



THE PROCLAMATION



GOD'S GOOD IN THIS WORLD

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

I am so grateful that God has put in my life ministers (both men and women) who over the years have provided spiritual support and even guidance in difficult times. Over this past year, I have leaned on those relationships as I have tried to navigate the burdensome waters we have been through together. I have also found myself wishing I could speak to a few of those ministers who have joined the great cloud of witnesses. One such man was Roger Kvam. Roger and I got to know each other when I ministered in Georgia. I have shared with you stories about Roger so I will spare you his bio. I will share with you that Roger was the great **Eternal** optimist. Please notice that I capitalized and bolded the word **Eternal** for I would learn, being a good Calvinist, that Roger's optimism did not come from his belief in the "goodness" of humanity. Far from it. Roger believed in God's limitless grace through Jesus Christ. Believing in such grace, Roger had a way of looking at the world believing that God was working out his good and perfect Will in this world. Often I would find myself calling Roger, sharing with him some frustration happening in the church. Roger would patiently listen, but without fail he would always ask me, "So John, what good came out of this moment?" *What good came out of this moment?*

Of course, this question needs to be answered especially as we come out of this pandemic. In frustration I could easily tell someone that nothing good came out of this pandemic. We lost a year of our lives. A year of birthdays. A year of weddings. A year of those special moments that bring meaning to our lives. Some even lost loved ones. But what kind of Christ follower would I be if I actually uttered those words? I mean after all we are believers of the resurrection. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, there is always good in this life so here is the good that I have found over this year.

- During the **Stay at Home** order, Tripp was able to come home and stay with us for three months. As a family we got to hang out, play games and every night was movie night.
- In the unknown, I found myself leaning more into my faith. Instead of trusting my wit and wisdom alone, I would always ask - "Lord - where are we going and who are we going to meet?" These questions reminded me that this truly is the day that the Lord has made.
- I had a great appreciation for the gifts our staff offers our congregation. Because of the pandemic, our staff had to reimagine how they could serve our congregation. Of course, with the ever-changing times the pandemic brought us this reimagining was something that had to be done again and again.
- I was reminded that our church is blessed with amazing Teaching and Ruling Elders. Not a day would go by that I would not hear from one of our Ruling Elders asking what he or she could do for me: a virtual washing of my feet.
- I learned that the world is not coming to an end and even if it did we are the ones who believe our God holds us close to his bosom.
- I was awakened that during the Postlude is more than just background music as we leave worship, the Postlude is our deep breath as we go out into the world. *Cont. next page*



PREACHING IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

During the summer months of June and July we will explore John's Epistles to the ancient church.

June 6

“Exploring the Letters of John:
Light and Darkness”

Psalm 48

I John 1:5-10

June 13

“Live as Jesus Did”

Psalm 20

I John 2:1-11

June 20

“Do Not Love This World”

Psalm 130

I John 2:15-17

June 27

“Remember What We Learn”

Psalm 137

I John 2:24-29

Rev. Dr. Hinkle Out

Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be getting out of town for a few days from Tuesday, June 8 – June 12. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office or contact Rev. Merritt or your caregiver.

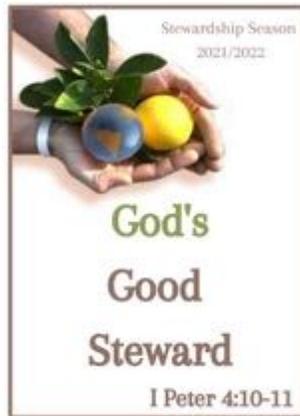
GOD'S GOOD IN THIS WORLD, *CONT.*

- I am ready for college football this coming Fall. (I just want to see if you were paying attention...)

These are just a few things that were good about this hour. As we enter this new stage of this long journey, I would encourage you to come up with your own list. How has God blessed you? Better yet, how has God called you to be a blessing in this world?

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

STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2021/2022: GOD'S GOOD STEWARD



As Stewardship Season comes to an end, we would like to thank you for making your pledges. If you have not turned in your pledge card, you still have time. You can either send an email to Pat Cox (patcox@mborofpc.org), mail it to church, or bring the pledge card with you and put it in an offering plate after church service. If you still need one, pledge cards are available at the 4 sanctuary entrances or you can contact the church office to have one mailed to you.

Despite all the challenges we have had, the church ministries continue to give, adapt, and grow in reaching out beyond our walls. You have supported our mission “*To Know Christ and Make Christ Known.*” Please continue to pray on how you can give not only financially but also your time and talents to the ministry of this church body! You are an important part of this church family and you are “*God's Good Steward*”.

Remember **1 Peter 4:10-11**, “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen!”

Thank you Rev. Dr. Hinkle, Rev. Harding, Rev. Merritt and Meredith Peck for sharing your ministries! And thank you Jim Crumley for your words during Dedication Sunday!

May the Holy Spirit lead each of you and for your family!

God bless,

Handani and Daniela Kam

FPC NEWS



Project Transformation: Our week: June 7-10 – WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Once again we will partner with other community churches to provide a transformative summer camp experience for young children and their families during June and July. Local elementary-aged children will gather in-person at the host site, *First Cumberland Presbyterian Church*, for safe, supervised, skill & spirit building fun. We and other partner churches will provide reading buddies for each child as well as funds for the materials they will use throughout the summer. Children will be onsite each day during June and July. **We will provide reading volunteers for June 7-10.** Even though children will be meeting at the Host Church site (in small and safe groups) for their many activities, **reading with buddies will be done via an internet program called “Book Nook.”** We need 8 volunteers each day from 9:45-12:15 Monday through Thursday for our week. These volunteers will read with their child and do guided activities through this online platform. Volunteers will need access to a computer with stable Internet service from their home (or from another appropriate location with internet and computer access.) Volunteers should be ages 16 or up. 18 years-old and up will need to have a recent background check. (We will handle that once you sign up as a volunteer.) There will be additional opportunities to volunteer by providing lunch foods for lunches to the young adult interns that operate the camp. You can email Pastor Joyce for details on how to sign up as a reading volunteer. Joyce@mborofpc.org And please check out the link below for Project Transformation details, and practice reading sessions. Thanks for being a part of the transforming power of God’s love! Want to learn more? Click on the link or visit the web address on your device: <https://projecttransformation.org/tennessee/how-it->

Gifts and Talents Art Auction: July 28

Local various art pieces of many genres will be live auctioned following a delicious meal here at FPC. Local craft pieces will be available for purchase via a silent auction that will be open throughout the event. Our very own First Presbyterian Children will paint and decorate water bottle “koozies” which you can buy to insulate your cool, refreshing, bottles of “Still Water.” All Proceeds will benefit *Still Waters Family Ministries* to provide stable childcare funding for single parents who are simultaneously working, caring for their children, and attending classes to move forward to full and secure lives.

Wedding

We give thanks for the wedding of Michael Head and Madeline Lester which will take place on Saturday, June 26. The sanctuary is reserved from Friday, June 25-June 26 and the Common Room reserved June 24 – June 26.



The Session has approved 2 Capital renovation projects:

1. Replacement of Common Room lights with LED lighting. New breaker boxes and outlets to eliminate power outages during major events such as chili cookoff.
2. Renovation of 4 bathrooms -- outside church offices and kitchen hallway.

Please be patient with the mess as we seek to complete these major projects as quickly as possible. Please use the downstairs bathrooms between the Cellar and Harrison Hall. The nursery will be available for diaper changes. Thank you.



First Presbyterian Church Preschool

WE STILL HAVE SPOTS OPEN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR! First Presbyterian Preschool is ready for your children in 2021/2022! Call 615-893-4760 or email: preschool@mborofpc.org. Thank you, Karen Winford, Director of Preschool



CHURCH FAMILY WALKS

Saturday morning walks are a great way to stay connected, see old friends and make new ones! Every Saturday we meet at 10:00 am at the Stones River Battlefield Welcome Center for a 30-minute or so walk (dogs welcome). All ages are encouraged to come out for this fun time together! Contact the church office or Dave Davis with questions.

SESSION NOTES BY GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- Reverend Hinkle conducted our meeting in the sanctuary on May 18, 2021.
- Active cases of the Covid-19 virus have dropped to 300 per day from the high of 3500 per day in December 2020, so the New Beginnings Task Force has recommended to the session to begin resuming all activities as soon as feasible.
- Sarah Gwinn led our devotion based on Romans 5: 3-5, which reminds us that tribulation produces perseverance, and that produces character, and that results in hope. The Love of God has been poured into our hearts so we can be more like Christ, which gives us the perseverance, and hope to face the future.
- It was noted that Tom and Carol White, and Ray and Leone Broadhead have moved away.
- We are still looking for a Communications Coordinator to be in place by the first week in August. If you have any suggestions, please see Suma Clark, Steve Mitchell or one of the pastors.
- The new program we have started to pair our current members with new members to assist them in transitioning into our church family is working well.

The latest new members are:

Matt Hibdon: *Paul & Margaret Lane*

Jim & Lana Lemons: *Bill & Marilyn Patterson*

Michael Head & Madeline Lester: *Trey & Sarah Gwinn*

Ed & Helen Zelan: *John & Patsy Moss*

Diarmuid & Anne O'Hara: *Jim & Rebecca Cross*

Rick & Melanie Watson: *Chet & Janet Logan*

- If you are interested in being a connector for a new member, please contact Bob Potter, Andy Peck, Ellen Himebaugh, or one of the pastors.

- We are looking forward to a fundraising BBQ and auction on July 28, 2021 to help single mothers in the Still Waters Ministry to pay for childcare while they are at work.
- At the Indian Reservation at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, the Makasan Presbyterian church had a theft of their washer and dryer. We will be sending them a Home Depot Gift Card for \$2000 for replacement.
- We are looking to resume our Wonderful Wednesday evening fellowship on September 8.
- Pickle Ball will be resuming on Thursdays from 6 - 8 pm.
- Elite Landscaping Company is doing nice work for our property and we will continue our contracting with them.
- There are cracks in the walls between rooms C and D which are being considered for repair. John Moss will be replacing the 6 window wells. Restroom remodeling will begin soon.
- Vacation Bible School will be on July 30 at the Heusinkveld farm for all ages.
- 70 persons attended our annual church family retreat at NaCoMe.
- The Cellar (space under the sanctuary) is being upgraded with new carpet thanks to the donation by City Tile.
- In the absence of Reverend Harding on his sabbatical leave, Bill Brasch and Tracy Webb will be continuing the leadership of the various youth programs.
- Quite a few pledges are still out. A budget for the next fiscal year is in the process. Programs and mission work will be cut or expanded based on our pledges.
- Six meals and one bereavement meal were coordinated this past month. Prayer Shawls, online prayers, and floral delivery to shut-ins are continuing as they have during the pandemic.



Class of  **2021**
You did it!  **CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS**

Gracie Brasch
 Courtney Joyner
 Isaiah Kam
 Caroline Leonard
 Roberto Lugos
 Thomas Nance

Welcome Summer Party!
 Rising 7th Grade - Class of 2021

Wed. June 2nd 6pm-7:30pm

Stello Summer

Pizza! Games!



FPC Youth Swim Party!

JUNE 27 2:00-5:30 PM
AT THE STEELE HOME



Stay Tuned for news about more events we will have this summer!

Youth Sunday School All Summer in the Cellar!

Sundays 9:30 am



Dear FPC Family,

Despite everything, we've had another great school year at UKirk! Hard to believe it's already come to an end for most of our students as a refresh is certainly needed. We are hopeful to return in fall to retreats, Montreat and other normal activities!

Maybe even some of those delicious home cooked Thursday night meals our students miss so much! Our students, the UKirk (PSF) Board, and I are so appreciative of the love FPC has shown us this year! The students were especially appreciative of the care packages FPC Fellowship sent for finals week!

Rev. Micah Watson
 UKirk MTSU (PSF @ MTSU) Cell: 615-692-2742
ukirk.mtsu@gmail.com <http://www.ukirkmtsu.com>





• June Lesson: Daniel and the Lion's Den & Jonah and the Whale

• Sunday School Assembly is back! We will all meet in the Assembly Room at 9:30 each week to begin Sunday School with singing and fellowship. It's great to be back.

• **SAVE THE DATE!** Family Vacation Bible School will be on Friday, July 30th at the Heusinkveld Farm from 5:30-7:30 pm! Be on the lookout for more details coming soon.



Where is Rev. Bobby?

June 1 — Making our way to Michigan
 June 6-11 Manistee MI
 June 11-16 Leelanua Peninsula, MI
 June 21-25 Chicago, IL
 June 25-28 Grand Rapids, MI
 June 29 — Making our way to Maine
 June 29 July 1 Buffalo, NY

DR. OF MINISTRY NEWS FROM REV. BOBBY

What's Bobby Reading?

- *The Urban Church Imagined: Religion, Race, and Authenticity in the City*
- *New Monasticism and the Transformation of American Evangelicalism*
- *Being Human: Race, Culture, and Religion*
- *A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church*

Looking back, here's what Bobby read in the month of May...

- *Slim's Table: Race, Respectability, and Masculinity*
- *Explorations in Ecclesiology and Ethnography*
- *Churches, Cultures and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of **First Presbyterian Church** 210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN 37130 www.mborofpc.org

Have a July announcement? Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or call 893-3882 ext. 201 by June 18, 2021.

JUNE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Angelina Hulett, John Murphy |
| 3 | Tommy Nance, Berthe Tesi |
| 4 | Joseph Anderson, Ruth Bouldin, Lindsey Jennings, Chuck Ramsay |
| 7 | Carol Egles, Rebecca Layman |
| 8 | Fletcher Brandon, Anna Paddon, Sandy Workman |
| 12 | Margaret Lane, Josh Merritt, Wesley Nance |
| 13 | Jonathan Swenson, Susan Wilson |
| 14 | Joe Bales |
| 15 | Doug Daniel |
| 16 | Valerie Bales, Susan Couch, Addie Gray, Jovie Harding, Jay Smith |
| 17 | Zach Tyner |
| 18 | Debbie Crumley, Marilyn Patterson, William Patterson |
| 19 | Kenny Jones |
| 20 | Courtney Joyner, Roy Lugos |
| 21 | Kathy Callaway, Cindy Prescher |
| 22 | Madeline Green, Mark Green, Reese Hines, Robb McDaniel |
| 23 | Rachel Follis, Rick Prescher |
| 25 | Chris Jackson, Mary Martin |
| 26 | Becky Elrod, Adam Webb |
| 29 | Caroline Layman, Sandy Wheeler |
| 30 | Amy Farrar, Reecely Young |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Marshall & Meredith Baughman | June 2 |
| Rick & Melanie Watson | June 3 |
| Steve & Sarah White Bagby | June 5 |
| Bob & Nancy Hoffman | June 7 |
| Jim & Susan Daniel | June 8 |
| Bill & Marilyn Patterson | June 9 |
| Matthew & Lauren Brandon | June 9 |
| Timothy & Joyce Merritt | June 11 |
| Bernie & Susan Steen | June 11 |
| Bob & Jean Potter | June 12 |
| Harrison & Kesha Tisdal | June 14 |
| Chris & Watson Harris | June 16 |
| Stacy & Tracy Webb | June 17 |
| Dan & Martha Johnson | June 18 |
| Terry & Allison Panter | June 20 |
| Rick & Cindy Prescher | June 21 |
| David & Sue Grubbs | June 24 |
| Bart & Lee Ann Walker | June 24 |
| Ed & Helen Zelan | June 26 |
| Ray & Leone Broadhead | June 30 |

NEWS FROM FORMER PASTOR, REV. DR. BILL SMITH

William S. Smith's just published book, *The End of Evil: The Triumph of Christ*, is available through Amazon. The subject of the book is "apocalyptic eschatology." We sing "apocalyptic eschatology" every time we sing Luther's great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." In this hymn, Christ is the Savior not from sin, but from the evil that pervades all creation. The 202-page book retails for \$19.95. Dr. Smith, now retired in Jackson, MS, was pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1981 – 1993.

thank you

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for all the support I received during my recent illness—so many beautiful cards with special notes, the delicious meals, the visits, rides to various appointments, calls and emails. A special thanks to the Prayer Shawl ministry for the beautiful shawl. I truly feel the love and prayers when I wrap it around me. Each act of love and kindness meant so much. It is so good to be getting out and seeing everyone again. God bless each of you. — Laura Harbour

thank you

Dear FPC Family,

Thank you so very much to the ladies of our church for the food and to all church family for the cards, prayer, calls and concern you showed our family during this time. Our family wants you to know how much we appreciated your care. — Ann Nunley

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

210 NORTH SPRING STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130



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PERMIT #198



Summer always means our food-provision ministries need more donations as the need increases greatly while children are not in school. Please join us for our First Friday Food Drive on Friday, June 4 from 9am-12pm. Just drive through our College St. portico with your donations and a helpful volunteer will take them straight from your vehicle for you! We especially need easy to open and prepare non-perishable foods. Please make sure all food donations are in-date. All donations will be taken to Greenhouse Ministries and Nourish Food Bank.

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