

FPC NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2026



FPC Music & Arts

- **Summer Musical Guests**
John Johns, guitar and Adam Troxler, instrumentalist
- **Congregational Hymn Favorites**
Over the summer months we will sing more of your hymn favorites.

Greetings from the FPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC),

Since May, the committee has come together on a weekly basis with prayer, thoughtful discussion, and a sincere desire to find FPC's next Head of Staff/Senior Pastor.

Pastor Nominating
committee

As the work moves forward, monthly updates will be provided in the newsletter. While details about the committee's work or specific candidates cannot be shared, the PNC wants to ensure that the congregation is as informed as possible as things move forward.

The committee's initial work focused on development of the church's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), which is available on the Transition page of the church's website. The MDP serves as our job posting for the position. It was approved by Session at the stated meeting on June 7, and by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee's Commission on Ministry (COM) soon thereafter. The MDP was then uploaded to the PCUSA's Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website where potential candidates can either self-refer or be matched by the CLC to our MDP. To date, 38 files have been received.

This is an exciting time. As the search moves forward, we continue to ask for your prayers and for your patience. We also ask that you remember this journey is on God's time, and our work as FPC's PNC is to thoughtfully and carefully discern the pastor that God has already chosen to serve FPC.

(PNC Members: Mary Bryant, Susan Burns, Rich Crim (Chair), Ryan Fox, Mike Henry, Nancy Moody, Jim Petersen, and Sam Webb)



Upcoming Events

- July 6:**
Church Office Closed
—
- July 8:**
Youth Lake Day;
55+ Dinner at Chop House
—
- July 15-18:**
Middle Schoolers at Montreat
—
- July 15:**
55+ Dinner at Chop House
—
- July 18:**
Fish and Loaves Ministry
—
- July 19:**
Summer Potluck
—
- July 22:**
55+ Dinner at Chop House
—
- July 25:**
Session Retreat
—
- July 28:**
WC Animal Shelter Service Day
—
- July 27-29:**
Middle School Mission Trip
—
- July 29:**
55+ Dinner at Chop House
—
- Each Week:**
Sunday Morning Worship at
10:15 AM and Sunday School
& Wonder Hour at 9 AM.

STAFF REFLECTION

EDDIE BELLIS, INTERIM PASTOR

To my friends and followers of the Way at First Presbyterian Church, Much is happening at First Presbyterian! Kimberly Coward and I are teaching a class on 1 Corinthians. As we near the halfway point, I am enjoying our time together, both in class and in collaboration with Kimberly.



In one of our planning sessions (I don't remember who brought it up), we wondered what Paul would say to us at First Presbyterian during our search for a new pastor. Below is my creative attempt to put my thoughts down based on what I know about Paul and the Corinthians.

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus, to the Saints of First Presbyterian Church in Franklin

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God whenever I remember you. Though many miles and many centuries separate us, I recognize your situation well. You find yourselves in a season between shepherds, between what has been and what shall be. Such seasons often feel uncertain.

The road behind is familiar, while the road ahead is hidden around the bend. How well I know the season of waiting.

The churches I loved often lived in the space between promise and fulfillment. They waited for letters, for guidance, for leaders, and for clarity. They waited for God to reveal the next faithful step. I learned and taught them that God is never absent in the waiting.

Some among you may wonder, "Who will be our next pastor?" Others may ask, "What direction will our congregation take?" Still others may quietly worry whether the future can be as fruitful as the past.

Beloved, do not be anxious. Remember who you are.

Remember, you are not the only congregation to search for a pastor. You are first the Body of Christ. Before any pastor arrived, Christ was your Lord. After every pastor departs, Christ remains your Lord. The church's foundation is not built upon the gifts of one servant but upon Jesus Christ himself, who provides the talents for His servants.

Did I not write to the Corinthians, "What then is Paul? What is Apollos? Servants through whom you came to believe"? One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth. The same is true among you.

Give thanks for the shepherd who served faithfully among you. Bless those who now carry responsibilities in this season. Encourage your Session, your staff, your committee leaders, your teachers, and your volunteers. Do not grow weary in doing good. Continue to worship. Continue to study. Continue to serve.

I have heard of your mission: responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service. Hold fast to these things. Do not set them aside while waiting for a new pastor to arrive. Indeed, this is the very time to deepen them.

Worship with gladness. Let your prayers rise with confidence. Study with curiosity and humility. Serve your neighbors with generosity and joy. In doing these things, you are not marking time; you are fulfilling your calling.

You live in a community blessed with abundance yet burdened by needs often hidden from view. Continue to care for the hungry. Continue to support those struggling with housing and financial hardship. Continue to partner with your neighbors in the work of mercy. Let your light shine not only within your walls but throughout Franklin and beyond.

STAFF REFLECTION CONT'D & WORSHIP

And remember this: God often does God's finest work in seasons of transition.

Israel wandered before entering the Promised Land. The disciples waited before Pentecost. The early church prayed before missionaries were sent. Waiting is not wasted time when it is filled with faith.

Therefore, be steadfast. Be patient with one another. Listen carefully to the Spirit. Welcome the stranger. Encourage the weary. Pray for those charged with discerning your future leadership.

The pastor whom God is preparing for you does not yet know all the ways your lives will intersect. Yet God knows. The Spirit is already at work in places unseen, weaving together stories that will one day meet.

Until then, do not ask only, "Who will our next pastor be?" Ask also, "Who is God calling us to become?" The answer to that question will prepare the way for whatever comes next.

Now may the God who began a good work among you bring it to completion. May your fellowship abound in love. May your worship be filled with joy. May your witness be bold. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Now I share with you the blessing I shared with the church in Corinth. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and a fellow traveler in hope.

I hope you enjoyed my creative thoughts, and if I made an error, I beg Paul to forgive me. Continue to grow in God's grace and walk in God's love.

Shalom,

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor



Easel-y Heard

From Easel to Ear

We will "hear" select pieces of art "speak" as they are interpreted musically.

"...it is evident that human beings will continue to turn to music, art, literature, film—and indeed to artful ritual and liturgy—for expressing and interpreting some of the highest and deepest things of life and religion (faith). It is because art, by and large, helps us to know and hope envision better (cross-shaped lives)."
Arts, Theology, and the Church, Vrudny and Yates

JOIN THE
CHOIR



**Choir rehearsals
resume on Wed.,
August 19!**

While our groups are enjoying a well-deserved summer holiday, it is not too soon to consider joining either group this fall. GOALS: **Carillon Choir** (1-2 additional ringers, music-reading experience helpful.) **Chancel Choir** (4 additional SATB singers). Contact the [Music Office](#) for more information.

JULY 5

Luke 4:14-19

*The Dangerous Freedom of
Good News*

EDDIE BELLIS

JULY 12

Matthew 13:1-9

Let's Sow Some Seed

EDDIE BELLIS

SUNDAYS



[Click here for the
July Daily Lectionary](#)

JULY 19

Luke 4:14-19

A Labor of Love

EDDIE BELLIS

JULY 26

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Dynamic Discipleship

EDDIE BELLIS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



THE WONDERS OF CREATION
CHILDREN'S SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 AM | ROOM 209

Elementary students are invited to Summer Sunday School! Kids will explore God's creation and learn about the Creator through fun, nature-themed lessons in Room 209. [Click here for the Calendar.](#)

FPC YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
THE CLASSICS
 Combined Middle & High School Class
 Join us Sundays at 9 AM in room 117/118.

THEN & NOW
 ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
1 CORINTHIANS
 SUNDAYS 9 AM | BARR CONFERENCE ROOM

LED BY
 PASTOR EDDIE BELLIS AND KIMBERLY COWARD

 <p>Sisters in Spirit</p>		<p>Fridays 10:00 AM Church Parlor</p>
<p>MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</p>		<p>Saturdays 7:30 AM Church Parlor</p>



Blessing of the Backpacks
 Sunday, August 9



Rally Day
Sunday, August 23



HORIZON GAZING
 HOPE IN THE HERE AND NOW

MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER | **Women's Connection**
AUGUST 14-16

There's still time to join us for the Montreat Women's Connection Weekend, August 13-16! To reserve your spot, please [sign up here](#).

A \$100 deposit is required by July 6 and can be paid through [Vanco](#) or by check to the church (please note "Montreat 2026").

Once we have a final count, we'll share details about housing, carpools, meals, and other plans. Questions? Contact [Barb Roos](#).

We hope you'll join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, worship, and time in the mountains!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Would you be willing to lead **Children's Worship one Sunday this month** during the sermon?

Open dates currently include **July 19 & 26**.

Email Sam Belcher at sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org



Presbyterian Women
 No meetings in July or August.



Adults 55+
DINNER AT 5 PM

Each Wednesday through August.
 The Franklin Chop House, 1101 Murfreesboro Rd.
 No signup. Just show up for food and fellowship.

YOUTH NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP



Sundaes on Sunday

August 9

Following Worship

Make your own ice cream sundaes to celebrate the kick-off to the new school year and church ministries/classes.



Meal MINISTRY

Sign up to help!

Our Meal Ministry is a wonderful way to respond to God's grace. If you are able and willing to provide that meal or would like to learn more about this ministry, contact [Ann Crim](mailto:Ann.Crim@church.org) 615-293-2993 or [Tammy Love](mailto:Tammy.Love@church.org) 615-472-6634.



Worship Flower Delivery

Would you like to be a substitute "flower deliverer" of our rearranged worship flowers on a Monday when needed?

Please contact Anne Keener for more info.



Holy Stitches

Made in faith, given in love.

Holy Stitches is taking a break for the summer and will resume in August. However, we would like to encourage anyone who knits or crochets, to join us in making hats (all sizes needed) and scarfs for the Mountain TOP ministry our Mission Team will be participating in this fall.

WORSHIP FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sign up today to dedicate Sunday Worship flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Open dates Sept. - Nov.



Summer

IS A GREAT TIME TO MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS OR STENGTHEN EXISTING ONES

INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO SOMEONE NEW AND INVITE THEM TO SHARE A MEAL.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

MATTHEW 18:20

VISITATION MINISTRY

Contact Karen Hanson (klhanson46@gmail.com) to get involved.

MISSION & OUTREACH



JUNETEENTH
A Celebration of Freedom
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

We enjoyed celebrating Juneteenth with our Franklin community. Thank you to all who took shifts at our FPC Franklin table, made cakes for the Cakewalk, and attended the event.


VOLUNTEER



Downtown Presbyterian
Fish and Loaves Meal Ministry

Saturday, July 18
8:30AM-10:30AM

Serve breakfast to our friends who are unhoused.

Service Opportunity
TUESDAY, JULY 28
10 AM-NOON
Williamson County Animal Shelter
Sign up today!



Volunteer opportunities include preparing supplies, assembling care packages, and shelter projects.

St. Francis of Assisi Prayer
Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated; or any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; and for those who deal with them. We ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, for they are your creation. Give us grace to see all animals as gifts from You and to treat them with respect, for they are your creation. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation, in all your creatures. Amen.



Crossroads Mission Care

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Projects include:
landscaping, clearing,
building projects

All skill levels welcome.



JULY



BASIC ESSENTIALS COLLECTION
For Mountain T.O.P. Fall Festival



NEW WORK BOOTS
ADULT SIZES 10-12



NEW ATHLETIC SHOES
YOUTH-ADULT



NEW OR GENTLY USED WINTER HATS & GLOVES
CHILDREN & ADULT SIZES

During July, we're collecting items for the Mountain T.O.P. Fall Festival, including new work boots (adult sizes 10-12), new athletic shoes (youth through adult sizes), and new or gently used winter hats and gloves for children and adults. You can also support our year-round collection for the GraceWorks Food Pantry. Drop off items in the cart in the Narthex.



AGAINST HUNGER

Rise Against Hunger is an organization that provides shelf-stable meals to people facing food insecurity around the world. FPC Franklin will host a Rise Against Hunger packing event on Saturday, September 12, from 9-11 AM. Volunteers will work together to pack rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a packet of 18 vitamins and minerals into meal packages. We are aiming to prepare 15,000 meals and need 80 volunteers to make it happen. All ages and abilities are welcome, with roles for everyone. Invite friends and neighbors, save the date, and watch for the sign-up link coming soon.



ADULT MISSION TRIP TO COALMONT, TN

October 22-25
Cost: \$100 per person

Help with their Community-wide Fall Festival or Home repairs like roofing, flooring, siding & windows, bathroom renovations.




CELEBRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent Deaths

The FPC family extends prayers and sympathy to all those who are grieving. We are especially in prayer for **Paula Starace** upon the death of her mother, Verna Clark, on May 16, for **Roger Fender** upon the death of his mother, Margaret Fender, on June 11, for **Christi Granstaff** upon the death of her brother, Michael Granstaff, on June 17, for the family of **Martin McGirt** who died on June 20, and for **Katie and Penny Lillard** upon the death of their husband and father, **Caleb Lillard**, on June 22.



You can now recycle household batteries at FPC! Bring your used batteries (excluding lithium ion) and deposit them in the white bucket in front of the mission board in Wilson Hall.

Thank You



Dear Franklin First Presbyterian Church,
The whole team from Nueva Vida would like to thank you for your generous gift to the Nueva Vida Food Project. Your support means so much to us as we strive to serve our neighbors with love and compassion. Thank you for being a big part of this important work!

The Nueva Vida Team

NEW MEMBERS

Tom and Sharon Richardson are native Texans and grew up in the church. Tom is an Elder, and Sharon has served as a Deacon. They feel serving their church and community as a privilege. Tom and Sharon were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Kathy and Robin. After many years of fighting cancer, they lost Kathy to cancer. Robin and Jeff then asked them to move to Tennessee, so each couple sold their home, moved into one house in Chestnut Bend, and now also live close to their granddaughter and great granddaughters. Tom and Sharon look forward to becoming closer to their new church family at FPC Franklin, which they consider is a huge gift from the Father.

Kelsey Kirby recently became a member, but she has been part of our church family since infancy. A lifelong lover of history and family stories, Kelsey is the owner of Southern Charm Genealogy, where she helps individuals and families discover and preserve their heritage. In her free time, she enjoys genealogy research, local history, reading, and spending time with family and her dogs. She looks forward to continuing to grow in faith and serve alongside her church community.

Mike and Libby Watson have lived in Franklin for 5 years. Their daughters Ivy (15) and Katie (7) enjoy reading books and riding bikes. Libby's mom, Lydia Reid, is also a member of FPC Franklin and lives with the Watsons. Mike and Katie joyfully received the sacrament of baptism on June 21. The Watsons are excited to be part of the FPC community!



**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](https://www.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

We are transitioning our accounting system, so we will not be including the financial report for this month.

As a reminder, you can give online at [fpcfranklin.org/giving](https://www.fpcfranklin.org/giving) anytime. You can give one-time donations, or setup recurring payments. If you have any questions about giving, or how to setup your online giving, please contact Marie Hayman at mhayman@fpcfranklin.org.