

# FPC NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2026



## Upcoming Events

Apr 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27  
Adults 55+ Dinner at Chop House

May 2:  
FISH Hard Bargain Workday

May 3:  
Senior Sunday

May 11:  
Holy Stitches

May 12:  
Presbyterian Women

May 16:  
Fish & Loaves Ministry

May 17:  
Confirmation Sunday,  
Alcée Chriss Organ Concert

May 24:  
No Sunday School or Wonder Hour

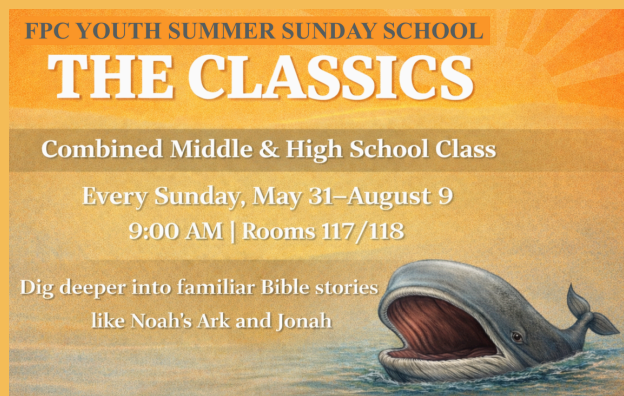
May 25:  
Church Office Closed

May 31:  
Summer SS Classes Begin;  
Red Cross Blood Drive

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



Summer Sunday School classes for Elementary aged children will be led by an all-star crew of nature-loving members! Each week beginning May 31, students will explore creation and learn about the creator. Don't miss it! [Click here for the Calendar.](#)



The Youth Group will have a combined middle and high school Sunday School class this summer (May 31-Aug 9, no class July 5). Our series, The Classics, explores familiar Bible stories like Noah and Jonah as we dig deep and discover new meaning. Join us Sundays at 9 AM in room 117/118.

Some letters don't just sit on a page; they breathe. They whisper across centuries and find their way into our Monday mornings, our meetings, our worries, and our hopes. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is one of those letters.



This summer, you're invited to gather with us for an adult Bible study where we'll listen closely to this ancient voice and discover how it still speaks into the rhythm of our work and the realities of our world today.

With the Bible as our primary guide, we'll explore what Paul meant then, and how his words meet us right where we are now.

**Who:** Rev. Eddie Bellis

**What:** Summer Adult Bible Study – 1 Corinthians: Then and Now

**Where:** Barr Conference Room

**When:** Sundays at 9:00 AM, May 31- August 9

**Why:** Because God's Word still speaks into our work, our relationships, and the world we navigate every day

No need to have all the answers. Please bring your curiosity, your questions, and your coffee if you'd like. Come as you are. There's a seat for you at the table, and a word waiting just for your heart.

# STAFF REFLECTION

## MICHAEL SNODDY, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

### Worship- Music & ARTS... Right Here!

To close our program year, we will soon have the opportunity to hear rising young concert organist/artist Dr. Alcee Chriss (but more about this later).



To reflect, last October, which seems like only yesterday, we were treated to a wonderful afternoon of music making by the Vanderbilt University Trombone Ensemble, ably assisted this year by “Bone Therapy,” another area brass ensemble. During the busy Christmas Season, we paused for a moment of musical reflection during our Annual Service of Lessons & Carols. This musical re-telling of the anticipated birth in Bethlehem featured music for congregation, choir, and organ.

More recently we reflected on the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer during the Lord’s Prayer Hymn Festival. Through congregational hymn favorites, and meditation by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we sung about God’s love and faithfulness through our rich tradition of hymnody.

To close our season, we are preparing to welcome Dr. Alcee Chriss as he presents an afternoon of music for the organ. The winner of the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, Alcee has been celebrated for his “grace, skill, and proficiency” at the organ.

Dr. Chriss has performed throughout North American and Europe, including programs in Stockholm, Montreal and Germany, to name a few. Other engagements include the Princeton University Chapel, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, and as a featured performer at the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, held in Seattle, WA.

In 2019, he was appointed as University Organist and Artist in Residence, at Wesleyan University, during the same period he earned his Doctorate of Music degree from McGill University. He previously studied at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he earned his Master’s degree in historical keyboard.

Alcee is active as a church musician, guest lecturer, and remains engaged with his lifelong love of gospel and jazz music. He is currently Assistant Organist at Trinity Church, Wall Street.

We thank you for your continued love and support of the Worship-Music & ARTS programs within this congregation and look forward to seeing you for Dr. Chriss’ program on May 17.

A promotional graphic for a performance by Alcee Chriss III. It features a photograph of Alcee Chriss III on the right side. On the left, there is a dark blue background with white text. The text includes the logo for FPC Music & Arts, the name of the performer, the date and time of the performance, the location, and a handwritten-style invitation to invite friends.

FPC Music & Arts  
Performance by Concert Organist,  
**Alcée Chriss III**  
Sunday, May 17 | 3:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church Franklin,  
101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin, TN  
*Invite your friends!*

A promotional graphic for the choir. It features a blue background with a white line drawing of a church building. The text is in white and blue, inviting people to join the choir and listing rehearsal times and contact information.

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.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Presbyterian *Women*

May 12 at 9:45 AM in the Church Parlor.

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](#) for details!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



**SENIOR  
SUNDAY MAY 3**

**SPECIAL WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

**BANQUET HONORING  
THE GRADUATING HIGH  
SCHOOL SENIORS TO  
FOLLOW WORSHIP**

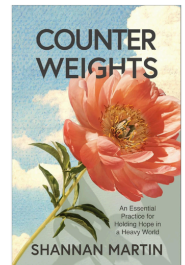


**SENIOR BIBLES WILL BE IN WILSON HALL.  
STOP BY TO LEAVE AN ENCOURAGING NOTE.**



**CONFIRMATION  
Sunday**  
SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 10:15 AM  
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS WE HONOR OUR  
SIX CONFIRMANDS AND WELCOME THEM INTO  
FULL MEMBERSHIP.

**Sisters  
in  
Spirit**



**Fridays  
10:00 AM  
Church Parlor**  
\*New book series begins May 8



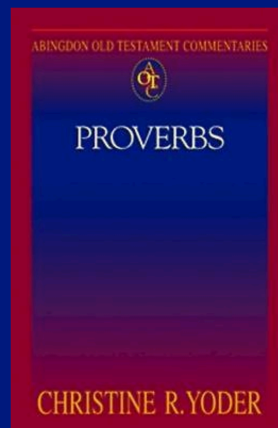
It's a great time to start planning for the Montreat Women's Connection Weekend -a wonderful time for rest, relaxation, fellowship, plus shopping in Black Mountain, the Montreat Book Store, and visits to the Blue Ridge Folk Art Center. We look forward to meaningful worship and hearing from keynote speaker Kristen Kobes DuMez, a best-selling author and history professor at Calvin University, whose work explores the intersection of gender, religion, and culture.

We'd love an estimate of who may attend.

[Sign up here.](#) This is not a firm commitment—just an expression of interest. A final commitment and deposit will be requested in June.

Registration is now open for Saturday workshops.

Please share this with newer women—we love introducing others to the beauty of Montreat.



**MEN'S  
BIBLE STUDY**

**Saturdays  
7:30 AM  
Church Parlor**

There's something special about starting your day with good coffee, good company, and the kind of wisdom that sticks with you long after the sun is up. We're diving into Proverbs through the insightful work of Christine Yoder. This book of ancient wisdom shapes the way we see the world, guiding us toward what is good, wise, and true. Yoder helps us slow down and listen closely to the poetry, the patterns, and the purpose behind each proverb, inviting us into a lifelong conversation about faithful living. Whether you're a longtime student of Scripture or just looking for a place to grow, this is a space for honest discussion, thoughtful reflection, and brotherhood.

# YOUTH NEWS

3

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP



MAY 11 FROM 1-2:30 PM  
THE CHURCH PARLOR  
Learn more by contacting [Karen Hanson](#).



Do you knit or crochet? We would love to have you join us in our efforts to create hats and scarves for Mountain T.O.P. in Coalmont, TN. Even if you're not a member of Holy Stitches, we invite you to join us in making knit hats (all sizes needed from children to adult) and scarves in the comfort of your home. We'll send these along with our Mission Team when they travel this October to participate in one of the Adult Volunteer weekends, including a fall festival, where these will be distributed to people in need.

WHAT A FUN NIGHT!



Thank you to all our hosts and Dinner for 8 participants!



*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.

Thank you to all who participated in our **Spring Growth Groups** and a special thank you to all our facilitators. New groups will form in the fall with book information coming this summer.



*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*  
MATTHEW 18:20

## VISITATION MINISTRY

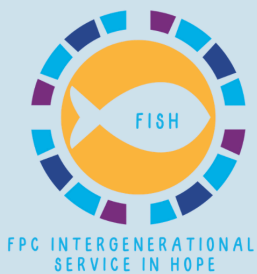
Contact Karen Hanson ([klhanson46@gmail.com](mailto:klhanson46@gmail.com)) to get involved.



*LEARN WHAT TO DO before EMS arrives*

- Unconsciousness, choking, bleeding, AED use
- Barr Conference Room
- After services: June 7 & 28

# MISSION



## Service Opportunities

### Ways to serve that make a real impact

- 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](#).
- Plans for Saturday, **May 16** have changed—we will no longer serve at the GraceWorks Food Pantry and will reschedule for a future date. Instead, we'll be serving at Downtown Presbyterian Church's Fish & Loaves Ministry in Nashville **May 16**, offering breakfast and hospitality to those experiencing homelessness. We will gather at DPC at 8:30 AM. [Sign up here](#).
- Join us on **June 2** from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM as we serve at the Williamson County Animal Center. Volunteers will assist with a variety of tasks such as preparing supplies, assembling food and litter bags for foster families, building shelters for community cats, and writing donor thank-you notes. Our visit will also include a brief introduction and a tour of the cat and dog adoption areas (no direct animal interaction). Youth under 18 are welcome when accompanied by an adult. [Sign up here](#).



## May 31 Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE

### 9 AM-1 PM Wilson Hall

[Click here and use code FPCF19](#)



Betty Webb was recognized as a special volunteer at the Williamson County Homeless Alliance Breakfast on March 31, where she honored the everyday heroes serving our homeless community.

We're also grateful that FPC Franklin was recognized as one of seven shelter churches. Thank you, Betty!

### May Basic Essentials Collection



- Laundry detergent
- Cat toys/treats
- Dog treats/chews

Drop off in the cart located in the Narthex

The Basic Essentials Collection supports the GraceWorks Food Pantry year-round, helping families facing food insecurity through food carts, student fuel bags, holiday food boxes, and mobile food pantries. The May featured collection benefits the Williamson County Animal Center. Always needed items include laundry detergent (liquid or pods), along with cat supplies such as DaBird feather toy refills and Churu lickable treats, and dog supplies including Milk-Bone treats (mini and small sizes) and Nylabone chews.



## MOUNTAIN T.O.P.

### THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SHOWED UP AND SERVED SO FAITHFULLY.

# OUTREACH



Franklin Pride Festival is Saturday, June 6, 12-6 PM. Join us at the Park at Harlinsdale Farm, where there will be live music and performances. This is a free event with free parking. FPC will have a tent set up and we need volunteers to welcome guests and hand out FPC swag! We'll need at least 3 people per 2-hour slot. [Sign up](#) with your family or a friend!

# JUNETEENTH

*A Celebration of Freedom*

FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

Join us at Franklin Bicentennial Park for the annual Franklin Juneteenth Celebration, Friday, June 19, 11 AM-5 PM. This event is open to the public and commemorates the emancipation of the African-American enslaved. Music, food, games, and African American cultural activities are part of the celebration. FPC will have a tent to support the event, provide drinks, share info about the church, and get to know some of our neighbors. We are looking for members to volunteer for tent shifts and for people to provide cakes for the Cakewalk. [Sign up here](#). Contact [Verna Rydlund](#) to learn more.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC



Join us for a season of inspiring music at FPC. On **Sunday, May 17** at 3:00 PM, we welcome acclaimed concert organist Alcée Chriss III, known for his “grace, skill, and abundant proficiency.” A performer across North America and Europe, Dr. Chriss is University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University and brings a dynamic blend of classical, gospel, and jazz influences.

On **Sunday, May 31**, we will enjoy a special musical guest, piper Tom Wilhoite.

**Throughout the summer**, join us for Summer Sundays, featuring congregational hymn favorites beginning in June, along with “Easel-y Heard: From Easel to Ear,” where selected works of art are brought to life through music during the offertory each week.

## SUNDAYS

### MAY 3

John 14:1-14

*Graduating Senior*

KRISTY BOLLINGER

### MAY 10

John 14:15-31

*Because He Lives*

EDDIE BELLIS



### MAY 17

John 17:1-11

*Seeking the Gift*

EDDIE BELLIS

### MAY 24

Acts 2:1-21

*Are We Pentecostal?*

EDDIE BELLIS

### MAY 31

Matthew 28:16-20

*The Trinity*

EDDIE BELLIS

# CELEBRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Recent Death

The FPC family extends prayers and sympathy to all those who are grieving. We are especially in prayer for **Harriet, Randy, Tiffany, Emily, Grayce, and Andrew Bechtel**, upon the death of **Ted Bechtel** on March 30, and for **Angela Calhoun** and her family upon the death of her mother, Claire Mitchell, on April 17.

## Thank You



We are grateful for those who have come before thankful for you and those who stand with us now and eager for those who are to come. Together, we continue the work that the original volunteers started 40 years ago. We thank you for your generous donation. We value our relationship.



Thank you for showing love for your neighbors through your congregation's recent contribution. We are so grateful. Gifts like yours enable GraceWorks to feed a grandmother in need and put a smile on the face of her granddaughter. Thank you so much for making this possible.

## New Members



**Victoria Bilyeu** grew up in Franklin, as the eldest of four daughters: Terri, Karen, Beth, and herself, and was a member of FPC Franklin, where her parents, Dot and Fred, grounded the family in faith. She enjoyed serving here as a senior high youth leader alongside her sister, Karen, whose life we lost far too soon, and whose memory remains deeply cherished. She is semi-retired and works as a commissioned artist, previously owning Franklin Frames Unlimited. With a renewed sense of faith, Victoria is grateful that God has brought her back "home" to FPC Franklin to continue to journey.



**Laurie Brooks** is from Winchester, Tennessee, where she was a member of Decherd Presbyterian and a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans. She works for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. After living out of state for several years, she returned to Franklin in 2011. She is the mother of two sons, David and Dillon, and shares her home with her rough collie, Bella, and two cats, Misty and Milo. She enjoys concerts, reading, traveling, and cheering on University of Tennessee football.



**Norm and Linda Parker** were born in Ohio and Pennsylvania and met while in high school. After dating through their teen years, they married in 1960 and began their life together in Indiana, where Norm completed his engineering degree and launched a 42-year career that took them to several states over the years. Linda attended school and business college in Ohio and supported their family life throughout their moves. Now married for 65 years, they have two children, seven grandchildren (including twins), and seven great-grandchildren. After a lifetime of travel for work and family, they have settled in Franklin to be near family and are happy to join FPC Franklin.



**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](http://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**

|                                     | Mar-26<br>Actual | Mar-26<br>Budget | Jan-Mar 2026<br>Actual | Jan-Mar 2026<br>Budget |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Income                              | 95,008.99        | 89,825.00        | 253,134.41             | 267,005.00             |
| Fixed Expenses - Admin & Facilities | 91,884.10        | 92,665.00        | 248,598.51             | 278,085.00             |
| Other expenses                      | 13,879.02        | 23,305.00        | 34,914.15              | 44,750.00              |
| Ordinary income (loss)              | (10,754.13)      | (26,145.00)      | (30,378.25)            | (55,830.00)            |
| Other income (expense)              | -                |                  | -                      | -                      |
| Net income (loss)                   | (10,754.13)      | (26,145.00)      | (30,378.25)            | (55,830.00)            |