

the Lamplighter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2023

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A CHRISTMAS KALEIDOSCOPE BEGINS AT 8:30 PM WITH
SPECIAL GUEST, ANNA CARINE-EXUME & MORE!

LESSONS & CAROLS
TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
WITH READINGS & CAROLS

DEC | 24 | 9 pm



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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Van Beek

Pastor

Bailey Pickens, **Community**

Connections Director

Candice Mendoza

Office Manager

Jason Matteson

Music Director

Donna Houston, **Organist**

Shirley Crutcher, **Nursery**

ELDER/ELDER HELPER OF THE MONTH

Nancy Thomas

Martha Hodge

FRIEND OF THE MONTH

Nancy Thomas

RULING ELDERS ON SESSION

Barry Hain

John Halcomb

Bob Thompson

Bob Heidbrink

Jane Rahm

Nancy Thomas

Chris Kessler

Martha Hodge

Justin Henninger

DEACONS:

Marcella Davis

Linda Knight

Meredith Halcomb

Pastor's Pen

Waiting to Exhale

Beloved, the busyness of the month of December seems to run fully against the entire idea of Advent. We are planning trips and seeing Santa and shopping and making cookies and it all sounds so wonderful and so exhausting!

Advent is a time of waiting. Stopping a moment in the bustle of it all to ponder big things. To ponder our creation as God's children. Our redemption through Jesus Christ. The return of our God and King to this world in all of the Lord's glory. Those things don't happen very easily in our packed calendars and big to-do lists.

Taking a moment this Advent season to remember the 7th Day of Creation. Where God rested. That may give us inspiration to lean into the preparation God wants for us. We hope. We make peace. We delight in joy. We sigh in love.

The grace of God is coming. The birth of Jesus Christ returns us to the moment when humanity was formed in God's hands from the dirt of the earth. When we felt that breath of God enter our lives and we were created in God's image.

As we wait this Advent, we wait to exhale. We hold in the deep breath of God's life within us and we savor that moment of knowing that we are God's people and Christ is our God. That all of creation is ready for the redemption, and if we are not ready for Christ to return, that this is our time to ponder and prepare. Amen.

Pastor Daniel



Advent/Christmas Activity Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Advent Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

Lighting of Candle of Hope

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Lighting of Candle of Peace

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Lighting of Candle of Joy

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Lighting of Candle of Love

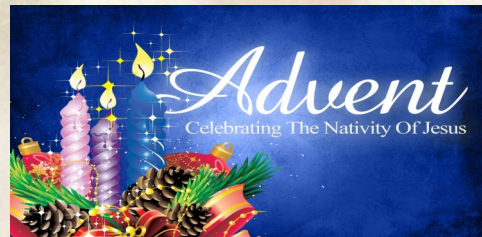
PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering (Check out

www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy to find out

where your donations go!)

CHRISTMAS EVE-DECEMBER 24

'Lessons & Carols' our traditional Christmas Eve service of readings, carols & hymns begins at 9 pm. 'A Christmas Kaleidoscope' starts the evening off at 8:30 pm with Special Guest, Anna Carine-Exume & More!



White Christmas

Donations will be accepted for White Christmas boxes on December 3, 10 & 17. You may place your offering in the offering plate marked 'White Christmas'.

Also, you may bring in toiletry items such as: soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc. and place these donations in the box in the parlor.

Packing & delivery help is needed, Tuesday, December 19 beginning at 10 am in the main building.



*The Church Office will be closed from December 25-January 1.
Any committee that has an expense to be paid out of the 2023 Budget,
please submit it by Thursday, December 21.*

News & Notes



Every Sunday in December here at Franklin Presbyterian Church is “Undie Sunday”. What exactly is “Undie Sunday”? Since we only give away new underwear, we need your help to make sure we have all sizes of childrens’, men’s and women’s underwear stocked in the Clothes Closet. Last year, we gave away over 2,000 pairs! Look for the laundry basket with the “Undie Sunday” sign by the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. 5 other churches are participating to help us meet our goal of 2,000 for pairs for 2024. Bring them any Sunday in December and help us celebrate the success of the Matthew 25 Clothes Closet!

Also during December, we open up the “Toy Shop” in the old kitchen. Here parents can shop for used toys for their children. We could use small toys in good condition, new coloring books, card games, books, and puzzles. We also have a limited number of gifts for men and women, depending on what is donated. Combs, earrings, small flashlights, hand lotion, and note cards were very popular last year.

As always, we always need jeans, and at this time of year, gloves are very much appreciated.



2023 ANNUAL
BEAN SOUP
TOTAL RAISED:
\$2,165.50.

You may purchase a poinsettia this year for \$8.00 to make in honor of or memory of a loved one. Please pick up a form on the table in the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate with your check. These poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary this Christmas season!



ROOM IN THE INN NEEDS YOU

Each winter, churches in Franklin step up to provide overnight shelter for homeless folks in our community. FPC will host a total of ten nights in January and February. Each night we'll need people to help set up, make dinner, stay overnight, reset the Cornerstone, and run laundry.

It's truly a community effort, and the more people help, the easier it is for everyone. If you are willing to pitch in, please speak to Bailey or sign up in the Education Wing.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Approved collecting the White Christmas offering in December**
- **Approve Cornerstone Building use by the Girl Scouts Daisy Troop led by Sarah Halcomb**
- **Approved the closing of the church office on December 27 & 28**
- **Approved the weekly rental fee of \$25 for Live the Proof to use the Cornerstone in 2024**
- **Approved the creation of 2024 Task Forces focusing on: Vision & Strategy; Gospel & Outreach; Welcome & Hospitality; leaders & members will be added soon!**
- **Received an update on Thriving Congregations and participating in The Examen as a Session and as a Congregation**

*Don't miss the **Annual Congregational Meeting** to be held after worship on **Sunday, December 3.**
We will be voting on new elders, our pastor's terms of call,
and the 2024 FPC operating budget will be presented.*



Stewardship Corner

November Average Attendance: 56

Nov. 5	47
Nov. 12	61
Nov. 19	63
Nov. 26	53

November Weekly Offering Average:\$2,303.70

Nov. 5	\$1,451.41
Nov. 12	\$2,326.00
Nov. 19	\$3,780.00
Nov. 26	\$1,657.39

November Online Giving: \$3,191.66

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



CONNECT WITH US!

www.franklinpresbyterian.org
franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com



[www.facebook.com/
franklinpresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/franklinpresbyterian)

December 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

Friday, December 1

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Isa. 24:14–23
1 Peter 3:13–4:6
Matt. 20:17–28

Saturday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Micah 7:11–20
1 Peter 4:7–19
Matt. 20:29–34

[Begin Year 2]

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:5–19

Monday, December 4

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 2:6–16
2 Peter 1:1–11
Matt. 21:1–11

Tuesday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 3:1–11
2 Peter 1:12–21
Matt. 21:12–22

Wednesday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 3:12–4:5
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 21:23–32

Thursday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 4:6–13
2 Peter 3:11–18
Matt. 21:33–46

Friday, December 8

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Amos 5:1–17
Jude 1–16
Matt. 22:1–14

Saturday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Amos 5:18–27
Jude 17–25
Matt. 22:15–22

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 6:1–14
2 Thess. 1:5–12
Luke 1:57–68

Monday, December 11

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 7:1–9
Rev. 1:1–8
Matt. 22:23–33

Tuesday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 7:10–17
Rev. 1:9–16
Matt. 22:34–46

Wednesday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 8:1–14
Rev. 1:17–2:7
Matt. 23:1–12

Thursday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 9:1–10
Rev. 2:8–17
Matt. 23:13–26

Friday, December 15

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Hag. 1:1–15
Rev. 2:18–29
Matt. 23:27–39

Saturday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Hag. 2:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
Matt. 24:1–14

Sunday, December 17
Third Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 9:11–15
2 Thess. 2:1–3, 13–17
John 5:30–47

Monday, December 18

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Gen. 3:8–15
Rev. 12:1–10
John 3:16–21

Tuesday, December 19

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Zeph. 3:14–20
Titus 1:1–16
Luke 1:1–25

Wednesday,
December 20

Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
1 Sam. 2:1b–10
Titus 2:1–10
Luke 1:26–36

Thursday, December 21

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
2 Sam. 7:1–17
Titus 2:11–3:8a
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Friday, December 22

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
2 Sam. 7:18–29
Gal. 3:1–14
Luke 1:57–66

Saturday, December 23

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Jer. 31:10–14
Gal. 3:15–22
Luke 1:67–80
or Matt. 1:1–17

Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
/ Christmas Eve

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 132; 114
Isa. 60:1–6
Gal. 3:23–4:7
Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Day

Morning: Pss. 2; 145
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Mic. 4:1–5; 5:2–4
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Tuesday, December 26

Morning: Pss. 116; 146
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24;
27
2 Chr. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Wednesday,
December 27

Morning: Pss. 34;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

Thursday, December 28

Morning: Pss. 2;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

Friday, December 29

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
2 Sam. 23:13–17b
2 John 1–13
John 2:1–11

Saturday, December 30

Morning: Pss. 93; 149
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
89:19–52
1 Kgs. 17:17–24
3 John 1–15
John 4:46–54

Sunday, December 31
First Sunday of
Christmas

Morning: Pss. 98; 150
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
Col. 1:9–20
Luke 2:22–40

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LECTOR/USHER
SCHEDULE

Elder of the Month:

Nancy Thomas

Elder Helper:

Martha Hodge

Ushers:

*Don Chandler
Curry Davis*

Lector

*Sylvia Van Beek
Sylvia Pulliam
Larry Gibson*

*The Office will be closed
December 25-January 1.*

**WEEKLY EVENTS &
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Hand Bells-Wed. at 5:15

Choir-Wed. at 6:30

FPC Men-12/10 at 10 am

Grief Group-12/14 & 12/28 5 pm

DECEMBER 2023

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion Cong. Meeting Tim Crocker	4	5 Red Cross 12-6	6	7	8 Steve Thomas	9 Mae Williams
10	11	12	13	14 Haley & Tomas Williams Jr	15	16 Nancy Thomas
17	18	19 Eleanor Caudill	20	21	22	23
24 Joy Offering LESSONS & CAROLS	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Frank Wakefield	27	28	29	30
31						

Looking Ahead

JANUARY

Elder of the Month: Justin Henninger

Elder Helper of the Month: Chris Kessler

Friend of the Month: Nancy Thomas

- ◇ January 1—RITI
- ◇ January 1—Office Closed (New Year's Day)
- ◇ January 6—Ladies Luncheon from 11:45 am -1 pm in the Cornerstone
- ◇ January 7—Taking Down the Green/Soup Potluck

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GOOD NEWS STARTS HERE:

RETHINKING EVANGELISM

3rd Sundays in January, February, and March 2024 following worship!
Do you love evangelism? Hate it? Feel complicatedly? Do you wish you could invite people to church but aren't sure how, or feel weird about it? Great! That's what we need to talk about. Let us come together as a congregation and take time to look at ourselves, our church, and our relationships with our neighbors, and work together on evangelism and invitation as ways to truly BOLDLY love God and our neighbor. Please consider joining this three-part workshop on cultivating our spiritual soil for connection with others, the first step toward genuine sharing of the good news. *The series will run January 21, February 18, and March 17, 2024, and will include food and fellowship. Questions? Comments? Talk to Bailey.*



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Happy Advent, FPC! As I write this, we are coming out of a spate of very cold nights, and each time I see someone walking along the side of 31W, I wonder if they have somewhere warm to sleep. Was it cold when Joseph led his very pregnant wife to Bethlehem, looking for a place for her to deliver her son? Jesus' reminder that a person's treatment of someone who lacks basic comforts is that person's treatment of Jesus himself rings very loudly to me in the winter, when the weather makes it hard or impossible to get by without shelter. So while the calendar says it's time to prepare for Room in the Inn, I also look forward to it in this season as a way to do something tangible for my human family, each of whom bears the image of God.

I want to invite you to help. Many of you reading this will have put your hand to the Room in the Inn plow before. **Thank you.** Like many church ministries, there's a core of folks whose names always appear on the sign up sheet. But many hands make light work. Perhaps others of the Lamplighter readership have not joined in before; maybe you aren't sure how it works, or how much will be asked of you, or whether you feel at ease with the process. I hope you'll bring questions to me, and I know many who have pitched in are glad to talk frankly about their experience. I also want to invite you to come and watch the process. Any time you see my name on the signup sheet in the Education Wing, you are welcome to come and observe. You can help if you like, or just hang out. There's no better way to demystify something!

As I mentioned in the November Lamplighter, there's a whole lot a-brewing at FPC. On top of our hospitality ministry, there's prayer and discernment during the Sunday School hour in December and rethinking Evangelism in January, February, and March. Each of us must find a rhythm of work and rest, but I hope you will plug into these things as you're able, and I pray they are a source of energy, excitement, and conviction that the Holy Spirit is yet at work in us.

Peace,
Bailey

Worship Opportunities*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR:

DISCERNMENT AS A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

December 10th and 17th, the Thriving Congregations team will share a prayer practice called the examen, a tool for praying through your daily experiences to see the movement of the Spirit. We will practice this together and then apply its principles to congregational discernment around what's next for FPC. Join in during the Sunday School hour before worship!

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 9:30 am

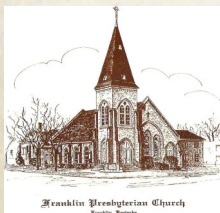
KIDS' CLUB

Each Sunday after worship

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the Main Building

**Always check weekly email for any changes.*



Franklin Presbyterian Church
201 North College Street
Franklin, KY 42134

