

the Lamplighter

monthly newsletter of Franklin Presbyterian Church

THANK YOU & WELCOME!

JANUARY 2026

SESSION (RULING ELDERS)

CLASS OF 2026 - Barry Hain, Bob Heidbrink, Keith Lawrence

CLASS OF 2027 - Caren Gibson, Larry Smith, Donna Houston, Justin Henninger

CLASS OF 2028-Debby Helton

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026 - Meredith Halcomb, Sylvia Pulliam

CLASS OF 2027 - Linda Knight

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- WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

201 North College Street
Franklin, KY 42134

Tel: (270) 586-4535 ✚ Fax: (270) 586-4592

E-mail: franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com ✚ www.franklinpresbyterian.org

New Beginnings

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Do you ever think about why we celebrate New Year's Day? It's really just another day, so why is it so important for people to mark a date change on a calendar?

I think it's because a new year provides a fresh start. There's a reason January is the busiest month for gyms and diet programs—it's seen as a new opportunity to begin again and improve oneself. It naturally feels like a good time to start something new, which is why many people make New Year's resolutions (whether they keep them or not is another matter!).

The Christian life provides many chances for fresh starts, for changing what we've been doing or beginning to live differently. Each week in worship, we start with a time of confession where we admit what we've done wrong. We confess to God and to each other that our lives are not perfect, that we're not living the way we should, that we're doing things we shouldn't do and neglecting to do things we should.

Then, immediately after confession, we hear God's response. We receive the good news that, because of God's forgiveness and His love for us, we all get a fresh start. Psalm 103:12 says God has taken our sins away from us "as far as the east is from the west." The slate is wiped clean. We don't need to carry the weight of our sins or guilt anymore. We are forgiven!

And then we encounter the next week (or maybe just the next day... or the next few minutes!), and it doesn't take long before we sin again. It doesn't take long for us to forget what God has done for us. We take the burden Jesus has removed from us, and we pick it back up, trying to carry the weight of our own sins once more. But we always have another chance to remember God's love. God never grows tired of forgiving us!

You don't need to wait for a new year to begin again. Every day is a new chance to wake up and remember that you are a baptized child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ. After hearing the promise of forgiveness and absolution in worship, we continue on the only path we can: together giving joyful thanks to God in song and learning more about God's grace and love for us through His word. See you in worship!

Know you are loved!

Pastor Tim





MAKING CONNECTIONS

Merry Christmas, everybody!

I learned about the Twelve Days of Christmas when I was an adult. I sang the song enthusiastically as a child but had no idea what all these days were. Now, I am grateful for a Christmas that lasts twelve whole days, until Epiphany. Christmas Eve is a rush towards the service, and Christmas Day is a rush of presents and visits and sometimes a little deflated feeling in the late afternoon, and the whole thing seems to be over awfully quickly.

But if Christmas is twelve days long, then I can take a minute to just... be in it. To hang out. To be still in a moment of quiet. To consider that my savior was born and didn't just disappear, and the gift of Jesus doesn't expire on December 26, or January 2. Also, I will nap, and when I wake up, it will still be Christmas. What a luxury and a relief, to have a little more time.

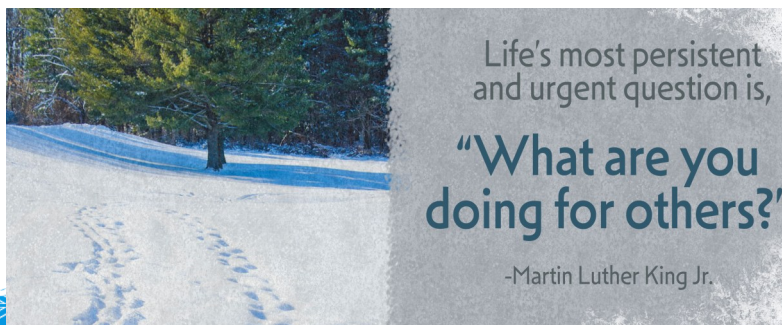
It's easy to forget that most of life, even most of a Christian life, is kind of ordinary. It happens only over time. You can't live a life in a day, or accumulate a lifetime's experience with God in a day, either. Jesus' disciples following him around, getting hungry or sweaty or cold or bored or annoyed or tired, for three years, give or take. And we can do the same, for as many years as we have.

This year, we'll talk about discipleship a lot. (What a loaded word!) What is it? What does it mean? How do we do it? And one big thing about it is that we do it over time. Day by day. Annie Dillard, a writer, wrote a book about writing in which she says: "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing." This is also true about being a Christian, that is, a disciple of Christ. With this hour, and that one, spending our days in the daily effort until we have spent our lives.

As always, this daily effort begins in our community's new year with Room in the Inn. Our first night of service is Wednesday, January 7. This is a good place to practice doing, in the ordinary way, what Jesus has told us to do. And practice, of course, makes perfect. Let's start there.

And then, let's walk together through this year, observing what we do, how we spend our days. Many things we do—many places we give our time, love, energy—can connect to our following Jesus where he leads us. Let's practice together.

Peace,
Bailey



Clothes Closet & More!

**The Matthew 25 Clothes Closet had a very successful 2025.
Thanks to the many hands to helped out during the year!**

	2025	2024	2023	2022
People Served	3375	2938	2390	1289
Items Given Away	21394	20231	18524	9052
Coats	338	284	292	No Data
Shoes	804	676	196	No Data
Christmas Shop	635 items	449 items	No Data	No Data

The following churches participated in “Undie Sunday” this year: Franklin United Methodist, Zion Lutheran, First Baptist, Calvary Baptist, and FPC. Next month I will report on the totals collected.

Once more in December we receive a generous donation of socks from Crocker Animal Hospital.

Never underestimate the impact FPC is having on our community!

Reservations for a Columbarium Niche are now available. For more information, Please call Diane Shutt at (270) 776-4762.

YOU ARE INVITED!

What: WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

**When: Third Monday Each Month at 11:00 AM
January 19, 2026**

Where: Cornerstone

Debby Helton will lead our discussion for Lesson Five: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor.

**If you need a study guide, please see Sue Zust.
A light lunch will be provided. Please let Debbie Wyatt (270-223-7831) know if you will not be attending.**



News & Announcements

The Matthew 25 Clothes Closet had a very successful 2024. More detailed data will be shared later in our annual report. But the numbers below are pretty impressive. Numbers in () are from 2023 and (()) from 2022.

People Served - 2938 (2390) ((1289))

Items Given Away - 20,231 (18,524) ((10,052))

In our Christmas Shop, we served 180 people and gave 449 gifts away. Our congregation's generosity is what made this possible. One member gave \$100 for us to spend as needed, so we were able to fill in areas where we didn't have enough. We actually will have quite a few toys to save for next year. A big thanks to Nancy Thomas who worked EVERY Tuesday and Thursday and to these people who worked one or more days: Sylvia Pulliam, Betsy Sheppard, Linda Knight, and Linda Lee.

Look for more detailed data next month.

We were blessed with a \$1,000 anonymous donation in December, and many generous donations from Zion Lutheran Church. Also in December we receive a nice donation from an employee at Crocker Animal Hospital. West Madison Baptist Church donate over 30 warm coats this past month as well. We are truly a COMMUNITY Clothes Closet!

Never underestimate the impact FPC is having on our community!

*In addition to Coffee & Fellowship
after Worship, stay with us on
Sunday, January 4 to help
'take down the green'.*



Room in the Inn is an overnight shelter for people experiencing homelessness for a host of reasons. Again this year, we are providing food and a warm bed to those who need it. There are lots of ways to get involved: Setup, takedown, serving dinner, being "innkeeper" overnight, and more. We will be hosting each Wednesday in January and February . There's a job for everyone, whatever your availability and skillset! For more information, contact Pastor Bailey!



The White Christmas Offering total for 2025 was \$1,575.00. Thanks to your donations, we were able to give boxes to families and individuals in our community to help make their holiday season a little brighter. Thank you again to those that helped pack and deliver the boxes. We're already looking forward to doing it again next year!

January 2026 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 Two]

January

Thursday, January 1

Morning: Pss. 98; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 99; 8
Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12
Rev. 19:11–16
Matt. 1:18–25

Friday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 148
Evening: Pss. 9; 29
1 Kgs. 19:1–8
Eph. 4:1–16
John 6:1–14

Saturday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 149
Evening: Pss. 107; 15
1 Kgs. 19:9–18
Eph. 4:17–32
John 6:15–27

Sunday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 150
Evening: Pss. 93; 97
1 Kgs. 3:5–14
Col. 3:12–17
John 6:41–47

Monday, January 5

Morning: Pss. 99; 145
Evening: Pss. 96; 110
Jonah 2:2–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 11:17–27, 38–44

Tuesday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 146
Evening: Pss. 100; 67
Isa. 49:1–7
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

Wednesday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Deut. 8:1–3
Col. 1:1–14
John 6:30–33, 48–51

Thursday, January 8

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Exod. 17:1–7
Col. 1:15–23
John 7:37–52

Friday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 148
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 45:14–19
Col. 1:24–2:7
John 8:12–19

Saturday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 149
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Jer. 23:1–8
Col. 2:8–23
John 10:7–17

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29
Gen. 1:1–2:3
Eph. 1:3–14
John 1:29–34

Monday, January 12

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Gen. 2:4–9 (10–15) 16–25
Heb. 1:1–14
John 1:1–18

Tuesday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Gen. 3:1–24
Heb. 2:1–10
John 1:19–28

Wednesday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Gen. 4:1–16
Heb. 2:11–18
John 1:(29–34) 35–42

Thursday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Gen. 4:17–26
Heb. 3:1–11
John 1:43–51

Friday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Gen. 6:1–8
Heb. 3:12–19
John 2:1–12

Saturday, January 17

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Gen. 6:9–22
Heb. 4:1–13
John 2:13–22

Sunday, January 18

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19

Monday, January 19

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Gen. 8:6–22
Heb. 4:14–5:6
John 2:23–3:15

Tuesday, January 20

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Gen. 9:1–17
Heb. 5:7–14
John 3:16–21

Wednesday, January 21

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 9:18–29
Heb. 6:1–12
John 3:22–36

Thursday, January 22

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 11:1–9
Heb. 6:13–20
John 4:1–15

Friday, January 23

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Gen. 11:27–12:8
Heb. 7:1–17
John 4:16–26

Saturday, January 24

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 12:9–13:1
Heb. 7:18–28
John 4:27–42

Sunday, January 25

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Gen. 13:2–18
Gal. 2:1–10
Mark 7:31–37

Monday, January 26

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24
Heb. 8:1–13
John 4:43–54

Tuesday, January 27

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21
Heb. 9:1–14
John 5:1–18

Wednesday, January 28

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Gen. 16:1–14
Heb. 9:15–28
John 5:19–29

Thursday, January 29

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Gen. 16:15–17:14
Heb. 10:1–10
John 5:30–47

Friday, January 30

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Gen. 17:15–27
Heb. 10:11–25
John 6:1–15

Saturday, January 31

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Gen. 18:1–16
Heb. 10:26–39
John 6:16–27

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Elder of the Month:

Keith Lawrence

Elder Helper:

Barry Hain

Ushers:

Bob & Deb Thompson

Lector

Sylvia Pulliam

**WEEKLY EVENTS &
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

FACILITIES: Jan. 14 at 4 pm

SESSION: Jan. 27 at 5 pm

HAND BELLS: Wed. at 5:15 pm

CHOIR: Wed. at 6:30 pm

JANUARY 2026

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>RITI</i>	2	3
4 Communion	5	6 <i>Joe Shumaker</i>	7 <i>RITI</i>	8	9 <i>Donna Houston</i>	10 <i>Will Rahm</i>
11	12	13	14 <i>RITI</i> <i>Jo Becker</i>	15	16 <i>Beth Lagani</i>	17 <i>Pat Chai</i>
18	19 <i>Ada Stubbs</i>	20 <i>Terry Joiner</i>	21 <i>RITI</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>Dan Ware</i>	28 <i>RITI</i>	29	30	31

* Birthdays in italics

JANUARY

ELDER OF THE MONTH: Keith Lawrence

ELDER HELPER: Barry Hain

FRIEND OF THE MONTH: Nancy Thomas

ALMUERZO TAGO DOMINGO



JANUARY
18

Learn about the FPC Living Waters for the
World Ministry. Soft Tacos & all the Fixins!
Consider donating what you would for lunch
at a restaurant!

Looking Ahead

FEBRUARY

10TH Red Cross Blood Drive 12-6

CHURCH STAFF

TIM LEIGH
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

REV. BAILEY PICKENS,
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
DIRECTOR

CANDICE MENDOZA,
OFFICE MANAGER

JASON MATTESON,
MUSIC DIRECTOR

DONNA HOUSTON,
ORGANIST

SHIRLEY CRUTCHER,
NURSERY



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Stewardship Corner

DECEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 47

DEC. 7 48
DEC 14 42
DEC. 21 56
DEC. 28 42

DECEMBER AVERAGE OFFERING: \$3,119.25

DEC. 7 \$2,302.30
DEC 14 \$4,855.00
DEC. 21 \$1,052.00
DEC. 28 \$4,268.00

December Online Total: \$2,483.54

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINNING 1/4: *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

Beginning the first Sunday in January, the adult Sunday School class will begin reading *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, by Eugene Peterson (author of, most famously, *The Message*, but also *Run With Horses* and many other books on Christian spirituality and practice). We'll get oriented and begin considering what we think of when we think of "discipleship" on January 4, read Chapter 1 on our own during the week, and discuss Chapter 1 together on January 11. Books are available on the high table in the parlor. If you'd like more in-depth study or devotional work, you can also pick up the "extra study" Bible Study Companion to the book (optional!). No cost, but a donation of \$15 or any amount will go back into the book-buying "pot."

ADULT BIBLE STUDY JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Our year-long Wednesday Night Bible Study will reach the finish line January 21st with the last session on Job and Revelation. **We'll have a wrap-up "epilogue" session on January 28th.** The first three weeks of February we will take a break, before beginning a new study on **February 25th: *Animate: Practices***. This study combines video lessons, rich discussion, and daily steps to put faith into action. Plus, the journal-workbook is really neat. Join in Wednesdays at 4:30pm, in person or on Zoom.

CHILDREN'S & ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

*Have an item you would like
to add to next month's
Lamplighter? Please submit
it to the office by Tuesday
January 28.*



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