



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

The asterisk () invites all to rise in body or spirit.*

*The people's responses are in **bold type**. Please silence cell phones.*

Today, we continue our walk in and celebration of Epiphany — the revealing of Christ to the world. Just as the Magi followed the light of a star to find the newborn King, we are called to follow the light of Christ in our own lives. Epiphany reminds us that God's love is not limited to one people or place, but shines for all nations. May this season inspire us to seek, recognize, and share the presence of Christ in our midst.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

John Johns, guitar

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us gather together and sing praises unto the Lord!

Let us rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us gather together into God's house with thanksgiving,

Placing our hearts and lives into the service of our Lord.

Let our voices declare the wonders and mercy of God! Together, let us pray.

O God, you are our rock, the source of our strength; you are the fountainhead from which flow living waters. When our souls' thirst after righteousness, your justice sustains us; when we need encouragement, we behold your power and glory. We raise our voices in the company of believers and call on your name. Fill us now with your Holy Spirit and nourish us by your presence.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God!

*HYMN 838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Rev. Stephanie Sorge, Presbyterian Outlook January 18, 2026)

Saving God, we confess that we have not waited patiently for you. We prefer to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions, and our strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings than to offer our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE – “*Let thy face shine...*”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 583

GLORIA (TAIZÉ)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia! (REPEAT)

*THE READING OF THE LAW

Let us now remember the standard by which God calls us to live.

“God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s home; you shall not covet your neighbor’s spouse, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Blessed are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Anne Keener

Children of all ages are invited to come forward. Nursery (0-3) and Children’s Worship (ages 4 to K) information is on the back of the bulletin.

CHORAL RESPONSE – “*Your Word is a lamp...*”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (Pew Bible, p. 926)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Grace First

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

(VERSE One—Solo; Two—Choir; Three through Five—All)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

STORIES OF BELONGING

Mission

Cathy McCall

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND LIVES

*Fold and place your completed "Connection Card" in the plate offering.
To give online, scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

John Johns, guitar

*DOXOLOGY 606

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures, here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN REFLECTION / POSTLUDE

*RINGING OF THE CARILLON

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Michael Snoddy, Director of Music & Organist

The Chancel Choir

Bruce Jones, Liturgist

Lynlee Nichols, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and
in memory of my mom, Gloria Creeden's 100th birthday by Karen Hanson.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Eric Lache

Ruthie Moulton

Deaths:

Jean Acklin's brother, Dale Prouty, December 26, 2025

Members:

Ted Bechtel
Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Jeff Doering
Carolyn Hayes
Caleb Lillard
Anne Osborne
Tom Wilson

Assisted Living/Homebound:

Derrell and Tee Billingsley- home
Ann Brown- The Lantern, Spring Hill
Joan Hetherington- home
Marilyn Miller- The Heritage
Nancy Morris- Somerby
Opal Plumley- The Heritage
Jane Stafford- Willow Springs, Spring Hill
Betty Willoughby- home

In Memory:

Bill Watson	January 18, 2006
Don Savage	January 18, 2024
Robbie Woodall	January 19, 2016
Jeff Combos	January 20, 2001
Jeraldyne Reed	January 22, 2021
Thelma Byrd	January 23, 2022
William Morgan	January 24, 2002
Becky Hofstetter	January 24, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music in Worship: TODAY'S Musical Guest—Please welcome John Johns as he shares his musical gifts with us today. **Spring Rehearsals**—Carillon Handbells: WED evenings (5:00 PM) – Chancel Choir: WED evenings (6:45 PM) “Cookie Caravan”—Join the choirs for the caravan during our FEB 8 Potluck (following worship).

Wednesday Night Live (WNL): 6 PM- Dinner; 6:45-7:30 PM- Adult, Youth, and Children programs. Sign up on the FPC website or the Connection Card. This week, we'll hear from Davis House (Child Advocacy Center).

Pizza and Trivia Night: Saturday, January 24 at 5:30 PM. Sign up on the website. All are invited!

Are you interested in learning more about FPC? Come to the Inquirer Gathering on **Sunday, January 25**, at 9 AM in the Parlor.

Upcoming WNL Series: FPC invites the congregation and community to a three-week Wednesday evening series, *My Faith as a Muslim in America*, beginning **January 28** and held in the sanctuary from 6:30–7:30 PM. The series features Samar Ali, Vanderbilt University Professor of Political Science and Law, and founder of the nonprofit Millions of Conversations, who will share her personal story and offer insight into Islam and the lived experience of Muslims in America. All are welcome to learn, listen, and engage in a spirit of respect and curiosity.

Adults 55+: Join us on **Friday, January 30** at 11 AM in Barr Conference Room for a presentation on storytelling—what it is, why it matters, and how to tell a great story. Bring your own lunch and come connect with others.

FISH Event: Join us **Saturday, January 31**, at 9 AM in Wilson Hall to assemble snack bags that help keep our neighbors nourished. These bags support Room In The Inn, our partners at MNPD, and the Metro Extreme Cold Weather Overflow Shelter.

Scout Sunday: **February 1**, we will recognize Scouts and leaders.

Youth Sunday: February 8, the youth will be leading worship for us.

Winter Potluck: Join us Sunday, February 8, following the worship service. Bring a main dish, side, or salad to share. It can be homemade or store-bought.

Worship Flowers: Honor or remember loved ones by donating worship flowers in their name. Many 2026 dates are available. Cost is \$100. Flowers enhance worship and are shared with members as a sign of care. Sign up on the FPC Events page.

Adult Sunday School Classes: Join us Sundays at 9:00 AM.

The Bible Class, Room 207- **New** DVD Study: *The Story of the Bible*, led by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson

Christian Faith & Life Class, Room 206- **New** Book Study: *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption: Wisdom from James, Peter, John, and Jude* by Brandon D. Crowe.

Exploration Class, Room 209- **New** Book Study: *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed The World* by Adam Hamilton (HYBRID ON ZOOM)

Feasting on the Word, Room 210- In-depth study of the weekly lectionary scripture

Living Faith Class, Room 208- Video format that allows for thoughtful consideration and discussion. (HYBRID ON ZOOM)

Keeping Current as a Christian, Room 213- Current Events Topics

Use the QR code to visit the Events/Registrations page.



Responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service.

Our purpose is to joyfully follow Christ and respond to God's grace as an inclusive, multigenerational faith community by:

- Deepening discipleship through relevant worship and life-long learning
- Creating and nurturing congregational relationships
- Transforming lives and connecting with others through service

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to all who are here today. Whether you are from our community or visiting, we are glad to have you among us.

We strive to be inclusive and offer assistance for those with disabilities.

T-Coil hearing devices are available from members of the Hospitality Team. We have pew cutouts for accessibility and offer sensory nurturing items for children. If anyone has other needs or disabilities that require assistance or accommodation for any church activity, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 615-794-5114.

Our Nursery is available for infants and children through 3 years old downstairs in Room 111. Children of all ages are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

Children's Worship is available for children ages 4 through kindergarten in Room 101 following Time with the Young Church. Those attending will be returned to the sanctuary before the end of the service. For accommodations and more information, please contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

Prayer requests to share concerns or celebrations may be sent to Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

THE SESSION

Class of 2026

Leanne Hoeffler
John Korab
Tammy Love
Starr Nolan
Phillip Otts

Class of 2027

Greg Bennorth
Dan Crunk
Sarah Fox
Martha Johnson
Jim Petersen

Class of 2028

Judi Arnold
Rick Blackburn
Rich Crim
Tony Inglis
Rachael Stanfill

THE CHURCH STAFF

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Dir. of Music/Organist
Sam Belcher, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Catherine Olson, Dir. of Operations

Marie Hayman, Accountant
Kate Lasseter, Nursery Coordinator
Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinator
Linda Cairatti, Nursery Staff

First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, the Synod of Living Waters, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

615.794.5114 | fpcfranklin.org

Church Office Hours M-Th 9 AM-4 PM

Scan the QR code to the right to make an online donation.
Thank you for your generosity!

