



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKLIN

ANNUAL REPORT
2025 EDITION

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor

If I could offer a single biblical story to hold the past year, it would be the story of Moses leading the Israelites through the wilderness (Exodus–Deuteronomy). The wilderness was never simply empty space. During their journey, the Israelites encountered holy ground between what had been and what would be.

Israel had left behind the familiar leadership of Moses and the place they knew, not yet entered the land God promised, and in between lay a season requiring faith, trust, learning, and deep listening. This is the season in which First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, is living now. We are:

- looking back with gratitude
- standing in the midst of discernment
- and leaning forward with confidence and expectation

And much like Moses, my role is not to settle and stay forever, but to walk alongside you, teach, guide, listen, and prepare, until God reveals the leader who will carry you into the next chapter. FPC was not the only family in transition. Our own household entered a year of transition. After moving from Greenville, MS, Laura and I settled into our apartment in the Iron Horse community and welcomed each of our three children for visits. We gathered with extended family for Laura's birthday celebration in Nashville. Slowly and surely, we have come to see Middle Tennessee and the Nashville/Franklin area as a place of belonging, a community that now holds part of our family story.

We need to honor and remember our past. In April 2024, Rev. Chris Joiner concluded his 20 years of effective ministry at FPC, and in his leaving (and his wife Kim's leaving with him), you began your own wilderness journey. The congregation wisely embraced the early stages of transition under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Claire Berry and Rev. Dr. Warner Darnell, whose faithfulness and care allowed this community to steady itself and move forward with confidence until my arrival.

Since stepping into ministry with you in February, I have been privileged to witness the resilience, faithfulness, and creativity of this church, and together we have taken important steps on the road ahead.

Alongside the pastoral staff — Anne, Michael, and Sam — we shared meaningful worship that carried us through the rhythms of the Christian year. Some highlights are Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Stewardship

Season (October through early November), the worship seasons of Advent and Christmas, and the development of an Advent Devotional. The sacraments were an anchor along the journey. Celebrating several infant baptisms reminded us that God is always at work, planting seeds of hope and promise, even in times of change.

Pastoral visits, hospital visits, conversations over coffee, and the sacred privilege of walking beside families in grief and joy all reminded me that ministry in transition is not simply administrative. With Anne and Michael, we “walked home” several long-term, much-beloved members who were key to FPC’s transition from a downtown church to our present location. Pastoral Ministry is deeply relational and deeply holy.

As an interim pastor, I am first and foremost a teaching elder. The wilderness, for Israel, was God’s classroom — a place to learn who they were and whose they were. So too is this pastoral transition for us.

This year, we engaged in meaningful study, including:

- A Lenten series using Max Lucado’s He Chose the Nails
- A 12-week summer series on Revelation through Kerygma
- A 4-week fall WNL series using Shirley Guthrie’s Christian Doctrine
- Officer Training, co-led with Susan Burns and Anne Keener, an extraordinary formation experience rooted in the legacy of Rev. Joiner’s pastoral leadership

Each gathering reminded me that this congregation treasures thoughtful theological engagement and embraces Scripture not as a relic of the past but as a living guide.

While Israel tended their tabernacle, we tended the physical life of the church — the places where ministry takes shape. Notable projects included:

- Installation of a new Fire Alarm Panel
- A church-wide Workday resulting in major cleanup and organization
- Relining the parking lot, adding four new handicapped spaces
- Continued use and invitation to walk the prayer labyrinth, especially during Lent

Looking ahead, the Session is wise and realistic in considering future major capital investments, with the kitchen and important building items like HVAC and roofs likely requiring attention in the coming years.

Seasons of transition call forth new systems, clarity, and deeper engagement. Like Moses appointing elders to share the load, this congregation strengthened its structure.

A Pastor Transition Team (PTT) was elected by the Session. The membership included Susan Burns, Bill Carver, Rich Crim (co-chair), Francelia Downey, Emily Korab (co-chair), and Jim Martin. Their work included hosting listening sessions, engaging Holy Cow! Consulting to implement the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), and compiling data, reflections, and congregational input into a Mission Study, which was approved by the Session in February 2026. Their work is essential preparation for the election of a future Pastor Nominating Committee, who, to extend the biblical metaphor, may serve as the "Joshua" team to lead the call forward.

The Health and Safety Committee was formed and led by elder Philip Otts. This committee is building frameworks for emergency planning, preparedness, and care for members, staff, and guests.

Session authorized a committee to examine how the church can best steward existing and future endowment resources. Their current goal is to move from passive benefit to purposeful investment in mission.

If we follow the biblical arc, the wilderness was never meant to be the end. Rather, the Israelite's journey was a season of becoming and shaping a people to be ready for God's future.

As I look back over this year, I see a congregation rich in gifts, deeply rooted in faith, clear-eyed about challenge, and increasingly energized for the mission ahead. The promise that lies ahead is not mine to lead nor the congregation to rush toward, but together we continue to follow the God who travels before us: pillar of cloud by day, fire by night, and faithful at every step.

Thank you for the privilege of walking with you in this journey: to teach, to listen, to celebrate, to discern, and to trust alongside you. The wilderness is not a place of fear, but is a place where God shapes a future we could not have imagined on our own. I am honored to serve among you.

Shalom,
Rev. Edward Bellis IV, Interim Pastor
First Presbyterian Church, Franklin

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

This scripture spoke to me as I reflected on 2025. We are each called to speak the truth in love in all parts of our life, which is not something our culture necessarily embraces. This time of transition has been a good reminder that Christ is the head of the church, and as the body, we are knit together in love to glory him and reflect God’s love in the world. This has indeed been another year of serving God together, promoting the body’s growth in building itself up in love, and participating in God’s work through this congregation.

In January, we said good-bye to Warner Durnell, our Bridge Pastor, and in February, we welcomed Eddie Bellis, our Interim Pastor. I am grateful for all that I learned from Pastor Warner as I served alongside him and am grateful for all I am learning from Pastor Eddie during his time with us. Pastor Eddie brings experience from a variety of congregations which has helped me learn more about the denomination in addition to new ideas for ministry at FPC Franklin. An example is the opportunity I had to plan the Festival of Banners service for Reformation Sunday. The Book of Confessions is a rich resource for us to deepen our faith, and I enjoyed reflecting on them and planning a worship service to remind the congregation of our confessions.

This congregation continues to respond to God’s grace and reflect God’s love in our community, and I am grateful to be called to participate in God’s work here. Pastoral care remains my great passion as I care deeply for each member. I regularly connect with those on our prayer list and provide pastoral care along with Pastor Eddie. I am honored each time I hear someone’s story and am grateful to be part of a community that prays for one another. I hope you know I am here to listen and walk with you in the joys and the sorrows of life.

In life and in death we belong to God. I grieved alongside the families of the 7 members who died this year. It is a powerful part of each Service of Witness to the Resurrection to stand at the baptismal font declaring that in death, our baptism is now complete. We are all responding to God’s grace in our unique way as we each travel on our journey home.

I also enjoy greeting guests and connecting them with other members. It is a joy to get to know our guests and then welcome those who choose to become members. Our session welcomed 18 new members this year which reiterates my belief that the church is the people not the staff since we are still in a season of transition. It is a joy to serve as the staff resource for the Congregational Care, Fellowship, and Outreach Committees. In different ways, each of these committees connects people, and I appreciate all those who serve on these committees.

This was the second year of my leading in worship each Sunday. In 2025, I preached 17 times (including 7 Services of Witness to the Resurrection) and assisted in leading worship for 38 additional services. I presided at the Lord's Table 16 times this year and coordinated our monthly Home Communion which extends the Lord's Table to those who are unable to worship in person.

I appreciate the time the congregation gives me for continuing education. I spent a week in October in the Blue Ridge Mountains reading about awe and wonder while taking in the awe and wonder of the mountains. This time of renewal is important and life giving. It provides time for stillness and helps me return renewed for my call here at FPC Franklin.

Once again, it was a joy to plan and participate in the Elder Training this fall along with Susan Burns and Eddie Bellis. I learned alongside our incoming class of elders through thoughtful and inspiring discussions. This year has provided many opportunities to discuss with Pastor Eddie our various ministries, including the origin and purpose of them, and consider new ways we can respond to God's grace as a faith community.

I completed my third and final year serving the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee as a member of the Commission on Ministry (COM) which also included serving on the COM Pastoral Care Team and co-chairing the Review Team. I have appreciated getting to know others in our presbytery and supporting the pastors and congregations.

This year has again strengthened my call to serve God in this place. I believe God has called me to FPC Franklin, and I am grateful to serve God alongside each of you. I am also grateful to be part of this faithful staff as we promote "the body's growth in building itself up in love." It is a joy to serve God in this place and look forward to another year of responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service.

Gratefully,
Anne

Michael Snoddy, Director of Music

- Attended meetings of both the Worship Committee and Session and provided a monthly brief to each.
- Celebrated my Twelfth Anniversary as the Director of Music & Organist.
- Continued ongoing music area recruitment efforts, both inside/outside the congregation.
- Continued to meet with the younger disciples for a brief period of music, known as the Children's Musical Gathering, as part of the CE hour on Sunday morning. Beginning to schedule more regular children's musical participation in worship.
- Encouraged/scheduled multiple Carillon Handbell and Chancel Choir social functions.
- Encouraged instrumentalists/vocalists to participate in worship throughout the year. Regularly scheduling more instrumental participation monthly.
- Continued Sunday Morning Schedule: Before 9:00 a.m. – Preparation/Practice 9:00 a.m. – Children's Musical Gathering
- 9:15 a.m. – Vocal Quartet Rehearsal or Carillon Handbell Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 a.m. – Morning Worship Hour
- Coordinated maintenance of the church's musical instruments: handbells, piano, and the sanctuary pipe organ.
- Kept a weekly organ practice schedule and am working to complete a personal organ studio at home (this includes the installation of a small pipe organ), from which I may work/prepare for work.
- Maintained regular weekly office hours.
- Continued to meet with professional colleagues throughout the year, including Dr. Kristen Hansen, and Jonathan Setzer. Attended several professional meetings associated with the American Guild of Organists.
- Planned/facilitated the annual Music Commissioning Sunday, held in the month of September.
- Planned/facilitated Music – Worship & Arts Events
- Planned/facilitated a Saturday Morning Vocal Workshop for the Chancel Choir.
- Planned/coordinated weekly hymns/service music (in conjunction with pastoral staff) following the scriptural themes of the day as set forth by the week's readings.

- Prepared/presented music for the additional services during the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.
- Provided fall recruitment event.
- Chancel Choir provided coffee hour items in Wilson Hall.
- Encouraged attendance at an "open rehearsal."
- Prepared/presented/coordinated music for the Service of Light; mid-week Lenten worship; and Youth Sunday.
- Provided weekly "targeted" rehearsals for both Carillon Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir. Added an additional Sunday Morning rehearsal for the members of the paid vocal quartet for the Chancel Choir.
- Provided weekly organ (and piano) music for worship.
- Secured both instrumentalists/vocalists to provide worship music during the Carillon Handbell and Chancel Choir's summer break.
- Solicited hymn favorites from the congregation members for summer worship.
- Secured section leaders (four) for the Chancel Choir.
- Welcomed new/returning members to both the Carillon Handbell and Chancel Choir. The Carillon Handbell groups now number 9 members (includes one youth), while the Chancel Choir has grown to 22 (including two youth members).
- Working in the music library/updating the existing database.
- Initiating suggestions from the recent congregational survey: organ volume levels; hymn length/tempo; more inclusion of the piano; greater diversity of musical expression; inclusion of more children's musical participation; and the inclusion of more instrumental offerings (guitar, trumpet, pipes, flute)
- Welcomed three NEW members to the Carillon Handbell Choir, as well, secured the ADDITIONAL substitutes.

Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries

2025 was a steady year for the FPC Youth Group and for myself in my capacity as Director. I passed the three-year mark with this congregation, making it the church with which I have been a Youth Director longer than any other, and I am firmly familiar and embedded with the life cycle and program year of this wonderful congregation. This year saw more involvement from our volunteers and our student leaders, and I see that as evidence of the good work and continued vibrancy that our church has during this time of pastoral transition. I have appreciated that our Youth's voices have been uplifted during this transition; a member of our Youth Group is on the Pastoral Transition Team, the Youth were encouraged and helped with filling out the CAT survey to source their input and ideas, and we had a Listening Session dedicated to the Youth and their opinions on the direction of the church. It is very clear that FPC values its youngest voices, and I'm thrilled to work at a place that views them as the church of NOW, not of the future.

Our winter/spring semester had many notable events in it. Youth Sunday was in February, and dozens of middle and high schoolers got to lead the congregation in worship, orchestrating everything from the preaching to the plate passing. Our Sunday Night Summit (the name of our Sunday evening program) study called "May We" concluded, which saw us revisit and reaffirm our group covenant to each other as we strive to grow in love and grace. We had fun social events like the Chopped Cooking Challenge, NaCoMe Spring Retreat, the Lock-In, and more. We continued the important tradition of our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, where the youth cook for and celebrate all our various trip leaders, Sunday school teachers, and Adult Participants. We went on a worship field trip to a downtown Episcopal congregation, where we got to learn more about their theology and the symbolism in their worship. In May, we congratulated our seniors on their graduation and sent them off with a banquet and special worship service. It was a busy and heartfelt semester!

The summer arrived, and that means one big thing for our youth ministry: trips! We took seven students to Montreat Youth Conference, where they got to experience fellowship with PCUSA youth from across the country and learn from the wisdom and worship of the ministers gathered there. This trip was also an opportunity for us to partner with Smyrna First PCUSA, strengthening our bond to other local churches. Our High School Mission trip partnered with Appalachia Service Project to do home repair in east TN. This was our crew's third time doing construction-based mission work, and they rose to the challenge remarkably despite some logistical challenges and sweltering temperatures! Our fourteen high schoolers and five Adult Participants worked very hard and stepped up to the task to get their hands dirty for our neighbors in need. The middle schoolers traveled to Louisville, KY to partner with Youthworks

for various service projects throughout the city. For many, this was their first mission trip experience, and it was eye-opening. We had nine middle schoolers on this trip, and whether they were serving food, gardening, or cleaning, they did their service with joy and passion.

Fall 2025 brought the return of our regular programs, one of which is Confirmation. During the 2024-2025 school year, we implemented our new format for this program, which involves monthly luncheons and extended lessons, as well as regular meetings with their congregational Covenant Partners. We confirmed 10 youth in May 2025 and began our current class of 6 youth in August. This new format has been very successful and praised by all involved, and we are glad that this year we have new leadership and pioneering by Clarke and Susan Oldham.

Our Sunday School classes have all returned to using Feasting on the Word curriculum, aligning our morning discussions with what will be preached in worship that day. The only exceptions to this method are the once-a-month Confirmation lessons for our middle schoolers. Even those who have already completed Confirmation have appreciated the monthly reminder of these foundational principles of our faith!

In Sunday Night Summit this fall, our study "Mood" explores the variety of our different emotions and tries to frame them all as God-given...even when we're mad or sad! We talk about healthy and unhealthy ways to express these emotions and view them all through the lens of Jesus, who experienced the same feelings that we do. We have had three of these lessons so far and will continue into 2026. Additionally, we have engaged in events such as a Sweet Potato drop with the Lions Club, the NaCoMe Fall Retreat, Hiking with Chuck, and the High School Sexuality Course.

In my personal capacity as DYM, the arrival of Eddie Bellis as interim pastor helped ease the workload that was left to me in the wake of Kim Joiner, our former DCE's, departure. It has been helpful to work closer with children's ministry volunteers; after all the children quickly become Youth! We are always looking to reform and revamp, and 2026 will see us polish up our safety policies and make sure our curriculum is serving the needs of all our various age groups. I feel very supported by this congregation and know that whether I have a budget need or a personal crisis, I will be uplifted and taken care of. Upon reaching this third full year, I want to continually refine and reform our programs so that we don't fall into the rut of doing things "just because we always do them." Working with our Student Leadership Team has continually brought fresh life to our calendar year, and I love helping make their ideas reality. I have continued to preach on occasion and assist in worship at FPC, and while I have no ambitions of entering the pastorate, I know that these roles are helping me hone my own skills and refreshing my face before the congregation.

Administration Committee

Committee Members: Terry Love (Chair), Hunter Battle, Marti Downey, Diane Fender, Paula Frank, Katie Gottlieb, Karen Hanson, Sara Hinds, Jerry Houston, Jim Peterson, Rick Moody, Myers Parsons, Jim Roberts

Staff Resources: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor; Susan Carey, Middle Tennessee Presbytery Liaison

The Administration Committee is responsible for the administrative functioning of the church and concurrent costs and personnel matters. It evaluates the work of staff members, makes recommendations to the Session concerning salary, and serves as a forum to hear concerns of staff or congregation members. During pastoral vacancies, the committee is also responsible for the recruitment and management of pastoral services. This past year, the committee worked closely with the Senior Interim Pastor to ensure that resources were allocated to provide pastoral and administrative services to meet the needs of the church.

During 2025 the committee's work included:

- Ongoing monitoring of administrative budget
- Careful analysis of our administrative expenditures for 2025, resulting in the projection and proposal to Session of a preliminary budget and staff salary details for fiscal year 2026
- Developed a job description for children's ministry staff (Interim)
- Worked with staff to recruit part-time staff including janitorial and children's ministry services
- Conducted staff reviews for all staff members in August 2025
- Reviewed and approved Church operating hours requests from staff
- Welcomed a new Middle Tennessee Presbytery Liaison
- Communicated staffing plans and timelines to the congregation via emails, newsletter articles, and meetings
- Created a FPC Endowment Committee as a subcommittee of the Administration Committee and charged them with reviewing Church endowments and to make recommendations on fund use
- Recommended to the Session potential Pastoral Transition Team members

As chair, I want to recognize members of the Administration Committee for their time, talents, and passion to serve the Church during this year. Their dedication created an environment where the staff felt supported and the continuity of worship was sustained.

As a committee, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for our talented, dedicated staff, other committee chairs, volunteers, and Presbytery. We encourage the members of FPC to make a special effort to communicate often with individual members of the staff and let them know how much they are valued and appreciated. We ask for your continued prayer and support during the coming year, and as always, welcome your input.

Adult Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Doug Halleen (Co-Chair), Terry Love (Co-Chair) Diane Fender, Jim Martin, Katie England, Judith Wilson

Staff Resource: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have a vibrant Sunday School that meets at 9 AM each Sunday morning.

For January – May and September – December we offered six adult classes. A few classes continued to offer a hybrid mix of online and in-person classes.

The Bible Class, Room 207 A focus on ancient history in the Holy Land during a time span of 960 B.C. through 135 A.D. Contacts: Hugh DuPree and Duke Ellis

Christian Faith & Life Class, Room 206 (Hybrid on Zoom) This is a small but intimate group focused on applying the lessons to daily life and supporting one another with prayer and fellowship. Contacts: Missy Kitchings (missy@kitchings.net)

Exploration Class, Room 211 (Hybrid on Zoom) A spirited discussion class with in-depth conversation regarding the impact a faith-based book has on our lives, our family, and our community. Class members rotate leadership and the book changes about twice every semester. Contact: Doug Halleen (doug.halleen@mentorakid.org)

Feasting on the Word, Room 210 An in-depth study of the weekly lectionary scripture text using Feasting on the Word curriculum published by Westminster John Knox Press. Open dialogue is encouraged. The texts follow the Revised Common Lectionary that we also follow in worship each Sunday. Contacts: Adam Crunk (adam.crunk@gmail.com) Clarke Oldham (oldhamfamily@bellsouth.net)

Living Faith Class, Room 208 (Hybrid on Zoom) Our class uses a video format that allows for thoughtful consideration and discussion. We will use videos by Andy Stanley who is the founder of North Point Ministries. We are a welcoming and friendly class that searches for meaning in today's complex world. Contact: Anne Parsons (anneparsons@comcast.net)

Keeping Current as a Christian, Room 213 We offer a variety of topics for discussion based on current events using podcasts and news articles. We always encourage respecting other's

point of view and learn from listening and discussing in our safe, Christian community. Contact: Phil Otts (phillipandjane@icloud.com)

Summer Sunday School: During June – August our worship and the Sunday school class focused on selected scriptures from Genesis and the book Beginnings: God’s Grace in Genesis. The three pastors rotated teaching on the Sundays they preached.

August - Rally Day: We gathered all ages in the sanctuary and gave an overview of the upcoming classes.

WNL – WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE PROGRAM

WNL was held from January to December.

Topics included:

Basic Christian Doctrine

Mission Committee

Recovery Court/Healing House

Breast Cancer Recovery Group

Williamson County Homeless Alliance

Civil Rights History and MLK

Loving our Enemies

Thomas Merton and Buddhism

Community Resource Center

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Sisters in Spirit – held Fridays, 10-11:30 AM,

Presbyterian Women – 2nd Tuesdays, 9:45 – 11:15, September – May.

Women’s NaCoMe Retreat – held Nov 14-16

ADULTS 55+

October Fall Tour

December Christmas Party at the church

MEN’S MINISTRY

Bible Study – held Saturdays at 7:30 AM

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Conferences and Retreats, NaCoMe retreat – November 14-16

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Trunk or treat/Fall Festival

Children's Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Jaclyn Tarkington (Jan-May Chair), Starr Nolan (Sept-Dec Chair), Kate Lasseter, Sue Mahurin (Sept-Dec), Rhonda Moyers (Sept-Dec), Kelly Oldham

Staff Resource: Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries; Katie Oldham, Jan-Aug Interim Wonder Hour and Children's Worship Coordinator

Nursery

Our infants through 3-year-olds are well loved and cared for by a staff of caregivers on Sundays, special services, Bible studies, and WNL.

Coordinators: Kelly Oldham and Kate Lasseter; **Staff:** Linda Cairatti

Sunday Morning Wonder Hour

- The children were divided into three age groups: Upper Elementary (4th-5th grade), Lower Elementary (1st - 3rd grade), and PreK/Kindergarten.
- Each Sunday the Lower and PreK/K groups began with a time of music led by Michael Snoddy.
- Winter/Spring 2025 Leaders:
PreK/K: Claire Henry, Jaclyn Tarkington
Lower Elementary: Jennifer Heath, Starr Nolan
Upper Elementary: Meghan Costa, Katie Gottlieb, Hattie Kissel
- Fall 2025 Leaders:
PreK/K: Joy Crunk, Kathy Garst, Claire Henry, Linda Cairatti, Kate Lasseter, Kelly Oldham
Lower Elementary: Meghan Costa, Jennifer Heath, Lauren Inglis
Upper Elementary: Katie Gottlieb, Hattie Kissel, Jessica Lahey
- For the Upper and Lower Elementary groups, we used "Feasting on the Word" curriculum, published by Westminster John Knox and Congregational Ministries of PCUSA.
- Summer Sunday School was held in June and July. Katie Gottlieb led a crafting/Bible study program for children (PreK/Kindergarten through 5th grade). She taught the classes along with Katie Oldham and other parents and church members who served as helpers.
- When Katie Oldham resigned In August, Sue Mahurin volunteered to assist with Wonder Hour teacher coordination on Sunday mornings and also help the Acolytes each week prepare to serve in worship.

Wednesday Night Live Children's program

This program is led by Kate Lasseter and Kelly Oldham. Attendance was usually two to five children. Age-appropriate activities were provided.

Children's Worship

Our Children's Worship program is for four-year-olds through kindergarten where these children leave the service after the Time with the Young Church. This is a structured learning environment using the Young Children and Worship book published by Westminster John Knox Press. Children are guided through age-appropriate activities that resemble a worship service in a Reformed church. We have designed a 9-month curriculum that follows the liturgical church year and cycles through the major Biblical stories. During the summer months we use children's story books as the curriculum.

Katie Oldham was the Coordinator of the CW Program until August 2025. For the remainder of the year, parents and church members have been volunteering to lead this program on a rotation basis.

Children's Library

We offer a collection of over 900 books and DVD's that are available for check out. Our collection consists of mostly faith-based books that children will not find in their county and school libraries.

Special Activities

- Spirituality Center for Lent - Available from Ash Wednesday through Easter. This room was set up with a variety of quiet, hands-on activities to help children, youth, and adults spend time during the weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter.
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt - An egg hunt and games were provided for young children.
- Blessing of the Backpacks for all students and teachers during worship.
- Presentation of **Deep Blue Kid's Bibles** to Third Graders during worship.
- Trunk or Treat on October 18 as part of the Fall Festival organized by the Outreach Committee. We had 18 decorated trunks for this event and also reinstated awards with newly designed certificates for best trunk, best theme, and best decorated trunk.
- Advent Workshop was held on November 30 during the Sunday Morning Wonder Hour time. This multigenerational event offered 9 activity stations designed for different ages, including decorating the Sanctuary Christmas Tree. It was a great opportunity for everyone to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season together.

As 2026 begins, the committee will continue working with Sam and Eddie to see where God is leading the Children's Ministry to focus its efforts. We are thankful for every person who has stepped up and volunteered to work in the Children's Ministry in 2025; and thank you in advance to those who will join us in this new year. We are looking forward to the day when we will have a Director of Education-someone who can bring renewed excitement and commitment to the importance of building spiritual foundations for faith in children.

Until then, let us remember our instructions from God about the importance of teaching children about Him-"Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws, and his commands always. . . . Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deut. 11:1,18-19; New International Version). May we as a church stay committed to this very important task.

Youth Christian Education Committee

Committee Members: Sarah Fox (Chair), Khris Downey, Jennifer Sower, Emily Korab, and Frankie Downey.

Staff Resource: Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

FPC Franklin's youth ministry exists to build a spiritual foundation for all youth by: Welcoming all into the community of faith, teaching Biblical truth grounded in the Reformed tradition, and Inspiring youth to joyfully serve others as disciples of Christ.

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Sunday School

High school and middle school youth meet separately on Sunday mornings during the school year. Youth meet in a combined Sunday school over the summer. The High School Sunday School class used the Feasting on the Word curriculum. In the spring, the Middle School Sunday School used Feasting on the Word and Big God, Big Questions as part of the Confirmation curriculum.

Confirmation

In the fall, we began our confirmation class which was opened to all middle school or high school youth who had not participated in a confirmation process before. Students meet once a month in Sunday School and then again after worship. The students are assigned a covenant partner that they work with each month at the post-worship class and outside of class.

Wednesday Night Live

Middle school and high school youth meet together for various forms of programming on Wednesday nights as part of the larger church community WNL programming.

Sunday Night Summit

Middle school and high school youth meet together to share a meal (provided by parent volunteers) on Sunday evenings. Then the youth split into separate middle school and high school groups for programs after dinner following the Four S's approach: one Sunday each month devoted to a Study, Service, Social event, or Sabbath (a Sunday off, often following the Williamson County Schools calendar).

Student Leadership Team

Middle school youth 7th grade and above and all high school youth are invited to apply to become members of the Student Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT meets with Sam Belcher once a month directly after worship on Sunday to eat lunch together and plan upcoming youth events.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

FPC youth meet for combined middle and high school Sunday school on Sunday mornings through the summer, using the Feasting on the Word curriculum. In between attending various summer trips, Camp NaCoMe, and family vacations, youth also meet several Wednesday evenings throughout the summer at local restaurants for fellowship. They also meet for special events throughout the summer like Lake Day at the Blackburn's lake house and roller skating at the Brentwood Skate Center.

TRIPS AND RETREATS

Spring and Fall NaCoMe retreat weekends

The combined middle and high school youth group joins other youth groups from congregations across Middle Tennessee for weekend retreats at NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center. At the retreats, they engage in worship as well as fellowship, recreation, and relaxation.

Mission trips

This year, 15 high school youth and 5 adult participants attended Appalachian Service Project (ASP) outside of Carter County, TN. The group was split into teams during the day and worked on various construction projects at the homes of local residents. In the evenings, the group gathered with each other and other attendees for fellowship and learning opportunities. Nine middle school youth and four adult participants traveled to Louisville, KY to spend the week with YouthWorks. The group participated in a variety of service and learning experiences throughout the week.

Montreat Conference

Five adults and seven high school youth traveled to Montreat Conference Center outside of Asheville, NC for a week of worship, learning, and fellowship with PCUSA youth from across the country.

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Youth Sunday

In February, the youth prepare for and put on a worship service conducted entirely by the youth, including youth ushers, youth Children's Church leaders, youth prayer leaders, and youth speakers. This year Youth Sunday sermon was given by Frankie Downey.

Senior Sunday

In May, one worship service is dedicated to honoring our graduating seniors. A special insert is prepared for the bulletin, highlighting some of the past accomplishments and future plans of our graduating youth group members. Yard signs are displayed on FPC's grounds and also delivered to the homes of graduating seniors. FPC purchases Bibles for graduating seniors, which are made available in Wilson Hall for several weeks prior to Senior Sunday for FPC congregation members to sign. This year Senior Sunday sermons were given by Sammy Tarkington and Braden Stivers. Francie Gottlieb gave the children's sermon. After worship, families and the congregation are invited to a luncheon in Wilson Hall to honor the graduates.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

In April, the youth put on a Volunteer Appreciation dinner to thank all of the many adult participants who make youth programming possible. The youth planned the menu and cooked and served the meal.

Summer Trip Dinner

In late summer, the congregation was invited to a dinner sponsored by the youth, in which youth group members gave a talk about their summer trip experiences. Eric England once again prepared barbecue for the meal, and congregation members were invited to make contributions to support future summer trips for the youth group.

Live Nativity and Chili Cook-off

In December, the youth prepare and perform a live nativity for the congregation. As part of the live nativity, congregation members are invited to prepare chili for the chili cook-off. Attendees vote for their favorite chili with donations. All money collected went to support summer trips.

Congregational Care Committee

Committee Members: Khris Downey (Chair) Tammy Love (Co-Chair), Linda Cairatti, Ann Crim, Marti Downey, Cathy Ivory, and Lucas Rydlund

Staff Resource: Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Committee's purpose: The Congregational Care Committee organizes and supports the ministries of FPC which directly affect members of the congregation.

The work/accomplishments of the committee in 2025:

Caring Connection- We had 3 Caring Connection relationships where a member reaches out to another member following a surgery or event that involves a prolonged recovery.

Flower Delivery Ministry – In addition to the 270 smaller arrangements from the weekly worship flowers delivered to members throughout the year, we delivered 26 poinsettias for Advent.

Grief Book Ministry – We sent 12 sets of grief books to members following the death of immediate family members.

Growth Group Ministry – Our small group ministry had 8 groups totaling 70 people in the Spring who discussed *Everywhere is Jerusalem* by James C. Howell and 6 groups totaling 58 people in the Fall who read *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton.

Holy Stitches/Prayer Shawl Ministry - This group meets monthly and gifted 16 prayer shawls to members with immediate needs, whether they be physical, spiritual, or emotional, and a card accompanies the shawl, letting the recipient know that they are in our prayers.

Keep in Touch Ministry – We sent 21 Valentine themed College Care Packages in February to our undergraduate college students to remind them of God's love and the love of their church family.

Meal Ministry –We delivered 58 meals to 13 families recovering from health issues or other reasons they would appreciate a meal and offered meals to 4 others.

Postcard Ministry- Postcards were sent to members and regular attenders letting them know we are thinking of them and praying for them.

Visitation Ministry – This ministry made monthly contacts with 14 members who are unable to worship in person or who would appreciate a visit. Through this ministry, there were 67 visits, 41 calls, and 55 cards sent. Bi-weekly mailouts were sent to our homebound members which included items from the ENEWS, printed sermons, Friday emails, the prayer list with births and deaths, and cards from our children's ministry for special holidays. Two members celebrated milestone birthdays (90, 95, 100) and were showered with cards from Session, staff, and relevant committee/groups.

Volunteer Appreciation – To thank and offer appreciation to the over 80 members who dedicate their time to our FPC Caring Ministries, the committee hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Reception following worship in February.

Welcome Ministry – We have had 18 new members join this year and matched them with welcome families to help connect them with the congregation. We also hosted New Member Dinners in March and November.

The goals for the committee for 2026:

In addition to supporting and fortifying the current caring ministries, we plan to improve the process for reaching out to members who haven't worshipped with us lately, letting them know that they are missed.

Facility Management Committee

Committee Members: Greg Bennorth (Chair), Rich Johnson, Jim Mahurin, Vivian Coble, Don Arnold, Ron Crutcher, Erik Lund, Rich Crim, Wayne Barcheski, John Moulton, Porter Calhoun, Mike Anderson

Staff Resource: Catherine Olson, Director of Operations

The Facility Management Committee oversees the ongoing maintenance and upgrades of the church's property and plans for future expenditures as necessary. We strive to have a beautiful and well-functioning church for worship and fellowship activities. The church is in good condition but can always be improved. We occupy a 35,000 square foot facility located on a 13-acre campus. The estimated cost to rebuild the church is \$10,500,000, adding an additional \$1,700,000 for personal property. Our committee's responsibilities require an enormous amount of time, energy and money.

The FMC Operating budget is approximately \$260,000. This budget covers the expected operating and maintenance costs for the church and the church's grounds, utilities, landscaping, routine repair expenses. Maintenance and insurance are the major portion of this. As with most properties, there are often many unexpected repairs including plumbing, HVAC, lighting, kitchen equipment, and even doors that arise throughout the year. These are addressed as quickly as possible so that normal church operations are not affected.

When large expenses for equipment or maintenance are required that are outside of normal expenditures for the operating budget, funds from the fixed asset replacement fund and the Glory-to-Glory campaign have been used. Some large expenditures during 2025 included a

new Fire Control Panel at \$110,000, replacement of sanctuary spotlights (which required a lift) at \$8,300, three new HVAC units for \$24,000, parking lot striping at \$4,000, a new controller for the cooling tower at \$6,000, and landscape lighting at \$4,800. The recently added window laminate with tinting for increased security will cost \$23,000. In addition to the security benefit of the window laminate, the tinting will help reduce the load on our HVAC units, helping reduce utility costs and hopefully extend the life of some of the units.

With the completion of the window laminate there are no known major expenditures currently in the works, but this will change during the year. Only landscape improvements for damaged plants and trees are identified currently.

Due to the age of the building, the committee has identified other pieces of equipment that are expected to require replacement over the coming years, including some this year. Included in this list are the gas fired boiler, the elevator, multiple HVAC units (many of which are 32 years old), and landscaping tree/shrub replacements. But as has happened every year, additional unexpected costs will show up too. The 10-year projection for these costs exceeds \$800,000. The fixed asset replacement fund is now just under \$50,000.

Going forward, the current budget does not have any line items designated for assets that will need to be replaced in the near and long-term future, but we know these costs are looming. Future expenses will have to use available designated funds that the church has. Discussions with the finance team are ongoing about how to address these future costs that are outside the operating budget.

The FMC decisions are driven by the factors of use and age of the property. Normal repair and maintenance are the standard and simple approach, but when large and/or expensive items fail and need to be repaired, we must make these repairs happen quickly.

Fellowship Committee

Committee Members: Jane Otts (Chair), Emily Korab (Secretary), Namaste Anderson, Thomas Bartolomeo, Clata Miller, Phillip Otts, Barbara Roos, and Dale Roos

Staff Resource: Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Committee's Purpose: The FPC Fellowship Committee plans and implements a variety of opportunities for the congregation to socialize and grow together in Christian fellowship. Often partnering with other committees, we help facilitate activities, receptions, and social events

that bring members and guests together, fostering a sense of community and belonging within the church, and strengthening the bonds of friendship within the congregation and with the wider community. The committee sets up, prepares and serves meals, and cleans up afterward. The committee hosts bereavement meals and/or receptions for funerals. The committee is also responsible for overseeing kitchen operations and maintaining kitchen supplies.

The work/accomplishments of the committee in 2025:

- Coordinated, set up and served, and cleaned up for 30 Wednesday Night Live meals.
- Provided bereavement meals or receptions for two funerals.
- Hosted a Winter potluck in Wilson Hall following the worship service in February.
- Held a well-attended intergenerational *Pizza and Trivia Night* with games and prizes in late February which brought families and members together to build new relationships in a fun atmosphere where those of all ages could contribute.
- Provided a reception for the *Hymn Festival* sponsored by Worship Music & Arts in March.
- Hosted a Spring potluck in Wilson Hall following the worship service in April.
- Prepared and served the meal for the Holy Week service on Maundy Thursday, as well as the Easter Sunrise Breakfast in April.
- Organized *Dinners for Eight* as an opportunity for people to make new friends and get to know members of their church family better in a more intimate and relaxed atmosphere in April. Members of the congregation signed up either to host or attend a meal, then were assigned to a member's home to share a meal with seven other members of the congregation.
- Hosted a Summer potluck in Wilson Hall following the worship service in July.
- Hosted *Sundaes on Sunday* in Wilson Hall following worship in August. Make Your Own Sundaes and an invitation for folks to share their interests and hobbies with others were fun ways for the entire congregation to celebrate the beginning of the school year.
- Organized another *Dinners for Eight* in September.
- Hosted a Young Adult Happy Hour in September.
- Organized *Holy Chow!*, an orientation and training on the kitchen's layout and equipment and the ins and outs of setup and cleanup for Wednesday Night Live dinners and other fellowship events, also in September.
- Provided a reception for the Vanderbilt Trombone Ensemble community concert sponsored by Worship Music & Arts in October.
- In collaboration with the Hard Bargain Association, we helped put on the annual Fall Festival in October. We planned for 225 people, taking responsibility for helping to coordinate, set up, prepare food and drinks, provide smores, and clean up afterward.
- Hosted a Fall potluck to recognize the congregation's former service members on Veterans Day in November.

The goals for the committee for 2026:

The committee plans to continue to provide necessary support for existing events and needs while remaining open to new opportunities to foster community and provide opportunities for fellowship and intergenerational relationship building within the congregation.

Finance Committee

Committee Members: Sara Hinds, Sarah Fox, Lauren Inglis, Brent Sower, Andrew Stevens, and John Korab (Chair)

Staff resources: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor, Catherine Olson, Director of Operations

PURPOSE. The Finance Committee stewards the financial resources of FPC to support and strengthen all ministries. It provides guidance on budgeting, financial reporting, long-term financial sustainability, resource allocation, and best financial practices. By fostering trust and transparent stewardship, the Committee seeks to honor God and empower FPC to effectively fulfill its ministry goals and mission.

As of the beginning of the year, Lauren Inglis resigned from the Finance Committee to spend more time on the Stewardship Committee. We thank Lauren for her invaluable work on the Committee. We also welcome Jim Bryant as the newest member.

ACTIVITIES. The activities of the Finance Committee over the past year included:

- Investigating and recommending to Session the establishment of a calendar fiscal year.
- Monthly reporting to Session on the financial well-being of FPC.
- Preparing the Multi-Year Financial Assessment.
- Developing and coordinating the 2026 budget process.
- Updating the Resolution regarding the Lena Reynolds Endowment Fund.
- Developing the Responsibilities and Expectations of the Finance Committee

Fiscal Year. The Finance Committee investigated and recommended to Session that FPC transition from a fiscal year starting in March and ending in February to a calendar fiscal year beginning in January and ending in December. The principal benefit of a calendar fiscal year is synchronization with the pledge year and the tax year.

The Statement of Activities for the 10-month fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.

Total Receipts	
Stewardship Income	1,066,236
BGA Lease	48,250
Other Income	<u>17,897</u>
Total Receipts	\$1,132,383
Disbursements	
Administration	638,898
Facilities Management	223,654
All Other	<u>145,441</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,007,993
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$124,389

Monthly Session Reporting. Throughout 2025, the monthly reporting to Session has evolved considerably. The focus is no longer simply on reporting numbers, but on highlighting key financial metrics and reviewing the overall financial condition of FPC. The topics include –

- Statement of Activities
 - Surplus (Deficit)
 - Receipts
 - Disbursements
 - Designated Funds
- Statement of Financial Position
- Operating Fund – Receipts and Disbursements

Multi-Year Financial Assessment. As part of the Pastoral Transition efforts, the Finance Committee undertook a multi-year assessment of FPC’s financial condition. Overall, FPC enters 2026 in a position of measured stability with meaningful strengths – including solid liquidity, strong designated fund history, capital campaign success, and growing legacy assets. Nonetheless, the Finance Committee has identified the following sustainability challenges –

- Recurring income, although stabilized around \$1.1 million annually, is losing purchasing power relative to inflation
- Rising administrative and facilities costs, which now are approximately 85% of the operating budget, continue to place pressure on funding capacity.
- Addressing more than \$400,000 in fixed asset replacement needs over the next three years.
- This funding need is outside the operating budget and will require proactive funding strategies.
- Greater clarity, understanding, and discipline regarding how the Designated Funds are used is needed

2026 Budget Process. The Finance Committee developed and coordinated the 2026 budget process. Building on the previous fiscal year approach, the various Committees were asked to prepare their budget requests on an activity's basis. This is accomplished by answering three questions

1. What activities are planned
2. What will they cost
3. When will they occur.

Various tools such as budget templates by Committee, a budget compiler, and an income scheduler were developed to decrease time to completion. The 2026 budget is currently nearing completion and will be shared with the congregation after approval by Session.

Lena Reynolds Endowment Fund. In May 2025 the Finance Committee presented to Session a Resolution that addressed items of the Lena Reynolds Endowment such as history, funding, purpose, and calculation of the Annual Funds Available.

Responsibilities and Expectations. The Responsibilities and Expectations of the Finance Committee were updated in 2025. The topics included –

- Purpose
- Membership of the Committee
- Operational Responsibilities

Annual Operating Budget

- Financial Reporting
- Financial Forecasting
- Capital Budget
- Best Practices-
 - Communication
 - Process Improvement
 - Financial Support/Education
 - Financial and Accounting Policies
- Fiduciary Responsibilities
 - Safeguarding Church Assets
 - Emergency Management
 - Financial Compliance

Health and Safety Committee

Committee Members: Phil Otts (Chair), Dan Crunk, Don Arnold

Staff Resources: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor; Catherine Olson, Director of Operations

A Safety Committee was first approved by the Session in the Summer of 2024 and was re-named the Health and Safety Committee later that year. The committee's mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of the congregation. In 2025, the Committee got up and running and made some initial progress on the following priorities: preparing the congregation to respond quickly and effectively to health emergencies; hardening the building to slow down a potential threat to our congregation's safety; and deploying a team on Sunday morning to spot and respond to a potential threat as quickly as possible.

Key developments in 2025 include the following:

- The Session decided NOT to develop an armed response to the potential threat posed by an armed assailant on Sunday mornings. As an alternative, the Session decided to rely on hardening the building, while still fostering a welcoming atmosphere, and developing procedures to call 911 as quickly as possible in case of an emergency.
- The Session kept open the possibility of hiring a Franklin Police Department officer to provide security when major public events are held on campus.
- Tinted safety glass was installed on relevant glass doors and windows, with the goal of making it harder to shatter the glass and enter the building. The tinted glass will also offer energy savings.
- The Session agreed to lock all glass doors leading into the building on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the Main Entrance. Note: All doors will still function normally as emergency exits.
- A lock-down button was installed at the Front Office desk to allow Sunday morning volunteers to lock the Main Entrance quickly in case of an emergency.
- The Session agreed to launch Sunday morning volunteer teams beginning in January 2026. The teams will be composed of two volunteers manning the front desk and monitoring the cameras each Sunday, with one volunteer on duty from 0830-1000 and the second volunteers from 1000-1130. Eight volunteers from the Session will serve on the teams during a trial period. The Health and Safety teams will work closely with the Hospitality teams. Tactical radios will be deployed at the Front Desk, in the Narthex, in the Youth wing and in the Nursery.
- Two sets of magnetic "Security" signs were deployed on vehicles positioned near driveway entrances off Legends Club Lane, to serve as a visual deterrent on Sunday mornings.

- Two new trauma kits were deployed, one in the Narthex and the second in the Youth wing.
- Plans were initiated to develop a regular series of training sessions to help the congregation respond quickly and effectively to medical emergencies. This program will be led by Dr. Don Arnold and should be up and running in 2026.
- Discussions were also held regarding the possibility of developing a mental health outreach program, pending availability of volunteers.
- Other goals for 2026 include developing updated, more comprehensive plans for responding to other emergencies, including fires.

The Health and Safety Committee hopes to recruit more committee members in 2026.

Mission Committee

Committee Members: Mike Anderson, Jason Coleman, Eric England, Christine Grisham, Martha Johnson (Co-Chair), Cathy McCall,(Co-Chair), Robin Pulliam, Brent Sower, Bruce Tarkington, Betty Webb, Clerk

Staff Resource: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor

Committee's Purpose: To demonstrate God's saving grace by serving others in our community, nation, and world. The mission committee educates the congregation about opportunities for service, encouraging participation locally, nationally and globally to provide support for our neighbors in need.

Mission Partners financially supported in 2025:

BRA Foundation

Bridges

Brightstone

Feed America First

GraceWorks

Habitat For Humanity

Hard Bargain Redevelopment

Jiselle Lauren Foundation

Living Waters for the World

Meals on Wheels

My Friends House

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Society of St. Andrew

The Outreach Foundation
UKirk for Vanderbilt/Belmont Students
Williamson County Homeless Alliance

Domestic Missions:

14 FPC members, attended an AIM (Adults in Mission) weekend at Mountain T.O.P. I in Grundy County TN. Our weekend coincided with the Fall Festival for the community. FPC team members worked at the festival and on three different home repair/work sites. Plans are in place to return to Mountain T.O.P. twice in 2026.

6 FPC members made a day visit to Crossroads Mission Care in Dixon Springs, TN. CMC is developing a retreat center for 1st Responders. They also provide training, life coaching, and encouragement to 1st Responders in a 6-county area. Plans are in place to return to CMC in 2026 to help with construction projects.

Global Missions:

Elizabeth Carter from the Outreach Center, our long term FPC Mission Partner, spoke at a WNL event about how we might become involved in their global outreach. A global subcommittee was formed to review FPC's past history with global partners and to consider current possibilities for global outreach. The subcommittee will make recommendations to the larger committee on how to proceed, with an emphasis on developing long term relationships with global partners.

Collections:

FPC's Basic Collection Cart is used to collect food which is donated monthly to Gracework's Food Pantry. In 2025 over 1000 pounds of food were delivered. We also began a monthly special collection, including diapers and hygiene products for Graceworks, food for Shorter's Chapel's new food pantry, 300 pairs of socks for RITI, winter blankets for Blanket Nashville, and XXL men's and women's coats for the homeless in Nashville.

Other Mission Events:

- We provided and attended a UKirk meal with Belmont and Vanderbilt students at St. Augustine's Chapel on the Vanderbilt Campus.
- The FPC Manger Tree was set up, with Christmas gifts organized and delivered to the GraceWorks Manger.
- During Advent we adopted 6 families from Poplar Grove Middle and Elementary School and provided Christmas gifts for each family.

- The Franklin Meals on Wheels (MOW) program provides about 125 meals, prepared and delivered to recipients each week. FPC provided volunteers the first week of every month. 5-6 volunteers prepared and packaged the meals and 6 volunteers total provided a rider and driver for the delivery of meals on 8 routes.
- FPC sponsored 3 American Red Cross Blood Drives in Wilson Hall, collecting 82 units (33, 20 and 29 respectively).
- We supported one of our college students who organized a drive to collect personal items for Love Her Well to help single mothers. We supported a second of our college students in raising funds for a mission trip.
- The mission committee made an extra financial contribution to Feed America First to help with the repair of a delivery truck.
- The mission committee made an extra financial contribution to the Montreat Conference Center for Hurricane Helene repairs.
- We supported the Wilco Homeless Alliance Breakfast.
- The committee hosted a WNL Mission Fiesta with a meal, sharing of mission information and a mission interest sign up.
- The committee held a Saturday Retreat Day where we discussed readings, goals/objectives and guidelines for the mission committee.

FISH Events:

FISH (FPC Intergenerational Service in Hope) events are family focused mission opportunities designed to bring all ages together in service. These activities emphasize teaching children the value of helping others while building meaningful intergenerational relationships.

FISH activities in 2025 included:

- 1 Sweet Potato Drop where we partnered with the Williamson County Lion's Club to sort sweet potatoes into 10-pound sacks. FPC Youth helped with this.
- 2 United4Hope events where we partnered with Poplar Grove Middle and Elementary Schools by assembling 160 teacher/staff appreciation bags.
- 2 Fish & Loaves Ministry events, where we gathered at Downtown Presbyterian Church to assist with their Saturday morning breakfast and respite program for those without homes.
- 1 Graceworks Mobile Food Pantry distribution at Fairview Middle School.
- 3 separate Presbyterian Disaster Assistance kit assembly events in Wilson Hall. We assembled 200 Hygiene kits, 200 School kits and 25 Emergency Buckets. Shipping for all was arranged at no cost with Averitt.

Outreach Committee

Committee Members: Verna Rydlund (Chair), Jim Bryant, Mary Bryant, Ron Crutcher, Jim Mahurin, and Dale Roos

Staff Resource: Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Our Mission: The Outreach Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin fulfills the call of the Great Commission by offering to the community-at-large opportunities to learn more about the ministries of this church, and the history and doctrine of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

2025 Outreach Committee achievements:

- We hosted numerous Inquirer gatherings to encourage visitors to become engaged with and potentially join our community.
- We updated the images, graphics, and height of the outdoor lamppost banners for greater visual appeal, messaging, and visibility.
- We continued revamping our Welcome Center approach, material and content as follows:
 - The installation of the Welcome messaging wall downstairs that mirrors the wall upstairs, so it is the first thing people see as they enter the building to set a consistent and welcoming tone
 - The installation of a bulletin board downstairs to provide information about FPC for any BGA or other visitors who enter FPC through the downstairs entrance.
- We sponsored a tent and provided cakes for the Cake Walk for Juneteenth festivities at McLemore House.
- This year we continued our partnership with Hard Bargain for our yearly Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat event including outdoor games and inflatables, a blood drive with Blood Assurance, our annual barbecue feast, and an indoor movie night following the dinner.
- We sponsored a table at Hard Bargain's annual fundraising dinner in October.
- We sponsored a tent at Franklin Pride. Pumpkinfest was not an option this year due to construction on the street space normally allocated for non-profit organizations. We plan to return to Pumpkinfest in 2026.
- Through the help of David Bell, repairs and necessary enhancements were made to the free library so neighbors and members could take advantage of it.

Our overall focus in 2026 will be to continue to look for additional partnerships and events to broaden our presence in the community, and we will be reviewing relevant feedback from participants in recent Listening Sessions that pertain to potential areas of interest specific to the work of our committee.

Stewardship Committee

Committee Members: Dan Crunk (Chair), Joy Crunk, Lauren Inglis, and Sam Webb

Staff Resource: Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor; Catherine Olson, Director of Operations

In October we launched our 2026 Entrusted to Act generosity campaign which used Luke 12: 48b as its inspiration: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

During the campaign we reflected on what God has entrusted to each of us and all the blessings that God has given us. As we considered those blessings, we prayed and listened carefully to what God "required" of us...then, ACTED! As part of the campaign, we held a Ministries in Action Fair where all church committees participated during Common Grounds on November 2nd. The Fair displayed what each committee does and encouraged recruitment of the time and talents of church members to join the committees for 2026. The Fair was well attended by church members and guests. Also, we had a tremendous response to our stewardship campaign with 134 households pledging \$1,109,129.

Worship Committee

Committee Members: Leanne Hoeffler (Chair), Susan Burns, Angela Calhoun, Vivian Coble, Hugh DuPree, Mike Moyers, and Anne Parsons

Staff Resources: Warner Durnell, Bridge Pastor (January 2025); Eddie Bellis, Interim Senior Pastor; Michael Snoddy, Director of Music

Our Mission: To oversee and support all worship activities and worship-related resources at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, including Sunday morning worship and other special services and activities.

Throughout 2025, the Worship Committee has worked with the pastoral staff, including Bridge Pastor Warner Durnell and Interim Pastor Eddie Bellis, and the Director of Music, Michael Snoddy, to oversee and ensure adequate resources and support for all worship activities at First Presbyterian Church. Those activities included primarily Sunday morning worship and special services such as those during Lent, Holy Week, and Advent. For each service, the committee worked to ensure that processes and resources were in place for hospitality teams, communion preparers, acolytes, live stream team members, and any other groups who assisted in worship.

As noted above, the worship committee is also responsible for special services and activities. In 2025, under Michael Snoddy's direction, the committee provided three special musical events. The first was a Hymn Sing on March 23 where the work of Deitrich Bonhoeffer was used to create a meaningful worship experience. A recital by internationally known organist Isabelle Demers was held on Sunday, May 11, and the [Bone Therapy Trombone Ensemble](#) returned for a concert on Sunday, October 19. Over 200 people joined us for this first Worship, Music & Arts Performance Event of the fall!

The committee also assisted as needed with Services of Witness to the Resurrection (funerals) and weddings, and delegated teams to carry out the policies of the committee and church as appropriate.

The Committee cannot do this work alone and would like to thank all staff and volunteers who assisted us in our efforts and endeavored to make our services an opportunity for all to encounter God.

