



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

**3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 25, 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.*

Ordinary Time refers to the periods in the Church calendar outside of other major seasons. It is a time when the emphasis is on our development as disciples of Jesus Christ as we live out the implications of the gospel in our time. The color is green, symbolizing growth.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL TEACHING MOMENT – Hymn 544 *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Siblings in Christ, we gather in the name of the One who has called us together: not in division, but in unity; not in rivalry, but in grace; not in our own strength, but in Christ's cross-shaped love.

We come as one body, seeking the mind of Christ.

Some of us come burdened, longing for rest. Some come rejoicing, eager to praise. Some come confused, searching for wisdom. Yet all of us come because Christ has called us.

We come, trusting that God will meet us here.

Together, let us pray.

God of unity and truth, make us one in heart, one in mind, and one in Spirit. Forgive us whenever we divide ourselves by opinion, by preference, or by pride. Help us remember that we belong not to ourselves but to Jesus Christ, who has claimed us in love. Set before us the cross, not as a stumbling block, but as a sign of salvation, hope, and reconciliation. Shape us into a community that reflects your grace for the sake of the world you so love.

People of God, hear the good news:

Christ is not divided, and neither are we abandoned. The One who calls us is faithful.

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

***HYMN 667**

When Morning Guilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have called us to be one body in Christ, yet we confess that we often live divided lives. We cling to our own opinions and preferences. We elevate our voices over others and fail to listen with humility and love. You invite us to gather around the cross, but we are tempted by lesser things: by power, by comfort, and by the desire to be right. We forget that it is Christ who claims us and not our arguments or achievements.

Forgive us for the walls we build, for the grudges we carry, and for the ways we turn from one another and from you. By your Spirit, make us one: united in mind and purpose, not through uniformity, but through the shared love of Jesus Christ. Let the message of the cross reshape us for service, humility, and joy.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE *(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)*

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)

*SUMMARY OF THE LAW

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

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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 Cor.1:10-17 (Pew Bible, p.926)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Divisions

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN 544

Bless the Lord

BLESS THE LORD

*(This hymn will be sung, as directed, by the soloist.
This text will form the REFRAIN for two solo verses.)*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

Growth Groups

Jim and Mary Bryan

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

Adam Troxler, flute

***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 450**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***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 – Adam Troxler, instrumentalist
Susan Burns, Liturgist
Charlie Stevens, Acolyte

PRAYER LIST

New:

Elise Lasseter
Jane Stafford
Benny Williams
Eric Lache
Ruthie Moulton
Diane Fender's mother, Sherry Edwards

Deaths:

Jean Acklin's brother, Dale Prouty, 12/26/25

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:

Anne Rutherford January 26, 2025
Lucinda Sandlin January 29, 2001

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music in Worship: TODAY'S Musical Guest—Please welcome Adam Troxler 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. 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 11:00 AM in Barr Conference Room for a presentation on storytelling-what it is, why it matters, and how to tell a great story. Enjoy video clips of outstanding storytellers and time together in fellowship. Bring your own lunch and come connect with others. Sign up on the FPC website.

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.

Lenten Growth Groups: See the back of the Connection Card for all the details and prayerfully consider joining a Growth Group. They will meet for 7 weeks, beginning the week of February 15, to discuss *The Hope of Glory* by Jon Meacham. Books are available for \$18 in the church office or on Kindle. Sign up on the FPC website or on the Connection Card by **February 1**.

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.

Basic Essentials Collection: Donations of new or gently used small blankets and XXL Large & up Basic Men's & Women's Winter Coats may be placed in the Basic Essentials Cart just outside the Sanctuary to help support neighbors without a home during these cold winter nights.

Worship Flowers: Honor or remember loved ones by donating worship flowers in their name. Flowers enhance worship and are shared with members as a sign of care. The cost is \$100 and signups are on the FPC Events webpage. Upcoming available dates include February 15 & 22 and March 1 & 15.

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	Marie Hayman, Accountant
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor	Kate Lasseter, Nursery Coordinator
Michael Snoddy, Dir. of Music/Organist	Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinator
Sam Belcher, Dir. of Youth Ministries	Linda Cairatti, Nursery Staff
Catherine Olson, Dir. of Operations	

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!

