



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 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 *Faith*, is the seventh 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.

“Jesus told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’” – Matthew 13:31–32

In this painting, you can see the scale of the paradox. A great tree has grown from a tiny seed and is host to a variety of birds. As our faith grows, we become something greater than ourselves. We become the shelter, nurture and sustenance for others. In the painting, you can also see roots in the soil, reaching deep to underground waters. These represent the “behind-the-scenes” mysteries that nourish our faith. Our baptism and the nurture of the church gives our faith the best conditions for spiritual growth.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL TEACHING MOMENT ON HYMN 714

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who would labor for the Lord gather together on this day!

For the harvest is ripe and the workers are few.

The wheat must be separated from the weeds in the fields.

Let us proclaim the Word of the Lord that all might hear.

May our hearts sing the praises of our Almighty God! Together, let us pray.

God of tenderness, compassion, patience, and comfort, we come extolling your virtues and praising your name. You are too wonderful for comprehension; we live because of your embracing mercy. We bless you for Christ, through whom we may know you, bow to before you, worship and adore you, God of all ages.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship!

*HYMN 41

O Worship the King
(VERSES One, Three, Four, and Five)

LYONS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are quicker to pull weeds from other people's lives than to examine our own hearts. We are too eager to judge, too slow to forgive, and too impatient with the work of your grace. Forgive us for the weeds of pride, resentment, fear, and self-righteousness that grow within us. Uproot whatever keeps us from loving you and our neighbors with humble hearts. Teach us to trust your patient mercy, to leave judgment in your hands, and to become faithful cultivators of love, grace, and hope. In the name of Christ, who alone is Lord of the harvest, we confess now silently our Sin.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe in 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.

***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 to K) information is on the back of the bulletin.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30 (p.794)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

May I Give Her Your Name?

Eddie Bellis

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN FAVORITE**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from The Barmen Declaration, 8.14-8.16)

As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

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

American Red Cross

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 “Faith”

During the offertory you are invited to reflect on the words of the *Hymn of Promise* (page 250 in your hymnal). Its text reminds us that from the smallest seed is the possibility of the greatest growth.

“...unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”

***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 714**

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

***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

Adam Troxler, Instrumentalist

Francelia Downey, Liturgist; Nora Downey, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Caleb Lillard and Martin McGirt by Russ & Carol Phillips.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Lillard Family

Martha Johnson's friends, Gordon Family

Sandra Fields' niece and family, Deirdre Young

Karen Hanson's daughter-in-law, Anne Hanson

Births/Adoptions:

Brooks Anthony Pitarra, son of Caroline and Stephen Pitarra, July 9
great-grandson of Chuck and Vivian Coble

Members:

Ann Brown

Barbara Crunk

Carolyn Hayes

Kim Lewis

Erik Lund

Anne Osborne

Jane Plumley

In Memory:

Ed Woodard August 2, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY’S Musical Guest: Adam Troxler, instrumentalist

American Red Cross- We are in an emergency blood shortage, and all blood types are needed. Please make your appointment today to give blood at our next FPC Blood Drive on September 13.

redcrossblood.org or QR code and use code FPCF19



Volunteer as a Children’s Worship Leader- We are in need of an adult to lead our Children’s Worship during the sermon on August 23 and 30. Contact Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org) for details.

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.

Summer Wonder Hour and Summer Sunday School: Elementary students meet in Room 209 for *The Wonder of God’s Creation*. Youth (middle and high school) gather in Rooms 117/118 for *The Classics*, and adults meet in Barr Conf Room for *1 Corinthians: Then and Now*. Sunday, August 9 is the final Summer Wonder Hour and Summer Sunday School of the summer!

The Basic Essentials Collection: During July, we’re collecting items for the Mountain T.O.P. Fall Festival. Especially needed are 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. Year-round donations welcome for the GraceWorks Food Pantry. Collection cart in the Narthex.

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, August 2: Support the children of our congregation as they host a lemonade stand following worship next Sunday in support of the Jiselle Lauren Foundation which was founded by FPC members, Jill and Bailey Pratt.

Blessings of the Backpacks, August 9: Students and teachers of all ages, bring your backpack or bag to worship as we will offer a blessing for the coming year.

Sundaes on Sunday, August 9, is a fun way to kick off the new school year. Following worship, join us in Wilson Hall to make your own ice cream sundae and enjoy fellowship with your church family.

Mountain T.O.P. October 22–25: Join us in serving through home repair projects or the community Fall Festival. Cost: \$100 per person. **Register by August 10.** Contact Mike Anderson (mja2649@aol.com) for more information.

Rally Day is Sunday, August 23! All ages are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 9 AM to kick off the Christian Education year and learn about fall Sunday School. In worship that day, we will present our upper elementary students with a Deep Blue Kids’ Bible, so if you have a kid (rising 3rd grade through 5th grade) who hasn’t received that Bible and would like to, please email Sam Belcher at (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

Global Mission Sunday, August 16: Join us at 9AM in Wilson Hall for an Intergenerational Sunday School led by Mark Mueller and Elizabeth Carter from The Outreach Foundation. Mark will also be our guest preacher in worship.

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

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

