FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 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.*

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE / HYMN INTONATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The table has been prepared. The feast is ready. And still God calls, "Come."

We come. Some are eager and weary. Some are wondering if we are already late.

Come from the highways and the crossroads. Come with your goodness and your brokenness, your faith and your questions.

We come because the invitation is grace, and there is a place for us at the table.

God's hands are still reaching. The table is still set. The King is still generous.

So let us come with grateful hearts and worship God.

In the name of the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer, let us worship.

***HYMN 415** *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have prepared a table and called us to come. Yet we confess that we are too busy to hear your invitation. We have our farms and our businesses, our calendars and our worries, and our plans and our excuses. You reach toward us in love, and we pull away. You offer grace, and we resist it. We sit surrounded by your generosity without allowing it to change us.

Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for the times we are too hurried to notice your grace, too certain to receive it, too comfortable to follow where you lead. Teach us to trust the hands that reach for us. Clothe us in the love of Christ. And shape us into people who make room at the table for those who never imagined they would be invited. For the table is ready, your grace is abundant, and still you call us, "Come."

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE *"and lead me in the way everlasting."*

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.

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** ITALIAN HYMN

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises bee, hence evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity,
love and adore.

***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

"to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly…"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:1-14 (pg.803)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *We Are Already Late* Eddie Bellis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 503** *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation* O QUANTA

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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 *Stewardship* Jessica Lahey

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 Chancel Choir

" I will arise and go to Jesus…O there are ten thousand charms!"

***DOXOLOGY** OLD 100TH (Augmented Rhythm)

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 310** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* ST. THOMAS

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***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
Clarke Oldham, Liturgist; Jackson Reynolds, Acolyte

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gerry Eddlemon and Grace Eddlemon by Janice Eddlemon.

PRAYER LIST

New:
Eugenie Ermis
Cathie Davidson's grandson, Kyle Davidson
Cathie Davidson's extended family member, Joe Marchegiani
Cathie Davidson's friends, Brenda Rauls, Nancy Miller, Don & Beverly McLain
Eugenie Ermis' family, Bonham family
Missy Kitchings's friends, Marcia Bittner and her mother

Births/Adoptions:
Lydia Elaine Arch, daughter of Becca and Danny Arch, September 12
great-granddaughter of Jon Bechtel

Members:
Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Marilyn Doering
Joe Duarte
Carolyn Hayes
Karen Hanson
Kim Lewis
Lillard Family
Erik Lund
Anne Osborne

In Memory:

Jayme Burns	October 20, 2016
Nick Fender	October 22, 2010
Tom Walker	October 22, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK: Rehearsals for Fall – Carillon Handbell Choir (WED: 5:00 PM) and Chancel Choir (WED: 6:30 PM). Note our NEW time!! Feel free to join us!

October Basic Essentials Collection: This month, we are collecting diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) and full-size personal hygiene products to help meet urgent needs at GraceWorks. Please place donations in the collection cart in the Narthex.

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. Please join us this Wednesday as Ronnie Williams speaks on Racial Justice. Ronnie Williams shares the powerful story behind his book, *Markham Street: The Haunting Truth Behind the Murder of My Brother, Marvin Leonard Williams*. Through personal memories and years of pursuing justice, Ronnie explores his brother Marvin's life, the tragedy of his death, and the lasting impact on their family and community. This moving story invites us to reflect on grief, resilience, racial justice, and the enduring power of truth. Ronnie Williams is a retired higher-education administrator, educator, author, and community leader. He retired from the University of Central Arkansas in 2021 after more than three decades of service. The university later renamed its student center the Ronnie Williams Student Center in his honor. This program is funded by the Blake Lecture Series Fund.

Fall Festival Saturday, October 24: FPC and the Hard Bargain Association are teaming up for a fun-filled Fall Festival. Bring the whole family and join us at 4:30 PM for Trunk or Treat, followed by a BBQ Dinner at 5:15 PM. We need lots of volunteers to decorate a trunk- so get creative, choose a fun theme, and help make this a memorable evening for the kids! Sign up online or on the Connection Card to decorate a trunk. Questions? Contact Verna Rydlund at *vrydlund@gmail.com*.

Visitation Ministry Orientation: Want to learn more about the Visitation Ministry? Join us after worship in the Parlor **Sunday, October 25**. Contact Karen Hanson for more info. *klhhanson46@gmail.com*.

UPCOMING Worship – Music *&ARTS* Events: Join us **Sunday, October 25,** as **Bone Therapy** joins us for worship on Reformation Sunday. This area trombone ensemble boasts over twenty musicians and is directed by Charles Jenkins. **Sunday, November 1: John Johns guitar recital**, 3:00 PM. Reception follows in Wilson Hall.

All Saints' Banner: FPC Franklin honors loved ones who have passed with an All-Saints' Banner displayed during worship on the first Sunday in November. To add a NEW name, please write it on the Connection Card along with their years of life or the year they passed. The deadline to submit names is **Sunday, October 25**. Names submitted will be included on the Banner displayed during worship on **November 1**.

Adults 55+: Join us **October 26** at 11 AM at Station Pizzeria for lunch.

Honoring Veterans: Share the name of a veteran on the Connection Card for our Veterans Day insert. **Deadline is Nov 1.** If you have previously submitted a name, no need to submit again. This is a list that continues from year to year.

Fall Potluck: Stay after worship for the Fall Potluck **Sunday, November 8** in honor of our Veterans. Please bring a dish to share.

2027 Flower Dedications: You may donate them in memory, honor, or celebration. Sign-ups are now online and first come, first served by date, so sign up today!

Use the QR code to visit the Events 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 lifelong learning
- Creating and nurturing congregational relationships
- Transforming lives and connecting with others through service

Welcome! We warmly welcome everyone 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)*.

Send prayer requests, concerns, or celebrations to Anne Keener *(akeener@fpcfranklin.org)*.

THE SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Leanne Hoeffler	Greg Bennorth	Judi Arnold
John Korab	Dan Crunk	Rick Blackburn
Tammy Love	Sarah Fox	Rich Crim
Starr Nolan	Martha Johnson	Tony Inglis
Phillip Otts	Jim Petersen	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).

Church Office Hours M-Th 9 AM-4 PM

101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin, TN, 37069
615.794.5114 | fpcfranklin.org

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