



THE PROCLAMATION



THE DANCE CONTINUES REV. DR. JOHN A. HINKLE, JR., SENIOR PASTOR

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:

By the time you read this, we will be moving towards the 5th Sunday of Lent, leading us to the joy of Palm Sunday and the heartache of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Our series of sermons has been entitled *The Lord of the Dance*, based on the hymn *The Lord of Dance*. All of us who have heard Jesus call us by name have been invited to dance with him in this world.

I loved what Sydney Carter wrote, *The Lord of the Dance*, in 1963, based on an old Shaker tune. In his youth, Carter's theology leaned toward more of Universalism but understood for himself that he best knew the Divine through Jesus Christ found in the Gospels. In an interview with Carter, he said, "I see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality." Carter's words remind us that when we are asked to dance – Jesus meets where we are. That is so important to note. Jesus does not call us from afar – meaning we have to search for him like in a game of Marco... Polo. Jesus calls us to dance as he is present in our lives.

Yet, in relationship with Jesus, where we were called is not where we will end. Dancing is movement, and where our dance will take us is eventually to the hill called Golgotha. Our freedom from our sins comes at a cost. It is a deep breath. It is a long sigh. It is the reality that *we* did this. It is the hope that what was done was done for us... for the world. And it is because of this belief I dance... because I know the dance continues.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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





April 3

5th Sunday in Lent

“Dance When People Tell
You to Stop”

Psalm 126

Luke 7:36-50

April 10

Palm Sunday

“Dance When the Music Stops”

Psalm 118:22-29

Luke 19:28-44

April 14

Maundy Thursday

“Pausing to Eat”

Psalm 116

Matthew 26:17-30

April 17

Easter Sunday

“And the Dance Goes On”

Psalm 19

John 20:1-18

April 24

“Showing Goodness”

Psalm 150

Romans 12:9-21

NOTE: For those who are not attending the Church Family Retreat, there will be ONE worship service here on the corner of College & Spring. Worship at 10:15am, Sunday School at 9:00 am for ADULTS only.

WORSHIP AT FPC

SUNDAYS DURING EASTER SEASON

Following Easter Sunday, as we once again ask ourselves what it means to live a resurrected life, we are going to explore how we know if we are maturing in our faith.

Are you turning your faith into action? As we grow in the knowledge of God’s ways, we build on the groundwork of our basic faith. This is the foundation from which we move on to a life of victory. As a disciple of Jesus, apostle Peter learned first-hand how to mature in his faith. In his letters to the believers, he encouraged them to continue to build upon their faith.

This series will focus on seven signs we are maturing in the faith.

WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

The Session has approved having only one worship service during the months of June and July. Starting on Sunday, June 5 worship will begin at 10:15 am and Sunday School will start at 9:00 am. The Session feels this will allow the congregation who worship in both services an opportunity to gather together for fellowship and worship.



**STEWARDSHIP
SEASON
2022/2023:
GENERATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

God’s Word commands that we honor him with our time, talents, and money. You have responded with generous generational giving. You are an example of love for others, obedience, and faithfulness. It will be amazing to see what wonders God works because of your generous acts. Let us continue to grip our earthly blessings loosely, so that we can continue to provide generously for others.

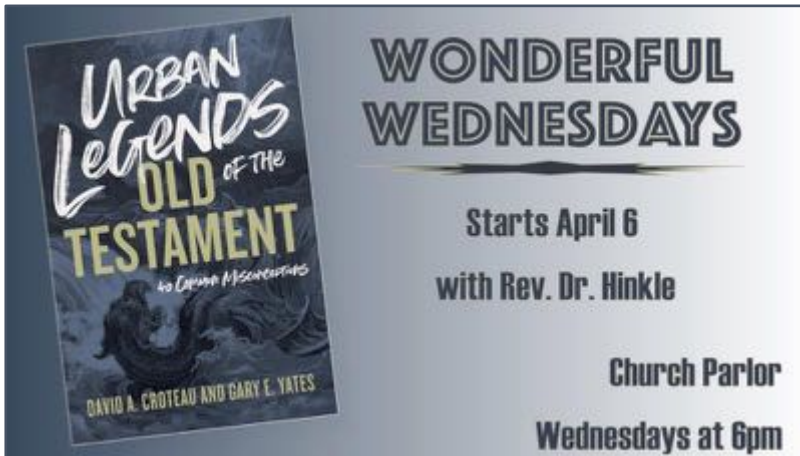
God loves a cheerful giver – 2 Corinthians 9:7

In Christ, Ron and Judy Nichols



Dr. Hinkle will be out of town April 21-23 for the bi-annual meeting of the Lord’s Day Alliance, US in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be stepping down as President of the LDA at this meeting.

FPC NEWS



Rev. Dr. Hinkle is starting a new Wonderful Wednesday class starting April 6 at 6pm based on the book, *Urban Legends of the Old Testament*. So often what we “know” about the Bible we have heard second hand and who knows? - the person who is telling us probably heard it from someone else. Yet often misunderstandings about scripture arise because interpreters neglect a passage’s context, misuse of historical background information, and misinterpretation of the original language of the text.

- Due to Spring Break week, the First Friday Food Drive will take place on the 2nd Friday, April 8th.
- The Monday Men’s Bible Study group will NOT meet on Monday, April 18th.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: VALERIE RAINS

The Session would like to inform the congregation that our organist, Valerie Rains, has requested and been granted a leave of absence for the months of June and July. We are grateful for everything Valerie has done for our congregation over the past ten years. During the past two years, with all of the added challenges of Covid, she worked diligently to continue her expert contributions to the music program at First Presbyterian Church in addition to having to learn to navigate the uncharted waters of public school teaching. These have been trying times that have worn on the soul. The Session and Valerie believe this time away will give her time and space to catch her breath and give her the joy she will need to bless us with her glorious notes of praise for the years to come.

Our Director of Music, Jocelyn Fisher, is moving forward to ensure we will continue to be blessed with uplifting music in Sunday morning worship during Valerie’s time away.

SABBATICAL: BY REV. JOYCE MERRITT

O Lord, our Sovereign, How majestic is your name in all the earth! *Psalms 8*

Ahh Spring. Let us give thanks to God for the restoration of warmth and full life in all the earth. And I joyfully add to that my thanksgiving to God and to you all for the restoration of life that Timothy, Jacob and I will be able to receive through your beautiful gift of sabbatical time away during the months of June and July. On May 31 we will head out with our camper in tow to embark upon a cross country exploration of some of our nation’s most beautiful natural wonders. I look forward to being “off the grid” for much of the month of June as we camp from Missouri, through Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, (Glacier National Park), Wyoming (Yellowstone and Grand Teton NPs), Colorado (Rocky Mountain NP), Kansas (Dodge City) and then back home via Missouri. During July we will embark upon our annual Hilton Head vacation for two weeks and finally enjoy some time off at home before returning to work and school in August. We are getting the camper ready. Reservations are made. Life is good. Thanks be to God. Thanks to you all.



Here is a photo that shows our camper and my idea of rest and restoration.



Dear FPC family,

It's been a great spring semester here at UKirk so far! We've added several new students, which isn't always a springtime occurrence. We've also used our backroom "traditional" worship space for the first time in two years on a Thursday night! I found it a bit cathartic as did several students who know that as our Thursday night space. Please keep our students in your prayers as we push towards the last month of the semester and their stress with projects and finals increases.

Blessing, Rev. Micah Watson, UKirk MTSU

ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com 615-692-2742 ukirkmtsu.com



RAIDER ROLL!

CINNAMON ROLL FUNDRAISER FOR UKIRK

Sunday, April 10th
Set of 5 Cinnamon Rolls for \$20

Fresh cinnamon rolls made by Journey Farms! Pick-up 9:15 - 10:45 (or until they sell out) in the Common Room

All proceeds go to support student activities at MTSU UKirk. We will have 50 pans available.



FIRST FRIDAY
2nd



FOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, April 8
9am - 12pm
College St. Drive-thru

SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- The devotional was led by Judy Gritton. John 3:16 was the focus of her presentation. The revelation of God's grace, forgiveness, and love is expressed so that we may know that all things are possible through Christ.
- The next Presbytery meeting is May 19. Please speak to one of the pastors if you would like to attend.
- Mask restrictions are now lifted; however, those who prefer to wear a mask are more than welcome to do so.
- The original New Beginnings Task Force has been dissolved. A sincerely hearty thanks to their service for the past two years in navigating the pandemic.
- We welcomed our newest member, Betsy Ledbetter.
- We will be passing the communion tray as we have in the past starting with the first Sunday in April service.
- **A Note:** The Sunday after Easter (weekend of Church Family Retreat) will only have one service and it will be at 10:15 am with Sunday School at 9:00 am for adults only. Also, during June and July there will only be one service at 10:15 & Sunday School at 9:00.
- We are looking for a Communications Coordinator. Let us know if you might be interested or know of someone that would like the job.
- The parlor, kitchen, and classrooms have been updated with LED lighting. This has resulted in brighter light and considerable savings in electricity costs.
- We thank Teri Windham for being our coordinator for Project Transformation this summer. This program is designed to help children and youth to maintain or improve their reading levels over the summer.
- Our Wednesday night suppers are now served through the serving line.
- On Sunday April 10, the UKIRK (MTSU student outreach) fundraiser will offer cinnamon rolls for \$20.
- Thank you to all who attended the annual Cake Auction. \$15,000 was raised for the assistance of our youth in attending summer programs.
- Our stewardship has put us in a strong financial position for the upcoming year. To date the pledges total \$599,000.
- We had an annual financial review by Tim Montgomery, CPA, and we passed all tests performed. The Care Team is now distributing children's books signed by the author to parents of new babies.
- The 8th grade confirmands met with the session. William Farrar, Carter Lampley, Wyatt Greer, Ellie Moore, Matthew Moscato, Amelia Fournier and Lily Hazard introduced themselves and chatted briefly with the session members.
- Our wonderful organist, Valerie Rains, will be taking a two-month leave during the months of June and July.



Feel free to tear out this calendar and hang it on the fridge/board! Want to be a part of all things FPC Youth? Just contact Rev. Bobby at bobby@mborofpc.org.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>3</p> <p>HSY6 6pm</p> <p>9th GRADE CONTRIBUTION STEVE...</p> <p>HSY6 6pm</p> <p>CFR... No Come in</p> <p>NO HSY6</p> <p>EASTERN</p> <p>Y</p> <p>No HSY6</p> | | | | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Additional handwritten notes on the calendar:

- SUN 3:** Student cabinet!
- SUN 10:** Student cabinet!
- TUE 19:** 11 grade CONTRIBUTION STUDENTS & SESSION...
- THU 14:** Thursday
Wednesday
THURSDAY
10am LEADER: KATHAROS
- FRI 22:** Good Friday
- SAT 23:** CHURCH FAM RETREAT

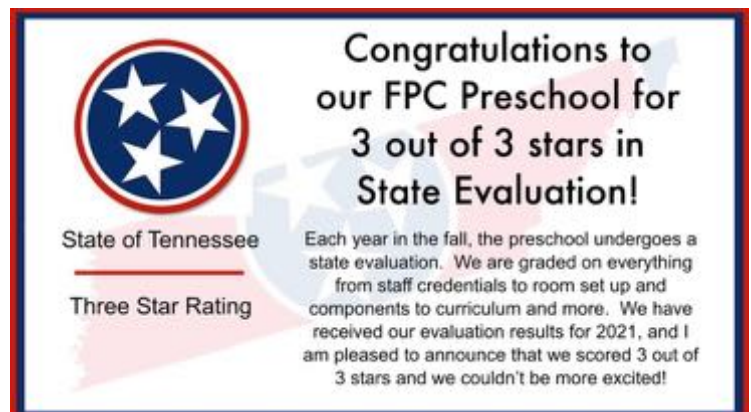


- April Sunday School Lesson Theme: *Easter/The Resurrection*
- Our Wonderful Wednesday programming continues the theme for Preschool-4th grades of "Fruits of the Spirit." Kids meet upstairs in the Sunday School wing and have lessons, crafts and games.
- Our Wonderful Wednesday theme for Tweens is "Fellowship and Fun" in the Tween Room.
- 5th & 6th Grade Faith Milestone: Passover Seder (Dinner) on April 13, 2022 here at church, time TBA.



First Presbyterian Church Preschool Registration

[Click Here](#) for an application if reading online or you may email preschool@mborofpc.org to have one sent to you. We have many openings for our 2 year old class and limited openings for our 3 year old and 4 year old classes. Please spread the word so that we can fill these spots and be ready for our 2022/23 year! Karen Winford, *Director of Preschool*





| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Joel and Amanda Paddon | April 23 |
| Glenn and Ellen Himebaugh | April 27 |
| Trey and Sarah Gwinn | April 27 |

Thank You

Once again, our February cake auction was a huge success. The VAST team wishes to thank all those who opened their kitchen, wallets and hearts to support our youth. Rev. Bobby orchestrated an impressive evening with the help of numerous hardworking volunteers; including our 20 kids who worked as servers and Chef Jessica who provided a 1st class menu. The real fun started when the auctioneer began bidding on the 25 luscious desserts. Our generous bidders, love offering and in person & online donations enabled us to raise a whopping \$15,187.222! We appreciate everyone that helped us with this event. Thank you FPC Family,

Jan LaLance, VAST Ministry Team Chair

- 1 Ryan Wendt
- 2 Janice Tyner
- 3 Reese Flanagan, Jodie Jones, Kevin Wheeler
- 4 Wade Blum
- 5 Janet Blackwelder
- 6 Sue Grubbs
- 7 Mindy Bullock, William Miller
- 8 Logan Baughman, Scott Corlew, Christian Pencek
- 10 Mary Katherine Neely, Kaitlyn Speck
- 11 Barry Shipp
- 12 Alexandra Piper
- 13 Jessamyn Hazard
- 14 Rachel Callaway, Julia Cowden, Bob Hoffman, Jay Jones, Harrison Tisdal
- 18 Sandra Hawkins, Bay McDaniel, Ellie Young
- 19 Justin Jones
- 20 Pat Eisenbeis, Thomas Lane, Bob Peterson
- 21 Dan Johnson
- 22 Kathy Daniel, Andrew Lane, Mollie Lane
- 23 Mary Hayes, Dixie Phillips
- 25 Caroline Lampley, Will Magoon, Jack Richmond
- 26 Wyatt Greer, Brett Lanning, Ron Nichols, Daniel Wendt
- 27 Lizzie Bagby, Jane Blakey, Barbara Kidwell
- 28 John Riley Farrar, Carter Lampley
- 29 Sarah White Bagby, Eric Egli
- 30 William Farrar, Mark Mogul, Rebecca Young



The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
 210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.mborofpc.org
Have an announcement for May?
 Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or
 call 893-3882 ext. 201 by April 17, 2022.

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 of Family Ministries

Rev. Bobby Harding
bobby@mborofpc.org

Parish Associate

Rev. Joyce Merritt
joyce@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
celestego98@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Lynn
charlotte@mborofpc.org

Financial Secretary

Pat Cox
patcox@mborofpc.org

Volunteer Assistant

Nelson Smotherman

PT Facilities Coordinator

Joe Rich
jrich@mborofpc.org

Part Time Custodian

James Harper
jharper@mborofpc.org



HOLY WEEK

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday, April 11 at 12PM First Baptist Church on Main | Thursday, April 14 at 12PM First Cumberland Presbyterian Church |
| Tuesday, April 12 at 12PM First Presbyterian Church with Antioch Primitive Baptist Church | Thursday, April 14 at 6:30PM First Presbyterian Church |
| Wednesday, April 13 at 12PM Central Christian Church | Friday, April 15 at 12PM St. Paul's Episcopal Church |

note: No Meals provided following services



EASTER

He Has Risen

Services

8:30 11:00

Remember our Church Family Retreat April 22-24 at NaCoMe!