



The Belltower

CHURCH NEWS | MAY - JULY 2026

Dear Saints of HFP,

We're starting something new.

The Belltower is changing from a monthly publication to a seasonal one. You'll still have access to the same content, including notes from John and me, announcements from our various ministries, and a calendar to help you look ahead and plan your participation in the life of the church. We are hoping this new Belltower will be accessible to members and guests alike, allowing all of us to celebrate what God is doing in our community and discover how each of us fits in.

Summer is a season of relaxation and fun. As a church, we'll enjoy cherished summer traditions, like the Annual Church Picnic, set this year for Sat., May 30th at Aspen Grove Park. In June, we'll join our neighbors for the Wag & Walk, supporting those battling cancer. Other highlights will include the celebration of Pentecost (Sun., May 24th), a special concert to showcase our Schoenstein Organ (Sun., May 31st), and third-Thursday Feel My Lambs service days. Perhaps you have plans to travel. It's all good! In summer, we are grateful to be together as often as we can. Let church be the place – and more importantly, the people – you come home to.

I hope you'll read this newsletter, pass it around, put the calendar on your fridge - and then join us in being the church at the crossroads.

Grace and peace,

Claire

Rev. Claire Berry, Pastor
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

Music Notes

The Organ: The King of Instruments

We are very proud of so many things at HFPC - our common goals, our care for one another, our nurturing presence in the community and our sense of the things beyond this world. We are also proud of our musical program at worship - our robust singing of hymns, our weekly choir anthems and our bell choir. We should have equal pride for our Schoenstein organ. It is a magnificent instrument and it's such a pleasure to play it! The larger Schoenstein at the symphony hall in Nashville is there because they heard our organ and loved it...but we were first!

One of my favorite activities is the monthly Art Crawl. I am here during that event on the first Friday of each month from 6:00-9:00 p.m. I play lots of great music as people are coming in and out to look at the art in Memorial Hall. One of my favorite things to do is to invite people up to see the organ (and children to try playing it, even if they don't play the piano!). Everyone is amazed at all the buttons, switches, pedals and controls. Have you ever come up and taken a good look at the organ? If not, I invite you to come up after a service and have a close-up look.

The organ was popular before the piano was even invented. The organ was played in church during the baroque period - but it was also used for home entertainment. It is purely a mechanical process. There is nothing electric - except for modern day organs, which use an electric-powered bellows to blow the air. This probably beats hiring a few boys to pedal contraptions behind the church to create the air like they did in the days of J.S. Bach! Some organs were very small and portable and some were enormous. Organs come in many shapes and sizes - but they all have some way to produce a current of air, pipes for the air to go through to make sound and a keyboard. Every organ is designed for the space it's in...none of them are "off the shelf."

Because organ pipes can be as small as a few inches or as big as 35 or 40 feet long, they can produce amazing sounds. You can hear a flute, an oboe, a trumpet, chimes, a harp, a bassoon...the list goes on. That's why the organ is always referred to as the "King of Instruments." It is a whole orchestra! Did you know the organ in our sanctuary has over 900 pipes? Even the best pianists find it difficult to make the shift to the organ because they have to learn how to play the pedal notes, remember which stops to pull in or out and which keyboard to play on. But the pipe organ makes a magnificent sound - and our Schoenstein is a glorious modern example.

I want to invite you to the final community concert in our series on Sun., May 31st at 4:00 pm for a program called "Meet our Schoenstein." Along with musician friends, I'll be showing off what our organ can do - and you'll hear things you'll never hear at worship! It will be a fun program and it's totally free. If you have not joined us for a concert this year - don't miss this one! It's fun to show off our Schoenstein - come and see how it lives up to the name of the "King of Instruments!"

Dr. John Schultz, Director of Music
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

Committee News

Christian Education

Sunday School | Sundays at 9 AM

Come to Sunday School this summer to explore faith and find community.

- **Children's Sunday School & Nursery Care** take place upstairs in Memorial Hall. Teachers explore the Bible and faith topics relevant to our youngest members, with an emphasis on play and creativity.
- **The Library Class**, upstairs in the Library, focuses on contemporary faith issues. They continue to study Being Presbyterian in a Dysevangelical America by Ted B. Foote, Jr. and P. Alex Thornberg and will take up a new topic later in the summer. Contact Rex Welch (drwjhrhw@gmail.com).
- **The Breakfast Club**, first and third Sundays in the Conference Room, is exploring the topics of anger and forgiveness this summer. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com).

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 10 AM

This weekly study led by our pastor will focus on The Didache, a first-century treatise on discipleship, and The Well That Washes What It Shows, a theological overview of the Bible by Jonathan A. Linebaugh. Contact Claire to learn more (pastor@hfpc.org).

Book Club | Tuesday, May 26 at 9 AM

The book club will meet in May before taking a summer break in June-July. Join them in reading and discussing In the Shadow of My Enemy: Civil War Life in Occupied Franklin, Tennessee by Walter Green.

With questions or input about Christian Education, contact Chair Lynne Welch (drexwelch@aol.com).

Congregational Life

Annual Church Picnic | Saturday, May 30 at 5 PM

This year's picnic will take place at Aspen Grove Park, just off of Cool Springs Blvd. The Congregational Life Committee welcomes your input on activities for our time together! Fried chicken will be served; members are asked to contribute side dishes and desserts. Carpooling is encouraged as parking spots are limited.

Note that **Last Wednesday Fellowship** will take a break in June/July.

Contact Ann Livingston, Chair of Congregational Life (livingann@gmail.com).

Committee News

Member Care

Member Care will continue to meet this summer, as usual, on the third Saturday of the month at Linda Woodside's home. The church's caring ministry focuses on support for those who are unable to attend church, as well as members navigating personal and health challenges. We love to celebrate good news with one another, too!

If you have a need for care or prayer, or know of someone who could benefit from such support, contact Member Care Committee Chair John Fraser (johndavisfrasier@gmail.com).

Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing - Thank You

Our church collected \$2,658 at Easter toward this special denominational offering supporting individuals and communities in need, specifically in the areas of disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. Thank you for your generous support!

United4Hope @ Franklin Elementary

As part of our support for the Franklin Special School District, a school snack break was provided to the 80 teachers and staff on April 2, 2026.

Last Wednesday Fellowship | Wednesday, May 27 at 6:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Kevin Riggs from the Williamson County Homeless Alliance will present an update on the WCHA work with our homeless folks, including the emergency shelter program, supportive services, transitional housing, and permanent housing needs. He will also include an update on people we have we've hosted.

Wag & Walk | Saturday, June 6 at 8:00 AM

Grab your pup and come out for a fun-filled walk supporting a great cause! This event in Bicentennial Park benefits the Franklin Cancer Walk. The park opens at 8:00 AM; the walk starts at 9:00. Contact Pam Reed (pamreed.flair@gmail.com).

Feed My Lambs | Third Thursdays, June 18, July 16, and August 20

This summer, HFPC will plan, prepare, and deliver lunches to the Reddick Street and Chickasaw Senior Centers monthly. Volunteers are needed to cook and assemble meals, as well as to drive and help deliver. Look for more details in church communications. Contact Christi Ensich (mcensch@gmail.com).

Committee News

Worship

Calling all Members! Whether you are a gardener, reader, musician or friendly type that likes to meet and greet, our HFPC worship service needs you.

There are many opportunities to serve. Reading scripture, greeting visitors, or providing flowers on Sunday morning enhances the worship experience for all attending. Our worship service is always more meaningful with membership participation.

- **Read Scripture.** Contact George Mahathy (gmahathy@comcast.net).
- **Serve as an Usher or Greeter.** Contact George Mahathy (gmahathy@comcast.net).
- **Prepare or Serve the Lord's Supper.** Contact Andrea Paine (stoverpaine@gmail.com). Please note that only elders may serve.
- **Give Flowers.** Sign up is on the large table in Memorial Hall.

To ask questions or give feedback on worship, contact Caroline Stewart, Worship Committee Chair (cwstewart176@outlook.com).

See the calendar for a full picture of church activities this summer,
and reach out with questions!

officeadministrator@hfpc.org
(615) 794-9094

Life Together



Spring 2026 was a time of both reflection and celebration in our church. We observed Lent and Easter, gathered for lunch and met on the golf course, brought cheer to homebound friends, and shared faith with our youngest members.
See you this summer!



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 PM Art Crawl	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session Mtg. 11:30 AM 1 st Sunday Fellowship	4	5 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	6 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Ed. Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	7	8 9:00 AM Buildings and Grounds Workday	9 9:00 AM Session Retreat (offsite)
10 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	11	12	13 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	14 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	15	16 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg. (offsite)
17 Youth Celebration Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	18	19	20 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	21 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	25 Memorial Day	26 10:00 AM Presbyterian Book Club 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	27 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	28	29	30 5:00 PM Annual Church Picnic at Aspen Grove
31 Trinity Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 4:00 PM "Meet Our Schoenstein" Concert	<i>The Bell Choir will break for the summer beginning Sunday, May 10th.</i>					



June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	3 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Ed. Committee Mtg. 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	4	5 6:00 PM Art Crawl	6
7 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Session Mtg. 11:30 AM 1 st Sunday Fellowship	8	9	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	11 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	12	13
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Second Sunday Lunch Outing	15	16	17 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	18 10:00 Feed My Lambs Meal Prep	19	20 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.
21 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	22	23 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	29	30	<p><i>Please note that committee meetings are subject to rescheduling and cancelation in the summer months. Contact your committee chair if you have questions.</i></p> <p><i>The Chancel Choir will break for the summer beginning in July.</i></p>			



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	2	3 6:00 PM Art Crawl	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM First Sunday Fellowship NO SESSION MEETING	6	7 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	8 10:00 AM Bible Study	9 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	10	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Second Sunday Lunch Outing	13	14	15 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg.	16 10:00 Feed My Lambs Meal Prep	17	18 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	20	21	22 10:00 AM Bible Study	23	24	25
26	27	28 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	29 10:00 AM Bible Study	30	31	<i>Committee meetings are subject to rescheduling in July; check with your chairperson.</i>