



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 12, 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

CHIMING OF THE HOUR / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Elizabeth Smith, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Light now shines where once there was darkness and despair.

Hope and joy live where once there were only sadness and shame.

We have new life because Christ lives, and the bonds of death are broken.

Even as the days grow long and we are weary, our Lord sustains us.

Christ alone pleads our case before God so we may know your mercy. Together, let us pray.

Girded with gladness, we come rejoicing. You are the God of our salvation; we give you all praise and honor. When we cried for help, you heard us; from out of the pit, you rescued us. You turn our mourning into dancing and adorn us with favor. We raise our voices in faithful thanksgiving and give glory and honor to your wondrous name.

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

*HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We gather here as a fellowship of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. One of our joys is the peace we experience as we gather to worship, to give thanks, and to witness the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Yet, we admit that there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely. We confess there are moments when faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of peace.

Unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)

*HYMN OF PRAISE 238

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death has won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded graveclothes
where thy body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory, Thou o'er death
has won.**

*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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31 (pg. 883)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Panic Room

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN 623

I’ve Got Peace Like a River

PEACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Health and Safety

Don Arnold

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

John Johns, guitar

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures, here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***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 265**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
(VERSES One; Two; Four; and Five)

DUKE STREET

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Elizabeth Smith, organ

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
John Johns, guitar
Elizabeth Smith, organ
The Chancel Choir
Sue Mahurin, Liturgist
Charlie Stevens, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for Betty Willoughby's 92nd birthday
by her daughter, Beth Beutel.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Sarah Brown's friend, Marilyn Peters
Cathie Davidson's grandson, CPT Tyler Davidson
Cathie Davidson's friend, Judy Shuford
Barb Heerman's friend, Owen Charley and family
Karen Hanson's brother, Kris Creeden
Heather Reimer's mother, Vicki Whipple
Elizabeth Stivers' friend, John Dulaney

Deaths:

Ted Bechtel, March 30, 2026

Members:

Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Jeff Doering
Carolyn Hayes
Caleb Lillard
Anne Osborne

Military:

Melinda Henderson
Taylor Reynolds
Thomas Reynolds
Cathie Oldham Davidson's grandson, Kyle Davidson
Marilyn Miller's grandson, Will Herbert
Opal Plumley's grandson, Douglas Plumley
Sally Wanzer's grandson-in-law, Mclane Smith

In Memory:

Glenn Miller April 13, 1997

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to our guest organist, Elizabeth Smith.

Emergency Medical Sessions: Learn what to do before EMS arrives. Led by Don Arnold, with facilitators Kaitlyn Bennorth and Tammy Love, in the Barr Conference Room. Assistance provided by Blair and Larry Reynolds. Sessions held after services on **Today, April 19, June 7, and June 28**. Healthcare professionals interested in helping can contact don.arnold@yumc.org.

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 will begin our two-week presentation and discussion of *False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Re-founding Democracy* by Jim Wallis, led by Pastor Eddie. This study invites us to reflect on our faith in today's climate and consider how we can live out a gospel that transforms our communities and our nation. All are welcome to come for the meal, stay for the conversation!

Adults 55+: Join us **Tomorrow, April 13** at 11 AM in Barr Conference Room for a presentation on storytelling-what it is, why it matters, and how to tell a great story. Soup & salad lunch will be provided. No signup needed.

Exploration Sunday School Class: Sundays at 9:00 AM join us in Room 209 or on Zoom for Wrestling with Doubt – Finding Faith. Explore questions like “Where is God when bad things happen?” and “Does God hear our prayers?” with best-selling author Adam Hamilton and discover how trust in God can grow even through doubt. Contact: Doug Halleen.

April Basic Essentials: April's highlighted collection is Asher's Animals; a ministry created in memory of Asher that provides stuffed animals to children experiencing illness or trauma. Help share comfort and keep his legacy alive by donating a new, tagged stuffed animal (small to medium size) to the cart.

Congregational Favorites Hymn Festival April 19 with Adam Troxler, instrumentalist – A festival of hymns based upon the Lord's Prayer with prayers and meditations by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Featuring music for congregation, choir, organ, and instruments.

FISH Service Opportunities:

April 23, 6:30 PM UKIRK Dinner with Vanderbilt & Belmont Students

April 25, Room In The Inn: prepare, pack, and serve lunch to guests.

May 2, FPC Workday at Hard Bargain Assoc. 9:30 AM–1:00 PM, meeting at Ty's House (608 Mt. Hope Street) to help with yard work, painting, and minor repairs.

May 16, FPC will serve alongside GraceWorks Ministries at Fairview Middle.

June 2, Volunteer with Williamson County Animal Shelter at 10 AM

Summer Wonder Hour Volunteers Needed: Are you passionate about the wonders of creation? Can you share your love of nature one Sunday morning this summer? Summer Wonder Hour for elementary students needs you! Topics from insects to trees to mountains are welcome! Email katiegottlieb@yahoo.com if interested.

Senior Sunday: May 3 join us for a special worship service honoring our graduating seniors, followed by a banquet in Wilson Hall. Senior Bibles will be available in late April—stop by to leave an encouraging note as they begin a new chapter.

FPC Music & Arts: Sunday, May 17 at 3 PM, we welcome African American Concert Organist Alcee Chriss III. Celebrated for his “grace, skill, and abundant proficiency,” Dr. Chriss has performed throughout North America and Europe and is University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University.

Upcoming:

May 17: Confirmation Sunday

May 31: Red Cross Blood Drive



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

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Thank you for your generosity!

