

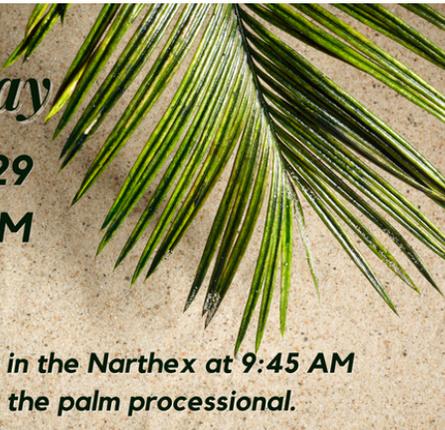
FPC NEWSLETTER

Responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service.

APRIL 2026

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Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 29
Worship 10:15 AM

Children can gather in the Narthex at 9:45 AM to participate in the palm processional.



Maundy Thursday
Meal & Service
Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM

RSVP by scanning QR code



Good Friday
Service
April 3
Noon

Easter Egg Hunt
SATURDAY,
APRIL 4
10:00 AM
Bring one dozen filled eggs per child—craft time included!



Easter Sunday
April 5
Worship with Us!

Easter Sunrise Service – 6:00 AM Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church
Easter Breakfast – following the Sunrise Service at HFPC
RSVP for breakfast

Easter Services – 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (FPC Sanctuary & Livestream)



Upcoming Events

- March 28
FISH Assembly Day
- March 29
Palm Sunday; Spring Potluck
- March 31
Adults 55+ Lunch
- April 2
Maundy Thursday Meal & Service
- April 3
Good Friday Service
- April 4
Easter Egg Hunt
- April 5
Easter Services
- April 11
Dinner for 8
- April 13
Holy Stitches
- April 14
Presbyterian Women
- April 19
Hymn Festival
- April 23
FISH Event with Vanderbilt and Belmont Students
- April 25
FISH Service with RITI
- Each Week:
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:15 AM and Sunday School & Wonder Hour at 9 AM.

STAFF REFLECTION

EDDIE BELLIS, INTERIM PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ at First Presbyterian and followers of The Way,

“Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!” We said those words with full voice on Easter morning. The flowers reach toward heaven, with the sanctuary awash in color and joy. And then, as it always does, Easter afternoon gives way to Monday. Which raises the quiet question that follows every great celebration of resurrection: What do we do after Easter?



If we are honest, part of us would like to preserve Easter as it was. We like our days to be bright, certain, and triumphant. We would like resurrection to feel settled. But Jesus has never shown much interest in settled things, has he? His habit is to meet people in the middle and unexpectedly: behind locked doors, on dusty roads, and in conversations thick with doubt and hope all at once. And that unexpected uncertainty feels especially close to home this April.

We are in the midst of a “now but not yet” season between pastors. We said goodbye to Chris and Kim two years ago. Yet, we have not yet said hello to our new pastor. These transition moments can feel like standing in a hallway with doors on either side, unsure which one will open next. But the gospel has a way of turning hallways into holy ground.

In the Gospel of John 20:19–31, the risen Christ steps into a locked room of anxious disciples and says, “Peace.” Not because their future is mapped out, but because his presence is enough. In the Gospel of Luke 24:13–35, he walks alongside two followers who are headed in the wrong direction, listens to their confusion, and then reveals himself through the breaking of bread. Later in John’s gospel, he calls himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:1–10), reminding his flock that they are known and called by name. In John 14, he speaks to troubled hearts and promises the Advocate. In John 17, he prays not for escape from the world, but for faithfulness within it.

All these gospel memories are all in-between stories. Resurrection has happened, but clarity has not fully arrived. Jesus is alive, but the disciples are still learning what that means. Perhaps that is the real Easter life for us to consider. We live Easter lives, not in certainty, but in trust.

April seems to understand this. The spring rains fall steadily, quietly nourishing roots we cannot see. The flowers bloom without asking permission. Creation does not wait for perfect conditions; the moment simply responds to the life given to it.

So, what do we do after Easter? We give thanks for the beauty of worship, for lilies and tulips and dogwoods, and for gentle rains that soften hard ground. I give thanks for the privilege of living and working in such a gracious place as First Presbyterian in Franklin. This congregation embodies a steady, generous faith that does not depend on spectacle. In my time with you, here is what I bear witness to: you show up, you pray, you serve, you sing, and you care for one another.

In a culture that often prizes the first, the loudest, and the most certain, the gospel quietly insists that the last is first and that what looks small and ordinary is often where resurrection takes root.

In this interim season, we are being reminded that the church does not belong to one leader or one chapter. First Presbyterian, like all church communities, belongs to the risen Christ. The Shepherd is already among us. The Spirit is already at work. The road we are walking together is not devoid of guidance; it simply requires us to listen more closely.

So, dear friends, in this time after Easter, may we keep our eyes open for the risen Christ in our midst. May we give thanks for the beauty of spring and the grace of this community. And may we discover that what feels like the middle of the story is, in fact, exactly where new life is being written. Continue to grow in God’s grace and walk in God’s love.

Shalom,
Eddie Bellis

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A Contemporary Lenten Journey

By Mike Moyers

Displayed in the Barr Conference Room hallway, we invite you to make your own devotional pilgrimage during this Lenten season.

Stations of the Cross: Also referred to as the “way of the cross,” it was developed to bring pilgrimage into the local church, so that the faithful could follow the way of Jesus passion. Mike Moyers has beautifully interpreted Jesus’ journey to Calvary for us in the form of fourteen paintings. Displayed in the Barr Conference Room hallway, we invite you to make your own devotional pilgrimage during this Lenten season.

Wednesday NIGHT LIVE



Join us for food and fellowship each Wednesday at 6 PM.
Reserve your meal today!
Suggested pricing: \$10 per adult/youth, \$5 per child, \$25 family/max.

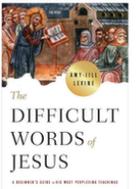
April 8
Phil Otts presentation on Terrorism
April 15 & 22
Eddie Bellis on Jim Wallis' book *False White Gospel*



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays
7:30 AM
Church Parlor

Sisters in Spirit



Fridays
10:00 AM
Church Parlor

Presbyterian Women

April 14 at 9:45 AM in the Church Parlor.



CONFIRMATION Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 17
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SENIOR SUNDAY MAY 3

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

BANQUET HONORING THE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS TO FOLLOW WORSHIP



SENIOR BIBLES WILL BE IN WILSON HALL IN LATE APRIL. STOP BY TO LEAVE AN ENCOURAGING NOTE AS THESE STUDENTS BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER.



ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WONDERS OF CREATION?
CAN YOU SHARE YOUR LOVE OF NATURE ONE SUNDAY MORNING THIS SUMMER?

Email Katiegottlieb@yahoo.com if you're interested



Would you be willing to lead Children's Worship one Sunday this month during the sermon? It's a joyful, age-appropriate worship time for our little ones. Email [Sam Belcher](mailto:SamBelcher) for details!

YOUTH NEWS

MISSION & OUTREACH



Join us for several meaningful ways to serve this spring!

- On **March 28** at 9 AM in Wilson Hall, Assembly Day will include assembling hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and seed packets for Society of Saint Andrew, along with preparing thank-you gift bags for Poplar Grove teachers and staff.
- On Thursday, **April 23** at 5:30 PM join us at St. Augustine's Chapel for a fun evening of fellowship with Vanderbilt and Belmont students. Dinner is provided by Guac and Queso, Eric England's food truck—just sign up and come! Questions? Email Cathy McCall.
- On **April 25**, partner with Room In The Inn as we prepare, pack, and serve lunch to guests—sign up to be part of the team.
- On **May 2**, join the FPC Workday at Hard Bargain Association from 9:30 AM–1:00 PM, meeting at Ty's House (608 Mt. Hope Street) to help with yard work, painting, and minor repairs. Sign up here. Questions? Email Mike Anderson.
- Finally, on **May 16**, FPC will serve alongside GraceWorks Ministries at the Fairview Middle School Food Pantry Day. Come be part of these impactful FISH opportunities to serve our community!

April Basic Essentials Collection



Support the GraceWorks Ministries Food Pantry year-round through donations to the Basic Essentials Cart. April's highlighted collection is Asher's Animals, a ministry created in memory of Asher that provides stuffed animals to children experiencing illness or trauma. Help share comfort and keep his legacy alive by donating a new, tagged stuffed animal (small to medium size) to the cart.



*Kindness is
in your blood*

May 31

Blood Drive First Presbyterian Church of Franklin

Wilson Hall
101 Legends Club Ln
Franklin, TN 37069



SOUL & SPIRITS

SUPPORTING AND CELEBRATING UKIRK NASHVILLE

THE NASHVILLE FOOD PROJECT
APRIL 9TH
6PM TO 8PM CENTRAL
[Click here for more info](#)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP



JOIN US APRIL 13 FROM
1-2:30 PM IN THE
CHURCH PARLOR

Holy Stitches
Made in faith, given in love.

Learn more by contacting
[Karen Hanson](#).

Would you enjoy meeting other FPC members in a small group and sharing a meal? Dinner for 8 is a great way to connect. Join us Saturday, April 11, from 6-8 PM at various members' homes. Dinner will be provided. As registrations come in, the Fellowship Committee will create groups of up to eight adults, taking into account your location preference. Groups may include couples and singles in different combinations. Part of the fun is discovering who you'll be dining with! Your host, location, and group will be shared before the dinner.

Deadline to sign up is April 2.
Interested in hosting? Email [Emily Korab](#).



LEARN WHAT TO DO
before EMS arrives

- Unconsciousness, choking, bleeding, AED use
- Led by Don Arnold in Barr Conference Room
- After services: Apr 12 & 19 and June 7 & 28
- Healthcare pros: Want to help? Contact don.arnold@vumc.org

Joyful Anyway
with Kate Bowler
at Fisher Center, Belmont University

April 14

- A powerful evening on finding joy—even in hard seasons
- Honest, funny, and deeply human conversation
- Exploring joy alongside grief, fear, love, and hope
- Come laugh, reflect, and reconnect with what matters

Click here for tickets



You're invited to join us for
Sparkle for Smiles
April 18, 4-8PM

welcome
Sparkle for Smiles
A Fundraising Soirée
Jiselle Lauren Foundation



The Jiselle Lauren Foundation was founded by FPC members, Bailey and Jill Pratt, to support other children with disabilities. *Sparkle for Smiles* is an annual fundraiser which FPC has supported and that members have enjoyed attending for many years. It will be on April 18 at Westhaven Golf Club from 4-8 PM. The soiree is family friendly! Adult tickets are \$75 per person, Kid tickets are \$25, and Age 4 & Under are free. Come join the fun and support a wonderful non-profit. [Click here](#) to purchase your tickets today and invite friends to join you!

MEAL MINISTRY

Provide meals during times of need or joy, sharing God's love.

Contact [Tammy Love](#) or [Ann Crim](#) to help.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

JOIN THE CHOIR

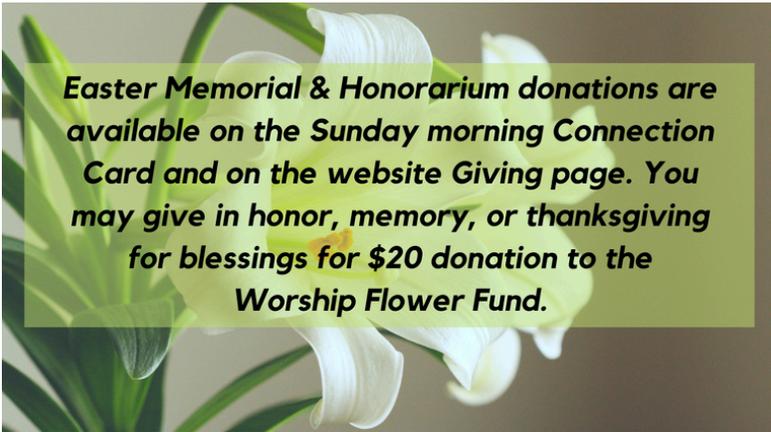


MIDWEEK REHEARSALS
EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAYS:
CARILLON HANDBELL CHOIR (5:00 PM) -
WNL MEAL (6:00 PM) - CHANCEL CHOIR (6:45 PM)
CONSIDER JOINING US
FOR A DAY...THE WEEK...A SPECIAL EVENT...OR EVEN LONGER!
CONTACT MICHAEL IN THE MUSIC OFFICE.



Sunday, April 19, 10:15 AM
Congregational Favorites Hymn Festival

Congregational Favorites Hymn Festival with Adam Troxker, instrumentalist – A festival of hymn based upon the Lord’s Prayer with prayers and meditations by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Featuring music for congregation, choir, organ, and instruments.



Easter Memorial & Honorarium donations are available on the Sunday morning Connection Card and on the website Giving page. You may give in honor, memory, or thanksgiving for blessings for \$20 donation to the Worship Flower Fund.



FPC Music & Arts
Performance by Concert Organist **Alcee Chriss**
Sunday, May 17 | 3:00 PM



Flower the Easter Cross:

Please bring flowers to worship **Easter Sunday, April 5** to help us flower the cross as you arrive.

African American Concert Organist Alcee Chriss. Celebrated for his “grace, skill, and abundant proficiency,” Dr. Chriss has performed throughout North America and Europe and is University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University. In addition to his concert career, Alcee is active as a church musician, guest lecturer, and remains engaged with his lifelong love of gospel and jazz.

SUNDAYS

APRIL 5
6:00 Sunrise at HFPC
Matthew 28:1-12
Is This an Idle Tale?
EDDIE BELLIS

8:30 & 10:15 at FPC
Matthew 28:1-12
With Fear and Great Joy
ANNE KEENER



Click [HERE](#) for the April Daily Lectionary.

APRIL 12
John 20:19-31
Panic Room
EDDIE BELLIS

APRIL 19
Congregational Favorites Hymn Festival
MICHAEL SNODDY

APRIL 26
Psalm 23
For You Are With Me
ANNE KEENER

CELEBRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED
FRIDAY, APRIL 3
AND MONDAY,
APRIL 6



Birth



Congratulations to **Kevin and Sydney Costacamps** on the birth of **Cory Ray Costacamps** on February 19.



WORSHIP FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sign up today on the website to dedicate worship flowers in memory or in honor of someone you love. The cost is \$100, and the flowers will be rearranged into smaller arrangements and delivered to members as a reminder of God's love and the love of their church family.

Thank You



Because of your generosity, Presbyterian disaster Assistance has been able to walk closely with communities on their long journey of recovery.

You have also helped us accompanying migrants and refugees seeking safety and new beginnings. Lent reminds us that the path to resurrection passes through wilderness, sacrifice and solidarity. It is a season that calls us not to turn away from suffering, but to draw near to it, your generosity embodies that call.



Thanks to caring neighbors like you, future home owners are able to purchase an affordable home in our community, positively changing the lives of their families today and for generations to come.



Thank you for all the support you have provided Franklin community meals on wheels. Many of your members have cooked meals for our neighbors and many others each month. We are celebrating 50 years of serving our neighbors this year. The longevity of this ministry couldn't continue without your support.



GraceWorks

Thank you for your faithfulness has blessed many families this month with keeping their lights and heat on. Gifts like yours enables GraceWorks to feed families in need and put a smile on their faces. Thank you for making this possible.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
101 LEGENDS CLUB LANE
FRANKLIN, TN 37069

PHONE: (615) 794-5114
www.fpcfranklin.org

Return Service Requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:15 AM
SUNDAY WONDER HOUR: 9:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 9 AM - 4:00 PM
Closed Fridays

CHURCH STAFF

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music & Organist
Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries
Catherine Olson, Director of Operations
Marie Hayman, Accountant
Kate Lasseter, Nursery Coordinator
Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinator

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING



Marie Hayman
 Hours: 9AM-3PM
 M, W, Th

Giving Options: Mail a check to the church or give online at fpcfranklin.org/giving.

Thank you for all the ways your generosity, in response to God's grace, strengthens the ministry and mission of this congregation.

Church Financial Information

	Feb Actual	Feb Budget	Jan-Dec 2026 Actual	Jan-Dec 2026 Budget
Income	81,456.85	94,405.00	158,125.42	177,180.00
Fixed Expenses - Admin & Facilities	81,139.84	94,615.00	157,891.73	185,420.00
Other expenses	12,073.05	13,340.00	21,035.13	21,445.00
Ordinary income (loss)	(11,756.04)	(13,550.00)	(20,801.44)	(29,685.00)
Other income (expense)	-	-	-	-
Net income (loss)	(11,756.04)	(13,550.00)	(20,801.44)	(29,685.00)