FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Welcome to worship. 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

CALL TO WORSHIP/LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — Charlie Stevens and Dan Crunk, Confirmand and Covenant Partner

O God, we come to you longing for your presence. We look around our world and see places that need your healing, peace, and hope.

Come, Lord, and make your presence known among us.

We are the work of your hands, O God. Even when we feel uncertain or afraid, you remain faithful and you do not abandon us.

We wait with hope, trusting that you are still at work among us.

As we light this first candle, may its light remind us that even in the darkness, we belong to God, and God's promises remain.

Come, Lord Jesus, and fill our hearts with hope as we await a new and glorious morn!

The family lights the candle as the congregation sings:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Gracious God, as we begin this season of Advent, help us to wait with hope. When the world feels dark, remind us that we are your beloved children and that we are always in your hands. Prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and help us share your hope with those around us. Amen.

***HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our Savior, you have poured out your grace on humankind from before the foundations of the world were laid. Each time we humans have sinned, you have answered not with rejection but with ever greater sacrificial love. So, we are always without excuse for all our sins and our lack of faith and love. Our trust is only in the unfailing love of Jesus as our sure and certain hope, that in life and in death we belong to you. O God, we humbly ask that you forgive our sins and sanctify us anew by your Holy Spirit. Let your will be done in us, now and always, not by our strength or righteousness, but by your indescribable grace and power.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE *"…yet what can I give him, Give my heart"*

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** GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Glo-ri-a, praise the One who comes, Glo-ri-a, Hosanna in the highest!

***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 *"O Word of God, incarnate, O Wisdom from on high…"*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13:24-37 (pg.826)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Hope Upon Hope Ever* Robert Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 352** *My Lord! What a Morning* MY LORD

(The congregation is invited to sing the refrain, while the choir sings the verses.)

***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.

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** REGENT SQUARE

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ our heav'nly king!

***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 97** *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ST. GEORGE'S

(Sung to the familiar tune associated with "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come")

***BENEDICTION**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF MEMBERS (Guests are welcome to stay.)

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Robert Montgomery, Bridge Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music & Organist
The Chancel Choir
Brent Sower, Liturgist
Isla England, Acolyte
Mike Moyers, Artist of Advent Artwork

The Advent poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in honor, memory, or thankfulness by those listed in the insert.

PRAYER LIST

New:
John Korab
Betty Barcheski
Dee Plunkett
Suzette Rutherford
Dale & Barb's son's family, Andrew, Rebecca, Sidney, and Killian Roos
Roos family friend, Jonathan Krohn
Adam Starace's friend, Chad

Deaths:
Jennie Stevens' mother, Judy Bowers, November 12
Mickey Wilhoite's mother, Beulah Chunn, October 28
Downey family's nephew and cousin, Sam Wilson, November 7
Pati DeMotte's mother, Paula Lopez de Sarat, November 1

Members:
Members:
Gary Cole
Barbara Crunk
Marilyn Doering
Eugenie Ermis
Janet Frame
Carolyn Hayes
Mike Henry
Kim Lewis
Lillard Family
Erik Lund
Anne Osborne
Charley Winger

In Memory:

Harriett Erwin	December 1, 1995
John Latreille	December 2, 2012
Phil Woodall	December 5, 2004
Raleigh Lanier	December 5, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting: The Session has called a congregational meeting for **today**, immediately following worship, to hear and act upon the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect our next installed pastor.

Amy-Jill Levine is presenting a 3-part series **"Jesus and the Jewish Holidays"** at **Wednesday Night Live (WNL)** on **December 2, 9 & 16.** Presentations will be from 6:30-7:30 PM with dinner at 6 PM. Meal signups needed by Sunday online or on the Connection Card, but no signups needed for the program. Invite a friend and join us!

Franklin Community Meals on Wheels is seeking a dedicated volunteer to join our leadership committee as Program Manager to help keep that mission running smoothly. For more information, contact Tiffany Bechtel *tbech@yahoo.com*.

November Basic Essentials Collection: This month, we're collecting postage stamps, full-size shampoo, and conditioner for Bridges Domestic Violence Center, which helps Williamson County individuals and families find safety and independence. Please drop off donations in the cart in the Narthex.

Adults 55+ Upcoming Events: On **Wednesday, December 2**, at 1 PM, we'll take a shopping trip to Brightstone's Christmas Shoppe. Our Christmas lunch in Wilson Hall is on **Saturday, December 12**, at 11 AM. Sign up online.

Waffle Shop Outing December 3: Join us at Downtown Presbyterian Church for brunch ($20), including waffles, your choice of side, and a guided tour of the historic sanctuary. All proceeds benefit DPC's Saturday Fish & Loaves Meal Ministry. Church bus departs at 11 AM (sign-up required) or meet us there at 11:30 AM. Tickets available online at dpchurch.com/waffle-shop. All ages welcome!

FISH Event: December 5 at 9 AM in Wilson Hall join us for a morning of service benefiting Room In The Inn and the Society of St. Andrew. Help assemble food packs for individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as cut produce bags and package seeds for SOSA. No sign-up required. Everyone is welcome!

Open Mosque Day: Building Bridges for a Better Community is on **Dec. 5** from Noon-2:45 PM at the Islamic Center of Williamson County in collaboration with GainPeace. The goal is to build community and mutual understanding. There will be food and tours, so signups are requested. See FPC Events page for more information.

2027 Flower Dedications: Donate in memory, honor, or celebration. The cost is $100 and there are many open dates, so sign up today!

Christmas Giving with Poplar Grove School: Return unwrapped gifts to FPC by **next Sunday, Dec. 6** under the mission bulletin board.

The Manger Tree: The tree is up in Wilson Hall with gift tags. To choose a gift from an Amazon Wish List, scan a QR code on the back of a gift tag, and it will ship to GraceWorks by Dec. 1 or place your unwrapped gifts under the Manger Tree by next **Sunday, Dec. 6.**

Live Nativity and Chili Cook-Off, **next Sunday, December 6,** from 5-7 PM in Wilson Hall. Sign up online to enter your chili in the competition, and remember, your donation is your vote! A Live Nativity presented by our youth will follow.

Advent Poinsettias: May be dedicated in honor, memory, or thankfulness and will be included in the bulletin each Sunday during Advent. Please note your dedication on the connection card or email it to Catherine at *colson@fpcfranklin.org.* The last day to submit dedications is **Sunday, December 13.** The cost is $20. Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church (Flower Fund) or you may give online.

Lessons and Carols - December 13, 10:15 AM
Service of Light – December 20, 5:30 PM
Christmas Eve Services- December 24, 4 & 6 PM

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 get in touch with 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

Robert Montgomery, Bridge 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.
We appreciate your generosity!