



# *the* Lamplighter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2024

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Franklin, KY 42134  
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## CHRISTMAS EVE

*Lessons & Carols our traditional service of  
candlelight & carols will begin at 8 pm.*

*Don't miss our preshow, "A Dan Forrest Christmas"  
featuring holiday favorites arranged or composed by  
Dan Forrest beginning at 7:30 pm.*

*Our favorites that bring in the holiday spirit!*



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## *Pastor's Pen*

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Tim Leigh  
**Interim 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**

Barry Hain  
Nancy Thomas

### **FRIEND OF THE MONTH**

Sylvia Pulliam

### **RULING ELDERS ON SESSION**

Barry Hain  
John Halcomb  
Bob Thompson  
Bob Heidbrink  
Jane Rahm  
Nancy Thomas  
Chris Kessler  
Justin Henninger

### **DEACONS:**

Marcella Davis  
Linda Knight  
Meredith Halcomb  
Sylvia Pulliam

The days are getting shorter, and colder, and darker. It's funny in a way, because this is the season when the church celebrates the 'Light' of Christ's coming among us, first as a baby more than 2,000 years ago and now we await His return.

Author Virginia Owen's in her book *And the Trees Clap Their Hands*, suggests that we tend to lose the wonder of it all, because along the way everything becomes 'merely.' Things are 'merely' stars, or a sunset, a rain, flowers, and mountains. Their connection with God's creation can in time get lost during the Advent season and become just "merely." It becomes "merely" the town of Bethlehem, a stable, a birth; we lose the feeling of mystery. That is what familiarity can do to us over the years.

Be reminded that during Advent nothing is "merely," but part of God's grand design. Common things like motherhood, a birth, a child, now have new meanings. This is not "merely" the world, but a world that is changed with the beauty of God's design. It is a world so loved by God, that He gave His only son. What is so great about this Advent season is that everything is charged with the grandeur and beauty of God. The Sundays during Advent, we will celebrate together by lighting candles and each candle is a reminder that Christ came and now He brings you Hope and Expectation, Preparation and Peace, Repentance and Joy, and Love and Rejoicing!

*May you find a new wonder during this Advent season!*

Pastor Tim



# Advent/Christmas Activity Schedule

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

Lighting of Candle of Hope

White Christmas Offering

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Lighting of Candle of Peace

White Christmas Offering

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Lighting of Candle of Joy

White Christmas Offering

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

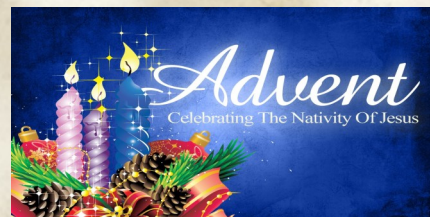
Lighting of Candle of Love

PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering (Check out

[www.presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy](http://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 will begin at 8 pm. Our preshow, "A Dan Forrest Christmas" featuring holiday favorites arranged or composed by Dan Forrest whose works truly bring in the holiday spirit begins at 7:30 pm!



The Franklin Community Chorus  
- PREMIER CONCERT -

The Work  
of  
*Christmas*

Sunday, December 15  
Franklin First United Methodist Church  
107 College St. Franklin, KY  
3:00 P.M.

Music by:  
Antonio Vivaldi, Ola Gjeilo, Dan Forrest, Mack Wilberg,  
Jacob Narverud, Leroy Anderson, & John Williams

Featuring Handel's Hallelujah Chorus  
& a holiday Sing-Along

## *White Christmas*

Donations will be accepted for White Christmas boxes on December 1, 8 & 15. You may place your offering in the offering plate marked 'White Christmas'.

Also, you may bring in toiletry items such as: soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc. and place these donations in the box in the parlor.

Packing & delivery help is needed, Saturday, December 21 beginning at 10 am in the Cornerstone.



# News & Notes


## Current needs for the Clothes Closet

1. Tennis Shoes of all sizes
2. Winter pajamas for all sizes
3. Men and women's socks

Thanks for all this church does to support the Clothes Closet! Thanks to you, we now have a wonderful supply of gifts to give away during "Christmas in the Clothes Closet". A special thanks to The Brickyard and Rackhouse Grill for collecting for us as well. You will bless many needy families.

## Cornerstone Christmas Tree

We have a Christmas tradition for our tree in the Cornerstone. It is adorned with ornaments from our friends and members with their name and the date they started coming to our church. If you do not have one on our tree, we would love for you to add yours!



**OUR PIE & COFFEE  
FUNDRAISER RAISED \$1,211.84.  
PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
CHRISTIAN SERVICE MISSIONS.**

*We will be purchasing large poinsettias this year to adorn the Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. If you wish to make a donation towards the flower fund to offset this expense it would be greatly appreciated!*



## ROOM IN THE INN NEEDS YOU

Each winter, churches in Franklin step up to provide overnight shelter for homeless folks in our community. FPC will host several nights in January and February. Each night we'll need people to help set up, make dinner, stay overnight, reset the Cornerstone, and run laundry.

It's truly a community effort, and the more people help, the easier it is for everyone. If you are willing to pitch in, please speak to Bailey or sign up in the Education Wing.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Approved funds to take out a tree and trim others on the Kentucky Street side of the church.
- \* Approved the 2025 budget. We are planning a meeting of the congregation in 2025 where the budget will be presented.
- \* Watch for the date for a potential winter-themed “Art in the Park” pop-up event at Jim Roberts Park to take place during the Lights and Skating events that happen during December.
- \* Approved a “pastor swap” sometime in January when a pastor from another church will preach at FPC and our pastors will preach at another church.



## Stewardship Corner

### November Average Attendance: 60

Nov. 3 58

Nov. 10 55

Nov. 17 57

Nov. 24 68

### November Weekly Offering Average: \$1,682.92

Nov. 3 \$2,486.00

Nov. 10 \$1,621.00

Nov. 17 \$649.68

Nov. 24 \$1,975.00

### November Online Giving: \$2,017.57

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



CONNECT WITH US!

[www.franklinpresbyterian.org](http://www.franklinpresbyterian.org)  
[franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:franklinpresbyterian@gmail.com)



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

## December 2024 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.*

### BEGIN YEAR 1

#### **Sunday, December 1** **First Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
Isa. 1:1–9  
2 Pet. 3:1–10  
Matt. 25:1–13

#### **Monday, December 2**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
Evening: Pss. 40; 67  
Isa. 1:10–20  
1 Thess. 1:1–10  
Luke 20:1–8

#### **Tuesday, December 3**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
Evening: Pss. 85; 94  
Isa. 1:21–31  
1 Thess. 2:1–12  
Luke 20:9–18

#### **Wednesday, December 4**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 53; 17  
Isa. 2:1–4  
1 Thess. 2:13–20  
Luke 20:19–26

#### **Thursday, December 5**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 2:5–22  
1 Thess. 3:1–13  
Luke 20:27–40

#### **Friday, December 6**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 3:1–4:1  
1 Thess. 4:1–12  
Luke 20:41–21:4

#### **Saturday, December 7**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149  
Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
Isa. 4:2–6  
1 Thess. 4:13–18  
Luke 21:5–19

#### **Sunday, December 8**

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
Isa. 5:1–7  
2 Pet. 3:11–18  
Luke 7:28–35

#### **Monday, December 9**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
Evening: Pss. 40; 67  
Isa. 5:8–17  
1 Thess. 5:1–11  
Luke 21:20–28

#### **Tuesday, December 10**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
Evening: Pss. 85; 94  
Isa. 5:18–25  
1 Thess. 5:12–28  
Luke 21:29–38

#### **Wednesday, December 11**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 53; 17  
Isa. 6:1–13  
2 Thess. 1:1–12  
John 7:53–8:11

#### **Thursday, December 12**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 7:1–9  
2 Thess. 2:1–12  
Luke 22:1–13

#### **Friday, December 13**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 7:10–25  
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5  
Luke 22:14–30

#### **Saturday, December 14**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149  
Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
Isa. 8:1–15  
2 Thess. 3:6–18  
Luke 22:31–38

#### **Sunday, December 15** **Third Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
Isa. 13:1–13  
Heb. 12:18–29  
John 3:22–30

**Monday, December 16**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67  
 Isa. 8:16–9:1  
 2 Pet. 1:1–11  
 Luke 22:39–53

**Tuesday, December 17**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 85; 94  
 Isa. 9:2–7  
 2 Pet. 1:12–21  
 Luke 22:54–69

**Wednesday, December 18**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 53; 17  
 Isa. 11:1–9  
 Eph. 6:10–20  
 John 3:16–21

**Thursday, December 19**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;  
 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
 Isa. 11:10–16  
 Rev. 20:1–10  
 John 5:30–47

**Friday, December 20**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
 Isa. 28:9–22  
 Rev. 20:11–21:8  
 Luke 1:5–25

**Saturday, December 21**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
 Isa. 29:9–24  
 Rev. 21:9–21  
 Luke 1:26–38

**Sunday, December 22****Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
 Isa. 31:1–9  
 Rev. 21:22–22:5  
 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

**Monday, December 23**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67  
 Isa. 33:17–22  
 Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20  
 Luke 1:57–66

**Tuesday, December 24****Christmas Eve**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 132; 114  
 Isa. 35:1–10  
 Rev. 22:12–17, 21  
 Luke 1:67–80

**Wednesday, December 25****Christmas Day**

Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 98; 96  
 Zech. 2:10–13  
 1 John 4:7–16  
 John 3:31–36

**Thursday, December 26**

Morning: Pss. 116;  
 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27  
 2 Chr. 24:17–22  
 Acts 6:1–7  
 Acts 7:59–8:8

**Friday, December 27**

Morning: Pss. 34; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 19; 121  
 Prov. 8:22–30  
 1 John 5:1–12  
 John 13:20–35

**Saturday, December 28**

Morning: Pss. 2; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 110; 111  
 Isa. 49:13–23  
 Isa. 54:1–13  
 Matt. 18:1–14

**Sunday, December 29****First Sunday of Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 96; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 132; 97  
 Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12  
 Heb. 2:10–18  
 Matt. 1:18–25

**Monday, December 30**

Morning: Pss. 93; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;  
 89:19–52  
 Isa. 25:1–9  
 Rev. 1:19–20  
 John 7:53–8:11

**Tuesday, December 31**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 45; 96  
 Isa. 26:1–6  
 2 Cor. 5:16–6:2  
 John 8:12–19



[www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org)

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/daily-prayer/>

LECTOR/USHER  
SCHEDULE

**Elder of the Month:**  
*Barry Hain*

**Elder Helper:**  
*Nancy Thomas*

**Ushers:**  
*Chris Kessler*  
*Craig Kessler*

**Lector**  
*Caren Gibson*

WEEKLY EVENTS &  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Grief Group:** Dec. 12 at 5 pm
- **Women's Group:** Dec. 16 at 5 pm  
(@ D'Legion Restaurant)
- **Advent Book Club:** Dec. 18 at  
4:30 pm

OFFICE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24  
THRU JANUARY 2

# DECEMBER 2024

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Breakfast <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 Williams &amp; Tomas Williams Jr</i>
15 Community Christmas Concert 3 pm at UMC	16 <i>Nancy Thomas</i>	17	18	19 <i>Eleanor Caudill</i>	20	21 Christmas Boxes Packing & Delivery
22 Joy Offering	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm	25	26 <i>Frank Wakefield</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Tim Leigh</i>	31				

\* Birthdays in italics



## Looking Ahead

### JANUARY

Elder of the Month: Keith Lawrence

Elder Helper: Barry Hain

Friend of the Month: Debbie Wyatt

- ◇ January 1 RITI
- ◇ January 1 & 2-Office Closed  
(reopens January 6)
- ◇ January 5 Taking Down the Green  
& Soup Potluck

Look for your 2024  
Annual Giving  
statements coming  
in mid-January!



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Happy New Year! No, I'm not early. I'm *never* early. The liturgical (church calendar) year ends with Christ the King and begins with Advent. So as of December 1, the first Sunday in Advent, we have begun Year C. You might have noticed that many of our gospel readings in 2024 came from Mark. This year is Luke's year, and we will be spending a lot of time in his gospel from now until next November.

Luke was written for a mostly gentile audience, that is, people who were not Jewish. Another way of thinking about this is that Luke is telling people about Jesus who wouldn't have already known about him, or expected him, or known what to make of him. Doesn't that sound a lot like many people today? It makes me feel excited to think about spending time with this outward-reaching gospel. I think it can help teach us to be outward-reaching. More about that next month.

But first, Advent: A season of expectation and preparation. Christ is coming, has come once, and will come again. In the darkening days of approaching winter, we look for the light of the world and remember that he came first as a helpless infant, dependent on others, carried by parents looking for shelter. How appropriate that in this season we are gearing up for **Room in the Inn** to begin in January. **Please attend our congregational training on Sunday, December 8th after the service to learn how you can plug in.** Our first Wednesday night hosting will be **January 1**, and I am looking for experienced volunteers to help that week as the office is closed.

There is a lot in the hopper for 2025 (do I say this every December?). If you have an idea, a thought, a question, or anything else you'd like to share, come by my office Mon-Weds or email [bailey@franklinpresbyterian.org](mailto:bailey@franklinpresbyterian.org).

# Worship Opportunities

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ADVENT: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT + OTHER GIFTS**

Sunday School will not meet 12/1—come to the Advent breakfast! On 12/8 and 12/15, come for Parts 2 and 3 of our series on the Fruit of the Spirit as qualities of *love* in the Christian character. On 12/22, we will look forward to the gift of Christmas and consider what spiritual gifts God is prompting us to ask for. On 12/29, Pastor Tim will lead us in making spiritual new year's resolutions. Y'all come!

## **ADVENT BOOK CLUB MEETS THIS MONTH, WEDS. 12/18 at 4:30pm**

Pick up your copy of *Advent in Plain Sight*, spend time with its daily devotionals, and then join FPC's Advent-Christmas-Epiphany book club to discuss on Wednesday the 18th at 4:30. We'll choose a time to meet again in mid-January.

## **READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH FRANKLIN PRES**

Have you ever wanted to read the whole Bible, but didn't want to do it alone? Worried you'd get stuck in Chronicles? Tried it, but had questions and nobody to discuss them with? This is your chance! In 2025, read together with Pastor Tim, Bailey, and your family here at Franklin Presbyterian. We'll follow the same plan and meet weekly to talk about what we're reading. Bring questions, objections, complaints, and joys. Details coming in the January Lamplighter!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR**

Topics and themes will vary, but we will be trying out a cycle of "Learn, Pray, Listen, Do" within each one, expanding the ways we engage with ideas and each other as we study. Y'all come!



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