

FPC NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2026

Blood Drive



**Wilson Hall
101 Legends Club Lane
Franklin, TN 37069**

**Sunday, January 11, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code:
FPCF19

MLK Weekend Jan. 16-19

An intergenerational weekend
focused on honoring the civil rights
legacy in the Nashville area.

Final headcount needed by January 5
Contact Khris Downey at
kaged27@gmail.com if interested!



Come participate in
several service projects
and educational
opportunities throughout
the weekend, such as
serving a meal at the
Nashville Rescue Mission,
or learning from the
incredible founder and
curator at the Jefferson
Street Sound Museum.

The full itinerary and housing plan is still being finalized, but the trip will take place from Friday, January 16-Monday, January 19. The final headcount is needed by **January 5**, so please contact Khris Downey at kaged27@gmail.com to sign up right away if interested!

Save The Date

UPCOMING SERIES: MY FAITH AS A MUSLIM IN AMERICA

Location: First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, Franklin

Time: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM

Speaker: Samar Ali – Vanderbilt Professor of Political Science and Law,
leader of the Vanderbilt Project of Unity and American Democracy

Dates & Topics:

Jan 28: Islam 101 – What It Is & What It Is Not

Feb 4: Islam and Muslims in America – Living & Practicing Islam Today

Feb 11: Open Q&A – Questions About the Muslim Faith



Upcoming Events

Through January 2
Church Office Closed

January 7
WNL Resumes

January 11
Elder Installation & Ordination
Red Cross Blood Drive

January 12
Adults 55+ at Serrato's
Holy Stitches (Prayer Shawl)

January 13
Presbyterian Women

January 17-19
MLK Activities

January 24
Confirmation Retreat
Pizza & Trivia

January 25
Inquirer Gathering

January 31
FISH Activity: Packing Bags for
Room In The Inn

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

STAFF REFLECTION

MICHAEL SNODDY, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Aha! Epiphany!

The feast of Epiphany first appeared on the church calendar around the same time as did Christmas. As the church split between West and East by the mid-eleventh century, the feast came to carry two different meanings.



In the East, the church gathered into one day the commemoration of Jesus' birth, childhood, baptism, and the visit by the Magi. In the West, the day had a single focus—the revelation of the Messiah to the Gentiles. The weeks following January 6 in the Western Church calendar continue the themes introduced on Epiphany (the life of Jesus through his baptism, the miracle at Cana, Jesus' signs and wonders, and the call of the disciples).

Epiphany reminds us of how Jesus fulfilled the mission God had given the Jewish people by seeking and saving those who were labeled as “other.” He sought those outside the community, people to whom his own people had failed to reflect God's light. The magi present us with a powerful image of what it means to be a seeker, and Epiphany demonstrates the wonderful “aha” of discovery. The journey of the magi is just a beginning and only part of the focus of Epiphany. Connecting with Jesus' mission to seek and serve is the larger theme. Author Robert Webber puts it in this way:

The Epiphany marks the turning point of prophecy. The glory of God that has become incarnate in Jesus is now manifested to the magi, who represent the peoples of the world beyond Israel. From them the manifest glory of God will extend through the church to the whole world.

Perhaps Epiphany calls from us a twofold response. First, as an invitation to worship as the magi. They demonstrated the essence of worship by giving up (following a star) and giving (offering gifts = ourselves). Second, Epiphany is an invitation to join Jesus in ministry. We live into Epiphany as we show and tell the world that God is still seeking each one of us.

“As they offered gifts most rare at they manger rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sins alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.”
(As with Gladness Men of Old)

Michael Snoddy
Director of Music and Organist



EPHIPHANY

To celebrate Epiphany, we invite each of you to receive a star word and ponder what significance the word might have in your life or how God might be speaking to you through this simple message. This star word is a gift that will travel with you throughout the year.

All are invited to receive an Epiphany star gift by [clicking here](#)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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.

January 7

Ukraine-Phil Ott

January 14

Mission with Mountain T.O.P.- Martha Pierce/Rachael Jorstad

January 21

Davis House (Child Advocacy Center)

January 28 / February 4 / February 11

My Faith as a Muslim in America-Sumar Ali



Sign up now and use code
FRANKLIN26 for \$150 off!
More info on the FPC website.

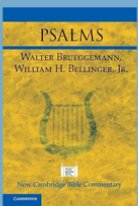


Would you be willing to lead a Children's Worship session during one of our Sundays this month? This program occurs during the sermon and is both a boon for our parents of young children and a joyful time of age-appropriate worship for our little ones. Email [Sam Belcher](mailto:Sam.Belcher@fpc.org) for details!

Save the Date!

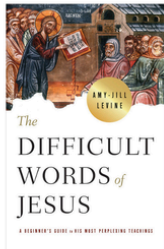
Youth Sunday

February 8



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays
7:30 AM
Church Parlor



New Book January 9

Sisters in Spirit

Fridays
10:00 AM
Church Parlor

THE BIBLE CLASS- NEW STUDY BEGINS IN JANUARY

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM IN ROOM 207

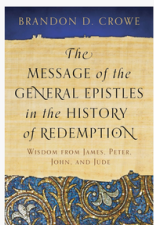
Join us for *The Story of the Bible*, a DVD study led by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson-award-winning Emory University scholar, Yale-trained New Testament professor, and author of more than 20 books.

All are welcome.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Join us Sundays at 9:00 AM

The Bible Class, Room 207
Christian Faith & Life Class, Room 206
Exploration Class, Room 209 (HYBRID ON ZOOM)
Feasting on the Word, Room 210
Living Faith Class, Room 208 (HYBRID ON ZOOM)
Keeping Current as a Christian, Room 213



Christian Faith & Life

Sundays
9:00 AM in Room 206
New Book Study

It's a great time to join the Christian Faith & Life Sunday School class! In January, we are starting *The Message of the General Epistles in the History of Redemption: Wisdom from James, Peter, John, and Jude*. We will also flavor our discussions with relevant videos from the Bible Project and Yale Divinity School. If lots of Bible reading and lots of discussion are your favorite ways to spend a Sunday morning, we are your class! Contact missy@kitchings.net for more information -- we would love to have you!

YOUTH NEWS

MISSION & OUTREACH

Thank you to all who donated to the GraceWorks Manger and for giving to Poplar Grove Elem. families this Christmas.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.
Thanks for loving your neighbors.

Blanket & Coat Collection

Donations of new or gently used small blankets and XXLarge & up Basic Men's & Women's Winter Coats may be placed in the Basic Essentials Cart just outside the Sanctuary to help support neighbors without a home during these cold winter nights.



We're grateful for a great turnout at Fish & Loaves over Thanksgiving weekend and look forward to continuing to partner and serve alongside this ministry throughout the coming year.



Thank you to all the volunteers who came out in early November to help at the Facility Clean-up day here at the church. We had an extremely successful day completely filling a 15-yard dumpster with items that were no longer needed at the church. In addition, we were able to donate some gently used furniture to GraceWorks. Thank you again- we could not have done it without you!



DURING WNL
JANUARY 14

- Special guests from Mountain T.O.P.
- Learn about their work and mission
- Preview our two 2026 service weekends



Don't miss it!



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.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT FPC?



JOINS US FOR OUR
INQUIRER
GATHERING

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 25
9:00 AM
IN THE PARLOR

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP

PIZZA & TRIVIA NIGHT

January 24

5:30 PM

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

Sign up online!



Join us for Pizza & Trivia Saturday, February 24 at 5:30 PM. All ages are needed as we will divide people into teams for a fun night of friendly competition, laughter, and food. Sign up so we know how much pizza to order.

February 8
**WINTER
POTLUCK**



**AFTER
WORSHIP**

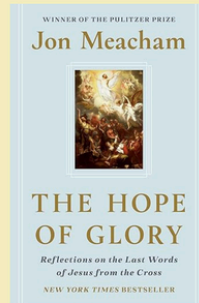
Please bring a dish to share.

MEAL MINISTRY

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

Contact Tammy Love or Ann Crim to help.

GROWTH GROUPS



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

Groups will meet for 8 weeks beginning
the week of February 8, and group
options will be announced later
in January.



Please send addresses of college students



so we can send
care packages
filled with love
from their church
family!

**SHARE THEIR ADDRESSES
WITH ANNE KEENER BY JAN. 4**

Help us spread love and care to our undergrad college students. Share their addresses with Anne Keener by January 4 for heartwarming care packages. Let's make their college journey extra special!

Adults 55+

LUNCH AT 11:00 AM



**Monday, January 12
Serrato's Steakhouse
(3046 Columbia Ave)**

No signup. Just show up for food and fellowship.



Holy Stitches

Made in faith, given in love.

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.

**Join us January 12 from 1-2:30 PM in the
Church Parlor.**

WORSHIP & MUSIC

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.

Dedicate Sunday
Worship flowers in
honor or in memory
of a loved one.

There are many open dates
in 2026, and the cost is
\$100. These flowers
beautify our worship,
remind us of God's creation,
and are later shared with
members as a sign of God's
love and our church family's
care. Sign up today on our
Event/Registration page.



Sunday, February 8 | 11:15 AM – Chancel Choir “Cookie Caravan”

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

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

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

Sunday, May 17 | 3:00 PM – Concert with Alcee Chriss

Performance by African American concert organist Alcee Chriss.

JANUARY 4

John 1:1-18
Testify to the Light
ANNE KEENER

JANUARY 11

Matthew 3:13-17
Well Done
EDDIE BELLIS

SUNDAYS



JANUARY 18

John 1:29-42
Come and See
EDDIE BELLIS

JANUARY 25

Matthew 4:12-23
Can I Get a Witness
EDDIE BELLIS

CELEBRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Church Office Closed THROUGH JAN. 2



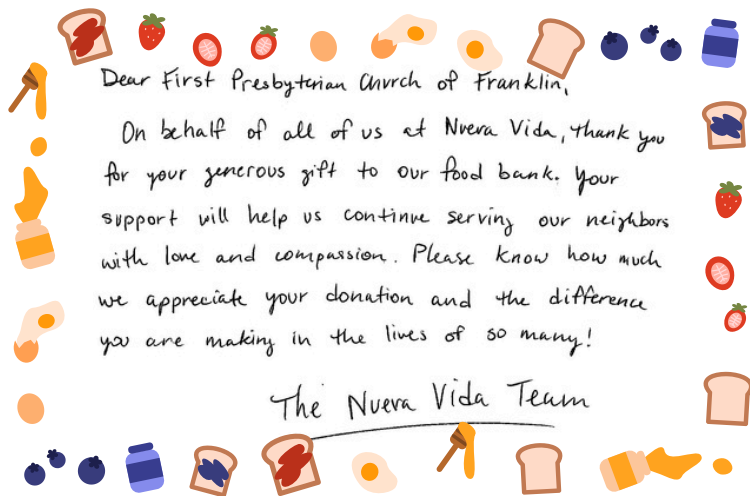
The Church Office will be closed through Jan. 2 to give our office volunteers a much-deserved break. Thank you to Sandra Fields, Marlene Cole, Brenda Plunkett, Clata Miller, Betty Barcheski, Karen Hanson, Martha Johnson, and Betty Webb for responding to God's grace in this way.

Recent Death

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

We are especially in prayer for **Connie Jefferson** and her family upon the death of her sister, Zeneith Cole, on December 1.

Thank You



We would like to thank FPC for your most recent financial donation. Your support will go towards our operational expenses needed to provide a safe and nurturing home for each of the young men in our care.



Dear First Presbyterian Church of Franklin,

We want to take a moment to thank you sincerely for your support during our last fiscal year. Because of your generosity, families in our community are one step closer to safe, affordable housing, and the stability that comes with it. Your kindness made a real impact whether through building homes, repairing them, or offering hope to families who needed it most. We are so grateful to have you as part of our habitat, family, and we could not do this work without you.

The Habitat for Humanity WC Team



Your gift helps your Neighbors avoid hunger, eviction, homelessness, utility disconnection, and many other problems. We appreciate your partnership and how you empower GraceWorks to fulfill its mission of providing food, shelter, and support to Neighbors in need.

Thanks!

This Christmas, homes like Arthur and Vickie's are filled with laughter and light.

When Arthur and Vickie opened their hearts to raise eight grandchildren, their small home was stretched to its limits, *but their love wasn't.*

With the kindness of friends like you and the help of ASP volunteers, this family now has more bedrooms, a sturdy roof, and space for every child to dream.

During this season of giving, may your heart be filled with the same warmth you have given to families in need through your generosity and compassion.

**Merry Christmas from all of us at
Appalachia Service Project**



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

Income
Fixed Expenses - Admin & Facilities
Other expenses
Ordinary income (loss)
Other income (expense)
Net income (loss)

Nov-25 Actual	Nov-25 Budget	Mar-Nov 2025 Actual	Mar-Nov 2025 Budget
137,183.67	106,470.00	938,276.63	867,380.00
89,611.03	88,598.00	771,799.77	759,411.00
12,056.81	9,680.00	112,920.67	136,142.00
35,515.83	8,192.00	53,556.19	(28,173.00)
-		-	
35,515.83	8,192.00	53,556.19	(28,173.00)