



THE PROCLAMATION



TRUST & MOVE FORWARD

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

Truthfully, when it came time to write this article for last year's *The Proclamation*, I was not feeling the most optimistic about 2022. Before I wrote this year's article, I had Charlotte print out last year's for me so I could refresh my memory. It is about what I remember. As a congregation, we once again found ourselves navigating the COVID waters. Personally, Leila and I were wrecked at the news that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. I thought 2021 was the pits. I did not have much hope for 2022 being any better. Now I want to be clear, in no way was my attitude a sign of a lack of faith, but more so a surrender on my part from trying to control the events unfolding. Therefore, my last two sentences in that article were the following, "I know we will see God working in our lives. Ready or not, 2022... here we come." I knew what would happen in 2022 was going to happen, and what a year it was.

Spending a few minutes in reflection between the Joy Gift Dinner and the Christmas Concert (remember we have to work on *The Proclamation* sometime in the second week of the month), I am grateful for how this past year I saw God work in not only my life, but especially in the way this congregation. You have lifted up my family, both spiritually and physically. You walked with my family every step of the way. Praise God that Leila is whole and healthy.

Reflecting on where we were last year, I was amazed at how this First Presbyterian Church kept thinking out of the box about how a congregation congregates. Every ministry team worked hard to make the church happen, and boy, did it happen. We saw growth in our missional outreach to the community. Our mission dollars to empower our missional partners increased. We see this same excitement with our youth and children ministries, and we would all agree that Wednesdays are wonderful again.

No one can see into the future; therefore, we cannot know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future. Maybe that is the greatest lesson I have learned in 2022. Trust and move forward.

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



Wonderful Wednesdays will resume on Wednesday, January 11. Chef Jessica will cook, and dinner will be served in the Common Room from 5 to 6pm. We want to encourage everyone to participate in Wednesday nights! Our all-adult class will meet in the church parlor from 6-7pm and we will begin with a new women's Bible study with another one coming during winter (more details inside this issue). Children and Youth events will be as normal. You may make seasonal, monthly, or weekly reservations for dinner starting in January

Charlotte in the church office at charlotte@mborofpc.org, calling 615-893-3882, ext. 201, or by filling out the WW pew cards. Enjoy the halfway point in your week with fellowship and friends.



January 1

1st Sunday of Christmas

“The Parent’s Business”

Luke 2:41-52

Psalm 148

January 8

Baptism of the Lord Ordination & Installation Sunday

“This Is Our Calling”

Matthew 28:16-20

Psalm 29

January 15

“Come and See”

John 1:29-42

Psalm 40:1-11

January 22

“It Is About Time”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Psalm 27:1-9

January 29

“Giving Us Time”

Psalm 15

Romans 8:18-28



WORSHIP AT FPC

RULING ELDERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

On Sunday, January 8, during the 11am worship service, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the ordination and installation of Ruling Elders for the class of 2025.

Being Ordained and Installed: Kim Joyner, Chet Logan, Tim Pote

Being Installed: Jackie Jenkins

We thank Handani Kam, Bob Hoffman, Tracey Lannom, and Don McKinney as they rotate off Session and continue to serve in the College of Elders.



STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2023: TIME

BY CHRIS & AMY JACKSON

I love teaching elementary students. I often start my classes with a brainstorming exercise

to prompt and stimulate thinking. This week, I asked my 5th and 6th grade students to create a list with as many phrases as possible containing the word, **time**. Responses included: “Hit me baby one more time,” “Any time,” “It’s about time,” “Payback time,” “I had a good time,” and “It’s Miller Time!” Stewardship combines the concept of time in multiple ways. Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. Stewardship season at First Presbyterian Church is a time to recognize everything we have is a gift from God and it is a time to be generous with those gifts. Stewardship season is also a time to consider how each of us may give our time and talents to support our mission, “To know Christ and make Christ known.” *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10.* As we begin our Stewardship Season on January 22nd, both Chris and I would like to thank our congregation for their generous support of First Presbyterian Church over the past year. Our volunteers who love and grow the children of the church, give their time and treasure supporting our community, global outreach and our members who donate funds to maintain our facilities, constantly amaze us. We ask that you pray with us as we launch our annual gathering of gifts and gratitude, taking time to consider how you can use what God has given you to support and grow our church.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

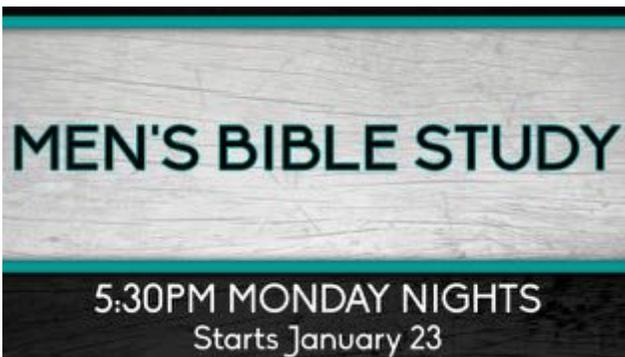
In the event of inclement weather, the church will cancel activities according to county school cancellation. An email will be sent to the congregation and information placed on the website if possible. If onsite worship is canceled, worship will be on our YouTube Channel.

FPC NEWS

CLERGY STUDY TIME AWAY



Dr. Hinkle will study in Montreat the week of January 12-16. Rev. Harding will be studying at Calvin January 8-13. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the church office at 615-893-3882, ext.201, charlotte@mborofpc.org, Rev. Merritt, or contact your caregiver.



Monday Men's Bible Study resumes on Monday, January 23rd. Join us in the Parlor at 5:30pm 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 God and connect with the Living God. We would love to have you - just bring your Bible.



**THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW**

our-long standing partnership with the Red Cross by holding a Blood Drive in the church Common Room from Noon to 6pm. More detailed information regarding this effort will be forthcoming. Thank you!

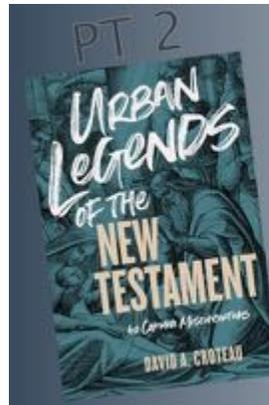
Please save Friday, February 24, 2023, for our next Red Cross Blood Drive. First Presbyterian Church will re-activate



YOGA CLASS

January 6, 9am
In The Parlor
Nursery Provided

COMING WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY CLASSES



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Nights
with Rev. Dr. Hinkle

At 6pm Church Parlor

Women's Bible Study

Study
Guide: \$5



Jennie Allen
**FIND
YOUR
PEOPLE**
Building Deep Community
in a Lonely World

7 week video based
study every
Wednesday Night in
Classroom B

Starts January 11
at 6pm

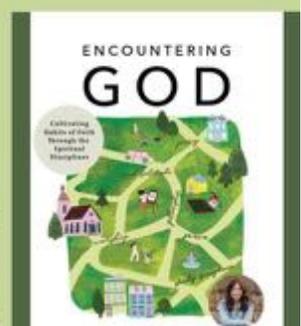
Women's Bible Study

*Encountering
God*

By Kelly Minter

Wednesday Nights
Starting February

Led By Judy Gritton



Morning Circle

Join us January 3rd
for fellowship

1st Tuesday of the month at
10am in the parlor
all women welcome

SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Our devotion was led by Andy Peck. He directed our attention to the Christmas hymn *O Holy Night* in which we are reminded of hope, a promise of redemption and the triumph over evil. The hymn acknowledges the world as a place of sin and suffering but that all is not lost because Jesus changed the narrative to hope being restored. Because of Jesus, we can live in hope all year long, not just at Christmas time. And we thank God for the birth of His Son.
- J.T. and Toni Leathers met with us, regarding membership and after answering in the affirmative to required questions, they were unanimously approved.
- We examined four new elders elect: Jackie Jenkins, Kim Joyner, Chet Logan, and Tim Pote, and found them exceedingly prepared to become our ruling elders. They will be ordained and installed at the 11am service on January 8.
- We extend a grateful vote of appreciation to Bob Hoffman, Handani Kam, Tracey Lannom and Don McKinney for their six years of dedicated service.
- Bob Hoffman was approved to be an At Large member of the Personnel Ministry Team. Bill Richmond and Bernie Steen were approved for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.
- Thanks to Brent Dacus who continually upgrades our entire computerized systems within our building to include security cameras, office printers, copiers, and computers. Insurance is being negotiated. LED lights in the sanctuary are being discussed, and options are being evaluated to block the glare from the sun in the 2nd floor classrooms.
- As a way to fund our Habitat for Humanity Build, an anonymous donor has offered a \$20,000 grant if it is matched by our congregation. The session has agreed to raise \$20,000 to match the offer. To date \$4400 has been received towards that goal. More information about this project will be forthcoming in the next few months.
- A coffee to welcome our new members: Ben and Suzee Myers, Mary Ashley Manahan, and Marcie Richmond is scheduled between Sunday School and Church service on January 8. Mary Ashley Manahan is paired with her parents Mike and Margaret Ann Pope.
- Thank you notes were read from Scott and Kathy Corlew for the services for Helen Weidhaas. Also, many notes have been received from the various classes

- \$2740 was raised at the breakfast casserole drive by for the pastors' discretionary fund, which helps those needing assistance in the community.
- We sent the \$2800 from the Joy Gift supper to the General Assembly retired minister's fund, which provides retirement income for ministers from small churches that do not have a retirement program.
- The 1st grade faith milestone took place on November 6 and covered the sacraments of baptism and communion. The 2nd grade faith milestone, presentation of a Bible, was during November 13 worship service. 30 children attended the Happy Birthday Jesus party on December 4.
- The confirmands ate lunches together as follows: 11th grade on November 13, 12th grade on November 20, 9th grade on November 27, and 8th and 11th grades on December.
- Serious plans are underway to travel to Nicaragua next summer.
- Communion was taken to 2 persons. Flowers, prayer shawls, and meals were delivered to members this past month, and a bereavement reception was done for Helen Weidhaas.
- Our next meeting will be a retreat on Saturday, January 21.

First Presbyterian Church Murfreesboro
FIRST FRIDAY



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

MONEY RAISED



Our Casserole Drive was a great success! The total raised for the Board of Pensions was \$2,740.00. Thank you to everyone involved in the drive.



at Reeves Rogers school thanking the congregation for their generous support of the students and teachers with paper and cleaning supplies.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY WITH FPC YOUTH

SUN JAN 1	NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
WED JAN 4	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN JAN 8	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED JAN 11	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN JAN 15	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED JAN 18	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
FRI JAN 20	6TH-8TH GRADE 80s MOVIE NIGHT	5PM-9PM @FPC
SUN JAN 22	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR
WED JAN 25	7TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP	5:30-7PM THE CELLAR
SUN JAN 29	10TH GRADE CONFIRMATION LUNCH	12PM THE CELLAR
SUN JAN 29	HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP	6PM-8PM THE CELLAR



Dear FPC Family,

One semester down! It's hard to believe Fall semester '22 has come and gone. It was a very good one for us at UKIRK, and FPC helped us cap it off nicely! In November y'all, through the fellowship committee, we were provided with wonderful "comfort foods" for a Thursday night meal. It was incredible! That was a week ahead of Thanksgiving dinner at UKIRK,

which put a lot of pressure on our board to provide a Thanksgiving meal equal to that! 😊 ... Luckily for us, Rita Shacklett, as she has so many times before, provided the turkey, dressing, and helped us get the Thanksgiving meal close to the same level! Thanks so much for all the support y'all have given UKIRK this semester. Be praying for us to have a successful trip to the Montreat College Conference in early January!

Blessings,
Rev. Micah Watson, ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com





January Highlights

- There will be No Sunday School January 1. There will be one service at 10:15 with nursery provided.
- Wonderful Wednesday will be back for more fun starting January 11, and we hope to see you there at the return of the season.
- The Sunday Service Offering will resume in January. All offerings brought by our children to Sunday School will be designated for our Habitat for Humanity Build.

January Memory Verse

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 11:24

Summer Camp Registration Is Open!

• Express (Rising 2nd-4th)	June 18-20 or 21-23	\$300
• Springs (Rising 3rd-5th)	June 11-16, 18-23, July 9-14	\$469
• Village (Rising 6th-8th)	June 4-9, 11-16, 18-23, July 9-14	\$479
• Eclipse (Rising 6th-12th)	June 25-30 stay up late & sleep in!	\$479
• Ridge (Rising 9th-12th)	June 4-9, 11-16	\$479

www.nacome.org
Contact Meredith Peck for info on camp assistance

DINNER & Live Cake Auction

SAVE THE DATE

2.8.2023

Save the date!

CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT

Save The Date: April 28-30

April 28-30 2023



CHARITABLE GIVING

A huge Thank You to everyone who donated this Advent Season, we have raised \$16,078.70 for the ministries and missions we support! There will be a great anticipation to see the impact this will have on our community and the congregation.



- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1- | Polly Bullock |
| 3- | Ridley Bouldin |
| 4- | Meredith Peck |
| 7- | Jeff Hazard, Ryan Saar |
| 8- | Mark Blackwelder, Rachel Pote |
| 9- | Daniel Anderson |
| 10- | Debbie Edwards, Toby Moore |
| 11- | Will Fraley, John Scruggs, 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- | Mark Akins |



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



Dear First Presbyterian-
The words “thank you” just don’t seem to be enough to express our gratitude for all the kindness you all have shown us. Dale and I feel very blessed for all the delivered meals, cards, flowers, thoughts, prayers, prayer grams, and the beautiful prayer shawl. We could not have gotten through this difficult time without our church family- again
THANK YOU!

Blessings, Kay and Dale Boyd



Dear FPC Family-
We would like to recognize and thank the wonderful people who have volunteered in our Care Team flower ministry. This has proved to be a meaningful ministry that blesses the receivers, those who arrange the flowers and deliverers. We also appreciate the flowers contributed by the Flower Guild.
In His Service, The Care Team



The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
www.mborofpc.org
Have an announcement for February?
Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org
by January 19.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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"Resting in the Rhythm:
Learning to Rest in God"

9am-4pm
Women's Retreat
February 4th 2023

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

\$10 Per Person

All women are invited to this year's Women's Retreat: *Resting in the Rhythm: Learning to Rest in God*. We are pleased to announce that the retreat will be led by our own Rev. Emily Shacklett Wilmesherr. Rev. Emily, as many of you know, is the daughter of Bill and Rita Shacklett and serves as the Associate Pastor for Intergenerational & Caring Ministries at Decatur Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA. Our one-day retreat will take place on Saturday, February 4 from 9am-4pm. The cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch professionally prepared by our own Chef Jessica. Be on the lookout for signup information in January.