



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 17, 2026**

Every year, the students in the confirmation class and their covenant partners gather for a retreat to learn about discipleship. One of the retreat activities involves participants working in small groups to study scriptures about the disciples and discipleship, then interpreting them into posters. The posters are typically deeply symbolic and display theological concepts in very creative ways. The artwork on the cover is a compilation of symbols from the posters created in this year's retreat. In this composition, you will find:

- A connection diagram with the following symbology
- Rainbow heart in the center=God and God's love for all
- Flowers=Disciples growing in faith
- Vines and words=that which connects us to God
- Line and words connecting flowers=that which connect us to our faith community

The pathway to the cross includes additional imagery to outline the character and behavior of disciples. We find the Bible (wisdom), the offering plate (giving), bread (sharing), foot washing and hands (serving), a line of people (following), the circled person (being last), a lion (courage), a heart (the love we share because we are loved), and a cross with words (the sacrificial love of God in Christ).

As we can see, we have a group of deep-thinking and creative Confirmands!

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

Welcome to worship. The asterisk () invites all to rise in body or spirit.
The people's responses are in **bold type**. Please silence cell phones.*

CHIME PEAL

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We lift your hearts, for we are sent to give witness of our Lord!

We were sent to tell of God's forgiveness, mercy, and power.

We are not of the world, but sent into it as Christ was sent;

We were sent to bring hope and life where once there was only darkness and despair.

Let us lift our praises to God as we pray together.

To meditate upon your law, O God, is to learn of your love and know of your righteousness. You are a God of tender mercy, whose benevolent care protects your children and all creation. We gather to worship you as people of righteousness, made whole by Christ's redeeming love. Open our hearts to sing of your goodness, our minds to explore your wisdom, and our lips to give you praise.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship!

*HYMN 385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD 100TH

CALL TO CONFESSION / PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we get involved with the things of this world, and we forget your purpose for us in it. We get attached to what will not last and forget eternity; we see only the here and now and forget that we are set aside not to be of this world but sent to it. Forgive us and give us the strength to witness for you. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Carillon Handbell Choir

*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.**

PROCLAIM 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, 5, K) info on the back of the bulletin.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:1-5 (pg.879)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Seeking the Gift of Prayer

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Owen Sower

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS BY COVENANT PARTNERS

Confirmand

Elliott Crim

Sadie Lahey

Elise Lasseter

Lynlee Nichols

Gabriel Ray

Jackson Reynolds

Covenant Partner

Ryan Fox

Leanne Hoeffler

Diane Fender

Joy Crunk

Dan Crunk

Brent Sower

QUESTIONS TO THE CONFIRMANDS

***PROFESSION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER / WELCOME

...Together let us welcome the newly confirmed.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's Church to share with us in this ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

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 to 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

Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

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 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory
(VERSES One, Three, and Four)

CWM RHONDDA

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING CHIME PEAL**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist
The Carillon Handbell and Chancel Choirs, Owen Sower
Bill Carver, Liturgist; Caroline Freiburg, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Confirmation class, Covenant partners, and Confirmation teachers by
Jessica and Vance Lahey.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Caleb Lillard
Christine Grisham's friend, Michael Romines

Deaths:

Linda Cairatti's father, Bill Jack, April 28

Births/Adoptions:

Declan Titus Plumley, son of Doug and Hannah Plumley, March 31
great-grandson of Opal Plumley
Carmen Ivy Nunez, daughter of Hannah and Francis Nunez, April 20
great-granddaughter of Vivian and Chuck Coble

Members:

Ann Brown, Barbara Crunk, Carolyn Hayes, Anne Osborne

In Memory:

Carlene Higley May 18, 2020
Lois Stewart May 18, 2023
Tom Ridley May 20, 1996

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY FPC Music & Arts 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. In addition to his concert career, Alcee is active as a church musician and guest lecturer and remains engaged with his lifelong love of gospel and jazz.

Blood Drive, May 31: Join us for a blood drive with the American Red Cross in Wilson Hall from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Blood donation is vital—and you can help save lives by giving to patients in need. To schedule an appointment, please visit www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code FPCF19.

Website Update: We are updating the church website and are looking for members with expertise or interest in helping Thomas Bartolomeo and others with this process. If you are interested and willing to help, contact Catherine Olson (colson@fpcfranklin.org).

FISH Service Opportunity: June 2, volunteer with Williamson County Animal Shelter at 10 AM. Sign up online.

Outreach Events: Franklin Pride is **June 6** at Harlinsdale Park, and Juneteenth is **June 19** at Franklin Bicentennial Park. FPC members are invited to sign up to volunteer at our FPC tent and/or come enjoy each event. Sign up online or email Verna for more info at vrydlund@gmail.com.

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 with the assistance of Blair and Larry Reynolds after services on **June 7 & 28**. Healthcare professionals interested in helping can contact don.arnold@yumc.org.

The Basic Essentials Collection supports GraceWorks Food Pantry year-round with food carts, student fuel bags, holiday boxes, and mobile pantries. May's collection benefits Williamson County Animal Center. Needed items: laundry detergent, cat toys and treats, and dog treats and chews.

Study Opportunities: Sisters in Spirit is a gathering of women who meet Fridays at 10:00 AM in the Parlor and just began a new study on *Counterweights* by Shannan Martin on May 8. Men's Bible Study meets Saturdays at 7:30 AM in the Parlor and is studying *Proverbs* by Christine R. Yoder. All men are invited to join for fellowship and meaningful discussion. Presbyterian Women will have their final meeting of this study this Tuesday, May 12, at 9:45 AM in the Church Parlor and will begin a new study in the fall.

Adults 55+: Come for food and fellowship each Wednesday at 5 PM at the Franklin Chop House. No need to sign up. Just show up!

Montreat Women's Connection Aug. 14–16: Start planning now for the Montreat Women's Connection Weekend! Enjoy a meaningful weekend of worship, fellowship, rest, shopping in Black Mountain, visits to the Montreat Book Store and Blue Ridge Folk Art Center, and keynote speaker Kristin Kobes Du Mez. We'd love to know who's interested—sign up online!

Use the QR code to visit the Events/Registrations page.



Responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service.

Our purpose is to joyfully follow Christ and respond to God's grace as an inclusive, multigenerational faith community by:

- Deepening discipleship through relevant worship and life-long learning
- Creating and nurturing congregational relationships
- Transforming lives and connecting with others through service

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to all who are here today. Whether you are from our community or visiting, we are glad to have you among us.

We strive to be inclusive and offer assistance for those with disabilities.

T-Coil hearing devices are available from members of the Hospitality Team. We have pew cutouts for accessibility and offer sensory nurturing items for children. If anyone has other needs or disabilities that require assistance or accommodation for any church activity, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 615-794-5114.

Our Nursery is available for infants and children through 3 years old downstairs in Room 111. Children of all ages are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

Children's Worship is available for children ages 4 through kindergarten in Room 101 following Time with the Young Church. Those attending will be returned to the sanctuary before the end of the service. For accommodations and more information, please contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

Prayer requests to share concerns or celebrations may be sent to Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

THE SESSION

Class of 2026

Leanne Hoeffler
John Korab
Tammy Love
Starr Nolan
Phillip Otts

Class of 2027

Greg Bennorth
Dan Crunk
Sarah Fox
Martha Johnson
Jim Petersen

Class of 2028

Judi Arnold
Rick Blackburn
Rich Crim
Tony Inglis
Rachael Stanfill

THE CHURCH STAFF

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Dir. of Music/Organist
Sam Belcher, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Catherine Olson, Dir. of Operations

Marie Hayman, Accountant
Kate Lasseter, Nursery Coordinator
Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinator
Linda Cairatti, Nursery Staff

First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, the Synod of Living Waters, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

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!

