

# Ministries of First Presbyterian Church



# 101 Legends Club Lane Franklin, TN 37069

WEBSITE: www.fpcfranklin.org PHONE: 615-794-5114

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

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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Franklin, Tennessee

In all things we are guided by our Mission and Purpose Statements:

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

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.

As an expression of this mission and purpose, our congregation is deeply committed to being an authentic expression of Christ in this community through Reformed worship, education that values a thinking faith, local and global mission, meaningful fellowship, and inclusive outreach. We hope that you will find a way that you connect with what God is doing at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin.

By the providence of God, we ascribe to the Reformed Tradition as expressed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We accept the Holy Scriptures, *The Book of Confessions* and the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as guidelines for our Christian life.

Serving and growing in the knowledge of our faith has always been an important component of the Presbyterian Church. At First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, our programs embrace all ages and offer varied approaches to study and growing as Christian disciples. Our prayer is that all who participate will find nurture, fellowship, challenge, and growth.

# History of First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

# ~ A Brief History ~

On June 8, 1811, the Presbyterian Church of Franklin was organized with 46 members by the Reverend Gideon Blackburn. Its first location fronted on present-day Fourth Avenue. About 1815, a Meeting House was erected at that location, now on the northern part of the Old Cemetery.

The second location of the church, which was a brick structure on the corner of Fifth and Main Street, was purchased in 1841. Then in November 1864, immediately after the Battle of Franklin, the sanctuary was dismantled and occupied by the Federal Army for use as a hospital. The third sanctuary was erected in 1887 and destroyed by fire in 1905. The fourth sanctuary was erected in 1911.

In 1986, the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee did a study to project population growth and determine new church development needs. Williamson County (Franklin) emerged as the focal point. As a result, the congregation voted to purchase twelve acres of property on Franklin Road at Mack Hatcher and to build adequate facilities at the earliest feasible date.

In August 1994, approximately 500 members moved to its third and present location at Franklin Road and Legends Club Lane. On September 18, 1994, this building was dedicated to the glory of God, continuing a history of Reformed worship, Christian education, and local and world mission. In November, 2015 the church paid off its mortgage and became debt free.

The power of the church, however, is not in its buildings, but in the people who meet in it, the Body of Christ. We are grateful and excited for all God is doing through the church that gathers in this place.

#### **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

First Presbyterian Church is currently governed by a Session composed of 15 Ruling Elders. Elders serve on rotating three year terms and have 5 members in each class. The incoming class is elected by the congregation in the summer of each year. The Session regularly meets at 4:00 PM on every 4th Sunday except for June and December. When new members are ready to join, the Session schedules a called meeting on Sundays at 9:50 AM in the Parlor, Room 218.



# How to Join First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

# ~ Are You Looking for a Church Home? ~

Whether you are a long-time guest or have just found us, we have an opportunity for you. Every other month, we have an Inquirer Gathering during Sunday School/Wonder Hour. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn how God is at work through the mission and ministries of our congregation, to tour the church facility, and to make connections with others in our community.

Contact Anne Keener, <u>akeener@fpcfranklin.org</u> or 615-794-7262, for additional information. We hope you will join us.

#### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

You may become a member of this congregation by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of church letter. For additional information please contact Anne Keener at <a href="mailto:akeener@fpcfranklin.org">akeener@fpcfranklin.org</a> or 615-794-7262.

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

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael P. Snoddy, Director of Music/Organist
Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries
Catherine Olson, Director of Operations
Marie Hayman, Accountant
Kate Lasseter and Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinators
Karen Hanson, Clerk of Session
Sara Hinds, Treasurer

# WORSHIP SERVICES

# SUNDAY MORNINGS 10:15 AM

Our congregation gathers weekly for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM. Evening worship is celebrated on special occasions during the year such as Ash Wednesday, Lent mid-week, Maundy Thursday, Service of Light, and Christmas Eve Candlelight. The service is livestreamed on our website and Facebook and can also be viewed anytime during the week at <a href="mailto:fpcfranklin.org">fpcfranklin.org</a>.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions such as World Communion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. It is also celebrated during Lent weekly as a part of the Wednesday evening services.

#### HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

The Hospitality Ministry organizes teams of ushers and greeters for worship. Each team serves once a month for five months. One team serves the 1st Sunday for either January-May or August-December, with separate teams for June and July. We are always looking for new members to join this ministry. Whether you are a new or long-standing member, single or have a large family, all are welcome to serve in this ministry. It is a great way for newer members to meet more members of our congregation. If you are interested in helping us provide hospitality in this important way, please contact Leanne Hoeffler at <a href="leannehoeffler@gmail.com">leannehoeffler@gmail.com</a> or 615-887-0723.

### **COMMON GROUNDS**

Our church strives to provide spaces where all are welcomed and known. Join us for Common Grounds from 9:45-10:15 each Sunday morning for coffee, snacks and community time. We offer food options and emphasize environmentally-friendly practices. This is a time for members and guests to connect with one another.

### Worship at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

#### **Nursery**

A nursery for infants-3 year-olds is provided downstairs in Room 111 for all worship services, as well as during Sunday Wonder Hour/Sunday School. Our church has a dedicated paid staff of nursery attendants, and we are grateful for their service.

#### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children ages 4, 5, and in kindergarten are given the opportunity to worship through the Children's Worship program. Children's Worship offers a way of learning that challenges our children to experience the Bible through storytelling, using a "hands-on" approach. The stories are told using figures made of wood and other materials to make the stories of God come to life. The goal of this curriculum is not only to teach a story, but also to engage children in the act of worship. Volunteers from our congregation will direct sessions September-May as we encounter the great stories of the church year. During the summer months, volunteers read selected library books and offer art opportunities and/or the playground. Children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service, or they may be dismissed at the conclusion of the Time with the Young Church to go to Children's Worship. The children will be brought back to the sanctuary after their worship and activities before the conclusion of corporate worship.

# SUNDAY WONDER HOUR/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

9-9:45 AM

The mission of Christian Education is to engage the Bible in community so that its grace and promises can be heard afresh in each generation. Our Sunday School encourages questions, fosters a passion for the Bible, and instills a desire to grow in faith. We hope this desire lasts a lifetime.

# ~ Sunday Wonder Hour for Children ~

Contact: Sam Belcher (<u>sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org</u>)
Director of Youth Ministries

We offer children's classes for two year-olds through 5th grade. You are invited to visit a class any Sunday at 9:00 AM. The teachers will be there to welcome you and introduce your child to other students. Check the chart for room numbers.

Our young children's curriculum is *Spark Lectionary*, published by Augsburg Fortress. The 1st grade through 5th grade use *Feasting on the Word*, published by Westminster John Knox. These Lectionary curriculums follow stories in the Revised Common Lectionary. Throughout the three-year cycle, each lesson comes from a Bible story in the Old Testament, the Gospels, or Acts that the children will hear during worship.

# Nursery (infant—3 year olds).... Room 111

Nursery Coordinators: Kate Lasseter and Kelly Oldham Staff: Linda Cairatti

PreK - Kindergarten......Room 104
Lower Elementary (grades 1-2) ......Room 102
Upper Elementary (grades 3-5) ......Room 101

# Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

#### ~ Confirmation ~

Contact: Sam Belcher (<u>sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org</u>)

Director of Youth Ministries

#### Confirmation Preparation (6th grade or above)

Students at First Presbyterian Church can enroll in confirmation when they reach the 6th grade or older. The course begins with an understanding of Scripture and includes information about the Reformed tradition, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. Our main curriculum is "Big God, Big Questions". In addition to regular lessons, Confirmands are assigned a Covenant Partner to walk beside them in their journey. Confirmands and Covenant Partners read the Gospel of Luke then meet at least twice monthly to discuss their reading, explore other questions of the faith, and offer service to the community.

# ~ Youth Sunday School ~

Contact: Sam Belcher (<u>sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org</u>)
Director of Youth Ministries

Our youth curriculum is *Feasting on the Word*. Published by Westminster John Knox Press, and following the *Revised Common Lectionary*, each week's lesson comes from a Bible story that is also referenced in worship. Over the course of the lectionary's three-year cycle, youth will read a variety of stories from both the Old Testament and the New Testament, with one of the synoptic gospels (*synoptic* is a word used to describe the first three gospels in the New Testament, as they all tell the story of Jesus Christ's life and ministry from a similar point of view and are similar in structure) as the focus of each year: Year A – Matthew, Year B – Mark, and Year C – Luke. The gospel of John is read each year, primarily in Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Middle School (6-7-8)	Room 119/120
High School (9-12)	Room 117/118
Hospitality Bar	Room 117

Each Sunday the youth gather first for fellowship, snacks, and announcements at the Hospitality Bar.

# Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

# ~ Adult Sunday School ~

Some classes are also offering a Zoom option. Contact leader for zoom link.

# **FALL**

The Bible Class
Christian Faith & Life Class  A Bible study class that is a small but intimate group focused on applying the lessons to daily life and supporting one another with prayer and fellowship. Contact: Missy Kitchings (missy@kitchings.net).
Exploration
Feasting on the Word
Living Faith
Keeping Current as a Christian
SUMMER  During the summer months we offer one adult class with a different series each year

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

# WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6:00 PM

Wednesday Night Live runs Fall through Spring with a delicious dinner catered by Daily Dish at 6:00 PM, followed by adult study, youth gathering, children's education and arts, and choir practice. WNL gives us an opportunity to eat dinner, enjoy fellowship, and attend choir or study all in one night. The nursery is available from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

# Wednesday Night Live schedule is as follows:

#### 5:00 PM

Carillon Handbell Choir (Adult/Youth)...... Music Room 215-A

#### 6:00 PM

#### 6:45 - 7:30 PM

Various Programming including intergenerational & age-specific studies.

#### 6:45 - 8:15 PM

Childcare is provided for Wednesday Night Live activities between 6:45 - 7:30 PM

Nursery Coordinators: Kelly Oldham (ekellyoldham@gmail.com)

Kate Lasseter (katelasseter@yahoo.com)

In case of inclement weather, call the church office or look on the church website/FB page.

# Youth Trips

The youth group goes on several trips together throughout the calendar year. In the fall and spring, we participate in group retreats at NaCoMe camp to

# **MINISTRIES**

All the ministries of this church seek to fulfill our mission to "respond to God's grace through worship, study, and service." Our active witness takes many forms, encompasses all ages, and reflects the dynamic work of the Spirit in our midst. We invite you to prayerfully consider your gifts and God's call to you, and then connect with one or more of these ministries.

#### ~ Children ~

#### **Acolytes**

Beginning in third grade and extending through adulthood, you have the opportunity to serve as worship leaders through our Acolyte program. Training is provided throughout the year. Please contact the coordinator if your student is interested. Contact: Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org)

#### **Children's Library**

Our Children's Library is located in Room 101. If you haven't visited the library lately, please take time to come and borrow some books with your child. Contact: Sam Belcher (<a href="mailto:sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org">sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org</a>).

### **Intergenerational Celebrations**

We are a church that is intentionally focused on bringing the ages together, and there are several keystone events on our calendar that help us accomplish this. Trunk or Treat, Advent Workshop, the Easter Egg Hunt, and more! These are not "children-only" activities; all are invited to join in the fun. Contact Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

### ~Youth ~

The most up-to-date Youth news and events are communicated through the weekly Youth Newsletter. Contact Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org) to become a subscriber.

# Sunday Night Summit (6th - 12th grade)

This is a holistic program for group fellowship, education, worship, and mission. A meal team will provide dinner each week at a low cost to participants. SNS meets from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Students will participate in both large group and small group activities. For small groups, students will be divided into middle school and high school.

connect with youth in our area and engage in worship and study together. The first week of June, we attend Montreat Youth Conference, a weeklong experience for high schoolers to hear keynotes and participate in small groups with Presbyterian youth from across the country. The summer also has our High school and Middle school mission trips, which are weeklong excursions to practice serving through hands-on, people-based service projects. Contact: Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org)

Youth Sunday School: see page 9

Youth Wednesday Night Live: see page 11

#### ~ Adult ~

#### Adults 55+

The ministry includes education, fellowship, nurture, and service aimed at adults over 55. Events are planned by an adult ministry team. Contact: Eddie Bellis (ebellis@fpcfranklin.org).

#### **Caring Connection**

This ministry connects members to reach out and call other members who are recovering from surgery. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, contact Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

# Flower Ministry

Each week, members arrange the worship flowers, other volunteers rearrange the flowers into vases, and then a third set of volunteers deliver the arrangements on Mondays to members who are homebound or have another reason for us to show God's love. If you would like to serve in this ministry, contact Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

# Growth Groups

These are small groups that meet in various locations. New groups form each February and September. Growth Groups provide opportunities for sharing, book discussion, and prayer. We invite you to embrace community and join a Growth Group. Contact: Anne Keener (<a href="mailto:akeener@fpcfranklin.org">akeener@fpcfranklin.org</a>).

### Meal Ministry

This ministry provides meals for members who would benefit from a meal for various reasons such as hospitalization, illness, death in the family, or the

wonderful occasion of a new birth or adoption. Each meal is a sign of God's love to those receiving it. We are always looking for both cooks and drivers. If you would like to serve in this way, contact Ann Crim (ann.crim@gmail.com) or Tammy Love (love.tammy66@yahoo.com).

#### Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets at 7:30 AM on Saturdays in the Parlor. They are currently studying *Psalms*, by Walter Brueggemann and William Bellinger Jr. Contacts: Jerry Houston (<u>jhouston@fpcfranklin.org</u>) or Duke Ellis (<u>familyellisd@att.net</u>).

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

All ages meet to knit/crochet prayer shawls which are given to those needing to feel God's presence during a difficult time. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 1-2:30 PM in the Church Parlor. They do not meet in the summer. Contact: Karen Hanson (klh680@charter.net).

#### Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women meet each month (September through May) for inspiration and fellowship through Bible study and involvement in various types of service. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:45-10:45 AM, in the church parlor. Contact: Sara Hinds (sfbh1955@gmail.com).

### Sisters in Spirit

Sisters in Spirit is a small group of 10-15 women who meet every Friday morning in the Parlor from 10-11:15 AM for fellowship, support, study and prayer. Contact: Martha Johnson (<u>martha.johnson07@comcast.net</u>).

# **Visitation Ministry**

Visitation Ministry provides structure for members to visit with other members who are unable to attend worship or would appreciate a visit. These one-on-one conversations provide connections and reflect God's love. Contact: Karen Hanson (klh680@charter.net).

# Welcome Ministry

This ministry matches new members with existing members with common interests or stages of life. If you would like to serve in this ministry, contact Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

# ~ Music and Arts Ministry ~

# Contact Michael Snoddy (<u>msnoddy@fpcfranklin.org</u>) Director of Music/Organist

The Music and Arts Ministry is often one of the most vital of any congregation as it has a unique ability to challenge, excite, and inspire the people in extraordinary ways. Additionally, it has a crucial role to play in the church's overall vision and mission.

Such goals can be reached when it is engaging and exciting for the children, youth, and adults who participate. These are also realized when all of the participants, regardless of age, are bound together in the challenge and commitment for ministry; that together they know their work can truly change the world for the Gospel, the heart of the church.

Please accept our personal invitation for you to join your musical "tithe" to ours in the Music and Arts Ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Below is a current list of ministry opportunities. For more information/current schedule, contact the Michael Snoddy (msnoddy@fpcfranklin.org).

#### Chancel Choir (Adult and High School)

Chancel Choir: rehearses on Wednesday evenings in Music Rooms 215-B (Main Level) at 6:45 PM. (September through May). This group provides musical leadership for both weekly worship services and at designated times throughout the liturgical year.

# Carillon Handbell Choir (Adult and Youth)

Carillon Handbell Choir: rehearses on Wednesday evenings in Music Room 215-A (Main Level) at 5:00 PM. (September through May). This group provides musical leadership for worship on designated days and at other times throughout the liturgical year (including Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter).

# Children's Sunday School Music

The Children's Sunday School hour begins each week with a gathering time of song and a Bible story introduction. Join us each Sunday morning in the Children's Area (Ground Level) at 9:00 AM. (September through May).

#### **Community Arts**

For centuries the church was the center of culture and commerce. It was here that artisans and musicians presented their best works, often in the form of teaching (morality) plays. Throughout the ages, a city's most enduring arts have found their expression within the church. This tradition provides the inspiration and foundation for fostering the arts within the community of First Presbyterian Church.

#### The 2025-26 Music-Worship & Arts Events (Fall)

- Music Commissioning Sunday (SUN, September 21--10:15 AM)
- •The Vanderbilt University Trombone Ensemble Concert (SUN, October 19-3:00 PM)
- •The Annual Service of Lessons & Carols (SUN, December 14-10:15 AM)

#### Casavant, Opus 3839 (2020)

The sanctuary pipe organ, Casavant Freres Opus 3938 (2020), was built by Casavant Freres Limitée of St. Hyacinth, Quebec, Canada and contains 1,515 pipes over two manuals and pedal. Based in history, the instrument was built by one of the longest lived organ companies in the world and contains 15 sets of historic vintage pipework. Built by Casavant in 1910, these pipes were created for their Opus 440, an instrument formerly housed in the Church of St. Phillip, Three Rivers, Quebec. A gift of two generous donors, the organ will proudly lead the worship of this congregation for generations to come.

### Schulmerich Carillon (2020)

The digital carillon, also a gift of two generous donors, chimes the hour daily; rings prior to/after worship; and gives voice to a daily hymn program at Noon and 6PM.

# ~ Mission Ministry ~

First Presbyterian Church Franklin seeks to demonstrate God's saving grace by serving others in our community, nation, and world. Our aim is to learn about and work toward justice, peace and reconciliation in our world. We are directed in serving others by five core beliefs:

- (1) scripture tells us that all people are children of God and are to be loved as Jesus Christ loves us
- (2) everyone is deserving of basic essentials such as food, shelter, clothing, medical help and education
- (3) everyone is our neighbor and should be treated with respect and humility
- (4) establishing personal relationships with others should be prioritized in service activities
- (5) a variety of different types of service, including financial, domestic, global, and intergenerational activities, should be offered.

#### Mission Partners

FPC provides financial and/or direct volunteer support to a variety of organizations who serve those in need. These partners currently include The American Red Cross through Blood Drives, Room in the Inn, United for Hope, Graceworks, Graceworks Manger, Brightstone, Habitat for Humanity, Hard Bargain Association, Williamson County Homeless Alliance, Feed America First, Meals on Wheels, My Friends House, Bridges, BRA Foundation, Jiselle Lauren Foundation, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Society of St. Andrew, U Kirk (Vanderbilt/Belmont University Student Ministry), and Downtown Presbyterian Church's Fish and Loaves Meal Ministry. Church members volunteer their services to many of these organizations on a regular basis. We also host monthly collections for our mission partners. Members drop off food and supplies to our Basic Essentials Cart and these collections are delivered to our mission partners.

#### **Domestic Missions**

Each year FPC sends at least one mission team to areas in need in the United States. This year a trip is scheduled to Mountain Top in Coalmont, TN to assist in home repairs and to staff their Fall Festival. In previous years we have done trips all over the United States through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and through the Appalachian Service Project. Most recent trips have involved disaster relief in Waverly, Tennessee, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. We also sponsor a Martin Luther King Intergenerational Service Learning project each year in January.

#### **Global Missions**

FPC has a long history of global mission work, going back to our own member, Lena Reynolds, who served as a missionary in Africa for 32 years, from 1932 to 1959. Currently we financially support a number of global mission partners, including Living Waters of the World and The Outreach Foundation. We also plan global mission trips for every other year. Our most recent trip was to Cuba in 2024, where a relationship was established with Pastor Edelberto Valdez of Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Caibarien, Cuba and with the Cuba Partners Network PCUSA.

#### FPC Intergenerational Service in Hope (FISH)

A select number of mission activities at FPC are designated as FISH. These are mission efforts that focus on bringing together members of all ages to serve together. There is an emphasis on teaching our youngest members the importance of serving others and to provide the opportunity for members of all ages to establish relationships with each other. Recent FISH activities have included (1) assembly of teacher appreciation bags for our United for Hope partner school, Poplar Grove, (2) assembly of hygiene kits and school kits as a part of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Gifts of the Heart, and (3) serving breakfast to the homeless at the Fish and Loaves Ministry at Downtown Presbyterian Church.

Upcoming FISH events in 2025 include construction/landscaping/work at Crossroad Mission Care, a retreat center serving first responders, as well as participation in an apple/ sweet potato drop sponsored by the Williamson County Lions Club. We will also be assembling emergency clean up buckets for PDA's Gifts of the Heart.

#### **Future Plans**

The Mission Ministry at FPC will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus by support of our mission partners, global and domestic missions, and FISH. In addition, we will stay flexible so that we can serve in new ways as needs arise. We ask that you join us in these efforts and in prayers for healing in this world.

Contacts: Martha Johnson (martha.johnson07@comcast.net) and Cathy McCall (cmccall@comcast.net).