



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
HOLY COMMUNION
JANUARY 4, 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.*

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN INTONATION / TEACHING MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Let us give thanks for the light of the world. Together let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us.

Let the light of faith shine in all that we do. And as you have led us in the past, so guide us in the coming year, that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

***HYMN 744**

Arise, Your Light Has Come

FESTAL SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love. Christ has come into the world, and yet we do not show that we know him by embracing his way. He has called us to be his own, and yet we do not accept him. Forgive us, loving God. In these days of newness and opportunity, show us your grace and truth, and give us a fresh resolve, until we know and live in fullness the good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe in the Good News.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE 581

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*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.*

*We want to continue to offer Children's Worship for our families with Young Children, but we need your help!
If you're willing to volunteer and lead one or two Sundays this semester for this 20-minute lesson time,
contact sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-18 (Pew Bible, page 862)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Testify to the Light

Anne Keener

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 192

Shine, Jesus Shine

SHINE, JESUS SHINE

(We will ONLY sing the refrain and repeat it a total of THREE times.)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(The Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader continues the prayer... who forever sings your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader continues the prayer... Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader continues the prayer... now and forever. Amen.

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION

All bread is gluten-free. The wine is non-alcoholic grape juice.

COMMUNION MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
(VERSES One and Three)

AR HYD Y NOS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION

*RINGING OF THE CARILLON

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist
Ryan Fox, Liturgist
Elizabeth Fox, Acolyte

PRAYER LIST

Members:

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

In Memory:

Dee Bechtel	January 6, 2024
Betty Leftwich	January 8, 2013
Bass Jefferson	January 9, 1993
Bill Minke	January 10, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Phil Otts will speak about Ukraine.

Blood Drive: Save lives by donating blood on **Sunday, January 11** from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in Wilson Hall. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code FPCF19.

Holy Stitches: Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Holy Stitches is the new name for our expanded prayer shawl ministry which now includes scarves and hats for our Mountain T.O.P. mission partners and blankets for new FPC babies. We're looking for new members—whether you'd like to join our monthly gatherings or contribute items from home. Learn more by contacting Karen Hanson at klhanson46@gmail.com. Join us **January 12** from 1–2:30 PM in the church parlor.

Adults 55+ are invited to gather for lunch on **Monday, January 12** at 11:00 AM at Serrato's Steakhouse (3046 Columbia Ave). No sign-up is needed!

Christian Faith & Life Sunday School Class: January is a great time to join! We're beginning a new study, *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption, exploring wisdom from James, Peter, John, and Jude*, with discussion and videos from The Bible Project and Yale Divinity School. If you enjoy Bible reading and thoughtful conversation, this class is for you. We meet Sundays at 9:00 AM in Room 206. For more information, contact missy@kitchings.net.

MLK Weekend: Our upcoming MLK Mission Trip **January 16 -19** is an intergenerational opportunity for families, singles and all in-between to spend the weekend in observance of the historic civil rights era in the Nashville area. Attend all or part of the weekend's events. Email Khris Downey at kaged27@gmail.com by Tomorrow, January 5 to sign up!

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

FISH Activity: Join us **Saturday, January 31** in Wilson Hall at 9 :00 AM 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.

Basic Essentials Collection: This month we are collecting small blankets and XXL & up basic men's and women's winter coats to support those without a home during these cold winter nights. Place all donations in the Basic Essentials Cart just outside the Sanctuary.

Worship Flowers: Would you like to donate the worship flowers in memory or in honor of someone? These flowers beautify our worship, remind us of God's creation, and are later shared with members as a sign of God's love and our church family's care. There are many open dates in 2026, and the cost is \$100. Sign up today on our Event/Registration page.

Save the Date:

Scout Sunday – February 1

Youth Sunday - February 8

Winter Potluck - February 8



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 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 4 years old through kindergarten in Room 101 following the 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 get in touch with the Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

Prayer requests to convey concerns or celebrations may be shared with Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

THE SESSION

Class of 2026

Leanne Hoeffler
John Korab
Tammy Love
Starr Nolan
Phillip Otts

Class of 2027

Martha Johnson
Jim Petersen
Dan Crunk
Greg Bennorth
Sarah Fox

Class of 2028

Judi Arnold
Rich Crim
Rick Blackburn
Rachael Stanfill
Tony Inglis

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!

