



THE PROCLAMATION



THE MYSTERY & FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

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

By the time you read the March issue of *The Proclamation*, the church will have entered Lent, and many of you will already be engaged in your Lenten disciplines. As you know, our coming Lenten sermon series centers on the Christian understanding of forgiveness—what it means to be forgiven and what it means to forgive. At the time this article is due, so Charlotte and Martha can assemble the newsletter, I have not yet written my first Lenten sermon. Still, I suspect two themes will emerge when I do. First, if Christians are to be known for anything, it should be forgiveness. If not, then why did Jesus have to die? Or better yet, we are not known for forgiveness - what are we doing wrong? Second, in all my years of ministry, no subject stirs deeper emotion than forgiveness. Whenever I preach on forgiveness, members of the congregation always want to talk soon afterward. Why is that? Why does forgiveness grip the human soul so powerfully—especially during the season of Lent?

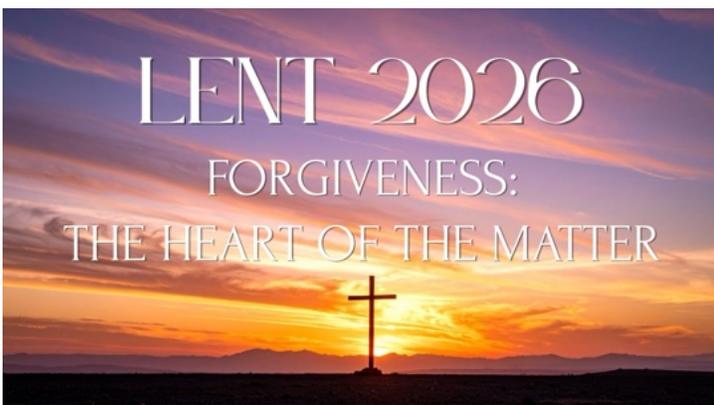
Perhaps forgiveness grips us because it is never abstract. It has names, faces, and memories attached to it. It brings us to the tender places of our lives—the wounds we carry and the burdens we quietly bear. To speak of forgiveness is to speak of truth, and truth often unsettles us before it sets us free.

The Season of Lent invites us into that honest work. It calls us to examine not only our sins, but also our sorrows—where we have been wronged and where we have wronged others. Forgiveness is not cheap or easy. It is costly. It asks for humility, honesty, and courage. Yet we do not begin with what we must do, but with what God has done. We forgive because we have been forgiven. The cross declares that sin and brokenness do not have the final word. Grace does.

And perhaps that is why forgiveness stirs such deep emotion within us. It is, at heart, about hope—the hope that mercy is stronger than resentment and that God is still at work in us and among us.

As we walk through this Lenten season, may we receive God's forgiveness honestly and offer it generously. In the mystery of grace, what we release in forgiveness is often what finally sets us free.

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





PREACHING IN MARCH

March 1

2nd Sunday in Lent

"Authority to Forgive"

Psalm 121

Matthew 9:1-8

March 8

3rd Sunday in Lent

"The Measure of Mercy"

Psalm 95

Matthew 18:21-35

March 15

4th Sunday in Lent

"As We Forgive"

Psalm 23

Matthew 6:9-15

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

SUNDAY MARCH 15 AT 10:30 IN
THE COMMON ROOM

March 22

5th Sunday in Lent

"Poured Out for You"

Psalm 130

Matthew 26:17-30

March 29

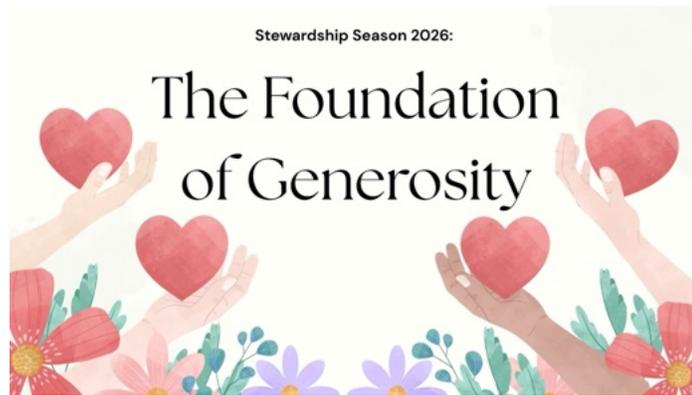
Palm Sunday

"The King Who Comes
to Forgive"

Psalm 31:9-16

Matthew 21:1-11

WORSHIP AT FPC



THE FOUNDATION OF MY GENEROSITY (HERE'S WHAT MY PLEDGE DOES)

BY: STEVE AND
KAREN HICKOK

When I make my pledge, I'm not just funding programs—I'm responding to Christ's call. My pledge supports worship that glorifies Christ, teaching rooted in Scripture, and outreach that reflects Christ's love. It helps children grow as disciples, youth find their identity in faith, and adults mature in spiritual wisdom. Beyond our walls, it becomes Christ's compassion in action—meals for the hungry, care for families in crisis, and hope for those who feel forgotten.

My pledge doesn't just help the church survive—it helps Christ's mission thrive. Survival keeps the lights on; thriving advances the work of redemption, growth, and transformation.

Last year, our church budget was \$1,067,000, supported by \$721,700 in pledges. A modest increase to keep up with rising costs for simply "surviving" requires increasing our budget by \$53,300 to \$1,120,300. To meet that, our pledges would need to rise by \$36,000, totaling \$757,700. We also hope to cover the \$62,000 that was funded last year by restricted funds. That's the baseline—just enough to maintain what we already do.

But I believe our church is ready for more than survival. I believe we are ready to thrive. Our pledges currently total \$627,496, compared to \$640,232 at this time last year. We had 135 pledging units last year; so far, we have 78. We are a generous church and can meet our goals—but we need everyone's participation.

Each gift matters. Together, our commitments become a powerful force for hope, healing, and transformation. My pledge isn't about obligation; it's about participation—saying, "I believe in this church and its mission, and I want it to thrive."

To those of you who have already returned your pledge: thank you for your generosity and support. If you haven't pledged yet, it is not too late! You can return your pledge card in the offering plate during worship, bring it to the Church office, or send it by mail. If you have misplaced your pledge card, there are extras at Church. Just stop by or contact the office at (615-839-3882, ext. 205 or patcox@mborofpc.org) or cards are located on tables at all the sanctuary entrances.



FPC NEWS, EVENTS, & MISSIONS

Isaiah 117
changing the way foster care begins

We need NEW Clothes or Gift Cards:

- Women's Tops - XL
- Women's Pants/Shorts - XL/XXL
- Clothes worn by girls age 10-20

See details in Welcome Center before shopping

Isaiah House Special Needs

In addition to our regular donation commitment to Isaiah House (detailed in the above graphic), Isaiah House let us know they are in need of children's/toddler tennis shoes right now.

Specifically:
Toddler size 6
Kids size 3



Here is a photo example:

For any donations, you are welcome to bring new items as listed and place them in the Isaiah House box in the Welcome Center OR give gift cards to Walmart or Target and put them in the box or drop them by the office. Thank you!

Pat Cox Retirement Dinner Party
AFTER 33 1/3 YEARS!
APRIL
WEDNESDAY 29 5:00 PM
2026
MEAL IS FREE BUT RSVP: CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG
ALL FINANCIAL GIFTS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF TO CHARLOTTE IN THE OFFICE

Help Us Celebrate Pat Cox as she retires!

From the Personnel and Fellowship Ministry Teams

As you know, Pat Cox will retire from her role as our Financial Administrator on April 30th, after well over 33 years of service! We invite everyone to a special dinner party honoring her on Wednesday, April 29th at 5:00pm. There will be no classes or groups this night as we spend an evening with a complimentary meal and focus our attention on honoring Pat and her many years of faithful service to our clergy, staff, and church family. For those who wish to participate in a gift, we would like to bless Pat with financial gifts toward her travel plans. If you wish to donate, please send your donations of checks or cash to Charlotte in the church office so we can keep her gifts a surprise until party night. Remember to RSVP with the office for dinner by April 25th!

WELCOME Kelley McNey as our new Financial Administrator

The Personnel Ministry Team is pleased to announce that Kelley McNey will join us March 3 as our new Financial Administrator. She will work with Pat Cox until Pat's final day with us on April 30th. Welcome, Kelley!

New Wednesday Night Class

Rev. Dr. Hinkle will begin a new class on March 4th based on the book "The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, and Moderates" by Bradley J. Longfield. We will explore this event that not only shaped the Presbyterian Church but also defined religion in the United States.

Spring Salvation Army Community Meals

We still have open slots for our March, April, and May Salvation Army Community Meal mission. These are the 2nd Thursday of the month from 4-7 pm. Scan the QR code or call the office to sign up. Thank you!



FIRST FRIDAY

FOOD DRIVE

Friday, March 6
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru

Please bring family and child friendly non-perishable food items for our local food banks, Greenhouse Ministries and Nourish Food Bank.

Just drive-thru the College St. portico and a volunteer will take your items from your car for you. Thank you!

Women's Morning Circle
 Tuesday, March 3rd at 10am in the Parlor
 All Women Invited to join us for Fellowship

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 Mondays at 5:30pm in the Parlor
 All Men Invited

HOLY WEEK

Monday, March 30 at 12pm First Baptist Church on Main	Thursday, April 2 at 12pm First Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, March 31 at 12pm First Presbyterian Church M'boro with Antioch Primitive Baptist Church	Thursday, April 2 at 6:30pm First Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, April 1 at 12pm Central Christian Church	Friday, April 3 at 12pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Note: no meals following services

JOIN FPC FOR
MARCH MADNESS

MARCH 18TH
DURING WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

★ THE MEN'S BRACKET WILL BE REVEALED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH ★

The Fellowship Team at FPC will have a basketball tournament challenge again this year! Last year, we had a nail-biter competition won by Emily Hunton!

The men's bracket for March Madness will be revealed on Sunday, March 15th.

We will have an "FPC Mboro" group on the ESPN bracket challenge website. The group password is "hinkle". Every individual can register for two brackets in our group. We will also print out copies of the brackets, and someone on the Fellowship Team will enter them on ESPN. Some of our past winners will be available for help with picks at Wonderful Wednesday on March 18th. Remember, all selections must be entered on ESPN before the start of the tournament.

If you have any questions, ask Dave Davis, Emily Hunton, or any sports fan!

NOTES FROM SESSION

BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by Teri Windham who focused on John 13:34-35 on Christ's command to love one another. As a teacher she learned of the needs of many of her underprivileged students. By tutoring and helping them with their personal problems they were able to experience that they were loved and accepted. She reminded us that we will be known as Christians by our love and caring for others.
- We received a thank you note from the Wee Kirk Conference at Montreat. The Wee Kirk Conference was started by our former pastor, Rev. Dr. Harry Hassall. In fact, when John and Leila served the Antioch church, they participated in that conference.
- Rogers Harrison reported on the most recent Presbytery meeting held at the Korean church in Nashville. Most notable was that Hopewell Presbyterian will dissolve and merge with Northminster Presbyterian. Also Rev. Sherard Edington will be the transitional Executive Presbyter.
- Wonderful Wednesday night To-Go orders cost an additional \$1 and should be reserved by 2pm on Wednesday. After 2pm, orders should be placed while in line and buyers will receive a To-Go card to hand to the server in line.
- New lighting has been installed for the College Street Parking. Property is working on a plan to protect the circular stained-glass window at the top of the sanctuary facing College St.
- Additional fund raising is in progress to support our Pre-school program.
- On Sunday, May 3 there will be only service at 10:15 and no Sunday School due to the church retreat at NaCoMe.
- Kelley McNey has been hired as the Financial Administrator upon Pat Cox's retirement.
- Communion was taken to two shut-ins in February.
- **All Ruling Elders have completed Boundaries Training. Our training session was led by Tracey Robison, LPC-MHSP, Clinical Director of Branches Counseling Center here in Murfreesboro. We appreciate her time and leadership in this critical training.**





FPC YOUTH
MARCH
2026

Saturday, March 7th 9th: Love & Service (Nourish Food Bank)

Sunday, March 8th, 9th: PFS Round 2 (Due that day)

Wednesday, March 11th: Spring Grad Boxes

Monthly Youth Event (7th-12th Grade) Saturday, March 21st: Dinner & Bowling Smyrna Skate Center. \$20 Per Person. RSVP to Angela by March 11th.

Save the Date for our Church Retreat, May 1st-3rd

**High School Youth Groups
 on Sunday Nights,
 6-8 PM**

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

**Middle School Group
 on Wednesday
 Nights, 6-7 PM**

4th, 11th, & 18th



Save the Date!

- March 18 5th Grade Faith Milestone: Passover Seder
RSVP to Meredith by 3/13
- March 28 Egg Hunt at the Gray Home at 10am (contact office for address)
- March 29 Children Sing at 11:00am Service for Palm Sunday



**First Presbyterian Church
Preschool REGISTRATION
TIME AND FUNDRAISER!**

We have openings available in all our classes: 3-year-old and 4-year-old and our NEW Kindergarten Readiness Class! Please spread the word and help fill our school! Contact the Preschool to apply or schedule a tour at preschool@mborofpc.org.

First Presbyterian Church Preschool FUNDRAISER: LET'S FILL THE PRESCHOOL!

We need the help of our church family to help us finish this year well and prepare for the big changes next year as we add a community-needed Kindergarten-Readiness Program! Here's how everyone can help:

In the Common Room, we will have an open scene like the one in this graphic for everyone to 'fill.' We have scene items (similar to the children above) for: **\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500**

Just pick an item worth the amount you are donating and place it in the scene wherever you like! If the above amounts don't work for your budget, we will have a general donation box and are very grateful for all gifts!



1	Sabrina Donovan, Steve Elkins, Andy Peck, Lucas Webb
2	Sarah Gwinn, Beth Moscato, Will Shacklett
4	Sarah Kam
5	Kathy Clark, Elizabeth Jackson, Hendley Jackson, Mary Ellis Jackson, Glenn Lannom, Tracey Lannom
6	Grayson Gritton, Dave Trimble
7	Abby Lugos, Clay Pelot
10	Lucy Baughman, David Parente, Michael Parente
11	Preston Emore
12	Johnnie Leonard
13	Phoebe Lea
14	Shelby Hunton, Teri Windham
15	Casandra Ferrell
16	Eric Howser, Kevin McNulty
17	Kristen Pearson Varilek
18	Ben Myers
22	Gracie Brasch
23	Cora Lea, Katie Ratliff, Tom Wolohon
24	Travis Emore, Bowen Manahan, Beth Petroka
25	Jane LaPaglia, Tim Moore
26	Amanda Paddon
27	Jill Lancaster, Baird Lane
28	Emma Claire Tisdal
30	Margie Haines, Roenella Hornsby, Jim Lemons, Lauren Rudd
31	Dot Daniel, Maria Gray, Alexandra Powell, Farris Ralls, Ella Sim

Dale & Kay Boyd	March 1
Terry and Bobbie Pierce	March 25
Brandon & Ragen Davenport	March 28
Jim and Rebecca Cross	March 30



Dear Church Family,

Chet and I would like to thank our church community for all the love you have bestowed on us during my journey starting in July. We have been blessed with calls, cards, food, flowers, and visitors this whole journey. We could not have done this without your support and love. The last procedure has been done, that I am willing to do, so we are praying to see improvement with new meds added.

Thank you dear friends, Chet and Janet Logan

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you for your cards, calls, meals and especially, your many prayers. It has meant so much for Jerry and me to have your Christian love and support through a very difficult time. A special thank you to our Sunday School class who have visited Jerry and offered daily prayers for us. We are blessed to have so many Christian friends.

In Christ's Love, Sandra and Jerry Hawkins

Dear FPC,

Thank you so much for the prayers, support, and ongoing kindness you have shown us in my time of injury, surgery, and recovery. You have been the hands and feet of Jesus to us in a beautiful way. We appreciate our church family so much.

With Love, Suzee (and Ben) Myers

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
www.mborofpc.org
Have an announcement for April?
Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 893-3882 ext. 201 by March 19.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Join us for our 2026 Church Retreat: A retreat for EVERYONE

May 1-3 at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center
3232 Sulphur Creek Rd, Pleasantville, TN 37033

Retreat begins with dinner at 6:00pm on Fri May 1 – ends after lunch on Sun May 3

COST INFORMATION (Cost includes two nights lodging, meals, and activities)

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

Contact Bobby or Meredith 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)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRI APRIL 10 PAYMENT DUE APR 24

Cancelation/changes must happen before April 20. You will be financially responsible for changes after this date.

Please contact Bobby Harding (bobby@mborofpc.org), Meredith Peck (meredith@mborofpc.org), or charlotte@mborofpc.org with questions.

To sign up, scan the QR code in the above graphic, contact the office, or use one of the forms at the sanctuary entrances & welcome center.