

FPC NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2026



ON THE WAY WITH JESUS

Lent and Easter
with First Presbyterian Church,
Franklin

Ash Wednesday Services - February 18,
Noon and 6:45 PM (Livestream)

Mid-Week Services - Wednesdays, 6:45 PM
(All Services Livestream except Feb. 25)

February 25 - Samar Ali

March 4 - Sam Belcher

March 11 - Marilyn Doering

March 18 - Mary Sellers Shaw

March 25 - Seder in Wilson Hall led by Gottlieb Family

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

Good Friday Service - April 3, Noon

Easter Sunday - April 5

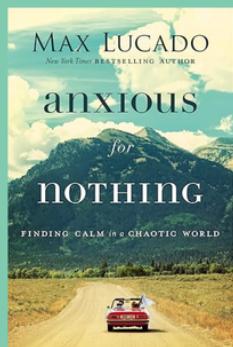
Easter Sunrise Service - 6:00 AM Historic Presbyterian,
Downtown Franklin

Easter Breakfast - following the Sunrise Service at Historic Presbyterian

Easter Services - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (Livestream)

Thank you to Mike Moyers for the Artwork

Whether anxiety feels overwhelming or quietly persistent, this Lenten class offers Scripture-based hope, encouragement, and practical faith for everyday life. All are welcome and come as you are.



"Finding Peace in Anxious Times"

Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25
10:00–11:00 AM

Barr Conference Room

Led by Pastor Eddie Bellis

This study thoughtfully addresses the anxieties of our modern world through the Apostle Paul's pastoral words of comfort to the church in Philippi. Rooted in Philippians 4:4–8, the study invites participants to exchange worry for prayer, fear for gratitude, and anxiety for "the peace of God, which passes all understanding." Through Scripture, conversation, and reflection, we will explore how God's peace can steady our hearts and minds, even in our uncertain times.

Upcoming Events

January 30

Adults 55+Storytelling

January 31

FISH Event Snack Bag Assembly

February 1

Scout Sunday

February 8

Youth Sunday; Winter Potluck;
Cookie Caravan

February 9

Holy Stitches

February 10

Presbyterian Women

February 13-14

Youth Lock-in

February 18

Ash Wednesday Services

February 25

Lent Bible Study Begins

Lent Mid-Week Services Begin

February 28

Pizza & Trivia

Each Week:

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:15 AM and Sunday School & Wonder Hour at 9 AM.

STAFF REFLECTION

ANNE KEENER, COMMISSIONED PASTOR

Grace and peace,

As I write, the meteorologists are predicting double-digit snow fall this weekend. The timing of the storm's arrival on a Saturday causes us to rely on our Inclement Weather Policy to prepare and care for our congregation. In addition to weathering storms, we experience various storms of lives.

Katherine May refers to these times of life as wintering. In her book, *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*, she writes,

"Wintering is a season in the cold. It is a fallow period in life when you're cut off from the world, feeling rejected, sidelined, blocked from progress, or cast into the role of an outsider. Perhaps it results from an illness or a life event such as a bereavement or the birth of a child; perhaps it comes from a humiliation or failure. Perhaps you're in a period of transition and have temporarily fallen between two worlds... However it arrives, wintering is usually involuntary, lonely, and deeply painful."

We all experience winters in our lives, times when we are lonely, sad, or withdrawn. Most, if not all of us, are currently experiencing wintering on a personal, national level, and/or global level. Some of us weather the storms of life better than others due to prior experience and the tools to navigate the season. When we witness someone else reach out for help, it can give us the courage to reach out for help.

God created us to be in relationship. The Trinity is a relationship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we are called to participate in the Divine Dance. We are created to rely on God during our wintering and to rely on our connections to other people during these seasons. I pray you have people to rely on, including members of your church family. This can be difficult and take time to learn. If you don't feel you have the skills to journey well through your wintering, Katherine May offers you hope.

"If happiness is a skill, then sadness is, too. Perhaps through all those years at school, or perhaps through other terrors, we are taught to ignore sadness, to stuff it down into our satchels and pretend it isn't there. As adults, we often have to learn to hear the clarity of its call. That is wintering. It is the active acceptance of sadness. It is the practice of allowing ourselves to feel it as a need. It is the courage to stare down the worst parts of our experience and to commit to healing them the best we can."

Scripture reminds us to rely on God and on one another. Speaking from the voice of God in Psalm 50, the psalmist writes, "Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." And then Paul encourages us in Galatians 6, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

If you are enduring a wintering season in your life, please reach out to someone you trust. I hope you know that Pastor Eddie and I are always here to talk. You are loved by God and your church family, and we are here to walk alongside you, relying on God to guide us.

Peace,
Anne

**"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS,
IN THIS WAY, YOU WILL FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST."**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Storytelling

- WHAT IT IS
- WHY IT MATTERS
- HOW TO TELL A GREAT STORY

Adults 55+

Friday, January 30
11:00 AM
Barr Conference Room

Video clips • Fellowship • Bring your own lunch



Would you be willing to lead a Children's Worship session during one of our Sundays this month? This program occurs during the sermon and is both a boon for our parents of young children and a joyful time of age-appropriate worship for our little ones.

Email [Sam Belcher](#) for details!

MY FAITH AS A MUSLIM IN AMERICA

Samar Ali – Vanderbilt Professor of Political Science and Law, leader of the Vanderbilt Project of Unity and American Democracy and Founder of Millions of Conversations

First Presbyterian Church Franklin

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM

- February 4: Islam 101 – What It Is & What It Is Not
- February 11: Islam and Muslims in America – Living & Practicing Islam Today
- February 25: Open Q&A – Questions About the Muslim Faith

*February 18 is our Ash Wednesday Service



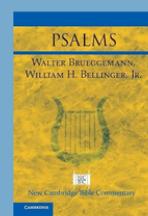
Youth Sunday is on February 8th! Join us for a special worship service led entirely by our teenagers. We will also be running our annual Envelope Fundraiser, our final fundraising effort before summer 2026! Please consider donating toward our efforts to bring Youth to Montreat Youth Conference and on mission trips.

Wednesday NIGHT LIVE



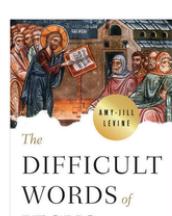
Join us for food and fellowship each Wednesday at 6 PM. Reserve your meal today!

Suggested pricing:
\$10 per adult/youth, \$5 per child, \$25 family/max.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays
7:30 AM
Church Parlor



New Book January 9

Sisters in Spirit

Fridays
10:00 AM
Church Parlor

YOUTH NEWS

MISSION & OUTREACH



**January 31
Wilson Hall
9:00 AM**

Join us in assembling snack bags that help keep our neighbors nourished. These bags support Room In The Inn, our partners at MNPD, and the Metro Extreme Cold Weather Overflow Shelter.

Scout Sunday is February 1!

All previous and current scouts and scout leaders are invited to wear their uniforms and gather at Common Grounds to engage with the current scouts from Troop 135.

IN THE SERVICE, WE WILL ALSO BE RECOGNIZING TROOP 135.

Basic Essentials Collection



Drop off your donated heavy drawstring men's pants size medium through XXXLG for RITI in the Basic Essential Cart.



PIZZA & TRIVIA NIGHT February 28

5:30 PM

Join us for food, fellowship, and a night of fun team competitions.

Sign up online!



Thank you to everyone who participated in our MLK events and helped make the day so meaningful. A special thank you to Khris Downey for organizing and leading such a thoughtful experience.

We were so engaged in learning and serving that we didn't capture many photos—but we're grateful to share this one from our visit to the Jefferson Street Sound Museum, pictured with museum founder and curator Lorenzo Washington. We learned so much about the rich musical legacy of Jefferson Street and the lasting impact of Interstate 40 being built through the heart of this historic community.

MOUNTAIN MISSION TRIP T.O.P.

We are returning to Mountain T.O.P. in Grundy County, TN.

More details to follow.

For more information, please contact Mike Anderson at mja2649@aol.com.



SAVE THE DATE

April 16 – 19

Thursday, April 23

6:30 PM

**St. Augustine's Chapel on
Vanderbilt's campus**



FPC Tradition!

Help prepare, serve and share dinner and worship with Belmont and Vandy students.

Contact Ryan Fox at Ryan.fox@belmont.edu for more info

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP

GROWTH GROUPS

WINNER OF THE PULITER PRIZE
Jon Meacham



THE HOPE
OF GLORY

Reflections on the Last Words
of Jesus from the Cross
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Lenten Growth Groups will read
The Hope of Glory by Jon Meacham.

Groups will meet for 7 weeks beginning
the week of February 15.

Sign up deadline is February 1.



Sign up today for a Lenten Growth Group!

- Sunday 5:30-7 PM Home in Grassland area
- Monday 6-7 PM Cool Springs restaurants
- Monday 7-8 PM Zoom
- Thursday 1-2:30 PM FPC Parlor
- Thursday 7-8 PM Zoom

Jon Meacham explores the seven last sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, combining rich historical and theological insights to reflect on the true heart of the Christian story.

Books can be purchased for \$18 at the church.



The Congregational Care Committee is looking for new committee members who have a passion to care for our church family and support our FPC Caring Ministries. Reach out to chair, Tammy Love 615-472-6634 to learn more.

Join the

**Congregational Care Committee
to help support the ministries that
care for our FPC members.**



Holy Stitches

Made in faith, given in love.

JOIN US FEBRUARY 9
FROM 1-2:30 PM IN
THE CHURCH PARLOR

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Holy Stitches is the new name for our expanded prayer shawl ministry which now includes scarves and hats for our Mountain T.O.P. mission partner and blankets for new FPC babies. We're looking for new members—whether you'd like to join our monthly gatherings or contribute items from home. Learn more by contacting Karen Hanson.

MEAL MINISTRY

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

Contact Tammy Love or Ann Crim to help.

March 1-After Amen Lunch at The Factory

Join fellow FPC members for lunch after worship at The Factory! Grab your food of choice and meet up near the Skylight Bar to enjoy fellowship together. Everyone is welcome—come and connect!

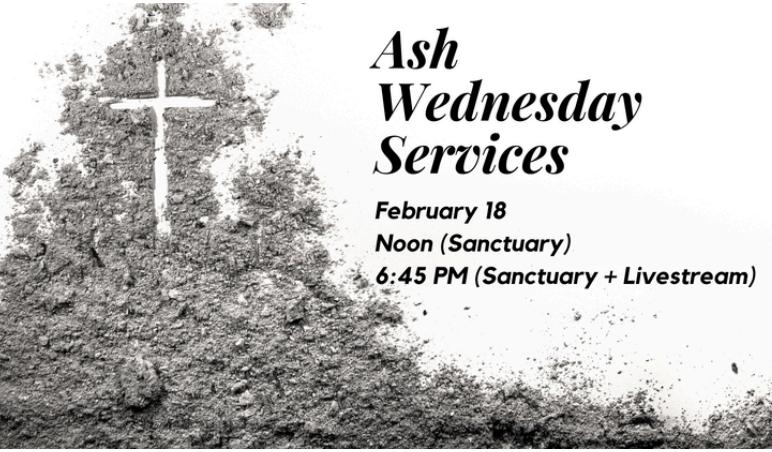


WORSHIP & MUSIC

Chancel Choir Cookie Caravan

Sunday, February 8 | 11:15 AM

Celebrate the Pittsburgh Cookie Table tradition as the choir provides a wide variety of cookies for the church potluck.
(immediately following worship)



Ash Wednesday Services

February 18
Noon (Sanctuary)
6:45 PM (Sanctuary + Livestream)



Congregational Favorites Hymn Festival

A service of worship featuring favorite hymns with special guest instrumentalist Adam Troxler.

FEBRUARY 1

Matthew 5:1-12
Blessed
EDDIE BELLIS

FEBRUARY 8

Matthew 5:13-20
Youth Sunday

SUNDAYS



FEBRUARY 15

Matthew 17:1-9
Dazzled by Grace
EDDIE BELLIS

FEBRUARY 22

Matthew 4:4-11
Button Pushing
EDDIE BELLIS



FEBRUARY

Musical Guests in Worship

John Johns, guitar

Adam Troxler, flute and trumpet

Tom Wilhoite, bagpipes

CHOIR

NEW YEAR 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.



FEBRUARY 1

Matthew 5:1-12
Blessed
EDDIE BELLIS

FEBRUARY 8

Matthew 5:13-20
Youth Sunday

SUNDAYS

[Click HERE for
the February
Daily Lectionary](#)

CELEBRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR
FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS

Click here



Recent Death

The FPC family extends prayers and sympathy to all those who are grieving.

We are especially in prayer for **Jean Acklin** and her family upon the death of her brother, Dale Prouty, on December 26.



Worship Flower Dedications

Open dates currently include: 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/15, 4/19, and many others in the second half of the year. [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 in advance.

Thank Yous



BrightStone continues to grow in extraordinary ways. From our life-enrichment programs to the transformational vision of the **Land of Dreams** campus where adults with IDD can live, learn, work, and thrive. Your support fuels a future filled with possibility. Thanks to caring partners like you, we are building a community where each person is valued, celebrated, and empowered to reach their fullest potential.

GraceWorks

Gifts like yours enables GraceWorks to help families during their season of struggle. Thank you so much for having a heart to help.

THANK YOU TO THE WONDERFUL
MEMBERS OF FPC WHO WISHED
MY DAD, ERIC LACHE, A HAPPY 95TH
BIRTHDAY OR SENT A CARD.
HE TRULY APPRECIATED EVERYTHING.

IN GRATITUDE,
BARBARA AND DALE ROOS



Photo credit: Eddie Bellis



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
101 LEGENDS CLUB LANE
FRANKLIN, TN 37069

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

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

Income
Fixed Expenses
Other Expenses
Profit/(Loss)

	January Actual	January Budget	March-Jan. Actual	March-Jan. Budget
Income	76,589.47	77,892.00	910,525.04	936,016.00
Fixed Expenses	55,151.34	60,665.00	667,693.20	686,269.00
Other Expenses	13,005.20	21,825.00	211,596.03	239,699.00
Profit/(Loss)	8,432.93	(4,598.00)	31,235.81	10,048.00