



**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 15, 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**

John Johns, guitar

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, all who would bear witness to the risen Christ!

**Christ empowers the church to proclaim the Word.**

Each of us receives special talents needed in Christ's Church.

**Be our talents large or small, we are the Lord's Church.**

Let us each know we are special in the heart of Christ. Together, let us pray.

**Shepherd God, you caused your Spirit to come mightily upon David. You promised your children your comforting presence and direction. You sent Jesus, the light of the world, to remove the scales from our eyes. We behold your grandeur and offer the praise due your name.**

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

**\*HYMN 744**

*Arise, Your Light Has Come*

FESTAL SONG

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Presbyterian Outlook Liturgy by Tracey Davenport)**

**Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to the needs of others. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness, and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage, and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**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**

John 9:1-41

(Pew Bible, p.871)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

The Gentle Healer

Eddie Bellis

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*HYMN 442**

*Just as I Am*

WOODSWORTH

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(Psalm 23:1-6)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside still waters, and restores my soul. The Lord leads me in right paths for (God’s) name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

**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.**

**STORIES OF BELONGING**

*FPC Mission*

Mike Anderson

**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**

Chancel Choir

*"I lift my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come...from the Lord.."*

**\*DOXOLOGY 606**

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures, here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*HYMN 451**

*Open My Eyes*

OPEN MY EYES

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*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 – Lucas Rydland, percussion  
Ryan Fox, Liturgist  
Ben Costa, Acolyte  
Mike Moyers, Artist

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Eddie Bellis' good service at FPC and our wonderful staff that works so well with him, by Judith & Tom Wilson.*

*More information about our Lenten labyrinth artwork  
(including a guide to Visio Divina) is available in the narthex.*

## PRAYER LIST

### **New:**

US service members especially those in harm's way  
People in Iran and the Middle East region under attack  
Family members of those killed in war  
Caleb Lillard  
Martha Johnson's brother-in-law, Michael Maniscalco  
Roger Fender's mother, Margaret Fender  
Anne Osborne's friend, Cecilie Maynor  
Martha Johnson's brother-in-law, Tom Anderson  
Cathie Davidson's sister-in-law, Bonnie Moon  
Terry and Tammy Love's friend, Yvonne Caple  
John and Ruthie Moulton's great-grandson, Mason Bell  
John and Ruthie Moulton's great-granddaughter, Amyah Bell

### **Deaths:**

Pat Johnson's sister, Betty Harrel, February 21  
Pat Johnson's sister, Martha Kerr, February 20

### **Births/Adoptions:**

Cory Ray Costacamps, son of Kevin and Sydney Costacamps, February 19

### **Members:**

Ted Bechtel  
Ann Brown  
Barbara Crunk  
Jeff Doering  
Carolyn Hayes  
Nancy Morris  
Anne Osborne

### **In Memory:**

Vera Jefferson            March 15, 2005  
Bill Eberle                March 19, 2020

## Announcements

**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 Mary Sellers Shaw will be leading our Lenten worship service.

### **Mid-Week Lenten Services – Wednesdays, 6:45 PM**

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

**Adults 55+:** Our Lunch & Learn will be held **This Wednesday, March 18** at 11:15 AM in the Barr Conference Room, featuring Age Well's services and a presentation on scams targeting older adults—sign up online or on the Wilson Hall bulletin board to reserve a \$10 boxed lunch. Also, join us for lunch **on March 31** at 11:00 AM at Mellow Mushroom (317 Main St.); no sign-up is needed.

**Upcoming Mission Opportunity:** Join us for Mountain T.O.P. Adult Mission Trip **April 16–19** in Coalmont, TN. All skill levels are welcome. **Sign-up deadline is TODAY** on the Connection Card or the FPC events page. Contact Mike Anderson at [mja2649@aol.com](mailto:mja2649@aol.com) for more info.

**FISH Event:** Join us on **March 28 at 9:00 AM** in Wilson Hall to assemble Hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and seed packets for the Society of Saint Andrew. Simultaneously, approximately 160 “thank you” gift bags will be assembled for teachers and staff at Poplar Grove Elementary and Middle Schools as part of the United4Hope project.

**Spring Potluck:** Join us for food and fellowship on Sunday, **March 29**, following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share!

**Emergency Medical Sessions:** Learn what to do before EMS arrives in situations involving unconsciousness, choking, bleeding, and AED use. Led by Don Arnold in the Barr Conference Room after services on **April 12 & 19 and June 7 & 28**. Healthcare professionals interested in helping can contact [don.arnold@yumc.org](mailto:don.arnold@yumc.org)

**Stations of the Cross:** Mike Moyers’ fourteen paintings depicting Jesus’ journey to Calvary are on display in the hallway of the Barr Conference Room. All are invited to take a self-guided devotional journey this Lenten season.

**Music in Worship: Musical “Small Group”**-Consider joining us in the Chancel Choir, the church’s original “small group.” We gather each week for rehearsal in preparation for Sunday worship including small group caring; working toward a common goal; fellowship opportunities; mental growth/stimulation; established/new friendships, and more. One need not read music or have previous choral experience. Consider joining us on for a WED evening (6:45 PM).

**Basic Essentials Collection:** Drop off Men’s athletic & winter socks for Room In The Inn in the narthex in March. We also support the GraceWorks Food Pantry all year!

**Annual Meeting:** The session invites everyone to gather for the annual Meeting of the Corporation on **Sunday, March 22** beginning at 9 AM during Wonder Hour. While Children’s Wonder Hour will happen as normal, all adults and youth are invited to gather in Wilson Hall where the PTT will share the Mission Study Report. Additionally, at the end of the 10:15 AM worship service in the Sanctuary, we will receive the Nominating Committee’s report, which will present two slates of nominees: one for the Nominating Committee and one for the Pastor Nominating Committee. This is an important moment in the life of our church- please join us.

#### **Holy Week Services:**

**Maundy Thursday – April 2**, 6:00 PM: Meal & Service (No Livestream)

**Good Friday – April 3**, Noon: Service (No Livestream)

**Saturday, April 4**, 10:00 AM: Easter Egg Hunt

**Easter Sunday – April 5:** 6:00 AM Sunrise Service at  
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church (Breakfast follows)  
8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (Livestream) Worship at FPC



### ***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](mailto:sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org)).

**Prayer requests** to share concerns or celebrations may be sent to Anne Keener ([akeener@fpcfranklin.org](mailto: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](http://fpcfranklin.org)

Church Office Hours M-Th 9 AM-4 PM

101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin TN, 37069

615.794.5114 | [fpcfranklin.org](http://fpcfranklin.org)

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Thank you for your generosity!

