

the Lamplighter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2025

201 North College Street
Franklin, KY 42134
Tel: (270) 586-4535 □ Fax: (270) 586-4592
E-mail: franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com □ www.franklinpresbyterian.org



In this Issue

Lessons & Carols
Pastor's Pen
Advent/Christmas
Schedule
News & Notes
Session Highlights
Stewardship Corner
Daily Lectionary
December Calendar
Looking Ahead
Worship Opportunities

CHURCH STAFF

Tim Leigh

Transitional 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

Bob Heidbrink

Keith Lawrence

FRIEND OF THE MONTH

Nancy Thomas

RULING ELDERS ON SESSION

Barry Hain

Caren Gibson

Bob Heidbrink

Donna Houston

Keith Lawrence

Chris Kessler

Justin Henninger

DEACONS:

Marcella Davis

Linda Knight

Meredith Halcomb

Sylvia Pulliam

Pastor's Pen

For to us a child is born,
to us, a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Jesus came in human flesh. He did not come in the flesh of a duck. He did not come in the flesh of a dog. Jesus was not incarnate as a caterpillar or a goldfish. Jesus came in your flesh. The flesh of a man, of a woman, of a child. He came in the flesh of a person made in the image of God – you.

We may wonder, “Why did He come in this way and not some other, more powerful, way?” The answer is easy. He came in human flesh to be given for you. He came in human flesh to keep God’s law perfectly in your place. He came in human flesh to rise from the dead in your place.

During Advent and Christmas, we should never forget why Jesus Christ became man. We must remember why He came in your flesh, and not in some other way. He came in your flesh all for your sake. It is like Isaiah said, “For to us a son is born, to us a son is given.” Jesus came in the flesh to speak, and so that you could hear. He came in the flesh to suffer for you on the cross in your place. He came in the flesh to have his blood spilled for you. Jesus came in the flesh to die in the flesh. And Jesus came in the flesh to rise from the dead in the flesh, so you also might rise from the dead.

As we prepare for Advent & Christmas, let us remember the coming of Christ and how He provides for our salvation every single day. Jesus came as a man to suffer in our place, and He is still coming to you. Jesus comes to you cradled in a cup and as host in the Lord’s Supper. Jesus is still coming to you in the water of baptism, pouring His forgiveness over you. Jesus is still coming as the Word (John 1) when we hear Christ proclaimed in preaching, hear in the readings, and sing with all the angelic voices of heaven in our hymns and liturgy. Jesus is still coming in the flesh.

Know you are loved!



Advent/Christmas Activity Schedule

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Advent Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Lighting of Candle of Hope

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Lighting of Candle of Peace

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Lighting of Candle of Joy

White Christmas Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

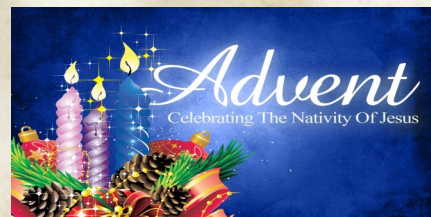
Lighting of Candle of Love

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 service of carols, candlelight and readings begins at 8 pm.



ADVENT WITH PASTOR TIM

For the first three Sundays of December (Advent II, III, and IV), join Pastor Tim for the adult Sunday School Hour.

Advent is a "little Lent," a season of self-reflection, repentance, and preparation, buoyed up by the hope of the coming Messiah. Less "Jesus is coming! Look busy!," more

"Jesus is coming and everything will change." Let's examine these things together, Sunday mornings at 9:30.

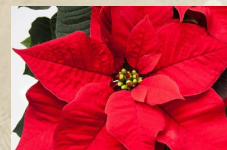
White Christmas

Donations will be accepted for White Christmas boxes on November 30, December 7, and 14. You may place your offering in the offering plate marked

'White Christmas'. All donations will go towards the purchase of food for this year's boxes. If there is someone or a family that you know would like a box, please let Caren or Candice know their name, address, phone number and number of members in the household. Also, if you would like to help pack or deliver boxes, please come to the Cornerstone Saturday December 20 at 9 am. Thank you for your support to help make the season brighter for our neighbors in need.



Please make sure to notice the new silk poinsettias and new pots that were purchased this year to adorn the sanctuary for years to come!



News & Notes

MATTHEW 25 CLOTHES CLOSET

During the Thanksgiving season, those of us who work in the Clothes Closet are reminded of all the things we are thankful for:

- *warm coats to give out to those who need them
- *a generous community who gives abundantly to keep our racks full
- *over 20 volunteers who give generously of their time
- *a supportive congregation who is always there to answer our needs

And now we are entering Advent. This Waiting time in anticipation of Christ's birth is upon us. At the Clothes Closet, we cannot help but be reminded of Christ's call for us to clothe those in need. And everyone knows our constant need for new underwear. The following churches have graciously volunteered to participate in "Undie Sunday":

- *Franklin United Methodist Church
- *First Baptist Church
- *Calvary Baptist Church
- *Zion Lutheran
- *Franklin Presbyterian Church

We need all sizes, but for FPC, if we could focus on women's underwear - especially sizes 5,6, and 7 and all sizes of boys and girls, that would fill our current gap. Men's size large is also needed. But any underwear is greatly appreciated. The laundry basket is by our Christmas tree to accept these donations.

December in the Clothes Closet also means the opening of the Christmas Shop. Thanks to our congregation's generosity last year, we have plenty of gifts available for our clients. The only thing we could use is gifts for men. If you have anything (new or used) that a man would appreciate, think of donating.



RITI STARTS IN JANUARY!

January will be here before we know it, and we'll be opening the Cornerstone to serve as shelter for our unhoused friends to come in out of the cold for a shower, a hot meal, and a safe place to sleep with Room in the Inn. Once a week, we will need volunteers to set up, cook and serve dinner, and take down, plus two volunteer Innkeepers to stay overnight.

RITI Training will be held during coffee hour on Sunday, December 14. The training is required for all volunteers, but attending a training doesn't lock you in to volunteering. ***This year, can we fill up the sign up sheet by Christmas?? I think we can!*** Questions? Talk to Bailey!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the 2026 FPC budget
- From Christian Service - approved donation of \$500 to the Living Waters for the World team and up to \$1000 to agencies/organizations which help the food insecure. Both amounts come from the local designated line item for Christian Service.
- From Facilities - approved up to \$5000 for the purchase of a new projector for the Cornerstone
- Approved Congregational meeting for December 14 for the purpose of electing elders and deacons.



Stewardship Corner

November Average Attendance: 48

Nov. 2 62
Nov. 9 56
Nov. 16 33
Nov. 23 43
Nov. 30 44

November Weekly Offering Average: \$2,173.55

Nov. 2 \$1,714.00
Nov. 9 \$2,171.00
Nov. 16 \$1,236.00
Nov. 23 \$4,431.76
Nov. 30 \$1,315.00

November Online Giving: \$1,735.45

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

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**



CONNECT WITH US!

www.franklinpresbyterian.org
franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com



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

December 2025 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]

December

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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 4

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 5

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

Saturday, December 6

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

Sunday, December 7

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 8

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

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

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 11

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 12

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

Saturday, December 13

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

Sunday, December 14

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 15

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 3:7–13
Matt. 24:15–31

Tuesday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
 Evening: Pss. 85; 94
 Zech. 2:1–13
 Rev. 3:14–22
 Matt. 24:32–44

Wednesday, December 17

Morning: Pss. 50;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 53; 17
 Zech. 3:1–10
 Rev. 4:1–8
 Matt. 24:45–51

Thursday, December 18

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 126; 62
 Gen. 3:8–15
 Rev. 12:1–10
 John 3:16–21

Friday, December 19

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
 Evening: Pss. 130; 16
 Zeph. 3:14–20
 Titus 1:1–16
 Luke 1:1–25

Saturday, December 20

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
 Evening: Pss. 80; 72
 1 Sam. 2:1b–10
 Titus 2:1–10
 Luke 1:26–36

Sunday, December 21**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
 Evening: Pss. 132; 114
 2 Sam. 7:1–17
 Titus 2:11–3:8a
 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Monday, December 22

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67
 2 Sam. 7:18–29
 Gal. 3:1–14
 Luke 1:57–66

Tuesday, December 23

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
 Evening: Pss. 85; 94
 Jer. 31:10–14
 Gal. 3:15–22
 Luke 1:67–80
 or Matt. 1:1–17

Wednesday, December 24**Christmas Eve**

Morning: Pss. 50;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 53; 17
 Isa. 60:1–6
 Gal. 3:23–4:7
 Matt. 1:18–25

Thursday, December 25**Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Day**

Morning: Pss. 2;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 98; 96
 Mic. 4:1–5; 5:2–4
 1 John 4:7–16
 John 3:31–36

Friday, December 26

Morning: Pss. 116; 148
 Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27
 2 Chr. 24:17–22
 Acts 6:1–7
 Acts 7:59–8:8

Saturday, December 27

Morning: Pss. 34; 149
 Evening: Pss. 19; 121
 Prov. 8:22–30
 1 John 5:1–12
 John 13:20–35

Sunday, December 28**First Sunday of Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 2; 150
 Evening: Pss. 110; 111
 1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
 Col. 1:9–20
 Luke 2:22–40

Monday, December 29

Morning: Pss. 96; 145
 Evening: Pss. 132; 97
 2 Sam. 23:13–17b
 2 John 1–13
 John 2:1–11

Tuesday, December 30

Morning: Pss. 93; 146
 Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
 89:19–52
 1 Kgs. 17:17–24
 3 John 1–15
 John 4:46–54

Wednesday, December 31

Morning: Pss. 98;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 45; 96
 1 Kgs. 3:5–14
 Jas. 4:13–17; 5:7–11
 John 5:1–15

d365
 devotionals 365 days a year

www.d365.org

Elder of the Month:

Bob Heidbrink

Elder Helper:

Keith Lawrence

Ushers:

Bob & Deb Thompson

Lector

*Amy Gant
Keith Lawrence*

**WEEKLY EVENTS &
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DEDICATION SUNDAY: Dec. 14
CONGREGATIONAL MTG: Dec. 14
FACILITIES: Dec. 10 at 4 pm
HAND BELLS: Wed. at 5:15 pm
CHOIR: Wed. at 6:30 pm

DECEMBER 2025

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Sandy Sparley</i>	2	3 <i>Tim Crocker</i>	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Steve Thomas</i>	9 <i>Mae Williams</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Haley & Tomas Williams Jr</i>	15	16 <i>Nancy Thomas</i>	17	18	19 <i>Eleanor Caudill</i>	20
21	22	23	24 Lessons & Carols 8 pm	25	26 <i>Frank Wakefield</i>	27
28	29	30 <i>Pastor Tim</i>	31			

* Birthdays in italics Office Closed December 24-January 4

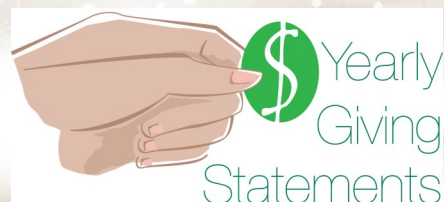
Looking Ahead

JANUARY

Elder of the Month: Chris Kessler
Elder Helper: Justin Henninger
Friend of the Month: Nancy Thomas

- ◇ January 1 RITI
- ◇ January 1 Office Closed
(reopens January 5)
- ◇ January 4 Taking Down the Green

Look for your 2025
Annual Giving
statements coming
in mid-January!



DEDICATION SUNDAY

You should have received a pledge card in the mail recently. You can turn them on Sunday, December 14 which is Dedication Sunday. Please prayerfully consider your time and offerings that you feel would best benefit Franklin Presbyterian. You can of course always turn them in ahead of time to Pastor Tim or bring to the church office.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER
14

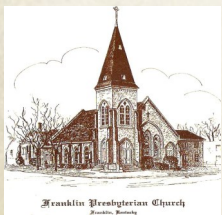
Worship Opportunities

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR

In January, we'll begin a sustained study of Eugene Peterson's *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. We'll read the short chapters during the week to discuss on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Books will be available at the church office or for pickup during Sunday school.

CONVERSATION CLASS: WHY I'M A PRESBYTERIAN

Ever wondered why Presbyterians do, say, don't do, and don't say the things we do, say, don't do, and don't say? What are the colors, the garments, the objects, and the beliefs that form our denomination? Feeling curious about this new way of worship? Feeling like you ought to know all this already? Come talk about it! **But we need to find a good time!** Every Sunday in December there will be a little one-question survey about interest and availability. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate so we can plan!



Franklin Presbyterian Church
201 North College Street
Franklin, KY 42134

WEEKNIGHT BIBLE STUDY IN THE NEW YEAR

The theme for 2026 will be *discipleship*. Eugene Peterson thinks of this as in the line from Neitzche's *Beyond Good and Evil* (and the title of his book we'll be using for Sunday school in Winter-Spring) as "a long obedience in the same direction." You might also think of it as, simply, the Christian life. We will take up books *of* and *about* the Bible with this idea in mind: How to live as a Christian.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH FRANKLIN PRES

Our year-long Bible read through 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** before starting something new in February. Whether you've been a weekly attender or haven't come at all, you are welcome to come any week and especially to the final conversation!