



The Belltower

CHURCH NEWS | AUGUST-OCTOBER 2026

Dear Saints of HFP,

Fall is upon us. It's July as I write, and sweltering, so that's hard to believe! But a seasonal change is coming, with its lovely colors, cooler days, and for many of us, renewed busyness after summer's rest.

In this early fall edition of the Belltower, you'll find the usual musings 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. New things start in the fall; what's calling your name? Is it a service opportunity you haven't tried before? A spot in the choir loft, or at the handbell table? Is a class or study on your list this fall? I hope you will read on, get inspired, and respond to the Spirit's calling with enthusiasm!

For my part, I'm looking forward to...

- "Quick Reads" in Worship. As a teenager, I often put off my summer reading assignments until the last minute. Then I would call my friends to find out which books on the list were the shortest, so that I could still get it done! On Sundays starting August 16th, we'll look together at the New Testament's quickest reads, which rarely get the spotlight: 2 John, 3 John, Philemon, and Jude.
- Fall Kickoff. After worship on September 13th, we'll have a special all-church lunch to enjoy fellowship and learn about ministry opportunities starting up this fall. We also plan to have a photo booth where you can get a new picture for the church directory!
- Beloved annual events, like the Church Picnic (August 8th), the Franklin Cancer Walk (September 19th), and the Women's Retreat (October 23rd -25th).
- Opportunities to give back, including monthly Feed My Lambs service days, deliveries to our Hard Bargain Food Pantry, and not one but two special offerings: Living Waters for the World (August 9th) and World Communion (October 4th).

I hope you'll come and see.

Claire

Rev. Claire Berry, Pastor
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church

Music Notes

Why Are Hymns So Important?

During the monthly Art Crawl, I play both popular pieces and sacred music on our Schoenstein organ. A couple of months ago, I noticed a woman standing in the middle of the church holding a hymnal up to her face. I asked her if I could be of assistance, and she said that at her church they had done away with hymnals and traditional hymns. They had a large praise band and projected the words on a screen, and she missed the hymnal. It got me thinking: at HFPC, we pick up our hymnals and take it all for granted. But why on earth are hymns so important to our worship?

The first thing that comes to mind is the evidence in the Bible. Singing and hymnody has always been part of Jewish and Christian worship. After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they sang a song to the Lord (Exodus 15). In the early Christian church, singing was part of the standard service (1 Chronicles 6:31-32, 16:42). The Book of Psalms is really just an early hymnal without the music. Jesus and his disciples sang together (Matthew 26:30), and Paul instructed the Colossians to "sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God" (Colossians 3:16-17).

A second reason we sing hymns is because the human voice holds priority over every other instrument – yes, including even the organ! Hymns help us to participate in worship, express gratitude, and meditate on the Word. They can sometimes convey deeper meaning than spoken words alone. They help us focus on what is happening in our liturgy, and they can give us hope, confidence and blessing. Not only that, they are an embedded part of our history, tradition, and experience.

You might think hymns are just chosen randomly, but Pastor Claire and I meet regularly to talk about the focus and theme of each service and choose hymns that will amplify the message. Sometimes they are good old friends and sometimes they may not be well known. But their purpose is to bring unity, coherence and spiritual depth to our worship by helping us to understand and focus on everything else that is happening at worship.

Hymns help us celebrate the seasons each year – think Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas – and they help us to express our individual emotions while singing together. They are woven into the fabric of our liturgy, rooted in Scripture, and vital to the life of the church. They are a gift from God, our voice in response, and a bridge between the spoken Word and the heart of each believer.

I am proud to be part of the ministry that brings hymns to life at Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, and I'm so glad our congregation loves to sing and make singing such an integral part of our worship. I often repeat this saying but 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 fall 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. Starting in August, they will read [A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), eds. Carson and Holloran. Contact Rex Welch (drwjhrhw@gmail.com).
- **The Breakfast Club**, first and third Sundays in the Conference Room, is exploring various topics in August and will begin a study titled Understanding Christian Nationalism on September 20th, led by Pastor Claire. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com).

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 10 AM

In August, this weekly study will read along with the Quick Reads sermon series. On September 16th, we will begin a ten-week study of [The Well That Washes What It Shows](#), a theological overview of the Bible by Jonathan A. Linebaugh, alongside weekly scripture readings. Contact Claire to learn more (pastor@hfpc.org).

Presbyterian Book Club | Fourth Tuesdays at 10 AM

The book club returns September 22nd to discuss [The Correspondent](#) by Virginia Evans. This group is open to all and we encourage those who haven't attended before to join us and those who have attend regularly, to bring a friend. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com) for more information.

Rest from Pumpkinfest | Saturday, October 24th and Sunday, October 25th

Save the date! We will plan to open our Courtyard once again to Franklin Pumpkinfest guests who want to escape the crowd. More details to follow.

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

Committee News

Congregational Life

Annual Church Picnic | Saturday, August 8th at 5 PM

The Trapeni Family will host our annual church picnic, rescheduled from May, at their home, 800 Saddlevue Terrace. The Congregational Life Committee will provide beverages and the main dish of fried chicken. Church members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert, their own picnic blanket and/or lawn chair, and a swimsuit and towel if they want to swim in the pool!

Fall Kickoff | Sunday, September 13th at 11:30 AM

After worship on the second Sunday of September, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a special, all-church meal and presentations from our ministries about upcoming opportunities for involvement. We will also have a "photo booth" where members can have their pictures made for the directory and church database. Contact Claire Berry (pastor@hfpc.org) with questions.

Exploring Membership at HFPC | Starts Sunday, September 27th at 11:30 AM

Those interested in joining the church are invited to participate in a three-session class on faith journeys, Presbyterian theology, and the practical side of membership at HFPC. All who complete the course and wish to join the church will be able to meet with the Session to do so. Contact Claire (pastor@hfpc.org).

Last Wednesday Fellowship | Returns Wednesday, September 30th at 6 PM

After a break, our monthly dinner and speaker series will resume in September. Our guests will be Marian Whitney and Amanda Morrissey from HFPC's mission partner **United 4 Hope**, which "connects churches to public schools to see our students thrive and our communities transformed." United 4 Hope has helped our church forge a connection with Franklin Elementary School in recent years. Come and learn more! Those interested in learning more about United 4 Hope in the meantime should contact Lise Triggs (lisetriggs@comcast.net).

Fall Golf Outing | Saturday, October 10th Tee Time TBD

We will meet for a round of golf at Cheekwood Golf Club. Players of all abilities are welcome! Contact George Mahathy (gmahathy@comcast.net).

Women's Retreat | Friday, October 23rd - Sunday, October 25th

Join us at NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center for a weekend of relaxation and reflection. Pastor Claire Berry will be our retreat leader, topic TBA. All are welcome; invite a friend! Cost is \$155 per person. Contact Mona Lee (mona.r.lee@gmail.com) by September 18th.

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

Committee News

Mission

Feed My Lambs | Third Thursdays in August, September, and October

The 2026 meals program is off to a great start! All are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall to prepare and deliver meals for neighbors at the Reddick Street and Chickasaw Senior Centers the 3rd Thursday of each month. We'll meet at 10 AM on August 20th to prepare and pack boxed lunches. On September 17th and October 20th we'll meet at 3 PM to prepare diners. More information to come! Contact Christi Ensich (mcensch@gmail.com).

Franklin Community Church Children's Shoe Drive | Saturday, August 25th

Help local students prepare to start the school year with everything they need, including shoes! Volunteers are needed from 10 AM to 12 PM. Contact Pam Reed (pamreed.flair@gmail.com) for more information.

Franklin Cancer Walk | Saturday, September 19th

Volunteers are needed to pass out water and participate in the walk! There are opportunities to serve on both Friday and Saturday. Look for more information in the worship, or contact Pam Reed (pamreed.flair@gmail.com.)

Hard Bargain Food Panty

This summer marked the three-year anniversary of HFPC's food pantry. Thank you to all who are part of this ministry, shopping for and stocking the pantry every week! Neighbors experiencing food insecurity need support, and your donations make a difference right here in Franklin. Bring donations in Fellowship Hall. Note: Due to high temperatures, please do not include any canned or jarred food that contains tomato or meat! Contact Cyndy Hinton (hintoncyndy@gmail.com.)

Williamson County Homeless Alliance (WCHA)

The church shelter program has been on hold this summer, but HFPC has continued to donate food, water and other needed items such as toilet paper, paper towels, soap, etc. to WCHA's day shelter. If you want to be a part of this project, there is a container on the back table in Fellowship Hall for donations. Contact Susan Henry (susan.henry888@gmail.com).

Mission Special Offerings | Two Special Offerings this Fall

- The Living Waters for the World offering, scheduled for Sunday, August 9th, helps to provide clean water to people around the world.
- The World Communion Offering, on Sunday, October 4th, is an annual offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to benefit racial and gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Look for more information about each offering and how to give in forthcoming communications and during worship.

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

Committee News

Member Care

The Member Care Committee meets 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).

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 fall,
and reach out with questions!

officeadministrator@hfpc.org
(615) 794-9094

Life Together



Lily Grace



Summer 2026 was a time to deepen relationships...play outside...marvel at creation...
break bread together...serve others...celebrate milestones...and find JOY!

See you this fall!



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM 1st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 AM Session Mtg.	3	4	5 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir	6	7 6:00 PM Art Crawl	8 5:00 PM Church Picnic 800 Saddleview Trail Franklin, TN
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship <i>Living Waters for the World</i> Sunday w/ guests Music City Bronze	10	11 4:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg. 5:00 PM Trustee Mtg.	12 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	14	15 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	17	18	19 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 10:00 AM Feed My Lambs Meal Prep 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	21	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	24	25 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	26 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	31					



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00 PM Congregational Life Committee Mtg.	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee 6:00 PM Bell Choir Chancel Choir	3	4 6:00 PM Art Crawl	5
6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 1st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 Session Meeting	7	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	10 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	11	12
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fall Kickoff Lunch & Presentation	14	15	16 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Mission Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir	17 3:00 PM Feed My Lambs Meal Prep 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	18	19 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg. 9:00 AM Franklin Cancer Walk
20 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	21	22 10:00 AM Presbyterian Book Club 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg.	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Exploring Membership Class (w/Lunch)	28	29	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir			



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 PM Art Crawl	2 6:00 PM Art Crawl	3
4 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship <i>World Communion</i> 11:30 AM 1 st Sunday Fellowship 11:30 AM Session Meeting	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 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg. 6:00 PM Bell Choir	8 6:00 PM Communications Committee Mtg.	9 9:00 AM Member Care Committee Mtg.	10 Golf Outing at Cheekwood Golf Course - Time TBD
11 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM 2 nd Sunday Lunch Outing	12 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir	13 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir	15 3:00 PM Feed My Lambs Meal Prep 5:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	16 Women's Retreat at NaCoMe	17 Women's Retreat at NaCoMe Rest from Pumpkinfest
18 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtg.	19 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir
25 Women's Retreat at NaCoMe 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship Rest from Pumpkinfest	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 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	31 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Last Wednesday Fellowship 7:00 PM Chancel Choir