

## Polly's Pondering

A friend of mine stood beside me a couple of years ago as we helped in the Meyerland area to muck out houses after that flooding episode there. The next day she advised me that she would not be going back out. It was too hard to see people dealing with the loss of their personal belongs. I said I understood and went on helping for several weeks. Today I can tell you that I was wrong. I did not understand, not spiritually anyway. But this year unknowingly she helped me to truly understand.

You see, her house is just one of many that did not survive the flood this year. She was reluctant to leave, but finally had to do just that because of the enormous amount of water in her home. Everything is ruined. With deep emotion, she talked through some of the options that lay in front of her; rebuild or move.

My mind suddenly traveled to a time and location far away. When Jesus walked and talked on the road. There before him was a rich young ruler. (You will find the story in Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10: 17-31 and Luke 18:18-30. How easily I have dismissed the request the Lord put before him- especially since it came straight out of the mouth of Jesus. They are just things, I thought. And I have long been able to let go of things. Like when they are broken by the kids or when the moving truck expense was too much and some things needed to be left behind. But to do so is to sell short the cost of losing everything, all at once, especially when it is not by choice.

My friend's husband died years ago. His death was sudden and quick. In a blink he was gone and all the dreams they had made for the years to come were gone with him. All she had left was the things that they had shared together. The tools his hands had used to form useful storage containers that once seemed so trivial and now were priceless. There were the clothes he had laid out to wear that afternoon before time stood still. There was the living room where they had shared moments with their girls and later grandchildren. And here and there were the books he read, topic as varied as his interests God had created him to hold.

I hear my friend welcome me back to the here and now as she stated that she didn't know if she would rebuild; after all she said all the reasons I wanted to be there are damaged by the flood. That is when I gained a new respect for the depth of the request Jesus was making. Are you willing to give up all those things (and all the connections to others and even to your own identity) and trust me? No wonder the Gospel of Luke tells us that the Rich Young Ruler went away sad.

I see that same sadness in the eyes of those being ushered away from their homes in flat bottom boats. I hear it in the stories of water rising and darkness overshadowing the sunlight. I feel it in the courage of those who are moving forward despite the fear of an unsettled future and the realization of a chaotic future for the days and weeks to come.

I know there will be difficult choices ahead and hard decisions well made. I trust that a new normal will eventually be established and joy will reemerge. But for now there will be grief and shock and the need for a compassionate friend to help them walk through this part of the journey and brothers and sisters in Christ, who would offer up prayers on their behalf with no judgment as to the time it would take to move through the grief.

As I return to the story of the rich young ruler, I wonder, did the followers of God walk alongside him? Did the believers in the God who changes lives, perspectives, and desires pray for him as he pondered the choice Jesus placed before him. Were there friends who listened to him as he tried to sort out the consequences of following Jesus or turning the other way.

I certainly have much to ponder. And I have much for which to be prayerful. Won't you join me in praying for those who have suffered so much loss, especially those who know not yet Jesus the Christ.



### Upcoming Spiritual Retreats

**Men's Walk Weekend: October 12-15**  
**Women's Walk Weekend: October 26-29**

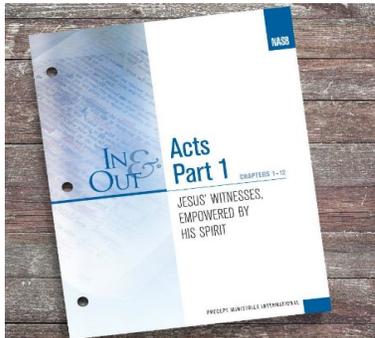
If you are interested in deepening your walk with Christ by attending one of these special weekends (Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon), please feel free to contact Mary Kamas, Keith Kamas, Beth Vickers, Rex Vickers or any Emmaus Community member for more information.

Men's Day Breakers Reunion Group  
Thursdays @ 6:30 AM in Kitchen

Women's Rekindled Reunion Group  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 AM in Kitchen



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> @ 4:30 PM  
HICKS RANCH  
(HAMBURGERS PROVIDED)



**MONDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY**  
**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> ~ NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:00PM - 3:00PM**  
**EDUCATION BUILDING**

**ACTS**  
(Part 1: Chapters 1-12)

***Precept Upon Precept*** Study Book is \$18  
***In & Out*** Study Book (less demanding) is \$14

*In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke recorded what happened after Jesus' ascension to the Father. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, empowering the apostles to testify to the power of God in salvation and in living every day for the gospel. Power to be what God wants you to be! Power to do what God wants you to do! It's yours for the believing!*

Join us for eight weeks, as we dig in to study the first half of this important book of the Bible (we will begin the second half in the spring). This is an ecumenical group with members from other churches welcome. Each Monday, the first hour is a discussion of the material we have studied for ourselves during that week and the second hour we view a video lesson by David Arthur enlarging on our study. Please contact Beth Vickers to order your study book. (call 979-255-1406 or email [rexandbeth@gmail.com](mailto:rexandbeth@gmail.com))

September **Mission is Biosand Water Filters in Ethiopia.** Last month mission was UMCOR– Health Kits.

Several of our young adults and adults have volunteered with Friendly Water for the World, building Biosand Water Filters in Ethiopia. Your donations will go to build these water filters for families in rural villages without access to clean water. Every day children in Ethiopia die from diseases caused by unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation. Together, with your assistance, we can help to make a difference in the lives of these children.



### The Praying Piecer's News

The quilters will be meeting September 11 and 28 at 9:00 AM in the kitchen of the Activity Building. As the weather continues to plague us with hot, hot, and more hot, salads or pot luck will continue to be the luncheon menu.

Happy Stitching,

Donna Otto



### September Meetings:

September 5, 7, 12, 14, 29, 21, 26, 28 Preschool - 7:30 AM - 4:40 PM (Every Tuesday & Thursday)

September 6 - UMW - 9:30 AM in the activity kitchen

September 6, 13, 20, 27 - Women's Emmaus - 7 AM in the activity building (Every Wednesday morning)

September 7, 14, 21, 28 - Men's Emmaus - 6:30 AM in the activity building (Every Thursday morning)

September 11, 28, 25 - Ladies Bible Study in the education building 1 PM - 3 PM

September 11 & 25 - Quilter will meet in the activity kitchen 9 AM-12 Noon

MOPS will meet in the education bldg. 9 AM– 11 AM

September 14 - Finance at 6 PM in the conference room - SPRC at 6:30 PM

September 17 - Administrative Council Meeting after the worship service

### Web Site Updates

Please take a few minutes to check out the updates to the website. Thank you to Anne Perry, Cynthia Hanks, and Laura Corn for their work on the website. There are several places where pictures would be great additions, such as the Church Committees and Adult Ministry pages. If you have photos that would enhance some of the pages, please email Laura Corn at [laurahcorn@gmail.com](mailto:laurahcorn@gmail.com).

The church website: [umc-franklin.org](http://umc-franklin.org)

### Feud for Food fundraiser

Mark your calendars for October 21 for a great community event benefiting the Food Pantry! Feud for Food is a battle of the bands style fundraiser that will include local bands competing, entertainment between the bands, a meal, and silent auction. Our very own Faithful Nation will be competing - please come support our band! Tickets will be going on sale soon for \$10 p/ticket. The event will be held at the Pidgeon Center on October 21 from 6:00-9:00.

### Music Notes:

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for He is gracious and a song of praise is fitting -- Psalm 147:1 The Choir and the Sonshine Strummers have had a nice summer break for about a month and it's time to begin practices again. Just like the excitement of a new year in school, I'm excited about beginning fresh and learning some new songs. We want to encourage everyone to join us. We'll give you all the wonderful support that you need. The Sonshine Strummers meet at 5:00 p.m. and the Choir meets at 5:45 on Wednesdays. We have a chair ready for you!

Sing-cerely,  
Rhonda Miller

# Youth News

## Starting Off the New School Year

Begin the school year with a fresh start!



I can't believe it is already back to school time! Get out your back packs and your new jeans and lets get ready for another great year! This year at youth we all get the opportunity to walk through a spiritual journey together. Along with exciting new games and meaningful devotions let's discover who we are with encouragement and christian support. This year the FUMC youth will begin the school year with a new leader. My name is Christina Martin and I am delighted to be able to join the FUMC Youth as the Interim Youth Director. Believe it or not, at one point in time, I have been where you are at. Growing up I attended a youth group every Sunday night. I participated in mission trips yearly and even attended Lakeview Methodist Camp most summers. I am excited to have the opportunity to share with each of you my experiences, knowledge, and struggles of growing up while maintaining my faith. It is my goal that we can create a spiritual community that offers trust, confidentiality, honesty, care and commitment in growing up with God. Below are three quick steps to help all of us become the person God is calling us to be.

1

### THINK

Before you act think!  
Consider others and what your actions might say about who you are and whose you are.  
(You are a child of God)

2

### TALK

Communication can open up doors that you didn't know existed. Don't be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.

3

### OPEN YOUR HEART

God uses people to impact people. You'll be a richer, deeper, more vibrant person as you share experiences with others

### FELLOWSHIP

We still meet every Wednesday from 6-8 pm.

### DISCIPLESHIP

We will dig into God's word and find out how it applies to each of our lives.

### MINISTRY/MISSIONS

How can we share our knowledge with others? By serving others! Think about the needs in our church family, school, community, and world. Can we make an impact? You bet! We will discover how to do this together.

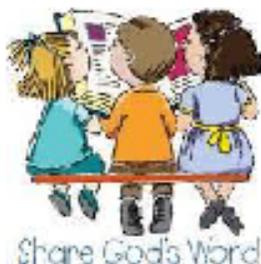
### UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 30th 6-8pm-  
School is Cool!!!  
Banana Splits are served during youth group!

September 6th 6-8pm-  
"What on earth am I here for?" Begin your spiritual journey by revealing the real you.

Sept 2017

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WOW! Is it REALLY September already?

By the time you read this, we would have already celebrated PROMOTION SUNDAY! Here is a recap of the Sunday School classes we offer for kids ages 6 weeks – 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

**Discovery:** 6 weeks thru age 2 (or potty trained) will make music and enjoy movement as they discover God's love. Takes place in the BLUE or YELLOW class.

**ARK:** Amazing Redeemed Kids is for ages 3 – Kindergarten will dive deeper into God's word as they enjoy a lesson, arts & crafts and fellowship.

**Kingdom Kids:** 1st – 4<sup>th</sup> will explore God's word on a deeper level, while still appealing to the adventurous nature of students this age.

**Encounter:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> will join with 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> to encounter God in a new & exciting way!

Remember that everyone will start their new Sunday School classes at **9:00am** on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Won't you come and join us?

We also have Senior High, Parenting, Wisdom and our brand-new Journey Sunday School class... come get plugged in to the life of the church!

There will be so many spectacular events coming this Fall. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information! You can find us by looking up: Franklin United Methodist Church

Thank you all for your continued prayers for our ministry as we share God's love thru our words, actions & prayers!

Warm regards,

LeAnn Lennie  
Director of Preschool & Children's Ministry  
Cell: 512-628-7202

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## Franklin United Methodist

Tel 979-828-2019  
Church 979-828-3355

PO BOX 556  
Franklin, TX 77856

FranklinUMP@yahoo.com  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK



# 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

Sept 3 Wayne Huggins  
 Sept 10 Christan Rawson  
 Sept 17 Julie Neyland  
 Sept 24 Ken Reinhardt



## Tithes & Offering for last Month

Average Attendance	109
Offering Income for August	\$16,640
Memorial Income:	
UMCOR Health Kits	\$302
Food Pantry	\$1,000
New Building Fund	\$1,150

## Ushers

Grady Harris  
 &  
 Kip Kissinger



## September Birthday's

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

1st	Peyton Drake	19th	Tiffani McKinney
3rd	Ed Cooper		Addy Miller
4th	Jerry Briggs	21st	Christan Rawson
	Noah Smith	23rd	Jobe Law
	Diana Richardson		Barry Black
5th	Bryce McKinney		Janet Zamzow
6th	Kenadi Janacek		John Standing
	Sofia Zahn	26th	Jeren Hanks
12th	Allie Herring		Jenny Cate
14th	Terri Foltermann	27th	Kelley Sexton
	Cathy Hayes	28th	Chris Huggins
16th	Zachary Kissinger		Chelsea Currie
17th	Robert Hailey		Chip Zahn
	Deborah Hicks		Will Neyland
	Matthew Kamas	29th	Emily Cloat
18th	Bob Otto	30th	Mark Hailey
			Rickie Black



## September Anniversaries

1st Edwin & Peggy Cooper  
 18th Justin & Heather Frieda  
 19th Thad & Dorothea Allen  
 21st Charles & Jan Westerman  
 22nd Barry & Debbie Black  
 28th Ken & Bettie Jordan  
 30th Douglas & Olivia Campbell

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 Lay reader: Wayne Huggins	4 <i>Office Closed</i> 	5 Preschool begins 7:30AM-4:30PM	6 UMW 9:30AM Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5-5:40 PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6-8 PM	7 Men's Emmaus 6:30 AM Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9
10 Food Pantry Lay reader: Christan Rawson	11 <b>Quilters</b> 9 AM-11 Noon MOPS 9-11 AM  1-3 PM	12 Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	13 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5-5:40 PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6-8 PM	14 Men's Emmaus 6:30 AM Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM Finance 6 PM SPRC 6:30 PM	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16
17 <i>Admin Council</i> Lay reader: Julie Neyland	18  1-3 PM	19 Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	20 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5-5:40 PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6-8 PM	21 Men's Emmaus 6:30 AM Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23
24 Lay reader: Ken Reinhardt	25 <b>Quilters</b> 9 AM-11 Noon MOPS 9-11 AM  1-3 PM	26 Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	27 Women's Emmaus 7AM Ukulele 5-5:40 PM Choir 5:45-6:20 PM Youth 6-8 PM	28 Men's Emmaus 6:30 AM Preschool 7:30AM-4:30PM	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30

## Reading for the Weekly Worship

September 3	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149 or Psalm 148	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
September 17	Exodus 14:19-31	Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

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



September 2017

Visit us on the web  
[www.umc-franklin.org](http://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**