



THE PROCLAMATION



A TRIBUTE TO JOCELYN

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

I am terrible with names. Studies on dyslexia suggest that struggles with phonics make the pronunciation of words—and thus, names—difficult. Let us go with that explanation. That said, I must confess that for the longest time, I did not know her name. In my defense, I had just arrived in Murfreesboro as the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, and my mind cluttered to match unfamiliar faces with names. What I *did* know was that she sang in the chancel choir Sunday after Sunday, and on almost any given Sunday, her voice, soaring above the others, was unmistakable.

Eventually, someone informed me that her name was Jocelyn. A few months later, I learned that her last name was Fisher. Little did I know then just how Jocelyn Fisher would shape not only my ministry but my life. The first two years of my ministry were consumed with articulating a vision for the congregation—no small task. First Presbyterian Church is an old and stately ship, and, if I may say so, navigating her through the waters of life requires both skill and patience. Committed to serving the heart of our city, our congregation embarked on two significant initiatives: forging partnerships with organizations that love this city as much as we do and calling a new associate pastor to work with youth and families. What I had not anticipated was the sudden need to find both a new director of music and an accompanist.

Jocelyn stepped forward. Not only, she assured me, could she sing—having been trained classically—but she also had years of experience directing church choirs. More to the point, she was willing to help in any way necessary. That offer, made in a moment of transition, became the foundation of fifteen years of service as our Director of Music.

I knew from the beginning that Jocelyn would someday tell me it was time for her to step away. I chose, as one does with unpleasant certainties, to ignore that eventuality. She is my colleague. She is my friend. She is my sister in Christ. She has been not only a fixture in the ministry on the corner of College and Spring but also an integral companion in my own walk of faith.

Our relationship is woven into the fabric of worship itself—manifested in the hymns we sing each Sunday. You may not know this, but Jocelyn personally selects the hymns for worship, and without fail, each one seamlessly integrates into the service, reflecting and amplifying the themes of my sermon. At first, I assumed this was because I shared my sermon notes in advance. That, I am sure, plays a role. But then Leila, in her wisdom, illuminated something deeper. Jocelyn, she explained, does not simply choose hymns based on scripture or sermon themes. “No,” said Leila, “her hymn selection is because she knows you. She knows your heart.”

For fifteen years, Jocelyn Fisher has blessed our congregation with music that stirs the soul and fortifies our faith. She has done so not simply because she understands the mechanics of worship, but because she understands us—because she knows us... she knows our hearts.

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



As of the printing of The Proclamation, the Session is preparing for Jocelyn Fisher's final Sunday as our Director of Music to be May 18. In preparing for this moment, the first three sermons in May, in reflection on Jocelyn's faithful ministry to our church, will be based on Jocelyn's three favorite anthems.

May 4

CHURCH RETREAT

ONE SERVICE AT 10:15AM

Communion by Intinction

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

Psalm 23

Revelation 21:1-7

May 11

Covenant Sunday

Senior Sunday

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Psalm 103:1-12

Galatians 3:23-29

Covenant Sunday (11:00 service only) is a time to recognize, honor, celebrate, and pray for two groups of confirmation students: our 8th grade students who began their confirmation journey this year, and our 11th grade students who have just claimed the Christian faith for themselves and seek to join the church.

During this special time in worship, we can give glory to God for his faithfulness and for the ways the Spirit has moved in the lives of these young folks.

May 18

"This is My Song"

Psalm 24

I John 4:7-18

May 25

10:15am ONE SERVICE BEGINS

9:00am Sunday School

"In Flanders Fields"

Psalm 67

Hebrews 12:1-4

FPC NEWS + INFO



Our monthly food drive will be on Friday, May 9th from 9am to 12pm. Help by donating easy pop open cans & convenient snacks to fill pantries with child friendly options that children can prepare themselves. All donations will be given to Nourish Food Bank in Murfreesboro. We hope to see you at the College St. portico where you can drive up and drop off donations!

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



Dr. Hinkle would like to meet with all veterans of our church. We will gather for a brown bag lunch (Dr. Hinkle will supply the tea) in Classroom A on Wednesday,

May 21st, at noon. We'll talk about a possible missional outreach to veterans in need. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Dr. Hinkle.



PROJECT TRANSFORMATION 2025 HELP LOCAL CHILDREN LEARN TO READ!

Our church has supported Project Transformation for 5 years now. Their mission is to engage young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support children in holistic development, and connect churches with communities. The host church for Murfreesboro is First Cumberland Presbyterian Church again

this year. First Presbyterian will be reading with kids July 7-10 from 9:00-noon. We will need 10-12 volunteers per day. **We are also providing a meal for the PT interns on June 24 and July 16.** If you would like to contribute a dish, please contact Teri Windham (terihwindham@gmail.com) or Melanie Brogli (melbrogli@outlook.com).

Other ways that you can help would be to collect new books, healthy snacks, and supplies for the summer program. There is also an Amazon Wish List for the most needed items – just scan the QR code to the right that says SHOP.



SHOP

If you are interested in volunteering to read during our week, go to this Google Form and sign up. <https://tinyurl.com/2025FCPReading> or scan the volunteer form QR code to the right that says VOLUNTEER by **JUNE 20**. If you need assistance signing up, please contact Melanie Brogli at 615-542-3675, melbrogli@outlook.com or Teri Windham 615-631-4910, terihwindham@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.

May 30, 2025

12pm - 6pm
charlotte@mborofpc.org

first presbyterian
church of murfreesboro
210 North Spring St
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.mborofpc.org

Morning Circle

Join us May 6th for fellowship

1st Tuesday of the month at 10am in the parlor

All Women Welcome

MONDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

May 12th 5:30: Final Bible Study

May 19th 5:30: Meet @ The Boulevard

CONGRATS GRADUATES!

SCOUT HARDING
LANG MCDANIEL
DYLAN PENCEK
JACK PENCEK

Senior Sunday is on May 11, 2025 at 11am



Dear FPC Family,

In my memory no church ever covered 6 Thursday night meals in one semester... 3, yes... but 6, that's unheard of! Thanks to Dave Davis and some willing volunteers FPC covered 6 dinner this semester for UKirk! A big thanks for the wonderful meals Dave Davis, Kathleen Hargis, Robb McDaniel's Sunday School class, Susan Couch and Don McKinney, Judy Gritton and Seekers of the Spirit Sunday School class (we decided to come to Maundy Thursday instead but they were willing and ready!) We feel the love! Blessings, Rev. Micah Watson, *UKIRK MTSU*

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY! BY: BILL PATTERSON



LAURA VAUGHT

Lascassas native Laura Vaught recently joined First Presbyterian Church on Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a graduate of Tennessee Tech, has a master's from Texas Tech and a law degree from UT Knoxville. Ms. Vaught is currently working for the Center for Rural Innovation at Tennessee Tech where she serves as the Director of the Tennessee Rural Fellowship. She supervises recent graduates who work for rural mayors in economic

development. The state pays for this program. Ms. Vaught also teaches a class in agricultural policy at Tech.

Living in Milton, she still spends time at her father's farm in Lascassas, "when the boys will let me in the hay field," she joked. (She has two brothers.) Ms. Vaught has dogs and a barn cat, and she also fosters rescue dogs. In her free time, she enjoys hand embroidery.

Although she grew up Baptist, FPC is where her father, Mike Vaught, was raised, and she had visited from time-to-time. The church she attended in Nashville shut down during the covid pandemic, so she looked around. Ms. Vaught visited during the holiday season and saw this is where she needs to be. "I love it. It is peaceful, and I leave feeling like I have worshiped."



SARAH WOLFE

First Presbyterian Church now has a new affiliate member. Oh? An affiliate is a person who has "affiliated" with a congregation without transferring membership from his/her original church. Such a person is Sarah Wolfe. Her home church is Rush Creek Presbyterian Church in Erwin, Tennessee.

Dr. Wolfe recently received her PhD. in English from Middle Tennessee State University. She received her bachelor's and master's degree from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. Her area of specialization is the medieval period.

She currently teaches for Cumberland University in their dual enrollment program. "It's mostly high school seniors at Watertown and Oakland," she said. These students receive college credit after completing the course. Being an English scholar, her favorite pastime is reading. She has an Aussiedoodle named Annie. Dr. Wolfe attends Leila Hinkle's Sunday School class and has integrated well into our church family.

SESSION NOTES

BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Rev. Dr. Hinkle led our devotional. His reference was Frederick Buechner's *Whistling in the Dark*. Because Christ rose from the dead, we have a hope and light that defies logic but confirms that death and defeat do not have the final word.
- The 11th grade confirmands: Wyatt Greer, Carter Lampley, and Wyatt Petroka came to the Session meeting. Their faith experiences were examined and then they were voted unanimously to be accepted into membership.
- We received a note from Rev. Micah Watson, the UKIRK pastor (MTSU students) thanking us for providing 6 meals for the students during the past school year. He particularly thanked Dave Davis,

Kathleen Hargis, Robb McDaniel, Susan Couch, Don McKinney and Judy Gritton.

- The Debbie Crumley memorial fund will be used for new audio-visual equipment for the sanctuary which will enhance our on-line ministry.
- Pye Barker Company will be doing our annual fire alarms inspection along with the City Fire Marshall to make sure we comply with all the city fire codes.
- We are thankful for the pledge support we have received. At the present time we are \$80,000 less than last year, Our new budget will need to reflect this reduction in pledges.
- A committee is actively seeking a choir director in view of Jocelyn Fisher's retirement.

FPC YOUTH

MAY

2025

MAY 2-4 Church Retreat

MAY 5 RSVP due for Senior/Parent Banquet

MAY 11 Covenant Sunday (8th and 11th Grade) at 11am

MAY 11 Senior Sunday at 11am

MAY 12 Senior/Parent Banquet at 6:00 PM

MAY 25 Nicaragua Team Commissioning at 11am

WEDNESDAY OPEN

CELLAR

5:30PM

MAY 7TH

MAY 14TH (LAST ONE)

SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

6:00PM

MAY 18TH

MAY 25TH - FINAL YG PARTY

NO YOUTH GROUP ON MAY 4TH (RETREAT) & MAY 11TH (MOTHER'S DAY)



- Join us each week at 9:30 for Sunday School.
- Join us for the last regular Wonderful Wednesday on May 7th!
- From May 25-July 27, Sunday School will take place at 9:00am before our joint service at 10:15am. We look forward to seeing you just a little earlier each Sunday!

May Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and forever

Hebrews 13:8





VBS

JUNE 3-5, 2025 5PM-7PM
AGES 3 (POTTY TRAINED) - 6TH GRADE. DINNER PROVIDED
RSVP WITH QR CODE OR CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG



SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible School for kids only will be June 3-5 here at church from 5:00-7:00pm (Dinner provided)! Our theme this year is Yee-Haw: Celebrating God's Greatest Gift. Registration is underway – just scan the QR code in the graphic or contact the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org. You can also turn in the form provided in the church bulletin. Be sure to register by May 4th because we are ordering T-shirts for everyone!

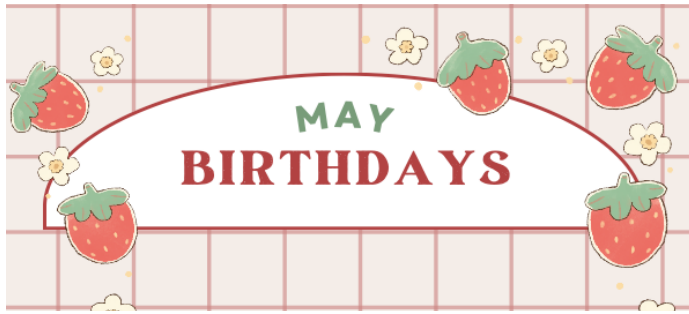
We also need **VOLUNTEERS** – teachers, kitchen help, crafts, decorating, and games. Please email Meredith at meredith@mborofpc.org if you would like to help! Grades 7 – 12 are also more than welcome to volunteer.



Registration
Still Open!

**First
Presbyterian
Preschool**
Murfreesboro, TN

Registration is open! We have room in every class (2s, 3s, & 4s). Please help us get the word out about our loving school where each child receives lots of personal attention from well-prepared teachers. Children in the 3s and 4s can stay until 12:30 or, for a small fee, stay until 2pm. Now would be the perfect time to apply! For more information or to register contact Karen Winford at 615-893-4760 – preschool@mborofpc.org. Be on the lookout soon for ways you can partner with us!



1	Jennifer Bailey, Dr. John Todd
2	Olivia Leeper
4	Jane McNulty, Ann Nora Parsons, Philip Waldrop
5	Heather Beason, Ellis Bouldin, Jack Magoon
6	Earleen Foss
7	Jayson Bouchillon, Shelby Dias, Alexandra McNulty, Bernie Steen
8	Rita Shacklett
10	Jace Livesay, Oliver McHughes, Anna Pote, Virgil Pote
11	Judy Clemens, Charlotte Lynn, Campbell Manahan
13	Andrew Brogli
14	Marit Anderson
15	Tyler Iske
16	Jennifer Daniel, Taylor Gray, Isaiah Kam, Haley Nance
17	Marcie Adamson, Ronnie Edwards, Matt Layman, Sherry Wilhoite
18	Watson Harris, Kit Ramsay
20	Les Gray, Walker Rudd, Katherine Steele
21	Phyllis Moore, Tammy Ogles, Everett Parker
23	Sara Parsons
24	Magnolia Harding, Byron Webb
25	Janice Hayes, Daniela Kam, Chris Lawson, Lilly Tyner
26	Caiden Becker, Anne Mayes
27	Jacob Bailey, Ryan Corcoran, Kathy Graham, Alice Wolohon
28	Nena Egli
29	Mary Elaine Hargis, Teresa McBroom, Nikolaus Jones
30	Kate Leonard
31	Doug Flanagan, Abby Sights, John Zakhar



James & Kimberly Leeper	May 12
Rusty & Amy Walker	May 14
Mark & Janet Blackwelder	May 15
Tim & Phyllis Moore	May 17
Chuck & Kathy Clark	May 19
Bob & Teresa McBroom	May 20
Brent & Denise Dacus	May 21
Zack & Maria Gray	May 21
Will & Britton Fraley	May 22
Kevin & Annette Heusinkveld	May 22
Matt & Victoria McHughes	May 22
Toby & Young Moore	May 23
Tim & Rachel D. Pote	May 25
David & Kristi Baughman	May 26
Jeff & Amy Farrar	May 28
Ben & Laura Beth Bergsieker	May 29

Thank you

Dear Church Family,
The last several months were very

challenging but made better by this wonderful congregation. I appreciated all the prayers, Prayergrams, cards, calls, flowers, reading material, and encouragement. Feeling much better now, taking it a little slow while I build up my strength. God bless this church, the staff, and all the members.

Thank you, *Laura Harbour*

thank you

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Session, the Wedding Guild, Rev. Dr. Hinkle, Joe, Charlotte, and our church family for the amazing support and love shown to us on our wedding day.

- *Reba and Rick Heckel*

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
Have an announcement for June/July?
Submit it to Charlotte at
charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 893-3882 ext.
201 by May 18, 2025

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

Jocelyn Fisher

jfisher@mborofpc.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Meredith Peck

meredith@mborofpc.org

Organist

Valerie Rains

vrains@comcast.net

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

Tammy Green

Jocelyn's Retirement Celebration

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 5:00 PM
2025

FREE DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

RSVP BY: MAY 11

TO [CHARLOTTE@MBOROFPC.ORG](mailto:charlotte@mborofpc.org)

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2025 AT 5PM

The Fellowship and Personnel Ministry Teams invite you to a special dinner honoring our Director of Music, Jocelyn Fisher, who is retiring after 15 years of ministry and service to our church. The dinner and celebration will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The dinner is free, but you must RSVP no later than Sunday, May 11. Reservations can be made with Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 0.

We also have pretty notecards at all sanctuary entrances and at the Welcome Center that you can use to write personal notes to Jocelyn and return to the office that we will give her at her party. Finally, we are also accepting donations for a love offering – just send those to the office. Let's join together to share our love of Jocelyn as she moves to the next phase of her life!