



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION
SEPTEMBER 6, 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

MUSICAL TEACH MOMENT ON THE DOXOLOGY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

So we come together, trusting that Christ is here.

We come not because we always agree, but because Christ keeps calling us toward one another.

We come with words that need to be spoken, hearts that need to listen, and relationships that need God's grace.

When we have wandered apart, Christ calls us back. When something has been broken, Christ teaches us the way toward one another.

And when we gather in his name, we do not gather alone.

Christ is here in the speaking and the listening, in the forgiving and the beginning again.

Christ is among us. In the name of the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer, let us worship God.

*HYMN 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you call us to live together as the body of Christ, but we confess that life together is not always easy. When we are hurt, we talk around one another instead of to one another. When we are angry, we hold tightly to the wound. When we have caused harm, we defend ourselves rather than listen. And sometimes, rather than doing the hard work of love, we simply walk away. Forgive us, Lord.

Give us courage to speak the truth with love, humility to hear what another is saying, and grace to seek one another again. Remind us that wherever two or three gather in your name, Christ is already there standing in the space between us, making room for mercy, and showing us the way home.

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.

*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.**

PROCLAIMING 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 18: 15-20 (pg.799)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Get Out The China

Eddie Bellis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK

*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.

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

John Johns, guitar

***DOXOLOGY 606**

OLD 100TH

(We will sing this familiar response with an augmented (longer) 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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

All bread is gluten-free. The wine is non-alcoholic grape juice.

COMMUNION MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN 546**

Lord, Dismiss Us

SICILAIN MARINERS

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor

Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist

The Chancel Choir and John Johns, Guitarist

Ryan Fox, Liturgist

Elizabeth Fox, Acolyte

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and
in honor of my children and grandchildren by Karen Hanson.*

PRAYER LIST

New:

Joe Duarte

Namaste Anderson's friends, the Frazier family

Clata Miller's grandson, Aether Fisher-Miller

Members:

Ann Brown

Barbara Crunk

Marilyn Doering

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:

Gerry Reams Sept. 6, 2024

Margot Keily Sept. 8, 2010

Bess Burrow Sept. 11, 2003

Paul Gaddis Sept. 11, 2019

Jeanne Pritchard Sept. 12, 2021

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

Mercy Franklin Classic, Labor Day, September 7: 5K, 10K, 15K Combo, or 1K Kids Run. The race begins and ends on the Downtown Franklin Square. For registration and details, visit FranklinClassic.org and select **FPC Legends** as your team. Questions? Contact Tony Inglis tony@inglis.me.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) begins This Wednesday, September 9 with a New Season of programs and a New Caterer- FPC's own Eric England with Seasoned Smoke! We begin with a Mission Fiesta. Join us for an interactive evening of mission, conversation, and connection. Learn about FPC partners locally, nationally, and globally and discover ways to get involved. Explore mission displays at 5:40 PM, dinner at 6 PM, and more about mission after dinner. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

Rise Against Hunger: Join us Saturday, **September 12**, 9 AM-11 AM in Wilson Hall as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to package nutritious meals for families facing food insecurity around the world. We need 80 volunteers, and all ages and abilities are welcome! Sign up online.

Red Cross Blood Drive: We are in an emergency blood shortage, and all blood types are needed. Please make your appointment today for our next FPC Blood Drive on **September 13**. Use code FPCF19 at redcrossblood.org.

Inquirer Gathering, September 13: Are you a guest wanting to learn more about FPC? Join us at 9 AM in the Parlor. Email Anne Keener akeener@fpcfranklin.org.

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

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!

Pavilion Picnic, Sunday September 20 at 4:30 PM: Join us for a church picnic at the Pavilion! FPC will provide fried chicken and drinks. Sign up online or on the Connection Card. Members are invited to bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

Exploration Sunday School Class Sundays at 9 AM in Room 209 & Zoom: Join us as we explore *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton, a study of five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Together, we'll consider how these practices shape our daily walk with Christ and help us grow together as a church community.

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.

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 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!

