



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SCOUT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 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.*

Today, we continue our walk in and celebration of Epiphany — the revealing of Christ to the world. Just as the Magi followed the light of a star to find the newborn King, we are called to follow the light of Christ in our own lives. Epiphany reminds us that God's love is not limited to one people or place, but shines for all nations. May this season inspire us to seek, recognize, and share the presence of Christ in our midst.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come together all who find their joy in the Lord.

The Lord is our Shepherd in good times and in hard times.

The Lord is with us in all that we experience in life.

If we are at home or afar, our Lord knows our every need.

Let us raise our voices in praise and adoration to our good and gracious God. Together, let us pray:

Source of all life, you give birth to the nations. You sustain us in the womb of your mercy, and we are nourished and grow in your grace. You sent us Jesus our Savior to deliver us and surround our days with your Spirit. Through Christ, we gather in God's household to give you our praise.

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

*HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Rae Watson from Presbyterian Outlook)

Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in a peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us. Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe 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.

*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.

Would you like to help us continue to offer Children's Worship for our families with Young Children? If you're willing to volunteer and lead 1 or 2 Sundays this semester for this 20-minute lesson time, contact sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (Pew Bible, page 785)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Blessed Are the Upside Down

Eddie Bellis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from The Confession of 1967)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.

STORIES OF BELONGING

Growth Groups

Jim and Mary Bryant

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**

***BENEDICTION**

Because there is work to be done out there, we cannot stay here. So, let us go and be the church in the world. We will love boldly, speak bravely, and build the kingdom of God here and now. May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit uplift and uphold us now and forever. Amen.

***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

Khris Downey, Liturgist

Nora Downey, Acolyte

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Alice Boyce on what would have been her 97th birthday by her children.

PRAYER LIST

New:

Elise Lasseter

Jane Stafford

Benny Williams

Leanne Hoeffler's friend, Bodie Kistner

Diane Fender's mother, Sherry Edwards

Sandra Fields' sister-in-law, Linda Dickens

Kelly & Elizabeth Kan's grandmother, Judy Oeder

Members:

Ted Bechtel

Ann Brown

Barbara Crunk

Jeff Doering

Carolyn Hayes

Caleb Lillard

Anne Osborne

Tom Wilson

In Memory:

Loren Risen February 7, 1992

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Faith as a Muslim Series: Updated dates are February 4, 11 & 25.

The congregation and community are invited to this Wednesday evening series 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. If you want to join for dinner, sign up on the FPC website or Connection Card today.

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 next Sunday, **February 8**.

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.

Music in Worship: 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.

Youth Sunday: Next Sunday, February 8, is a special worship service led entirely by our teenagers. We will also be running our annual Envelope Fundraiser, our final fundraising effort before summer 2026! Please consider donating toward our efforts to bring Youth to the Montreat Youth Conference and on mission trips.

Winter Potluck: Join us **next Sunday, February 8,** after worship for the FPC Winter Potluck! Bring a main dish, side, or salad to share—homemade or store-bought is welcome. We’ll also celebrate the Pittsburgh Cookie Table tradition as our choir provides a wide variety of cookies for everyone to enjoy.

February Basic Essentials Collection: This month donate heavy drawstring men’s pants size medium through XXXL for Room In The Inn. Pants may be placed in the Basic Essentials Cart just outside the Sanctuary.

Lenten Bible Study: Whether anxiety feels overwhelming or quietly persistent, this Lenten class offers Scripture-based hope, encouragement, and practical faith for everyday life. All are welcome — come as you are — Wednesdays at 10 AM in Barr Conference Room beginning **February 25**. Pastor Eddie will be leading a book study of *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own books.

Pizza & Trivia Night- New Date 2/28: Join us for food, fellowship, and a night of fun team competitions on our **new date Saturday, February 28** at 5:30 PM.

The Congregational Care Committee is seeking new members who are passionate about caring for our church family. To join or learn more, reach out to the chair, Tammy Love, at 615-472-6634.

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
Sarr 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
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!

