



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MUSIC COMMISSIONING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 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

God invites us into kingdom-building work,

Will we answer the call or stay on the sidelines?

Whether you're one or ninety-one, all can join in this gospel work,

Will we welcome all of God's children to this holy endeavor?

Grace is lavished upon us, day after day after day,

Will we give grace in return, day after day after day?

As undeserving saints, let us join hands with the community of faith and lift up grateful hearts,

Let us worship the Lord Almighty!

*HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus the Teacher, you remind us that too often we view our interactions as transactions and our service as capital. Consumed by a world that values profit over people, we too become ensnared with the idea of rewards, both in this life and in the one to come.

For the times when we are jealous of our siblings' possessions or success, soften our hearts. For the moments when we demand a better life or reward than those we deem lesser, humble us. For the ways in which we treat grace like an afterthought, forgive us. Give us compassion and solidarity with all of humankind.

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 20:1-16 (pg.801)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God is not Fair

Sam Belcher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION 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.

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.

***HYMN 641**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG

Verse One—All; Two—Choir; Three—Upper Voices; Four—Lower Voices; and Five—All

MUSIC COMMISSIONING (*See insert*)

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

“Sing a new song to God, the Lord...”

***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 269**

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor

Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist

The Chancel Choir and Adam Troxler, instrumentalist

Susan Burns, Liturgist

Lark England, Acolyte

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of 67 wonderful years of marriage to my beautiful wife, Sharon, by Tom Richardson.

PRAYER LIST

New:

Jeff Siptak's mother, Joyce Borowiak
John and Ruthie Moulton's grandson-in-law, Matt Horner
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

In Memory:

Andy Nappier	September 23, 2025
Clair Regen	September 24, 1992
Karen Pratt	September 24, 1995
Ruth Flathe	September 24, 2005
Mary Lou Wilson	September 25, 2025

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. Sign up on the FPC website or the Connection Card. At 6:45 PM, join Amy Alexander, LMFT, for “Artificial Intimacy,” an exploration of the risks of AI companionship and its impact on human connection. Could AI quietly replace the relationships we need most? Join us to consider this timely question and why it matters to all of us. Amy is CEO and co-founder of The Refuge Center for Counseling in Franklin.

Pavilion Picnic, TODAY at 4:30 PM: Come join us today at the Pavilion! FPC will provide fried chicken and drinks. 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 **TODAY**. Scripture options and details will follow.

Men's Bible Study: The group is studying the Book of Job, using the Bible and MacArthur Bible Studies: Job. Join them Saturday mornings at 7:30 AM in the church parlor for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. All men are welcome!

Adults 55 +: Join St. George's for a Lunch & Learn on **September 24** from 11:30 AM to 1 PM featuring Five Wishes and practical guidance for planning important end-of-life decisions, including medical care, wills, legacy, and funeral planning. Lunch is \$12. Please RSVP by September 21 at reserve@stgeorgesnashville.org or 615-385-2150 ext. 262.

Learn what to do before EMS arrives, including how to respond to unconsciousness, choking, bleeding, and how to use an AED. Sessions held in the Barr Conference Room after worship on **October 4 and November 22**, facilitated by Kaitlyn Bennorth, Larry Reynolds, and Blair Reynolds. Sessions are stand-alone, so there is no need to have attended a previous session.

Vanderbilt Trombone Ensemble: Sunday, October 11 at 3 PM. The community is invited so invite your friends! Reception to follow.

Honoring Pastor Eddie and Laura: Join us in Wilson Hall after worship on **Sunday, October 11**, as we thank Eddie and Laura for their faithful service and wish them well in their next call. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events:

Crossroads Mission Care: October 3. Sign up on Connection Card or online.

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!

