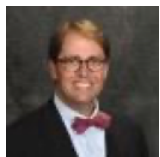




THE PROCLAMATION



READY FOR CHRISTMAS

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

Let me state up front that I am writing this article for December *The Proclamation* under protest. Please don't misunderstand me. I actually love writing an article every month for our newsletter and I don't really have a problem with writing this article. My problem is *when* I must write this article. I had to write this article on November 7. On November 7, I am still trying to recover from Halloween. On November 7, my Washington, D.C. Rising Day Ministry meeting trip is still 2 weeks away. On November 7, we are still three weeks away from Thanksgiving; but no, - I have to write my article for December's *The Proclamation* 20 days before the First Sunday of Advent. Of course, I completely understand why and when I have such an early deadline, but the timing goes against almost everything I believe in.

I am that guy who only plays Christmas music on the Friday after Thanksgiving. No Christmas decoration, which includes a Christmas tree, can go up until we

get back from Thanksgiving in North Carolina. I don't want to think about Christmas until that first Sunday of Advent, but once that First Sunday of Advent arrives, I am all about Christmas.

The reality is the office and ministerial staff at First Presbyterian Church have been thinking and planning Advent and Christmas for months. When you read *The Proclamation* you will see that it is packed with events and activities that are meant to enhance and make even more special this time of year for you. There is something for everyone in the family. I am even more excited about this Christmas because, for the first time in two years, everything we are doing we are doing without being overly concerned about Covid.

I am ready... are you?

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



From Director of Music, Jocelyn Fisher –

After a long and dismal 2-year absence due to the pandemic, your *Gallimaufry of Yuletide Delights* is returning!! We are thrilled to bring back the music and celebration of our Christmas Concert this year. As in the past, we have a lot of beautiful Christmas music coming to you from our Handbells and our Chancel Choir. Our audience will again be led and entertained by our Youth in the singing of some of the old favorites of the season.

This year there will also be many fun surprises brought to you by the wonderful talent from our own congregation. (And I do mean surprises!) Please mark your calendars now and start spreading the word to your friends. If you have attended these concerts before, you know it is a great way to kick off the season and get us in the spirit of Christmas. The concert is on Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. Free admission.





Worship in December

November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

“Zechariah – The Song of Silence”

Psalm 122

Luke 1:5-25

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

“Mary - The Song of Undeniable Faith”

Psalm 72

Luke 1:39-56

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

“Zechariah Pt. 2 - The Song of Preparation”

Psalm 146

Luke 1:67-80

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

“The Angels - The Song for Humanity”

Psalm 80:1-7

Luke 2:8-21

December 24

12pm Travelers

4pm Family Candlelight

6pm Communion Candlelight

Christmas Eve: 12pm and 6pm

“Speak His Name”

John 1:1-19

Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve: 4pm

Family Service

December 25

1st Sunday of Christmas

ONE SERVICE 10:15am

No Sunday School

“Back Again?”

Psalm 96

Luke 2:25-35



Preaching in December

Every year, the Hinkle family travels either to Alabama or North Carolina for Thanksgiving and as we head back to Murfreesboro, Leila and I always listen to Christmas music. I love Christmas music, both secular and sacred. As a matter of fact, I think Christmas music, especially the sacred, grounds us to the meaning and reason for this time of year. We all have our favorite songs. I love *Little Drummer Boy*, *I Wonder as I Wander* and *Fum, Fum, Fum!* But did you know that there are songs that can be found in the scriptures that tell the story of the birth of Jesus? During this season, we will explore the songs of Advent.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



We are overjoyed to celebrate our Christmas traditions in full this year at First Presbyterian Church where we will gather on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

- *12 pm Travelers' Service* – this service is perfect for families who travel on Christmas Eve or those who may not want to be out after dark. Includes celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- *4 pm Family Candlelight Service* – focuses on our children and their families. Nursery will be provided. This service ends with the lighting of candles.
- *6 pm Communion Candlelight Service* – a traditional worship service including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and ending with the lighting of candles. Nursery will be provided.

On Christmas Eve we will also collect a special offering for Still Waters Family Ministries. Still Waters supports, equips, and educates families with single parents who are yearning to better their lives. Please invite your family and friends to experience the joy that is Christmas with us.

Online Missions Giving Catalog



The Mission Ministry Team can offer the perfect Christmas gift solution for those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list!

Shop our online Christmas Catalog at www.mborofpc.org Each ministry you can support is listed with a description of their mission and a link to their site or giving page. We can serve Jesus in the lives of folks struggling toward full life by supporting:

- *10,000 Villages*: providing economic security worldwide to needy families
- *Thistle Farms*: making a way forward for female survivors
- *41 & Change*: Supporting youth ministry in Nicaragua,
- *Still Waters*: A hand up & way forward for needy single parent families with children
- *Doors of Hope*: breaking cycles of addiction, homelessness & incarceration
- *CAM Coalition for Appalachian Ministries*: Empowering Appalachian artisans to provide basic needs
- You can also support our own Habitat Build (more info on that coming soon!)



Our Missions Ministry Team is hosting an angel tree to assist struggling families in providing Christmas for their children. We are sponsoring 20 Angels which will be available in the Welcome Center area on the small Christmas tree starting November 27th. Bring the gifts unwrapped and labeled with the identifying angel information as requested. Please fill out the registration form when you take your angel. Call or email the church office or Pastor Joyce if you need assistance.



Save the Date for our Divorce Group Christmas get together!

Join us on December 8th at 6pm for dinner and Dirty Santa time at the home of Susan Couch! Dinner is provided – just bring a \$15 (max) Dirty Santa gift. Please let Susan know if you can make it so she can plan enough food and so you can get the address – email susancouch@comcast.net or the church at charlotte@mborofpc.org.



Christmas Vacation & Office Hours

- Rev. Dr. Hinkle: 12/25 following service -Jan 2
 - Rev. Harding: December 27-29.
- If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Merritt or your caregiver.
- The Church Office: 12/26-27



Church Directory Update!

Diane Edwards'
phone number
is 615-556-6355





To celebrate the Christmas season, the Care Team will be bringing

tins of cookies to people who don't get out much. Members of the care team will provide the tins and cookies and arrange delivery. Thank you Care Team!



SESSION NOTES

BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by Jim Crumley on Matthew 14: 22-33 - Jesus walking on water. The disciples' first reaction was fear, but when Jesus spoke, they were calmed. When Peter left the boat to walk on the water to be with Jesus, momentarily he became afraid. Jesus reached out his hand and saved Peter from sinking. When we are in a storm of our life, we must keep our focus on Jesus and his Word and be reassured that all will be well.
- We heartily endorse Mary Catherine Sevier for being selected and approved to be the clerk for our Presbytery. Our blessings are with you.
- Our newest members: Mary Ashley Manahan, Marcie Richmond, and Ben and Suzee Myers will be available for welcoming on a future date at coffee between services. John and Patsy Moss are paired with the Myers, Kathy Graham with Marcie Richmond, and Andy and Meredith Peck with Mary Ashley Manahan.
- We thank Handani Kam for his braving the weather to serve his famous chili at the square to support Habitat for Humanity.
- The children will have a Happy Birthday Jesus party on December 4.

- We plan to sponsor the building of a home for Habitat for Humanity. Activities and information will be forthcoming when a final decision is made.
- The Raider Roll, fundraiser for the UKIRK (MTSU Students) netted \$1121.00. Thank you!
- Our fire suppression system was inspected by Pye Barker and was up to date. Also, the kitchen stove hood cleaning was done and reported to the insurance provider.
- As a reminder, there is only one service on Christmas and New Year's days at 10:15 and no Sunday School on those days.
- Serious plans are underway for a trip to Nicaragua in summer. Check with Reverend Harding if you are interested in going.
- Chris and Amy Jackson have graciously accepted the role of chairing the Stewardship Drive next year.
- The Care Team delivered flower arrangements to 12 persons who don't get out much, 5 prayer shawls were blessed and given, several meals were delivered, communion was taken to 3 members, and a bereavement reception for Dr John Pearson.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN **DECEMBER** WITH FPC YOUTH

DEC 2-4	8TH/11TH CONFIRMATION RETREAT	@ NACOME
SUN DEC 4	9TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED DEC 7	NO 7TH/8TH YOUTH GROUP JOY GIFT DINNER	5-7PM
SUN DEC 11	ALL YOUTH CHRISTMAS CONCERT	5:15PM THE CELLAR
WED DEC 14	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
FRI DEC 16	ALL YOUTH CAROLING & CHRISTMAS PARTY	2:30PM- 11PM
SUN DEC 18	9TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED DEC 21- JAN 1	NO YOUTH GROUPS	MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!





-Special Joy Gift Program Practice –

December 4th from 12:00-1:30 - Please make plans for your children to stay after the 11:00 service for pizza and extra practice for our Joy Gift Program!

- Joy Gift Program - December 7th - We are thrilled to return to the stage for our Joy Gift Program! Our kiddos have worked hard on their songs and instrument parts and we hope everyone will join us! All children in grades preschool-6th will be performing.



Third Grade Faith Milestone - "Feed and Be Fed" - December 11th at 9:30 in the Common Room - Our 3rd Graders will eat breakfast with each other and several trusted adults in the church while making Christmas cards for our elderly, ill, and members who don't get out much!



Happy Birthday Jesus Party & Advent Art with Abbey Logan: We are thrilled to have church member and artist Abbey Logan with us in the month of December to help make clay Christmas trees! We will begin our trees at our Happy Birthday Jesus Party on December 4th and will complete them on December 11th during Sunday School. Abbey will then take them and fire them. Please be sure to be here on the 4th to begin your tree!



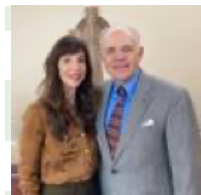
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1- | Andrea Elkins, Suzanna Logan, Rod Pencek |
| 2- | Lillian Henry, Christina McNulty |
| 3- | Jeff Farrar, Jan LaLance |
| 4- | Terry Panter |
| 5- | Buddy Boyd, Rob Joyner |
| 6- | Zack Gray, Liz McDaniel |
| 7- | Graham Bullock, Amy Smythe Leonard, Terry Pierce |
| 8- | Martha Boyd, Dave Davis, James Leeper |
| 10- | Peter Hulett, Matthew Moscato |
| 11- | Gloria Christy, Hayden Steele |
| 12- | Julie Corcoran, Patrick Gritton, Mary Wheeler |
| 13- | Aiden Paddon |
| 15- | Ann Lehue |
| 16- | Marlyn McBroom, Lily Smith, Hudson Webb |
| 17- | Chris Rudd |
| 18- | Emily Mitchell Francis, Tommy Turner |
| 20- | Jerry Hawkins, Patsy Moss |
| 21- | Steve Bagby, Becky Coutras |
| 22- | Natasha Kam |
| 23- | Lexie Harding, Marlene Lane, Tony Montagano, Donnie Steele, Katie White, Andrew Young |
| 24- | Neeley Emore, Tommy Wolohon |
| 26- | Whit Lampley, Steve Mitchell, Chris Moscato |
| 27- | Martha Johnson |
| 28- | Cooper Hines, Tim Pote |
| 29- | Rebecca Cross |
| 30- | Christy Swenson |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sumner & Ruth Bouldin	December 7
Jim & Debbie Crumley	December 13
Dick & Beth Barnes	December 15
Dave & Gail Deckard	December 15
Tom & Casandra Ferrell	December 17
Jerry & Sandra Hawkins	December 20
Chet & Janet Logan	December 21
Reno & Sandy Collier	December 23
Jack & Judy Gritton	December 28
Travis & Caroline Lampley	December 28
Kevin & Jane McNulty	December 28
Bill & Kathy Zuiches	December 30

WELCOME! MEET BEN AND SUZEE MYERS



Ben and Suzee Myers moved to Murfreesboro from Redlands, Calif. in February and quickly found First Presbyterian Church. "We were driving around town and saw this church. It had a small-town feel," said Ben. They visited and joined in October. Ben is a retired commercial insurance broker and high school basketball coach. Suzee was a school behavior specialist and school secretary. Ben was born in Princeton, Ind. but grew up in Wisconsin. Suzee grew up in Ventura, Calif. They met while attending Taylor University in Upland, IN. Although Ben grew up in the Presbyterian Church, they attended Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Redlands where they raised their three children. As is often the case, their decision to move to Murfreesboro was based on grandchildren. "Our family is all over the country," said Ben, with one son in Jackson Hole, WY, one in Boston and the other building a house in Smyrna. They have two grandchildren, one of them here. Soon after they arrived in Murfreesboro and began attending our church, Suzee needed back surgery. She found she already had a church family. Rev. Dr. Hinkle was waiting at the hospital when they arrived for the surgery. "He was right there!" she exclaimed, "ready to offer a prayer. The care team was so encouraging to me when I was flat on my back." Although it was a rough six months, Suzee recovered. She and Ben are ready to participate in church activities, and we are glad to have them. *Submitted By: Bill Patterson*



Special congratulations to Chet and Janet Logan who celebrate their 50th anniversary on December 21!

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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Associate Pastor of Family

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Joe Rich

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Part Time Custodian

James Harper

jharper@mborofpc.org



You are invited to our annual Joy Gift Dinner and Children's Christmas Program

On Wednesday night, December 7 our wonderful chef, Jessica, will prepare our special Joy Gift Dinner. This year's menu is: Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, chef's Vegetable, Salad, Roll, Dessert. The meal is FREE, but please make a reservation using a pew card or by contacting the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882, ext. 201 so we have enough food. All donations will be given to our Joy Gift Offering, which supports the Board of Pensions Assistance Program in helping current and retired church workers during a time of urgent need.

Immediately following dinner our FPC Kids and Tweens will perform their Christmas program for us in the sanctuary. They have worked hard all semester preparing for this performance so be sure to join us!