

Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



November 2017

Visit us on the web
www.umc-franklin.org

Purpose Statement

Franklin United Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers who Have come together as a family of faith. Together we have established the following purpose, vision, and mission statement:

Purpose: “Willing and ready to follow and serve Jesus Christ.”

Vision: “Franklin UMC shares God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice, and our faith for the salvation of the world.”

Mission: “We believe in Jesus Christ whom we follow, serve, and share.”

Key Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16 & 17

YAH

“The LORD is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.” Exodus 15:2

“Where did God come from because He created everything so how did He just appear?” This is just one of the great questions that was asked of me by the children.

So, here we go Lilly, my attempt at an answer for the kids. We are people of beginnings and endings. We watch T.V. shows, movies, and video games that all have a beginning and an end. We mark time passing by seasons, years, months, days, hours, minutes, ...well you get the point. We mark our lives by birthdays; in my house a 12th birthday was important because that was when you could get your ears pierced. When you turned 16 you could get your driver's license, when you turned 18 you could vote. There were even birthdays that meant the ending of things. There was a point when people talked about you being too old to use a baby bottle or a pacifier. I even said those things to my kids. You know what Lilly, now my kids talk to me about being too old to do things like cartwheels, roller skating, and stuff like that because I might hurt myself.

You might remember the story in Exodus 3:13-14 where Moses experienced a burning bush where the fire never seemed to burn up. Moses knew he had encountered something very Holy. The voice from the bush wanted Moses to go and talk to the people of God in Egypt. When Moses asked; “who should I tell them sent me?”, The voice of God said “YAH, I Am Who I Am.” The Hebrew verb that means to be or exist is *hayah*. *Yahweh* is the name that is found 6,800 times in the Old Testament. And it is translated as “Lord” or “Jehovah” in English.

This is how we most speak about God. We still speak about God this way. We talk about the God who was, who is, and who will be. One God eternal. No beginning and no end. God is not dependent on anyone or anything. But this is hard for those of us who all have a beginning and an end in this physical world. But it is also a great comfort to know that God is self-sufficient. It means I don't have to worry about what I might do- right or wrong - that will affect God's being.

What we do know is that everything in this world marked by time that has a beginning and an end, finds its beginning from the things God spoke into creation. And when He created mankind God said we are very good. You can find that story in Genesis the first chapter. But because God does not need us to make Him better in anyway – (After all He is not dependent on anything – He is self-sufficient.) we can trust that God will not be changed. And therefore, we can trust God and God's promises not to change.

The truth is that the understanding of God, as Creator-not uncreated, is something we still struggle to understand. How the Hebrews decided to deal with this question was to enter into a relationship with God, to trust Him to be with them, to lead them. In other words, they started to look at who they could be because they had faith in a God calls Himself, *YAH*. When I was in school we learned about a scholar named Lluudwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein (Can you imagine learning to spell that name in Kindergarten?). Of all the things he talked about in his writings the one I still remember is what he said about God. (See philosophers spent a lot of time trying to understand God.) Wittgenstein more or less said, why are we spending so much time trying to answer questions that we will never be able to understand? So those things which are unanswerable let's not talk about. But those things we do have the ability to know and understand we should. Sounds like the Hebrews – more or less.

Maybe it is more important for us to ask these questions:

- ◆ Who are we now and who can we be later when we believe in a God who created us?
- ◆ How have you seen the lives of those around you affected by God?
- ◆ Does a self-sufficient God with no beginning and no end bring hope that a created God could not?
- ◆ And maybe even this: If we were to discover a way that God was created, wouldn't that just bring us to a new dilemma, like who created the one that created God? Especially a God who would love us so much that He would sent His only begotten Son into the World that those who believe in him would not perish but have everlasting life. A life that goes beyond this physical being that has a birthday and a day of death. This God conquered death and found a way for us to live eternally with Him.

Lilly, thanks for the question. While I can't provide you with a definite answer, I can tell you what I believe: God loves you and me and that changes who we are – forever.

Sunday, Nov. 5th, is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)

Around the world, many believers are persecuted -- imprisoned, even killed -- for their faith.

Since Jesus laid down His life, 43 million Christians have become martyrs.

Right now 200 million people face persecution for believing in Jesus and 60% of those people are children, according to Christians in Crisis International Ministry, a prayer advocacy ministry for persecuted believers.

Because the New Testament was written to persecuted believers, it is filled with examples of how to pray for our brothers and sisters under attack.

Here are 5 examples from Ephesians:

Please pray that persecuted believers would know the hope God gives (Ephesians 1:18).

Pray the Holy Spirit would strengthen them (Ephesians 3:16).

Please pray persecuted believers would know how much God loves them (Ephesians 3:17)

Pray they would know how to share the gospel (Ephesians 6:19).

Please pray that persecuted believers would fearlessly tell others about Jesus (Ephesians 6:20).

Please join thousands of other believers across the United States and the world in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

For more information: www.persecution.com

SPRC NEWS

Your Staff Parish Committee would like to let you know about some changes to the church staff. LeAnn Lennie will be serving as Interim Office Assistant on Monday & Wednesday, while Beth Vickers & Christina Martin help fill in the gaps until a more permanent decision is made.

You may want to express your appreciation to Hope Reyes for her years of service here at Franklin United Methodist Church.

Your cards and letters can be sent to her home address: 405 Holly Street, Franklin, Texas 77856

Frank Perry, Chairperson



Our Children's Ministry is full of life and we want YOU to get involved!

Here's How:

Children's Christmas Choir

We are meeting on Mondays from 3:30—4:30. Children meet in the Sanctuary Conference room for a light snack, followed by lessons with Mrs. Rhonda. If you are unable to attend Monday practices, Mrs. Rhonda is willing to meet for quick lessons after Sunday services. Please get with her to make arrangements. Our performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th.

Family Martial Arts

It's not too late to get involved in our Family Martial Arts program! We would love to have YOU & your family join us on Tuesdays from 6:00—7:00pm. (Nov. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th) Only \$5 per class.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Make plans to join us on Wednesday, November 8th from 6PM-8PM. We will have a pot-luck dinner, followed by a packing party for our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.

Scripture of the Month: Matthew 22: 37-39 Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mission – Holiday Feast of Sharing

Holiday Feast of Sharing and Christmas Gifts for Needy Children within our community. The community is gearing up for our annual Feast of Sharing. As always, it takes a lot of volunteer work and money. There are many opportunities to volunteer “as a church” with this project. Part of the money given for the November mission will go to the Feast of Sharing; the other part goes to buying gifts for needy children. If you are able to volunteer on that Saturday, December 2 contact the church office or Melissa Williams (979) 324-8871. There will be plenty to do. Cornbread, cakes and cook helpers will be needed. They will need drivers to deliver meals to homes, and people to help clean up. Also, with Christmas just around the corner, part of the money given will be used to buy gifts for needy children. Your donations would be greatly appreciated. Let’s make this a Merry Christmas for everyone. If you know of any family in need of help or if your family needs help, fill out a form. (The forms are located in the church office. You can pick up a form to nominate a family.) Return ASAP to our church office, or you can place the form into the collection plate on Sunday. Forms are due by December 2. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Williams (979) 324-8871.

The Praying Piecers News

The Praying Piecers will meet on November 13 and 27. Pot luck luncheons will be served. Anyone interested in quilting, sewing, or other hand crafts is welcome to join our group. We meet at 9:00 AM in the Kitchen in the Activity Building.

Happy stitching,
Donna Otto

Music Notes:



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. --Psalm 98:4--

That's exactly what the Sunshine Strummers have been doing. We have been having fun making the people in nursing homes and assisted living places smile. We have a busy schedule from now until Christmas and we are proud to welcome our newest member Sissy Rawson! We know she'll add a lot to our group.

The choir has been busy working on some beautiful and exciting choral selections for the Christmas season. We are ready to rejoice!

**Sing-cerely,
Rhonda Miller**

November Meetings

- November 1—UMW meet in the activity kitchen 9 AM-12 PM
- November 2—SPRC meeting in conference room 6:30 PM
- November 5—Education meeting in the education building after the worship service
- November 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30—Preschool meets from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
- November 1,8,15, 22, 29—Women’s Emmaus meets in the activity building 7 AM
- November 2,9,16, 23, 30—Men’s Emmaus meets in the activity building 6:30 AM
- November 4—Emmaus Gathering from 5 PM-7 PM
- November 6, 20—MOPS 9 AM-11 AM
- November 7, 14, 21, 28—Keith Foltermann/Martial Arts Class in activity building 6 PM-7 PM
- November 9—Finance Meeting in activity kitchen 6 PM
- November 12—Charge Conference at Christ United Methodist College Station 4 PM
- November 13, 27—Quilters in the activity kitchen 9 AM-12 PM
- November 19—Admin Council after the worship service
- November 27—Worship Committee will be decorating for Christmas 5 PM

Youth News

The Season of Giving Thanks

Give thanks

*to the Lord, for
He is good; His love
endures forever.
Psalm 107:1*



As the Thanksgiving season approaches I begin to reflect on what I am thankful for. I am so thankful for a supportive family, a community that cares about the well being of it's members, a church that is alive beyond its structure and a God that loves with no bounds. How amazing it is to live a life knowing that God will take care of our every need!

Recently, I was sent an email from Camp Lakeview that encouraged parents to fill out scholarships for those who may need assistance for Summer Camp 2018. While this may seem very early to be thinking about the summer, I assure you it will be here before we know it. This led me to begin our first official youth fundraising opportunity to help support our youth missions.

During the month of November, the youth will have a "Thanksgiving Board" display that will be located on the bulletin board (outside of Pastor Polly's office) each Sunday morning. The board will have 100 envelopes labeled 1-100 that can be purchased for the dollar amount that is labeled. In each envelope will be a service that the youth will provide in return for each purchased envelope. The idea is that as people give to the Thanksgiving Board, the youth will earn their mission trip money by giving back to our church, community, and those in need. After an envelope is purchased, and the youth have completed their service, a photo of their service will replace the empty spot on the board. I look forward to seeing our youth give back and learn how rewarding service is, by not only seeing how it affects others, but how it can fill each of their hearts with purpose, joy and fulfillment knowing that they are sharing God's love through their acts.

Christina Martin

Fellowship

We still meet every Wednesday from 6-8 pm.

Fundraiser

The Thanksgiving Board will begin the first Sunday of November.

Ministry/Missions

How can we share our knowledge with others? By serving others! We will be helping to pack Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Upcoming Events:

**November 8th
6pm-8pm** - Operation Christmas Child event with the Children's Ministry.



NOVEMBER - A MONTH OF "THANKS AND GIVING"

November 5 - All Saints Sunday

On this Sunday we remember and give thanks for family and friends who have died during the last year.



Two special candles will be on the Communion Table for those members of our church family who have died. They are:

Gaynelle Duncan
May Stavinhoa

Votive candles will be on the kneeling rails for lighting by the congregation and names called for remembering other friends and family who have died this year

November 12 - Veterans Sunday

November 12 is observed as National Veterans Day. On this Sunday, November 12, we wish to pay honor and give thanks to all who have served our country in a branch of the service.

We are grateful for these men and women who have given their time and effort for the right to have freedoms we enjoy today.

Take time on this Sunday to say "Thank You" to all of our veterans.



Cookie Walk

Festive cookies sold by the pound

Franklin United Methodist Church Fundraiser

2nd Saturday in December
9 AM - 12 Noon

**** Save the Date: December 9th ****

We need cookies, cookies, and *MORE* cookies... Please call the church office or call/email Beth Vickers @255-1406 or rexandbeth@gmail.com to add your cookie selection to the ever growing list. Candies and other festive goodies are happily accepted!

We also need *Christmas Store Items*. We plan to have a very "select" group of items available for purchase. Special Christmas decorative items, "eye appealing" pies or cakes, as well as jams, jellies, etc., items appropriate for Christmas gifts are needed. Please contact Wayne Huggins or call Beth.

And, of course, we need a few more volunteers to work the event on Saturday, December 9 from 9 - 12 Noon. Please let us know if you are available to help.

PRAYER requests

To keep the prayer list as up-to-date as possible, please contact the church office with any changes to the specific need for each one on the list.

Tom Fuller - cancer (Beth Vicker's brother)
 Countney Carver
 Joyetta Misterek - Cancer
 Archer Folterman - Leukemia

Ted Mikeska
 Kaystal Shumaker
 Jim Hanks - Leukemia
 Joey Mickelwitz-Cancer

Lay Readers

November 5 Ken Reinhardt
 November 12 Julie Jarrell
 November 19 Mary Kamas
 November 26 Wayne Huggins



Tithes & Offering for last Month

Average Attendance	102.5
Offering Income for September	\$13,133.00
Memorial Income:	\$0
Food Pantry	\$0
New Building Fund	\$3,850.00

(As of Sunday, October 22, 2017)

Ushers

Kenner Reinhardt
 Ken Reinhardt



November Birthday's

Eric Michael (Air Force)
 Benjamin Standing (National Guard) PFC
 Joseph Pawley (Army, Afghanistan)

1st	Julie Foltermann	17th	Dianna Hutchinson
4th	John Carty Hicks Frank Perry	18th	Ariel Campsey
5th	Sara Davis	20th	Laura Hailey Douglas Campbell
6th	Marla Zahn Felicia Smith	21st	Avery Rawson
9th	Jack Cloat	23rd	Tanja Peterson
12th	Sarah Stem Brent Lennie	24th	Julie Neyland
16th	Toni Black Bryan Kellum Toni Chanley Morgan Broadus	25th	Greg Stem Ken Reinhardt
		26th	Seth Kissinger Donna Otto
		28th	Kenneth Jordan Jim Callaway



November Anniversaries

10th Steve & Charlene Conrad

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Women's Emmaus 7AM UMW 9AM-12PM Ukulele 5PM-5:40PM Choir 5:45 -6:20PM	2 Men's Emmaus 6:30AM Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM SPRC 6:30 PM	3	4 Emmaus Gathering 5PM - 7PM
5 Return pledge cards Educ. Committee Mtg after service Educ. Bldg. All Saints Day	6 MOPS 9AM-11AM	7 Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM Martial Arts 6:00PM - 7:00PM	8 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5PM-5:40PM Choir 5:45-6:20PM Youth 6PM - 8PM	9 Men's Emmaus 6:30AM Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM	10	11
12 Charge Conference 4PM Christ United Methodist Food Pantry Day Veterans Honored	13 Quilters 9AM-12PM	14 Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM Martial Arts 6:00PM - 7:00PM	15 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5PM-5:40PM Choir 5:45-6:20PM Youth 6PM - 8PM	16 Men's Emmaus 6:30AM Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM West District Cohart Meeting of Preachers Conference Room 11AM and Lunch	17	18
19 Admin Council	20 MOPS 9AM-11AM	21 Preschool 9:00PM - 3:00PM FUMP Thanksgiving Feast 11AM Martial Arts 6:00PM - 7:00PM	22 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5PM-5:40PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6PM-8 PM	23	24	25
26	27 Quilters 9AM-12PM	28 Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM Martial Arts 6:00PM - 7:00PM	29 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5PM-5:40PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6PM - 8PM	30 Men's Emmaus 6:30AM Preschool 9:00AM - 3:00PM		

Reading for the Weekly Worship

November 5	Joshua 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
November 12	Joshua 24:1-7	Psalm 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 19	Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123 or Psalm 76	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 26	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46