



**3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 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 INTONATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us who seek the Lord gather in this house to worship!

Let us keep our eyes focused upon the cross and all that it calls us to be.

Let us see in the cross the price paid to show us God's love.

Let us walk without fear and share God's love today.

Let us give thanks and praise for God's mercy and grace. Together, let us pray.

O Holy One of Israel, in Christ, you call us to dwell in your favor; we gather to praise you and worship in your name. You are the Rock that keeps us from falling, the Redeemer who can save us from sin. You set us upon the sure foundation of your commandments; you cleanse us from all unrighteousness through the gift of your Son. Accept our words as we honor your judgment and be pleased with our worship as we respond to Christ's call.

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

***HYMN 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we desire to be a part of your family, but don't really want to accept our crosses. We carry your name, but we are not always willing to live as you taught us. We are your followers, but we shrink away when we think of the price we are called to pay. Forgive us, Lord, and grant us courage to live for you.

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

Eddie Bellis

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

Romans 5:1-11

(Pew Bible, p.917)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What’s Behind the Curtain?

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN 175**

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(Excerpted from the Confession of 1967)

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

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

“...He came to earth, came to give life that I might live.”

Chancel Choir

***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 720**

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

***CHARGE**

“...let there be peace on earth and let it begin in me.”

Chancel Choir

***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 – Adam Troxler, instrumentalist
Khris Downey, Liturgist
Lark England, Acolyte
Mike Moyers, Artist

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Sarah Lowder by Marina Holloway.*

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

PRAYER LIST

New:

Caleb Lillard
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:

Harold Plumley March 8, 2019
Gretchen Langfitt March 11, 1997

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 Marilyn Doering will be leading our Lenten worship service.

Lenten Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Barr Conference Room through March 25. Pastor Eddie leads Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado.

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

March 11-Marilyn Doering; March 18-Mary Sellers Shaw
March 25-A Seder in Wilson Hall: Led by the Gottlieb Family

Adults 55+: Our Lunch & Learn will be held **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 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 are welcome. **Sign-up deadlines: Today, 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.

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 will be made at FPC. 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 May 10 & 24**. Healthcare professionals interested in helping can contact 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...plus (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!

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



Use the QR code to visit the Events 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

101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin TN, 37069

615.794.5114 | fpcfranklin.org

Scan the QR code to the right to make an online donation.
Thank you for your generosity!

