



**1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 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 REFLECTION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let all who would find favor in the eyes of the Lord come together.

Together let us find strength to face the tests of this world.

And let us lift each other up in prayer for God's sustaining love.

For only as we serve the Lord do we grow in genuine dignity.

Then let us turn our hearts to God in joyful song and praise! Together let us pray.

O God, we are glad as we raise our voices in praise of your name. You do not withhold your love from us but sent forth a messiah to deliver us. As Christ came to the earth to embody your love, we gather as his body to make our joyful response to such wondrous love. Filled by your Spirit and made alive by your presence, we come rejoicing as we greet your new day.

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

***HYMN 41**

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS

VERSES One; Two; Four; and Five

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we want to be great in the faith, but somehow, we fail to see the importance of being faithful in the little things. Like children, we cry out for more responsibility, and yet we fail to be responsible with what you already entrust to us. Forgive us and grant us the courage to hold true to your will.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE – “*On God alone I wait silently...*”

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

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye (A) we adore him.

***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 – “*Day by day...*”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

(Pew Bible, p.785)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Buttons, Bread, and the Long Way Home

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN 824**

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

MC AFEE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

“...all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.”

Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY 606**

**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.**

OLD 100TH

***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 839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN REFLECTION / 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
The Chancel Choir – Adam Troxler, instrumentalist
Ryan Fox, Liturgist
Elise Lasseter, Acolyte
Mike Moyers, Artist

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are a reminder of God’s creation and
add to worship as we glorify God together.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Nancy Morris
Pat Johnson's sister, Martha Kerr
Barb Roos' family, Sylvia and George Pouliot
Lindsey Ruszkowski's family, Pat and Dave Blakeslee
Carolyn Smith's uncle-in-law, George Horne Jr.
Carolyn Smith's cousin, Rhonda Krambs
Carolyn Smith's cousin, Bill Whitworth
Tim & Leah Stein's friend, Candy Rice and family
Tim & Leah Stein's friend, Todd Smith and family
Wayne Barcheski's friend, Dennis Bara

Deaths:

Heather Reimer's father, Robert Whipple, February 15

Births/Adoptions:

Otto Casteel Small, son of Joanna and Zach Small, January 22
grandson of Hank and Cathy McCall

Members:

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

In Memory:

Fred Bilyeu February 22, 2010
Chandler Darnell February 27, 2015

Announcements

Music in Worship: TODAY'S Musical Guest-Please welcome Adam Troxler as he shares musical gifts with us today.
Spring Rehearsals-Carillon Handbells: WED evenings (5:00 PM) – Chancel Choir: WED evenings (6:45 PM)

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 "new" Basic Essentials Cart just outside the Sanctuary.

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 we will finish our series with Samar Ali with a Q&A session.

Youth Envelope Fundraiser: Donations will be accepted through TODAY and will help youth attend Montreat Youth Conference and mission trips.

Lenten Bible Study: Join us Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Barr Conference Room starting **this Wednesday, February 25**. Pastor Eddie will lead a book study of *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. All are welcome! Participants need to purchase their own books.

Pizza & Trivia Night- This Saturday, February 28 at 5:30 PM: Join us for food, fellowship, and a night of fun team competition. [Signup online today!](#)

After Amen Lunch at The Factory: Next Sunday, March 1, join other members at The Factory for lunch after worship. Each person will get their own food and then look for others in the Sky Light Bar area to eat together. Thank you to our new Fellowship Committee members for new ideas! This is a new way to connect with your FPC family.

Mid-Week Lenten Services – Wednesdays, 6:45 PM (Livestreamed)

March 4-Sam Belcher

March 11-Marilyn Doering

March 18-Mary Sellers Shaw

March 25-A Seder in Wilson Hall: Led by the Gottlieb Family *No Livestream

Upcoming Mission Opportunities: Join us for hands-on service this spring! Participate in a workday at Crossroads Mission Care on **March 14** and the Mountain T.O.P. Adult Mission Trip **April 16–19** in Coalmont, TN. All skill levels welcome. Sign-up deadlines: March 8 (Crossroads Mission Care) and March 15 (Mountain T.O.P.). Contact Mike Anderson at mja2649@aol.com to learn more and sign up on the Connection Card or the FPC events page.

The FPC Nominating Committee invites your input as we prepare to nominate members to replace those rotating off. In addition, we are forming a Pastor Nominating Committee and welcome your suggestions for individuals you believe would be faithful and effective participants in the pastor search process. If you have a recommendation for either the Nominating Committee and/or the Pastor Nominating Committee, please complete a Blue Connection Card or contact the committee through Mike Anderson at 615-969-1515 or mja2649@aol.com.

Stations of the Cross: Also referred to as the “way of the cross,” it was developed to bring pilgrimage into the local church, so that the faithful could follow the way of Jesus’ passion. Mike Moyers has beautifully interpreted Jesus’ journey to Calvary for us in the form of fourteen paintings. Displayed in the Barr Conference Room hallway, we invite you to make your own devotional pilgrimage during this Lenten season.



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
Starr 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!

