



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 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

Come, you who have received more mercy than you can measure.

We come to worship the God whose grace has no end.

Come, you who carry old hurts and remember old debts.

We come seeking hearts made free by forgiveness.

God meets us with compassion and mercy.

As we have been forgiven, teach us to forgive.

Come, then, into the presence of the God who loosens what binds us
and sets us free.

With grateful hearts, let us worship God!

*HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you forgive us more freely than we forgive one another. You release the debts we could never repay, yet we hold tightly to the wrongs done against us. We keep counting our wounds. We remember what was said. We rehearse old wounds and sometimes mistake resentment for justice.

Forgive us, Lord. When we have received mercy but withheld it from another, soften our hearts. When anger has become a prison, open the door. When forgiveness seems beyond us, remind us how deeply we have already been forgiven. By the grace of Jesus Christ, free us from keeping score, and teach us to live as people whose lives have been changed by mercy.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Bow down thine ear..."

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

MEINEKE

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.**

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

Matthew 18:21-35 (pg.800)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

How Many Times?

Eddie Bellis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ, our living Lord, as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as Jesus did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus 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 deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

STORIES OF BELONGING

Crossroads Mission Care

Gil and Patti Carter

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

"...grow in peace, grow in light, love will do the thing that's right."

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100TH (Augmented Rhythm)

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 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist

Ryan Fox, Liturgist

Charlie Jennings, Acolyte

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Alice and Bob Boyce on what would have been their 74th anniversary by their children.

PRAYER LIST

New:

Cathie Davidson's friend, Megan Jones

Beth Rose's sister-in-law, Sharon

Deaths:

Catherine Olson's father, Jeff Appleton, September 6

Births/Adoptions:

Katherine Marie Prater, daughter of Ashley and PL Prater, September 2

granddaughter of Robin and Jeff Siptak

great-granddaughter of Tom and Sharon Richardson

Members:

Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Marilyn Doering
Joe Duarte
Carolyn Hayes
Karen Hanson
Kim Lewis
Lillard Family
Erik Lund
Anne Osborne
Jane Plumley

Assisted Living/Homebound

Derrell and Tee Billingsley- home
Ann Brown- The Lantern, Spring Hill
Carolyn Hayes- Canterfield
Joan Hetherington- home
Marilyn Miller- The Heritage
Nancy Morris- Somerby
Opal Plumley- The Heritage
Jane Stafford- Willow Springs, Spring Hill
Betty Willoughby- home

In Memory:

Margaret Minke	September 16, 2011
Eulalie Jefferson	September 18, 2006
Ruth Molitor	September 19, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK: Rehearsals for Fall – Carillon Handbell Choir (WED: 5:00 PM) and Chancel Choir (WED: 6:45 PM); “Musical” Common Grounds (goodies provided by Music-Worship & ARTS); **and Music Commissioning** – Sunday, September 20.

The Basic Essentials Collection: In September, we will collect items for Williamson County Homeless Alliance Day Center, which provides facilities for bathing, laundry, and respite for those without homes. Please donate: Laundry Detergent Pods, Family-Size Liquid Bath Soap, New Bath Towels/Washcloths. Year-round donations are welcome to support the GraceWorks Food Pantry. Place donations in the collection cart in the Narthex.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL): 6 PM- Dinner; 6:45-7:30 PM- Adult, Youth, and Children programs. Meal signup deadline is each Sunday, and the suggested cost is \$10 per adult/youth, \$5 per child, \$25 family max. No signup needed for the 6:45 program. Sign up on the FPC website or the Connection Card. Adult program for this week is the TN Holocaust Commission, and the youth and children meet separately.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Today until 1:00 PM.

Growth Groups: Today is the deadline to sign up for a Growth Group. See the back of the Connection Card for all the details and sign up **TODAY!**

Adults 55+: Monday, **September 14:** Come for fun, fellowship, and lunch at Serrato’s Steakhouse (3046 Columbia Ave, #102) at 11 AM! No sign-up needed.

Holy Stitches: Join us on Monday, **September 14,** at 1 PM for fellowship while knitting/crocheting blankets, hats, or scarves.

Sweet Potato Drop: Join us Saturday, **September 19** at the Sensory Garden for the Blind (6759 Manley Lane) from 8 AM – Noon in Brentwood to pack sweet potatoes for food banks in Middle TN. Stay the whole time or just an hour. All ages welcome!

Franklin Cancer Walk, September 19 at 8:30 AM: Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church invited us to join them for this event as we walk in memory of *Caleb Lillard*. The event is at the Franklin Community Center. Sign up at franklincancerwalk.org.

Pavilion Picnic, Sunday, September 20 at 4:30 PM: How much fried chicken? Let us know if you are planning to attend the church picnic at the Pavilion! FPC will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please **sign up** online or on the Connection Card. Members are invited to bring a side, a salad, or a dessert to share, and chairs or a blanket for sitting.

Advent Devotionals: We're creating our annual Advent/Christmas/Epiphany devotional booklet featuring reflections from FPC members. Interested in contributing a short reflection (about 300 words)? Email Catherine Olson at colson@fpcfranklin.org by Sunday, **September 20**. Scripture options and details will follow.

The **Men's Bible Study** is starting Saturday, **September 19**, with a new study on the Book of Job in the Old Testament. While the Bible is the primary text, they will use MacArthur Bible Studies: Job as their resource. The men meet on Saturday mornings at 7:30 AM in the Church Parlor.

Upcoming Events:

Crossroads Mission Care: October 3

Adults 55+: October 10 @ 4 PM for Happy Hour at Roger and Diane Fender's home

Fall Festival: October 24 @ 4:30 PM at FPC

Trombone Ensemble, Bone Therapy: October 25 during Worship

Adults 55+: October 26 @ 11 AM at Station Pizzeria for lunch

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 lifelong learning
- Creating and nurturing congregational relationships
- Transforming lives and connecting with others through service

Welcome! We warmly welcome 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!

