HISTORIC FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of 5th and Main

The Belltower

CHURCH NEWS | NOV. 2026 TO JAN. 2027

Dear Saints of HFPC,

In June, the online retailer Amazon ran its annual Prime Day promotion. Over a four-day period, many items on their website were deeply discounted. Tempted, my husband and I bought ourselves an early anniversary present: a slushie machine that made us frozen treats all summer long.

Also around Prime Day, I came across a social media post that has stuck with me since. The poster, named Elle, started off, "How to get the most out of Prime Day."

"OK," I thought, eager to hear her shopping secrets!

"First, fill your cart with low-quality, unnecessary products," she said.

"Oh…" I thought. "She's got a point of view."

"Look at the total cost of your cart."

"Uh-huh…"

"Donate that amount to your local food bank or another non-profit," she said. And then, "Close your Amazon tab. Go outside. Write a letter to a friend. Tell someone you love them."

We won't be returning our slushie machine, which is high-quality, thank you very much! But I think Elle's message is essentially correct. We live in a consumer culture. Many of us have the means to cover our needs and more, so that we can also buy whatever we want, on a whim, with a click. But when it comes to giving our money away – to a food bank or non-profit, or to the church, say – we hesitate. As Christians, we know that the material things we seem to possess are actually God's, meant for the good of all, and not just ourselves. We also know that somehow, and quite mysteriously, we gain our life by giving it away. But it is often a greater challenge for us to put our money into the service of others than to use it for ourselves.

At the end of the calendar year, the church asks its members to pledge their financial support in 2027. You'll be hearing from your Finance & Stewardship Committee about that. I'll just say this: look at the total cost of your cart. Examine what you are willing to spend just because you can. And then, with care, prayer, and discernment – consider what you are in a position to give to the church, and perhaps to other worthy causes that you care about. Because the truth is we all benefit from generosity. It's good for the soul.

Rev. Claire Berry, Pastor
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

Music Notes

As I entered a Walmart in September I was faced with multiple Halloween decorations and costumes. As I turned left I found displays of Thanksgiving merchandise. Is this perhaps pushing it a little? As I got to the garden center guess what I saw? Christmas trees and decorations everywhere. In September!

What does "new year" mean for you? The most obvious meaning is connected to our familiar calendar in which a new year starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st. But there are other new years too. For teachers and students, from kindergarten through university, there is the academic calendar, which runs from roughly August through May or June. Much of our society follows that calendar because of activities and events. Even at church, September seems to be the start of a new year – classes begin to meet, committees get down to work and it seems like everything gears up. There are cultural new year celebrations – the Chinese and Jewish new years – and the list goes on.

But one meaning for a new year that we don't often think of comes in our Liturgical calendar. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (November 29 this year), we celebrate a new year in the life of the church. We enter a new year in our cycle of three years of lectionary readings as Advent begins (we are about to enter Year B) and we begin a whole new year in our life of faith. This new year's celebration is often over-shadowed but it's good to think about it.

This is my favorite time of year – not only because of the cooler nights, the ample autumn sunshine and the changing leaves – but because of what happens musically in our church. The first Sunday of November we celebrated All Saints Day and that leads us directly to the last Sundays of the year, culminating with the observance of Christ the King Sunday just before Thanksgiving. We often celebrate that day as Thanksgiving or Harvest Sunday. And as the new year begins, we enter a more quiet season of contemplation and peace – at least that's the theory. Through the madness of Christmas preparations we need to be reminded that Advent is a wonderful celebration of anticipation and the music reflects this. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and other ancient songs lead us. As we approach Christmas, we have dozens of carols and noels that inspire us. What are your favorite Christmas carols? As the calendar's new year dawns, we celebrate Epiphany and honor the Three Kings. Following the Baptism of the Lord, we enter again into Ordinary Time, which will carry us through the days of winter before we arrive at the solemn season of Lent and the joyful time of Easter.

Our music prepares us for each of these seasons and celebrations and reflects who we are as a community. I hope you stay aware of the wonderful music of this time of year. Keep singing and rejoicing as together we allow our music to lead us forward. Enjoy the blessings of this season. And remember – the one who sings prays twice!

Blessings,

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 winter 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 Into the Heart of Romans by N. T. Wright. All are welcome to join! Contact Rex Welch (drwjhwrhw@gmail.com).
- **The Breakfast Club**, first and third Sundays in the Conference Room, will take up a study based on Tom Wright's Advent for Everyone: A Journey through Luke, Nov. 15th through Christmas. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com).

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 10 AM
The weekday study will complete its look at The Well That Washes What It Shows, a theological overview of the Bible by Jonathan A. Linebaugh, in mid-November. In December, they will begin a study of Mark's gospel aligned with the new lectionary year. Contact Claire to learn more (pastor@hfpc.org).

Presbyterian Book Club | Fourth Tuesdays at 10 AM
The book club will meet November 24th to discuss Strangers by Belle Burden. This longstanding group is open to all and we encourage those who haven't attended before to join us! The club will not meet in December but resume in January. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com) for more information.

The Magician's Nephew All-Church Study | Sunday Evenings in January
Throughout January, all in the congregation are invited to read The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis. This wonderful prequel to The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe explores themes of creation and the fall, who God is, and what it means to be God's people. We will meet over dinner in the Fellowship Hall on January 10th, 24th, and 31st to discuss. Later on, there will be an outing to see the new film version, directed by Greta Gerwig and set for theatrical release February 11th. More details to follow.

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

Committee News

Congregational Life

Not-the-Last Wednesday Fellowship | Wednesday, November 18th at 6 PM
As usual, November's Last Wednesday Fellowship will take place a week early! We will have our traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings and relaxed conversation. Children will be able to participate in the Pageant Preview after supper, talking about the pageant, assigning parts, and picking costumes. Contact Lynne Welch (drexwelch@aol.com).

Annual Women's Christmas Tea | Saturday, December 5th at 2 PM
Join us for this joyful tradition, this year hosted by Betty Dale Mullins, to usher in the Christmas season. Sign up to bring a dish in Memorial Hall in November. The address is 101 Woodview Court in Charlton Green. Please RSVP to Betty Dale by texting her at (615) 289-5303.

Annual Gathering of Males | Friday, December 18th at 11:30 AM
We can't let the girls have all the fun! The annual Gathering of Males brings together the men of our community for an early celebration of Christmas as well. This year's gathering will be over lunch at the Sportsman's Lodge. Contact George Mahathy (gmahathy@comcast.net).

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant | Sunday, December 20th
As usual, we will not have Last Wednesday Fellowship in December, but instead meet for the delightful tradition of our church Christmas pageant! A rehearsal for the children at 4:30 PM will be followed by a spaghetti supper for everyone at 5:30 PM. The pageant will begin shortly after 6 PM. Contact Lynne Welch (drexwelch@aol.com).

First Sunday Fellowship | First Sundays after Worship
On the first Sunday of the month, right after worship, our congregation mixes and mingles over light refreshments in Memorial Hall. December's fellowship will be hosted by the Congregational Life Committee on December 6th. Thanks to all the committees who make this event successful month after month!

Second Sunday Lunch Outing | Second Sundays after Worship
On the second Sunday of every month, the Congregational Life Committee gathers members to go to lunch at a local restaurant. Upcoming dates include November 8th at Connor's Steak and Seafood, and December 13th and January 10th locations TBD. Contact George Mahathy (gmahathy@comcast.net).

With questions or input about Congregational Life, contact Chair Ann Livingston (livingann@gmail.com).

Committee News

Mission

World Communion Sunday Offering - Thank you!
In October, HFPC collected $1,848 for this special offering to be used for ministry across the country and world. The offering allows our church to partner with others on racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Thank you for your generous support!

Hard Bargain Association Thanksgiving Giveaway | Through Wed., Nov. 18th
This year, the Hard Bargain Association is providing turkeys and all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal to neighbors in need, with distribution on Saturday, Nov. 21st. Another HBA partner is providing turkeys; HFPC is looking for families, friends, or groups within our membership to fill a banker's box with other necessary items. If you are interested in being part of this, there will be a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall, where you can also pick up a box and a shopping list for items totaling ~$44 before tax. Return filled boxes to the church before Wednesday, November 18th. Contact: Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com).

Thanksgiving Dinner for Our Neighbors | Thursday, Nov. 19th at 3:45 PM
With our partners the Daughters of the King, we will prepare and deliver over 100 Thanksgiving dinners to our neighbors at the Reddick Street and Chickasaw Senior Centers. HFPC will provide turkey, rolls, and desserts. Once the meals are delivered, we will sit down with our DOTK sisters and share a Thanksgiving meal together! Please come to church at 3:45 to help. Contact Christi Ensch (mcensch@gmail.com).

Annual Reddick Street Senior Center Christmas Party | Thursday, Dec. 17th
HFPC will join Daughters of the King to host a party for the Reddick Street residents including a sit-down dinner, Christmas carols, fellowship and fun. Our church will provide ham, turkey, and desserts. More information, including timing, to come. Contact Christi Ensch (mcensch@gmail.com).

Other Christmas projects with our partners TBA – stay tuned.

Contact Co-Chairs Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com) and Paul Trapeni (doc_pt@att.net) with questions or input about the Mission Committee.

Buildings & Grounds

Hanging of the Greens | Saturday, November 29th at 9:00 AM
Help decorate our building inside and out for Advent and Christmas, putting up wreaths, garland, banners, and Christmas trees! Volunteers are needed. If you want to deck the halls, contact Lillian Stewart (lgcstewart@gmail.com).

Committee News

Member Care

Christmas Basket Deliveries | Thursday, December 10th at 11:15 AM
Each year, the Member Care Committee and friends deliver gifts to our homebound members. Meet at the Chop House first for lunch at 11:15. Contact John Fraser if you want to come, (615) 243-1866 or johndavisfraser@gmail.com.

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).

Worship

Special Services for Advent and Christmas
HFPC is your place to belong this Advent and Christmas. The season of Advent, which prepares our hearts for Christmas, begins November 29th.

Lessons and Carols | Sunday, December 13th at 10:15 AM
This beautiful service weaves scripture, poetry, prayer, and music into a joyful tapestry.

Longest Night Service | Monday, December 21st at 6:30 PM
This special worship makes space for loss and grief while holding out hope.

Christmas Eve Services | Thursday, December 24th at 5 and 9 PM
Both worship services will include carols and candlelight, with communion at 9 PM only.

Poinsettia Dedications | Order by December 6th
Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary starting December 13th. To purchase and dedicate a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, fill out the form available in church or contact Caroline Stewart (cwstewart176@outlook.com) by Dec. 6th.

Contact Caroline Stewart (cwstewart176@outlook.com), Worship Committee Chair, with questions or input about worship.

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

officeadministrator@hfpc.org
(615) 794-9094

Life Together



















Fall 2026 was a time to get creative…stand in solidarity…pray with our feet…
break bread…play outside…learn and grow!

See you this winter!

HISTORIC FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Corner of 5th and Main

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM 1st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 AM Session Meeting	2	3 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	4 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir	5	6 6:00 PM Art Crawl	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM 2nd Sunday Lunch Outing	9	10	11 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	12 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	13	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 Buildings & Grounds Committee Mtg. 4:00 PM Broadway through the Decades	16	17	18 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Not-the-Last Wednesday Fellowship w/Pageant Preview 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	19 3:45 PM Feed My Lambs Thanksgiving Meal Prep 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	20	21 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.
22 **Harvest Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM New Elder Training	23	24 10:00 AM Presbyterian Book Club 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	26 *Office Closed*	26 **Thanksgiving Day** *Office Closed*	27	28 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	30					

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December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please note that committee meetings are subject to rescheduling and cancelation around Christmas and New Year's. Contact your committee chair if you have questions.		1 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	2 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	3	4 6:00 PM Art Crawl	5 2:00 PM Annual Women's Christmas Tea (Mullins Home) 5:00 & 7:00 PM Christmas Classics w/Austin Raabe
6 **2nd Sunday of Advent** 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM 1st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 AM Session Meeting	7	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	10 11:15 Member Care Christmas Basket Delivery (Chop House) 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	11	12
13 **3rd Sunday of Advent** 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship *Lessons & Carols* 12:00 PM 2nd Sunday Lunch Outing 4:15 PM Dickens Carol Sing	14	15	16 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir & Christmas Party	17 TBA - Annual Reddick Street Christmas Party 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	18 11:30 Annual Gathering of Males (Sportsman's Lodge)	19
20 **4th Sunday of Advent** 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg. 4:30 PM Christmas Pageant	21 6:30 PM Longest Night Worship Service	22 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	23	24 **Christmas Eve** 5:00 PM Candlelight Worship 9:00 PM Candlelight Worship w/Communion	25 **Christmas Day** ***Office Closed***	26
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 **New Year's Eve** ***Office Closed***		

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January 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM 1st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 AM Session Meeting	4	5 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	6 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM 2nd Sunday Lunch Outing 5:00 PM Magician's Nephew All-Church Read	11	12	13 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	15	16 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.
17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	22	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 4:00 Cantus Chamber Singers 5:00 PM Magician's Nephew All-Church Read	25	26 10:00 AM Presbyterian Book Club 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	27 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	5:00 PM Magician's Nephew All-Church Read					