



THE PROCLAMATION



I AM THANKFUL REV. DR. JOHN A. HINKLE, JR., SENIOR PASTOR

I am not going to start this article by saying, ‘How is it November?’ because looking back on past *The Proclamation* issues I tend to start every article this time of year by asking, ‘How is it November?’ But, it does make you wonder. I am sure by now you know this is my “I am thankful...” message as I reflect on the year that was and I count my blessings because, after all, November 25 is when we observe an official Day of Thanksgiving. Before I tell you what I am thankful for, let me state the obvious: this has been another difficult year. Actually, 2021 for me was worse than 2020. At the end of 2020, I was hopeful with the encouragement of a promising vaccine. With the first of 2021, it seemed like as numbers were going down that Covid was coming to an end, only to see it come roaring back. Despite everything I have experienced personally and pastorally, I would be disappointed in myself if I could not count the blessings that I receive from the very hand of God. So, every morning when I put my feet on the floor, and every night when I put my head on the pillow, I am so very thankful.

I am thankful for Leila. I am thankful and amazed. Every morning she gets up and walks into her classroom to teach, even in the midst of Covid. Masked... unmasked - it does not matter, she was born to be a teacher, and there is nothing that gets her going like when a child finally gets “it” - whatever “it” might be. I am thankful for Tripp, who is no longer my little boy but a man. I am thankful for him that his educational journey is almost over, and this time next year, Leila and I will be heading to Auburn to watch him don his doctoral gown and hood. I am thankful for my mother, and even though every time I am with her I slowly watch her memory slip away... she still calls me Johnny, and she knows that she loves me.

I am thankful for this community I call home. Sometimes I find it hard to believe we have lived here for 12 years. The only place I have lived longer is growing up in Dalton. I am thankful that Leila and I moved downtown (Okay, Trey Gwinn - the University District.) I just love walking to The Boulevard restaurant for dinner, walking to the church on Saturday to go over my sermon, or walking the dogs around the square and back. I am thankful for the relationships we have made here. Drawing closer to this congregation, there are days when it feels like I have known you forever. I am especially thankful that you have walked with me over these past two years. I could not have walked this road alone.

I am thankful for SEC football. I am thankful for the Braves winning the World Series (please God, let the Braves win the World Series). I am thankful for great documentaries and funny movies. I am thankful to Eugene Peterson for giving me *The Message*. I am thankful for a doctor who was born in North Dakota. Finally, I am thankful that God loved me so much that he gave me his one and only Son and because we believe in Him, we have life and life eternal, and I am especially thankful that he sent his Son not to condemn us... but to save us.

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



November 7

All Saints' Sunday

“Going to the Chapel”

Psalm 127

Revelation 21:1-8

November 14

“Where Will You Sit?”

Psalm 16

Mark 10:35-45

November 21

Christ the King Sunday

“King Not of This World”

Psalm 93

John 18:28-38

November 28

1st Sunday of Advent

“More Than a Holiday”

Psalm 25

Luke 2:41-52

Our Advent sermon series this year is called, “*More Than a Holiday.*” As a congregation, we going to learn that Christmas is much more than a holiday. Christmas is the celebration of God becoming a man, the incarnation, but more importantly we will ask how should God’s incarnation and Jesus’ humanity change and affect our everyday lives? That’s the question that we’re going to consider this Christmas season. The days of Christmas are more than a holiday. The days of Christmas are holy days.



TASK FORCE UPDATES

Please note the following changes from the meetings of our 2 Task Forces and Session:

Worship:

- At the 8:30 service the balcony will be open for the unmasked.
- 11am service add the singing of two hymns.

Christian Education:

- All Adult classes will return to their classrooms. If the teacher is comfortable, members may remove masks once seated
- Children will go back to their classrooms. Children will remain masked until guidelines change in the Rutherford County Schools

Wonderful Wednesday:

- We will keep our schedule as planned in August with our last Wonderful Wednesday being November 10
- Fellowship will plan for Wonderful Wednesday indoors for January (with a start date of the 19th)

Use of Property:

- Church groups may use our building (under our guidelines) coordinated through Charlotte.
- Outside groups (non-profits) have use of our property (under our guidelines) coordinated through Charlotte.

ALL SAINTS' OFFERING: NOVEMBER 7

Sunday, November 7 First Presbyterian Church will collect our annual All Saints' Offering during worship. The All Saints' Offering will go to the Legacy Fund to support both ongoing mission and ministry as well as future capital improvements of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for continuing to plant seeds for our future missional endeavors for years to come.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING AND ON NOVEMBER 26TH DUE TO STAFF VACATION.



Rev. Dr. Hinkle will be out of town the week of Thanksgiving, November 23-27, visiting family in LA (Lower Alabama). If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Harding, Rev. Merritt, your caregiver or call the church office at 615-893-3882, ext. 201.

Online Christmas Mission Giving Catalog

SAVE THE DATES! First 2 weeks of December – more info coming soon



While we will still be unable to have our traditional Fair Trade Shopping Event as we have in the past, we will still be able to offer some great shopping opportunities to shop for lovely and unique Christmas gifts, enjoy some special discounts, and help local & international missions and ministries. More information will be coming soon on the ministries available, how to shop on our website and even some personal shopping appointments! Stay tuned for more info coming soon.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has tentatively called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 14 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service to hear and act on a report from the Ruling Elder Nomination Committee. The names of those being nominated will be listed on Sunday, November 7.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias are available to order in memory or in honor from Nov 1 - 28 by contacting the Church Office: charlotte@mborofpc.org OR call 615-893-3882, ext. 201.

Poinsettias are \$20 per plant and will be in the sanctuary Sunday, December 12.

Join us for 'The Good Walk'
Church Family Walks
(child & dog friendly)

Saturdays
10am
Stones River
Battlefield
Visitors
Center



TITHES & OFFERINGS

worship through giving

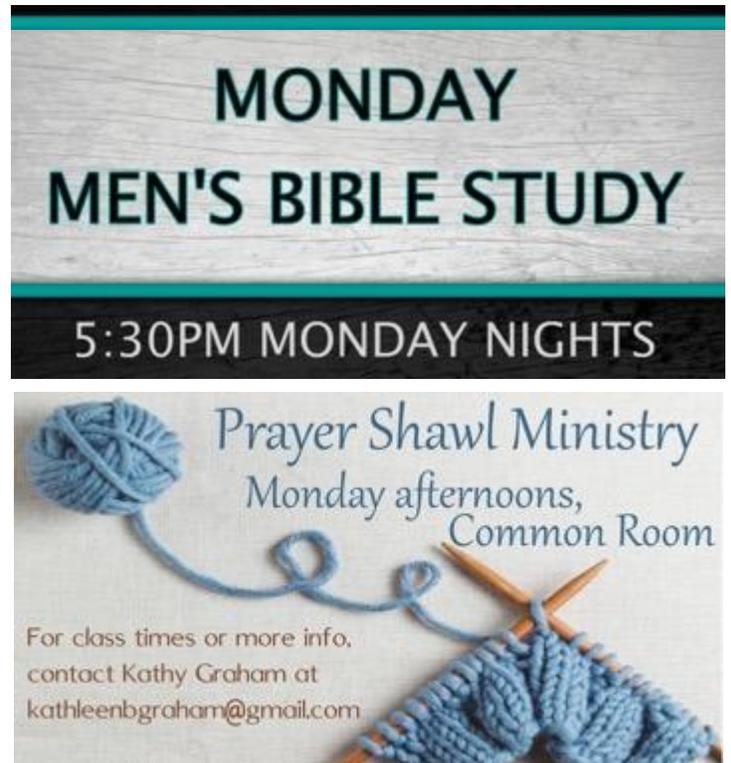
In Person: place in offering plate at entrances

Online: <https://www.mborofpc.org/give>

Text: Text to 73256. Enter 'mborofpc' in the message box.

By Mail: First Presbyterian Church
210 N. Spring St. • Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Thank you for supporting the missions and ministries of FPC.

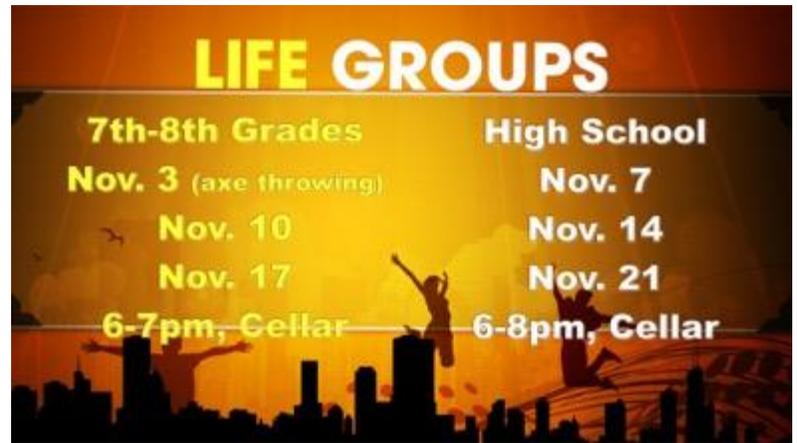


NOTES FROM SESSION

BY: GLEN EMERY, CLERK OF SESSION

- We met in the sanctuary seated by teams at designated distances.
- Patsy Coleman led our devotion by introducing us to a song from the Pink Martini band called "Hang on Little Tomato". When you are sad and blue, and feeling all alone... listen to the Lord in your prayers and your day will be sunny.
- Based on recommendations from the new emergence task force, these events and programs will operate as follows:
 1. 8:30 Sunday service: mask downstairs, no mask in the balcony. 11:00 Sunday service: no mask downstairs, mask in balcony.
 2. Adult Sunday schools to return to their classrooms.
 3. Wednesday night supper and programs to continue.
 4. Our building to reopen to member and non-member activities.
- It was noted that Ben Hornsby has moved to Honduras to get married. Victoria Couch McHughes has moved also.
- There is a leak in the roof over the sanctuary and one near the kitchen. We are getting quotes for the repair.
- We are also getting quotes to change over to LED lighting. You are invited to look at the new remodeled restrooms, which was supervised by Jim Crumley. Brent Dacus will be assisting to convert our Internet to fiber optics.
- Meredith Peck, our Director of Children's Ministry has been doing a great job assisting Reverend Harding with implementing the Faith Milestones for our young people. Our youth programs continue to be vibrant due to their dedication.
- Financially we are pleased with the continued support of our members. We are able to meet our commitments and thank all the generous givers.
- Jeff and Amy Farrar are partnering with our new members: William Lea and Family and Cindy Prescher is connecting with new member Ann Lehue.
- On a tab on our website one will be able to purchase gift items from 10,000 Villages, Appalachian Ministries, and other mission partners starting later in November once the dates are announced and live on our website.
- The Care Ministry continues its work with making prayer shawls, coordinating meals and taking flowers from the Sunday services to those who don't get out much.

FPC
YOUTH



Dear FPC family!

October has been an absolute blast at UKirk! We kicked off the month with Karaoke on the back porch! We discovered one or two hidden talents and banned a couple others from ever singing again. I'm kidding. When I tried to wrap up the event around two hours in with "Closing Time" from the group, Semisonic, I discovered this generation of students; 1. Isn't very familiar with the song. 2. Being unfamiliar with the song, they don't acknowledge it as the universal "final song" like some of us 30-40 year olds do. We kept singing for at least another hour... We've had some great Thursday nights this month as well! Drive by the UKirk house after Thursday Oct. 23rd and you will see an assortment of painted pumpkins lining the front flower beds! Another big highlight was getting to take several students to Crystal Springs Church Camp for Fall Retreat! Lots of great conversations were had, games were played, rest was taken, and all enjoyed our time away.

Blessings,

Rev. Micah Watson

UKirk MTSU

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- Sunday School Lesson Theme: *Amazing Animals in the Bible*
- Just a reminder – we have moved back upstairs to the Sunday School wing and will begin in the Assembly Room as usual!

- Wonderful Wednesdays: Our last two Wonderful Wednesdays will be November 3rd and 10th. We will be wrapping up our lessons on the Armor of God. You don't want to miss our last night, when we will have an Armor of God "Minute to Win It" Game Night!!

🍁 November Memory Verse 🍁

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:00 PM COMMON ROOM

FINAL NIGHT OF WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

November Mission Project: Laundry Detergent Drive

We are collecting detergent for the families of Still Waters Ministry and Doors of Hope. Bring your donations to the Children's Sunday School wing upstairs or by the church office.



During November we will be collecting laundry detergent for the families of Still Waters Ministries and Doors of Hope. We will be collecting donations upstairs in the Sunday School wing. We have been given so much and we encourage our children to be thankful and give to others during this season of Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten Faith Milestone

An Invitation to
Generosity

November 7
Sunday School Hour



1st Grade Faith Milestone:

The Sacraments

Sunday, November 21 at 9:40 am

For students and their parents. Meet in Sanctuary.



4- Nov	Joyce Merritt
6- Nov	Lang McDaniel, Waverly Peck
7- Nov	Jim Crumley, Lydia Doyle
8- Nov	Annette Heusinkveld, Hollis Hulett, Paul Lane
9- Nov	Jean Potter
10- Nov	Matthew Neal, Roy Paterik
14- Nov	Nancy Ammerman, Fort Gwinn
15- Nov	Bruce Bailey, David Grubbs, Lily Hazard
16- Nov	Dick LaLance, Parker Steen, Vicki Wendt
17- Nov	Dicken Kidwell
18- Nov	Adalyn Gritton, Lucas Moscato
19- Nov	Brad Richmond, Maria Webb
20- Nov	Laura Beth Bergsieker, Ross Hopkins, John Saar
22- Nov	Bill Patterson
23- Nov	Ellie Moore, Reba Pinner
24- Nov	Bill Richmond, Chip Steen, Aubrey Turner
25- Nov	Hannah Blaylock, Diane Parker, Tom Tyner, Tracy Webb
26- Nov	Lynn Clayton, John Doyle, Pam Kious
27- Nov	Jackson Lannom
28- Nov	Ellen Himebaugh
29- Nov	Sharon Parente, Dylan Pencek, Jack Pencek
30- Nov	Kristi Baughman

The Proclamation is a monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church

210 N. Spring Street Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.mborofpc.org

Have an announcement for December?

Submit it to Charlotte at charlotte@mborofpc.org or
call 893-3882 ext. 201 by Thursday, November 18.



Joseph & Emily Anderson	November 7
Earl & Sue Pond	November 7
Marty & Wendy White	November 7
Eric & Nena Egli	November 9
Travis & Hope Emore	November 16
Bill & Martha Richmond	November 19
Rod & Rae Pencek	November 22
Barry & Melanie Shipp	November 28



On behalf of our Project Transformation young people, we thank First Presbyterian Church for your partnership and support of Project Transformation's ministry through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Despite many challenges this year we also have many reasons to celebrate:

- 52 college age interns who grew in their service and faith
- 282 children were loved and served in body, mind and spirit. 87% maintained or improved reading levels.
- Over 450 volunteers invested over 2,260 hours.

Thank you again for your partnership in ministry. Your giving supports our mission to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults and churches in purposeful relationships. Together, we are building relationships that witness God's extravagant love for our community.

This is an excerpt from a full-length letter sent by Courtney Lawson, Executive Director and Taylor Davenport Hudson, Director of Communications & Volunteer Engagement

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PERMIT #198

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Our final 2 regular meals/classes for the season will be November 3 and 10. RSVP survey links are sent on Thursdays but you may contact Charlotte in the church office to place a reservation also:

charlotte@mborofpc.org or 615-893-3882, ext. 201. We will have classes both evenings at 6:00 for adults and kids. Middle school students will have a special event on Nov 3 and our kids will have a special Minute to Win It night on Nov 10.

***Nov. 3:** Chicken Pot Pie, Broccoli, Roll, Dessert

***Nov. 10:** Pot Roast, Salad, Roll, Dessert

*** All Menus subject to change due to availability**



We will have 2 great Drive-By events for you on November 17 and December 1 from 5-6pm by RSVP:

***Nov. 17:** We will have 2 breakfast casserole options that will serve 4 and are suitable for freezing – a Western style with meat and a spinach tomato vegetarian option. Casseroles will be \$20 each and any donations will be given to the Board of Pensions for PC(USA) (our traditional Joy Gift Offering recipient).

***Dec. 1:** Joy Gift Dinner Drive By: Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Roll, Spice Cake, Free of charge but reservations required. All proceeds given to PC(USA) Board of Pensions Fund.