



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 12, 2026

*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.*



The artwork above, titled *The Sower*, is the fifth installment in our “Easel-y Heard”- *From Easel to Ear* series where we will feature a piece of art by congregation member Mike Moyers and “hear” it as it is interpreted musically during the offertory music.

*In the thirteenth chapter of Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the Sower, in which seeds fall on different kinds of soil. This painting, however, shifts the focus from the soil to the Sower Himself.*

*The painting presents the Sower from the perspective of the ground—because, in the parable, we are the soil. From that vantage point, we see a prodigal Sower, joyfully scattering seeds of grace not only on the good soil, but across the whole world.*

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR / POURING OF THE WATER

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

John Johns, guitar

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

May Christ's love be with us as we gather in worship!

**May Christ's love be with us in this service of praise!**

Let our worship go beyond our walls to all we meet in need.

**Let our hearts celebrate as we serve with gladness!**

Let our service bring glory and honor to Christ's name! Together let us pray:

**Most Holy God, you know our every thought and deed. Our lives are not hidden from you. You dwell in the heights, yet you stoop to hear us. You inhabit the depths, yet you rise to support our efforts to serve our neighbors. You encompass the whole of creation, yet you are concerned for our individual needs. May our words of prayer and praise bring you glory and honor, wisdom and power.**

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

### \*HYMN 667

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
(VERSES One, Three, and Four)

LAUDES DOMINI

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we allow ourselves to focus mainly on our own desires, and we pass by those who desperately need our help. We become comfortable in the world and ignore the voices of others who desperately need our help to survive. Forgive us for our indifference and apathy and help us make a real difference for you today.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### 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 581

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

### \*SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Let us now remember the standard by which God calls us to live.

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

Blessed are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord. **Amen.**

## PROCLAIM 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.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9 (p.794)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

*Let's Sow Some Seed*

Eddie Bellis

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN FAVORITE

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### 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 – A MUSICAL INTERPRETATION OF "THE SOWER"

In this prelude written by Richard Purvis, one can interpret both the triplet figuration, and the rising chromaticism as growing seeds. While the sustained chords serve as solid earth.

To quote: "It sounds like plants growing."

#### \*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 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

#### \*RINGING OF THE CARILLON

### **LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor  
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor  
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist  
John Johns, Guitarist  
Brent Sower, Liturgist  
Sadie Lahey, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of  
my husband, Eric Johnson, by Martha Johnson.*

### **PRAYER LIST**

#### **New:**

Lillard Family  
Erik Lund  
Jane Plumley  
Kim Lewis  
Sandra Fields' niece and family, Deirdre Young  
Karen Hanson's daughter-in-law, Anne Hanson  
Pam and Kevin Asa's son-in-law, Corey Springer  
John and Ruthie Moulton's friends, Horesch family

#### **Deaths:**

Caleb Lillard, June 22  
Martin McGirt, June 20

#### **Members:**

Ann Brown  
Barbara Crunk  
Carolyn Hayes  
Anne Osborne

#### **In Memory:**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Eric Johnson   | July 13, 1998 |
| Martha Gaddis  | July 13, 2011 |
| Dianne Wood    | July 14, 2021 |
| Olivia Freeman | July 15, 2001 |
| Gail White     | July 17, 2006 |
| Linda Hubbell  | July 17, 2014 |

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Music in Worship – “Easel-y Heard”**—From Easel to Ear continues. Each week, we will feature a piece of art by congregation member Mike Moyers and “hear” it as it is interpreted musically during the morning’s offertory music.  
**Musical Guest Today**—John Johns, guitar

**Battery Recycling:** You can now recycle household batteries at FPC! Bring your used batteries (excluding lithium-ion) and deposit them in the white bucket in front of the mission board in Wilson Hall.

**Worship Flowers:** Sign up on the website today to dedicate worship flowers in memory or honor of someone you love. Open dates September-November.

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Front Desk Volunteer-** on Monday afternoons from 12:30 pm – 4 pm. The position includes answering the phone and doors, and some light administrative work as needed. Interested? Contact Catherine Olson ([colson@fpcfranklin.org](mailto:colson@fpcfranklin.org)).

**Children's Worship Leader** – Needed July 19 & 26 and Aug. 16, 23 & 30 during the sermon. Contact Sam Belcher ([sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org](mailto:sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org)) for details.

**Summer Wonder Hour:** Elementary will study *The Wonder of God's Creation* in Room 209; They will be led by an all-star crew of nature-loving members! Each week this summer, students will meet to explore creation and learn about the creator. Don't miss it! The weekly calendar is available on the FPC website.

**Summer Sunday School:** Youth will combine middle and high school Sunday School classes in rooms 117/118, studying *The Classics*, which explores familiar Bible stories like Noah and Jonah; Adult Sunday School will meet in Barr and study *1 Corinthians: Then and Now*, led by Pastor Eddie and Kimberly Coward.

**The Basic Essentials Collection:** During July, we're collecting items for the Mountain T.O.P. Fall Festival, including new work boots (adult sizes 10–12), new athletic shoes (youth through adult sizes), and new or gently used winter hats and gloves for children and adults. You can also support our year-round collection for the GraceWorks Food Pantry. Drop off items in the cart in the Narthex.

**Fish and Loaves Meal Ministry:** The FPC mission committee will be partnering with Downtown Presbyterian on **Saturday, July 18**. Sign up on the FPC website.

**Inquirer Gathering Sunday, July 19:** Want to learn more about FPC? Join us at 9:00 AM in the Parlor.

**Summer Potluck:** Stay for food and fellowship following the worship service. Bring a dish to share on **Sunday, July 19**.

**Fish Event:** Volunteer **Tuesday, July 28**, from 10:00 AM–Noon at the Williamson County Animal Shelter. We will help prepare supplies, assemble care packages, and assist with shelter projects. We'd love to have you join us!

**Stands for Smiles:** Support the children of our congregation as they host a lemonade stand following worship **Sunday, August 2** in support of the Jiselle Lauren Foundation.

## **Mark your calendar:**

**August 9**, Blessings of the Backpacks; Sundaes on Sunday

**August 23**, Rally Day

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](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  
Sarr 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](http://fpcfranklin.org)

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Thank you for your generosity!

