on our youtube channel, it is important to hit the subscribe and bell icons. It also helps to hit the 'like' button.
- Our Sunday worship bulletin contains announcements
- Our FPC Comm and First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro Facebook accounts have updates and news.
- Prefer the phone? Give us a call! 615-893-3882, ext. 0.

A CHANGE OF THE GUARD

In the August Session meeting, the Session received a letter of resignation from our long-time Clerk, Ruling Elder Glen Emery. Glen has served faithfully as our Clerk of Session for over twenty years. Having received his resignation, the Session unanimously gave Glen the title, Clerk of Session Emeritus. The Session moved and unanimously approved Dr. Eric Egli as the new Clerk of Session.



NEW Season of "People I Find Fascinating"

with Rev. Dr. Hinkle



Sept. 23 Bill Wilson - *Mr. Murfreesboro, Historian*

Sept. 30 Marquisha Griffin - *Director of the Housing Authority*

Sept. 2 Reno Collier - *Comedian*

Sept. 9 Shane McFarland -
Murfreesboro City Mayor

Sept. 16 Daphne David -
CEO St. Thomas Rutherford



Wonderful Wednesdays • 6pm in the Parlor



NOTICE: The Church Office will be closed and Men's Bible Study will NOT meet on Monday, September 7, 2026 due to the Labor Day Holiday.



How can I get to know people at church?

feel daunting. BUT, the rewards are getting to know great people! Here are just a few ideas to get started:

LOVE MUSIC?

- Choirs at 8:30 &/or 11 on Sundays
Noah Rice: noah@mborofpc.org
- Handbells at 6 on Wed. nights
David Sevier: dgsevier@gmail.com
- Children's Music on Wed. nights
Meredith Peck:
meredith@mborofpc.org

LOVE LEARNING?

- Sunday School at 9:45 – we have lots of classes, just go to Welcome Center on Sunday and ask.
- All adult class and a Women's Bible Study at 6 on Wed. nights
- Youth on Sun and Wed nights:
bobby@mborofpc.org

LOVE BEING TOGETHER?

- Men's Bible Study Mons. at 5:30pm
- All Women's Circle 1st Tues. 10am
- Wed. night dinners (yum) 5pm
- Dinners for 8 – contact the office
- Youth fun events: Bobby Harding
bobby@mborofpc.org
- Children's events: Meredith Peck
meredith@mborofpc.org

We have lots more missions and ministries here: whether you like to be in the middle of things and help with big events, love children, or love that behind-the-scenes work that makes the real church run, we have a wonderful place for you! Not sure where to start? Contact the office: charlotte@mborofpc.org or call us: 615-893-3882.

Women's Morning Circle

WILL NOT MEET IN SEPTEMBER
SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 5:30pm in the Parlor
All Men Invited

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

The Book of Revelation

Wednesday Nights at 6pm
in Harrison Hall downstairs
All women welcome - just bring a Bible



Presbyterian 101

4 Week Class:

9:45 am in Classroom C

Sept. 13, 20, 27

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

Register with the church office:
charlotte@mborofpc.org / 615-893-3882

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

SALVATION ARMY

COMMUNITY MEALS

SEPTEMBER 10TH

(AND 2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH)

4-7PM

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



Mission Cake Auction 2026

Families in Need: Wednesday, November 18, 5:00-7:00pm

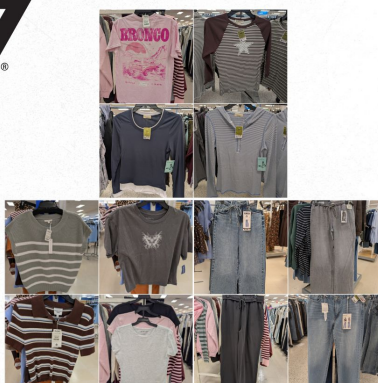
The Mission Ministry Team is dedicating this year's cake auction to helping three local agencies provide for families – women and children specifically. These are Doors of Hope, Stillwaters, and Isaiah 117 House. As Isaiah 1:17 states: "take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." More info to come!

Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

School is back in session! Isaiah 117 House has requested Women's XL:

- Wide leg denim pants
 - Cotton blend sweatpants
 - Relaxed oversized tees
 - Casual activewear
 - Fitted tops
- Please see image for reference.
- Gift cards to Target, Marshall's, Aerie, or WalMart also welcome.



FIRST FRIDAY



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru

Care & Fellowship

Volunteers Needed!

It takes a lot of loving hands to take care of both our church family and community! In the coming weeks, we will have Sunday bulletin inserts detailing all kinds of ways you can get involved. We are looking for people to help with Wednesday meals several times a year, delivering flowers occasionally, helping with occasional receptions, annual events (like our chili cookoff), taking food to those who are sick or struggling, **NOTE** – even if you have signed up to help in these ministries before, please sign up again – life situations change and we want to make sure we only contact people who are available now. You can also call the office.

Wonderful Wednesday

DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

Dinner 5pm Classes 6pm

Our August Food Drive for Murfreesboro City Schools was a huge success! Thanks to you we fully packed the van! Thank you!!



SESSION NOTES

BY ERIC EGLI, CLERK OF SESSION

- Brian Iske led our devotion.
- The Stewardship Ministry Team reported that the fiscal year of 2025/2026 ended in the black.
- Purchase Order procedures were reviewed.
- The Mission Cake Auction will take place on November 18, 2026 with the theme of "Families in Need." Proceeds will go to Still Waters, Doors of Hope, and Isaiah 117 House. Meal will be a regular Wonderful Wednesday with cake auction during and after.
- Our chef, Jessica Garner, received a promotion at Webb and it is unknown if she will be able to continue. Until she knows, the Fellowship Ministry Team is working with Jessica's guidance.

- We will have one service on Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 6) at 10:15 and Sunday School at 9:00.
- New Young Adult Sunday School class is held in Peebles Parlor for people post-college age through age 40. 12 people have been attending.
- Please sign up to help with our Fall Festival on October 28! Invite others also. The VAST Ministry Team also thanks Bruce Bailey for taking on more responsibility during Rev. Dr. Harding's sabbatical absence.
- Our insurance coverage was increased for our Security Service Liability coverage
- Communion was taken to 3 people and several prayers shawls and meals were delivered.
- The Property Ministry Team discussed sanctuary lighting issues the safety need for updates. We thank Travis Emore for the beautiful job he did with the new handrails on the chancel.

FPC Youth

September 2026

Tuesday, September 1st : WELCOME BACK, BOBBY!!! 🎉🌟

Wednesday, September 2nd : Fall Grad Boxes Begin

Sunday, September 13th : 8th Grade Kick-Off Lunch (Students, Parents, & Mentors) Meet in the Cellar, 12:00-1:30 RSVP to Angela by Sept 4th

MONTHLY YOUTH EVENT (7 -12TH GRADE)

Saturday, September 19th : Cookout, Fun & Frisbee Golf at Barfield Park.
Cost: \$10 Per Person. RSVP to Angela Rogers at 615-488-8995 or
Angela@mborofpc.org by Sept 11th

Sunday, September 20th : All Confirmation Student Mentor Kick-off Lunch 12:00-1:30 PM. Please RSVP to Angela by Sept 11th

Sunday, September 27th : 11th Grade Mile marker during Sunday School: Faith and Doubt. Meet in the Vault during Sunday School. Please let Angela know by Sept. 21st if you can or cannot attend this event

Don't forget to sign up for Fall Festival Volunteer Sign-Up Genius.

Fall Festival is October 28th!

**HS YOUTH GROUP ON
SUNDAY NIGHTS,**

**6-8 PM
6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th**

**MS YOUTH GROUP ON
WEDNESDAY**

**NIGHTS, 6-7 PM
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th**



- September 13th 2nd Sunday Social Hour
"Nachos and Nerf Wars" 4:30-6:00pm – for our
ENTIRE church family!
 - September 20th Our children will sing during
the 11:00am worship service!
 - September 27th Kindergarten Faith Milestone:
Generosity is at 9:45am in the upstairs children's
Sunday School wing.
 - Wednesday Nights!
TWEENS- join us each Wednesday at 6:00pm for food,
fellowship, and Bible Study as we learn
about apologetics. Don't know what that is? Come find
out! Meet us upstairs in the Tween room and bring a
friend!"
- KIDS PRESCHOOL-4TH GRADE- It's 'All About the Arts' on
Wednesday nights for our kids in preschool-4th grade!
Join us as we dive deeper into our Sunday morning
lessons through hands-on art projects, crafts, and
activities. We will also be working each Wednesday
night on our Joy Gift Program, so be sure to join us!"

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp unto my
feet and a light for my path"

Psalms 119:105



Kindergarten
Faith Milestone

An Invitation to
Generosity

September 27
9:45am Upstairs



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP

Growing little minds and spirits is a difficult task, but oh so rewarding!
This mission of the church needs your help,
and you can play an important part by:

1. Keeping the program going financially while we work to grow our numbers.
2. Spreading the word so that we can reach more children.
3. A donation from you will help the preschool in our mission to grow our children academically, spiritually, socially, and to prepare them to be good friends and curious learners.



HELP OUR PRESCHOOL GROW

 PLANT A SEEDLING \$25	 HELP US GROW \$50
 NURTURE A LITTLE HEART \$75	 HELP OUR SCHOOL FLOURISH \$100
 INVEST IN LITTLE LIVES \$250	



PLANTING SEEDS

VISIT COMMON ROOM OR USE THE QR CODE



Everyone
is invited to
Second Sunday
Social Hour: 4:30-6:00pm
★ Sept 13th ★
Nachos and Nerf Wars
FREE!
EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH IS WELCOME!
BRING FRIENDS!



September Birthdays

1	Vance Willoughby
3	Rebecca Speck
4	Kim Mitchell, Brenda Sellers
5	Drew Howser
6	Denise Dacus, Banks Tisdal, David Willis
7	Kesha Tisdal, Carla Truckenbrodt
8	Zoey Harris, Leila Hinkle, Martha LaLance, Joe Manahan
9	Krista Bailey, Will Bales, Jayden Bouchillon, Bradford Lea, Caroline Leonard
10	Betty Childress, Robbie Lugos
11	Hope Emore
12	Karen Hickok, Bernard Hubbard, Kelley McNey, Gray Hunton
14	Jane Fox, Matt Lane
15	Chris Harris
16	Brian Hughes, Kim Joyner, Lee Smith, Luke Wilhoite
17	Sara Lea, Tom Sanford, Tom Windham, Kay Wolohon
18	Dale Boyd
19	Leslie Iske, Maggie Moore, 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, Chris Hudson, Martha Richmond, Dan Stow
26	Charlotte Gardner
27	Amelia Fournier, Rob Gritton, Shep Holder, Emily Hunton
28	Tyler Bouchillon, Gail Deckard, Jesse Magoon
29	Reed Elkins, Kathy Jones, Eliana Vanzandt

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church

Have an announcement for October?

Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or
call 893-3882 ext. 201 by September 18, 2026

September Anniversaries

Hollis & Trudy Hulett	September 2
Dicken & Barbara Kidwell	September 3
Roy & Marie Paterik	September 3
Hunter & Alexandra Powell	September 6
Ben & Suzee Myers	September 7
Dave & Chris Highland	September 9
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
Chris & Beth Moscato	September 19
Mark & Laura Follis	September 19
Steve & Andrea Elkins	September 28

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the prayers and concern shown for Lana and me during my recent medical issue.

A special thanks to the Knitting group for the blue prayer shawl you presented me with. I know the many hours of work and all the prayers that went into the making of the shawl. I will enjoy it for years to come and will think of you all when I am wrapped up in it.

Thanks also to the Flower Guild for the lovely flowers you sent. They really brighten up our home.

Yours in Christ, Jim Lemons

Dear Church Family,

Jerry and I can testify that the Frozen Chosen at First Pres. have warm and loving hearts! For eight months, your prayer grams, cards, emails, visits, food and flowers and especially your prayers have brought us light and love on some dark days. We sincerely thank you for your faithful support. God bless you.

In Christ's love, Sandra and Jerry

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT #198

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Fall Festival Time! October 28 from 5-7pm

Concessions will include popcorn, hotdogs, nachos, drinks, and popsicles for free! We have lots of activities for everyone, including inflatables, carnival rides and games!

As you know, it takes a lot of volunteers to make this great night a success so feel free to scan the QR code in the above graphic to sign up – there's something everyone can do. Like signing up in person? Paper sign-up sheets are in the Common Room.

REMEMBER-Please spread the word for our FREE party for the whole community!