

# The Lamplighter

The monthly newsletter of  
Franklin Presbyterian Church

JUNE 2023

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## 2023 FPC WOMAN OF THE YEAR



*Donna Houston presenting FPC Woman of the Year to Deb Thompson.*

# Pastor's Pen

## ***A Changing Reality***

Every year, a variety of polls try to help explain who we are as a society and how things are changing. Many of these polls have names you may recognize: Gallup, Pew Research, Quinnipiac, Nielsen.

The Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) is a non-profit trying to better understand how Americans feel about religion, specifically Christianity. PRRI recently released its latest poll and it offers some insights into who we are as Christian congregations in America today.

One key learning from this study was that fewer and fewer white Americans identify as Christians. In 2006, nearly 57% of Americans identified as both white and Christian, a majority. In 2022, that is down to barely 40%, which, while still the largest demographic, is no longer more than half of the nation's people.

While the number of Americans who identify as white has decreased over that time by 6%, white Americans identifying as Catholic has decreased 21%, as mainline Protestant is down 22% (includes Presbyterians), and evangelical Protestant is down a whopping 41%. In fact, there are now more white American Christians who identify as mainline than who identify as evangelical. The flip side is that those Americans identifying as white and religiously unaffiliated has risen by a jump of 74%!

### ***How did this happen?***

The two most common reasons given by those people who were once part of Christian churches and are no longer affiliated with religion are the negative teachings toward LGBTQ+ folks and a growing distance between the beliefs and actions shown by churches.

Some pundits are quick to blame the decline in churches for allowing societal values to trump the biblical values of Christianity. In particular, the influence of antiracism or LGBTQ+ inclusion are cited as "wayward" directions for American churches and these theories are readily repeated by many pastors and politicians.

However, the fact that folks are leaving churches that are more likely to exclude LGBTQ+ persons or to discourage using antiracism resources tells a very different story. That fewer white Americans are finding churches compatible with living out their faith is having a profound effect on Christianity.

What might we as FPC learn from this? Does our commitment to boldly loving God and boldly loving neighbor connect with our beliefs, values, and actions? Are we a safe and attractive place for Christians who feel that the church has abandoned them, either in word or in deed?

As we spread the Good News, may we follow Christ and seek the Spirit's guidance as we consider these challenging questions together.

***Pastor Daniel***

# Ruling Elders Serving on Session:

Barry Hain  
John Halcomb  
Bob Thompson  
Bob Heidbrink  
Jane Rahm  
Nancy Thomas  
Chris Kessler  
Martha Hodge  
Justin Henninger

**DEACONS:**  
Meredith Halcomb  
Marcella Davis  
Linda Knight

**Clerk of Session:** Donna Houston

**Clerks of all committees:** Please submit any minutes from your meetings to the church office for inclusion in the Session materials. THANK YOU! Next Session meeting will be on Monday, June 19.

Elder of the Month: Barry Hain  
Elder Helper of the Month: Nancy Thomas  
Friend of the Month: Donna Houston

May Average Attendance: 56

May 7	57
May 14	56
May 21	52
May 28	60

May Average Weekly Offering:

	\$1,683
May 7	\$1,897.00
May 14	\$1,677.00
May 21	\$1,560.00
May 28	\$1,596.00

Average Weekly Income  
Needed for Budget: \$2,692.31



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MAY 15, 2023

- ◆ There being few action items for the May meeting, elders serving on Session enjoyed visioning conversation about relationships with our partners here at FPC, especially those we serve, and with the larger community. Think about what vision you would like to share at our upcoming Listening Sessions with the Thriving Congregation Project.
- ◆ We recommitted our intentions to share funds from the Matthew 25 program to the Pastor's Benevolence fund, including \$500 for gas vouchers and \$500 for food vouchers.
- ◆ We are excited to help sponsor three of our church musicians to attend the upcoming Worship and Music Conference at Montreat. The rich, educational environment at the conference will help to enrich our worship and music at FPC.



CONNECT WITH US!  
[www.franklinpresbyterian.org](http://www.franklinpresbyterian.org)  
[franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com)

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Van Beek:  
*Pastor*  
Rev. Bailey Pickens,  
*Community Connections Director*  
Candice Mendoza:  
*Office Manager*  
Jason Matteson:  
*Music Director*  
Donna Houston:  
*Organist*  
Shirley Crutcher:  
*Nursery*

### CONTACT US

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# News & Events

## FPC MUSTARD SEED REPORT

The FPC Mustard Seed is a Christian Service program dedicated to helping local families and individuals in need become financially self-supporting and holistically healthy. The program was created by the Adult Sunday School class (and approved by Session) in 2008 in response to a class study of poverty from economic, social and biblical perspectives. The Mustard Seed is a complement to the FPC Pastor Benevolence program, which provides short-term, emergency assistance to pay for essentials such as food, utilities, and gasoline. The Mustard Seed Committee engages in longer-term and more holistic relationships with individuals and families to help them become self-sustaining based on an agreement jointly developed and signed by the Committee and the people asking for help. Some of the more common types of assistance provided by the Mustard Seed include budgeting and financial decision-making, purchase of inexpensive used cars to enable people to get to work, essential home repair, and advice on healthy diets and lifestyles. Preference is given to families with minor children. Mustard Seed expenditures are considered a loan. The majority of loans (but not all) have been repaid. The program is funded by donations from members of the FPC congregation.

*The committee members are Linda Knight, Prentice Knight, Caren Gibson, Larry Gibson, Marcella Davis and Curry Davis. The committee members will be happy to answer any questions you have about the program.*

## Thriving Congregation Listening Sessions

What is your vision for the future of Franklin Presbyterian Church? Would you like an opportunity for your ideas to be heard and to hear the vision of others? Then make plans to attend one of the listening sessions which are being planned by our thriving congregation team at FPC. The goal of listening sessions is to bring people together in a safe space where we hope to discover ways to feed each other spiritually and to deepen actions for doing good within and through Franklin Presbyterian Church and for our community.

Be on the lookout for announcements about upcoming sessions. Prayerfully consider attending and sharing your hopes and dreams for our church. Think about what drew you to our church and why you stay. Be ready to share passions that you are committed to that you wish others in the congregation would help support. Be prepared to listen to ideas from others. We hope these sessions are fruitful and help us to discern the ways forward in service together.



## SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

**This year's Summer Feeding Program runs from May 30-August 4. We meet at FPC at 11:15 am. Lunches are picked up at the middle school about 11:30. Our route takes a little over a hour to distribute to 5 locations. If you choose to make this part of your "Give back to God and community", we can put you to work!**

**Please see the sign up sheet is in the educational wing. If you want to know more about this program, please contact Linda Knight at (270) 622-3881 or (270) 943-0305.**

## June 2023 Daily Lectionary

*These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.*

### **Year One**

#### **Thursday, June 1**

Morning: Pss. 36;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
Deut. 4:32–40  
2 Cor. 3:1–18  
Luke 16:1–9

#### **Friday, June 2**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
Deut. 5:1–22  
2 Cor. 4:1–12  
Luke 16:10–17 (18)

#### **Saturday, June 3**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
Evening: Pss. 125; 90  
Deut. 5:22–33  
2 Cor. 4:13–5:10  
Luke 16:19–31

#### **Sunday, June 4**

##### **Trinity Sunday**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150  
Evening: Pss. 117; 139  
Deut. 6:1–9 (10–15)  
Eph. 4:1–16  
John 1:1–18

#### **Monday, June 5**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145  
Evening: Pss. 85; 47  
Deut. 11:13–19  
2 Cor. 5:11–6:2  
Luke 17:1–10

#### **Tuesday, June 6**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146  
Evening: Pss. 28; 99  
Deut. 12:1–12  
2 Cor. 6:3–13 (14–7:1)  
Luke 17:11–19

#### **Wednesday, June 7**

Morning: Pss. 65;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 125; 91  
Deut. 13:1–11  
2 Cor. 7:2–16  
Luke 17:20–37

#### **Thursday, June 8**

Morning: Pss. 143;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 81; 116  
Deut. 16:18–20; 17:14–20  
2 Cor. 8:1–16  
Luke 18:1–8

#### **Friday, June 9**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148  
Evening: Pss. 6; 20  
Deut. 26:1–11  
2 Cor. 8:16–24  
Luke 18:9–14

#### **Saturday, June 10**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149  
Evening: Pss. 100; 63  
Deut. 29:2–15  
2 Cor. 9:1–15  
Luke 18:15–30

#### **Sunday, June 11**

Morning: Pss. 108; 150  
Evening: Pss. 66; 23  
Deut. 29:16–29  
Rev. 12:1–12  
Matt. 15:29–39

#### **Monday, June 12**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Deut. 30:1–10  
2 Cor. 10:1–18  
Luke 18:31–43

#### **Tuesday, June 13**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Deut. 30:11–20  
2 Cor. 11:1–21a  
Luke 19:1–10

#### **Wednesday, June 14**

Morning: Pss. 96;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 132; 134  
Deut. 31:30–32:14  
2 Cor. 11:21b–33  
Luke 19:11–27

#### **Thursday, June 15**

Morning: Pss. 116;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 26; 130  
Song of Sol. 1:1–3, 9–11,  
15–16a; 2:1–3a  
2 Cor. 12:1–10  
Luke 19:28–40

#### **Friday, June 16**

Morning: Pss. 84; 148  
Evening: Pss. 25; 40  
Song of Sol. 2:8–13;  
4:1–4a, 5–7, 9–11  
2 Cor. 12:11–21  
Luke 19:41–48

**Saturday, June 17**

Morning: Pss. 63; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 125; 90  
 Song of Sol. 5:10–16; 7:1–2 (3–5) 6–7a (9); 8:6–7  
 2 Cor. 13:1–13  
 Luke 20:1–8

**Sunday, June 18**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 117; 139  
 Exod. 6:2–13; 7:1–6  
 Rev. 15:1–8  
 Matt. 18:1–14

**Monday, June 19**

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
 1 Sam. 1:1–20  
 Acts 1:1–14  
 Luke 20:9–19

**Tuesday, June 20**

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
 1 Sam. 1:21–2:11  
 Acts 1:15–26  
 Luke 20:19–26

**Wednesday, June 21**

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;  
 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
 1 Sam. 2:12–26  
 Acts 2:1–21  
 Luke 20:27–40

**Thursday, June 22**

Morning: Pss. 97;  
 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 16; 62  
 1 Sam. 2:27–36  
 Acts 2:22–36  
 Luke 20:41–21:4

**Friday, June 23**

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
 1 Sam. 3:1–21  
 Acts 2:37–47  
 Luke 21:5–19

**Saturday, June 24**

Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
 1 Sam. 4:1b–11  
 Acts 4:32–5:11  
 Luke 21:20–28

**Sunday, June 25**

Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
 1 Sam. 4:12–22  
 James 1:1–18  
 Matt. 19:23–30

**Monday, June 26**

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
 1 Sam. 5:1–12  
 Acts 5:12–26  
 Luke 21:29–36

**Tuesday, June 27**

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
 1 Sam. 6:1–16  
 Acts 5:27–42  
 Luke 21:37–22:13

**Wednesday, June 28**

Morning: Pss. 15;  
 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
 1 Sam. 7:2–17  
 Acts 6:1–15  
 Luke 22:14–23

**Thursday, June 29**

Morning: Pss. 36;  
 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
 1 Sam. 8:1–22  
 Acts 6:15–7:16  
 Luke 22:24–30

**Friday, June 30**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
 1 Sam. 9:1–14  
 Acts 7:17–29  
 Luke 22:31–38

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LECTOR/USHER  
SCHEDULE

**Elder of the Month:**  
*Barry Hain*

**Elder Helper:**  
*Nancy Thomas*

**Ushers:**  
*Chris Kessler*  
*Craig Kessler*

**Lector**  
*Sylvia Pulliam*

WEEKLY EVENTS &  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Handbells:** Wed. 5:15 pm
- **Choir:** Wed. 6:30 pm (*no choir or handbells on June 28*)
- **Grief Group:** June 14 & 28 at 5 pm

**MEETINGS**

**FPC Men:** June 24 10-12

**SESSION:** June 19 at 5 pm

**Facilities:** June 21 at 4 pm

# JUNE 2023

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Deb Thompson</i>	3
4	Communion	5	6 Red Cross 12-6	7	8	9 Hot Rods Outing	10
11		12	13	14	15	16	17
18	FPC Man of the Year <i>Beth Timmerman</i>	19 <i>Linda Felts Everett Halcomb</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	<i>Frances Strickler</i>	26 <i>Genevieve Stubbs</i>	27 <i>David Hoffman Leslee Kirkconnell</i>	28	29 <i>George Halcomb</i>	30	

\*Birthdays in italics Pastor Daniel will be on vacation from June 4-13.



# Looking Ahead...

JULY

**Elder of the Month:  
Bob Thompson**  
**Elder Helper of the Month:  
John Halcomb**

**Friend of the Month:  
Debbie Wyatt**

ANNUAL CHURCH POOL PARTY-SUNDAY, JULY 2

After church at the home of Mike & Debbie Wyatt. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. A sign up sheet will be posted in the educational wing during the middle of June.

***Tuesday, July 4:***

***Happy Independence Day!-Office Closed***

**ART!**  
**IN THE PARK**

**TUESDAYS  
JIM ROBERTS PARK**

**WEDNESDAYS  
LINCOLN PARK**

**NATURE-THEMED ARTS,  
CRAFTS, & ACTIVITIES  
JUNE 6-JULY 12TH  
(EXCEPT JULY 4TH)**

**10:00AM -  
11:00AM**

Seeking God. Serving ALL People  
Franklin Presbyterian Church  
Franklin, Kentucky

FRANKLIN-SIMPSON  
PARKS & RECREATION

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**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30 AM IN THE CORNERSTONE

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:45 AM WITH MS. SHIRLEY

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

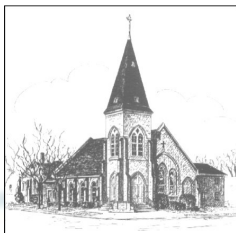
TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM

IN THE CORNERSTONE

(current session ends on June 13 and new session will begin on July 11)



*Do you have something to go in the Lamplighter? Submit it to the office by the last Thursday of each month.*



Franklin Presbyterian Church  
201 North College Street  
Franklin, KY 42134

