



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

**1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025**

*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**

Beloved, we gather in the presence of the God who is love.

We come to dwell in that love.

Scripture says, "Perfect love casts out fear."

Cast out our fear, O God.

When we are tempted to speak harmfully,

Teach us to speak words of grace.

When rumor rises to our lips,

Let the Gospel increase instead.

Shape our words, guide our hearts, and bless this worship. Together, let us pray.

Holy God, you are love itself, and you call us to live our lives rooted in that love. Drive out our fears, large and small, with the power of your perfect love. Quiet every anxious thought, soften every hardened place, and free us from every worry that keeps us from trusting you. As we worship this morning, fill us with the courage that comes only from your love, so that we may love one another as you have first loved us.

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

***HYMN 143**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you are love, and in your love, there is no fear. Yet we confess that we live as if fear controls us. We fear rejection, failure, and the judgment of others. We speak words that wound and sometimes remain silent when love calls us to act. We cling to grudges, harbor resentment, and let worry shape our choices.

Forgive us, O God. Cast out our fear with your perfect love. Help us to trust that your love is greater than our doubts, stronger than our failures, and deeper than our shame. Help us to resolve, not to gossip more, but to share your love boldly and faithfully. May our hearts abide in you, so our words reflect your perfect love.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe in 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

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo!

Glo – ria, in excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the highest).

*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

Sam Belcher

*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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Proverbs 26:22-23 (Pew Bible, p. 531)

1 John 4:16-18 (Pew Bible, p. 991)

SERMON

I Resolve to Gossip More

Rev. Paul DeMotte

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 123**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

***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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***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 134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Paul Demotte, Retired Pastor
Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music & Organist
Bruce Jones, Liturgist
Lynlee Nichols, Acolyte**

PRAYER LIST

Members:

Ted Bechtel
Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Jeff Doering
Carolyn Hayes
Caleb Lillard
Ruthie Moulton
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:

Betty Windhorst January 3, 2013

Immediate Family of Members:

Glenda Andrews husband, David Andrews
Ann Brown's daughter, Deb Brown
Angela Calhoun's mother, Claire Mitchell
Christi Granstaff's brother, Michael Granstaff
Monique Jennings' brother, Michael Alvino
Pat Johnson's sister, Martha Kerr
Terry Love's mother, Betty Cain
Rhonda Moyers' sister, Beverly Kirk
Dave Roberts, friend of staff
Beth Rose's children, Zachary and Jasper Rose
Beth Rose's father, Bob Bishop
Paula Starace's mother, Verna Clark
Tim Stein's father, Bob Stein
Tim Stein's sister, Kristina Stein

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 **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 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 items for the **Shorter Chapel AME Church Food Pantry**. Suggested items: peanut butter, canned tuna & meat, cereal, corn, beans, chili, SpaghettiOs, cans with pop tops. 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? There are many open dates in 2026, and the cost is \$100. 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. Sign up today on our Event/Registration page.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL): Signups are open for 2026 which will resume January 7. Whether you are a regular at WNL or have never attended, we hope you will join us. Sign up on the FPC website today.

Church Office Closed Dec 29- Jan 2.

Save the Date:

Scout Sunday – February 1

Youth Sunday & 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 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 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 2025

Jason Coleman
Marti Downey
Christine Grisham
Jim Mahurin
Verna Rydlund

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

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!

