



THE PROCLAMATION



READY OR NOT: HERE WE COME

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

This time last year, as I was preparing to write my article in December of 2020 for *The Proclamation* of January 2021, I found myself caught between the proverbial rock and hard place. On the one hand, I found myself in a depression, having to go through Covid and watching the recent spike in numbers forcing the church not to gather physically as a congregation on Christmas Eve night and the Sundays following. On the other hand, I was hopeful about the future, knowing many of my friends in the healthcare profession had already been vaccinated, and vaccinations would be readily available for the rest of America in the days and months to come.

2021 started off well. COVID numbers were dropping. People were getting vaccinated. Spring was just around the corner. Of course, the most exciting news came in March when the CDC said those vaccinated could take off the mask (those are my words and not their words). Life finally felt normal again; that is, until I was sitting on the beach and a notice on my iPhone came up that said "Delta variant." I intentionally ignored the article. Of course, you know the rest of the story, and here we are in the end of 2021 with COVID still a thing.

Yet where I am now compared to last year is light-years apart. As the senior minister of this church, I have wrapped my arms around the fact that COVID will be in our lives for the foreseeable future, and this past year has been an exercise on learning how, as a congregation, we congregate. The truth is, I am actually hopeful for this new year.

As I look around the church, some amazing things are happening. This is not to say that as a church we will not find ourselves in moments of stress and strain, but through the Session's leadership, the creativity of the staff, and the commitment of this congregation, I know we will see God working in our lives. Ready or not 2022... here we come.

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



4-Week Winter Class:
Starts Sunday, January 23
9:30 am in Classroom F

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

This 4-week class is for anyone interested in exploring the history of our Presbyterian Church, what we believe, and what distinguishes us from other believers in the Body of Christ. It is perfect for those seeking to know more about the Presbyterian Church and what it means to be a Presbyterian. Though not a requirement for membership, it is recommended for those who have been visiting and have questions. Or, if you are already a member of FPC Murfreesboro, joining recently or years ago, and feel that you

would like more information or a refresher, this is the class for you! Get more information and/or register with Charlotte in the church office – charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 615-893-3882, ext. 201.



January 2
2nd Sunday of
Christmas
 “A Bridge in Brooklyn”
Psalm 147:12-20
Jeremiah 31:7-14

January 9
Baptism of the Lord
Ordination &
Installation Sunday
 “Tell John...”
Psalm 29
Luke 7:18-23

January 16
 “Come Together”
Psalm 36:5-10
I Corinthians 12:1-13

January 23
 “I Get No Respect”
Psalm 19
Luke 4:14-21

January 30
 “I Can Almost See
 Him”
Psalm 71:1-6
I Corinthians 13

WORSHIP AT FPC

RULING ELDERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2024

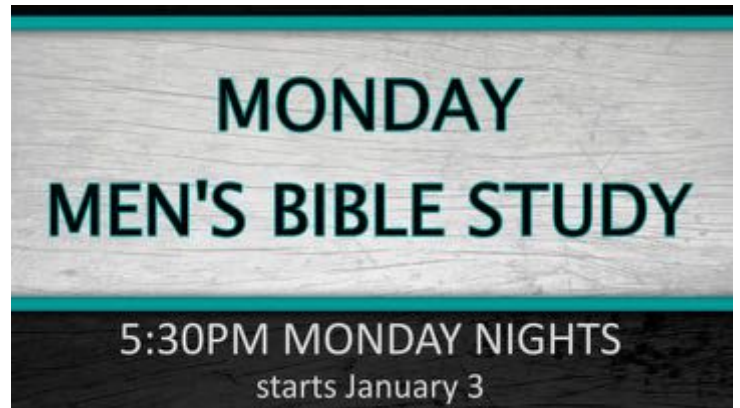
On Sunday, January 9, during the 11am worship service, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the ordination and installation of Ruling Elders for the class of 2024.

Being Ordained and Installed: Nena Egli and Brian Iske
Being Installed: Jim Crumley, Jill Lanning, Andy Peck, Bob Potter

We thank Julie Corcoran, Richard Gross, Kevin Heusinkveld and John Pearson as they rotate off Session and continue to serve in the College of Elders.

FPC NEWS

The Monday Men’s Bible Study group starts back on Monday, January 3rd. The men gather in the church parlor at 5:30 to read and seek how God is calling us to live out our lives. This is a great way to connect with other men who are seeking to connect with the Living God. We would love to have you. Just bring your Bible.



CLERGY STUDY TIME AWAY

Dr. Hinkle will take his annual winter pilgrimage to Montreat January 10-17 spending this time in sermon and lesson/class preparation for the new year. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the church office at 615-893-3882, ext. 201, charlotte@mborofpc.org or contact your caregiver to help you connect with a pastor on call.

Rev. Harding will be away January 9-14, 2022 participating in Intensives at Calvin Theological Seminary.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, the church will cancel activities according to county school cancellation. An email will be sent to the congregation and information placed on the website if possible. If onsite worship is canceled, worship will be on our YouTube Channel.

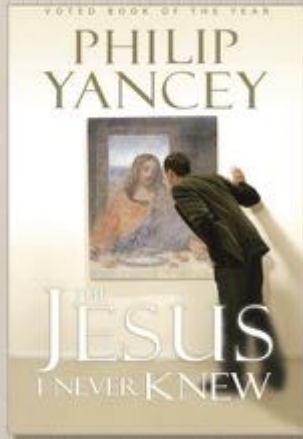
FPC NEWS, CONT.

Wonderful Wednesday Class

Starts January 19
6pm in the Parlor

It seems that God arranged the most humiliating circumstances possible for His entrance, as if to avoid any charge of favoritism.

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

THE YOUTH



Our youth had a great time at their Christmas party and took this great picture for us!

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Nights
starting January 19
6pm Harrison Hall

Join us!



FIRST FRIDAY



FRIDAY, January 7
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru

OSCAR WANTS EVERYONE TO SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT...



CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT
APRIL 22-24, 2022



LET'S LEARN MORE ABOUT SESSION



• **What is Session?** Session is a deliberative body, assigning issues and concerns to its appropriate ministry teams, hearing reports, and making final determination. Ministry teams meet separately each month, and all teams then come together to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, observing the rules of the *Book of Order*. **We have 10 Ministry Teams:**

Care: Trains caregivers to provide care for the entire congregation, but especially those who don't get out much and those in crisis; works with pastors. **Christian Education:** Responsible for the educational programs of First Presbyterian Church. This includes Sunday School, Wonderful Wednesday programs, nursery, and the week-day Preschool program. **Fellowship:** Creates fellowship opportunities including Wednesday meals, enrichment programs, Chili Cook-Off and Talent Show, Church Picnic; monitors kitchens. **Mission:** Maintains partnerships with entities supported by the church and develops mission projects and trips; works with pastors.

New Connections: Develops programs to receive and assimilate new members. **Personnel:** Develops job descriptions, monitors and evaluates personnel. **Property:** Maintains property (buildings, grounds, and vehicle), insurance and approves usage of the facilities by outside groups. **Stewardship:** Develops and monitors budget; works with treasurers and financial secretary; oversees annual stewardship campaign. **Worship:** Provides support and guidance for all worship services including elder involvement in sacraments. **VAST (Youth):** Oversees programs for Middle School and High School Students.

SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Jan LaLance led our devotion based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *God in the Manger*, focusing on the Song of Mary in Luke 1 in which Mary shares her awe at the amazing things she believes God will do through her and her coming Son, who will be the Hope of the World. Her faith challenges us to bring hope to others.
- We are saddened at the resignation of Sarah Gwinn from the session. She needs to pursue family interests at the present and looks forward to when she will be returning to work with our church missions again.
- The first Friday food drive is doing well and the last donations were taken to the Greenhouse Ministries. A special offering will be taken to be sent to the Presbytery Disaster Assistance team for the assistance to those involved in the recent tornadoes.
- The next Wonderful Wednesday will be January 19, and on January 26 there will be a church chili night rather than the usual Chili cook-off. We are grateful to the congregation for their support as Joy Gift donations totaled \$2971 for PC(USA) Board of Pensions assisting retired ministers in time of need.
- We are still waiting for various bids for the boiler update, duct work, roof repair, and Internet issues. Meredith Peck, our youth leader, has been working on maternity leave plans.
- Save the Date! Our annual Dinner & Cake Auction will take place on February 9.
- Our financial situation is solvent and we are looking forward to the stewardship campaign in February.
- A generous donation from a church member has paid the wages for an intern to assist the Director of Children's Ministry to help with the programs for our young people and our tweens.
- Our Evangelism Ministry has changed their name to New Connections, which more adequately describes their mission and work to transition new members into our church family. A new program is being developed to further enhance the assimilation of our new members.
- It was noted that communion was taken to 14 members during the last three months. Flowers from the sanctuary and cookies are taken to shut-ins. The prayer shawl knitting group is active and makes deliveries regularly.
- We are grateful for the services of retiring session members; Julie Corcoran, Richard Gross, Kevin Heusinkveld, and John Pearson. Jim Crumley, Jill Lanning, Andy Peck, and Bob Potter will be doing a second three-year term.
- Two returning elders, Sandra Hawkins and John Moss, renewed their statements of faith. Nena Egli and Brian Iske were examined and were approved to be ruling elders. They will be ordained and installed in January.



7th-8th Grade

DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT

Meet at FPC
Friday January 21 @ 6pm

MORE DETAILS SOON!
RSVP WITH BOBBY




January Youth Group Schedule

7th-8th Grade Youth Groups

- Wed Jan 5th • 5:30-7pm
- Wed Jan 12th • 5:30-7pm
- Wed Jan 19th • 6-7pm
- Wed Jan 26 • 6-7pm

High School Youth Groups

- Sun Jan 2nd • NO YG
- Sun Jan 9th • 6-8pm
- Sun Jan 16th • 6-8pm
- Sun Jan 23rd • 6-8pm
- Sun Jan 30th • 6-8pm

2022 Summer Youth Trips

Rising 6th-8th	Rising 9th-12th
The VILLAGE @	 John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation
	JACKSON, MS
June 12-17	June 25-July 1





• January Sunday School Lesson Theme:
Creation/Adam & Eve

- We had a great time at both our Happy Birthday Jesus Party and our Tweens Christmas Party! We thank all our leaders, parents and children for making this Christmas a wonderful church family time together.
- Stay tuned for information on winter mission projects!
- We will resume our Wednesday time together starting January 19 when Wonderful Wednesday resumes for the season. Kids will meet upstairs in the Sunday School wing and Tweens will be taught by Rev. Dr. Hinkle and Gracie Brasch in the Tween Room. Dinners will be back in the Common Room this season and we are excited to see everyone.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 1- Polly Bullock
- 3- Ridley Bouldin
- 4- Meredith Peck
- 7- Jeff Hazard, Ryan Saar
- 8- Mark Blackwelder, Rachel Pote
- 10- Debbie Edwards, Toby Moore
- 11- Will Fraley, Martin White
- 13- John Moss
- 15- Carole Peterson
- 16- Spencer Couch, Bobbie Pierce
- 17- Hank Lampley, Tom Smith
- 18- Olivia Flanagan, Mamie Sevier
- 19- Thomas Bailey, Judy Nichols
- 20- Shelby Bailey, Nancy Smith
- 21- Averie Brasch, Bill Brasch, Katie Brasch,
Laura Harbour, David Parsons
- 22- Joel Paddon, Adam Panter, Shannon Smith
- 23- Kristen Harbour
- 24- Annabelle Baughman, Allan Maynard,
Greyson Parker, Kaidence Parker, Helen Sanford
- 25- Beau Bergsieker
- 27- Dylan Iske
- 29- Glenn Himebaugh
- 30- Thom Christy, Chris Speck,
Lauren Speck
- 31- Andrew Cowden



Bill and Beth Brasch January 4
 Matt and Lauren Lane January 5

*Thank
 you*

Thank you for prayers, cards, phone calls and messages during my recent hospital stay and recovery. Also, thank you for the prayer shawl you gave me. It has been very comforting. – Barb Prince

These Days Devotional Books Available

The January – March 2022 issue of *These Days* is now available. If you would like one mailed to you, just contact Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882, ext. 201 and she will be happy to mail one to you.



JANUARY 17, 2022:
 BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
 210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN
 37130
www.mborofpc.org
**Have an announcement for the February
 Newsletter?**

Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org
 or
 call 893-3882 ext. 201 by January 19.

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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Our traditional Wonderful Wednesday resumes on Wednesday, January 19. Meals will be served in the Common Room from 5 to 6pm. We are so excited to eat together again! Our all-adult class will meet in the church parlor from 6-7pm and a women's Bible study will take place downstairs. Children and Youth events will be as normal.

You may make seasonal, monthly, or weekly reservations for dinner starting in January by contacting Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org, by responding to the weekly RSVP email or by using the green pew cards in the sanctuary. Information on classes may be found in this issue.

Rather than our traditional chili cook-off, we will have a special Chili Night on Wednesday, January 26 from 5pm-6pm. The price will be the same as a traditional Wednesday evening meal but all proceeds will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to assist persons in time of need.