

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

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



December 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

Polly's Pondering

“How can I make a difference in our church?” unknown child

In the last Sermon of November, we talked about the many ways in which the people of God are to serve Jesus in our everyday life. Feeding the hungry, quenching the thirst of the parched, clothing the naked, visiting those held captive, and showing compassion to those who are sick. These are all things in which we can participate.

We can care for our clothes well so that when we have outgrown them we can donate them to the Clothes Closet. In this way we not only provide clothing for those in need at minimal cost, we provide a tithe of sale to support the Local Food Pantry and we use the proceeds to help local community members with financial needs such as paying a utility bill, or helping with other emergency needs.

Working at the Food Pantry is a great way to help feed the hungry. But there are other things we could do. We could remember to pick up a few items for the Food Pantry every time we go to the grocery store.

There are some creative ways you could help support the ministries of the church.

Maybe there is someone who wants to be in charge of taking recycling drink cans to exchange for money to donate.

You might want to use your creative skills to create Christmas cards to distribute to the nursing home, or get well cards to distribute when members of the church are sick.

What if you collected bottles of water and then went to the park in the summer to hand them out.

Putting away toys where they go after you play with them at the church is a great blessing to the preschool and Sunday school teachers and the children that use them after you.

Get with Mrs. Rhonda Miller and use your gifts to sing or play instruments as a special. Join the Choir (children, or adult).

Use your voice to share the word of God by reading scripture in worship.

Be kind to your brothers and sisters, school peers, and fellow workers.

Pick weeds out of the flower bed.

Pray for the church and its members. You might even want to use the church directory to pray for someone new each day.

Be welcoming to new people at church.

Attending Sunday school and church is one of the best forms of ministry to the church. Your presence matters to those who worship with you and they miss you when you are not there.

Pray for me, the Pastor, that God will lead me to give sermons that are true to His teachings.

Love God, learn about God, read God's word, ask questions about God, talk about God with others, and work to become more and more like His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you have some service ideas for members of our church, especially the very young. If so, won't you share them with the church and we will pass them along. During this season of Christmas there is so much to do – but nothing more important than serving God and caring for people.

Jude 1:22 reads: “And of some have compassion, making a difference.” This reminds me that anything you or I do out of love with compassion in a way that is pleasing to God definitely makes a difference.

Finally, I just want to say to you (the one who asked the question) I am so blessed just by knowing that you are already wanting to make a difference in the church. It means you have already discovered how much God loves you and how special you are to Him. And knowing that has placed a desire in your heart to serve. That is awesome. All of us in the church could use a servant heart – then we would not only make a difference in the church we would make a difference in the world. I think I will go pray right now and ask God to help make my servant heart a little bigger, stronger, and ready to serve with love and compassion like never before. That would be a great way to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who came to serve. Amen



Each year all the churches in the community get together and provide Christmas gifts for children whose families are struggling financially in our community. The names have been provided by the school, the food pantry, or by churches. Our church family will be providing gifts for 20-25 children this year. The sign-up list and children's informational envelopes are on the table in the back of the church sanctuary. This month's mission giving is also for the Angel Tree Gifts. Donations marked for this mission will go to provide gifts for other children selected by the Community Angel Tree Committee. Thank you for your generosity during this special season.

CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

Ornaments made from Christian symbols are called Chrismons. This word Chrismon is a combination of Christ and monogram (or symbol). Many churches display a Chrismon tree during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with these handmade gold and white ornaments. Most of the Chrismon ornaments on our church tree were made by families over 20 years ago and are still beautiful. But our Chrismon tree could use a few new ornaments from families of this generation. Kits are being put together for your convenience. If you would like to help put together the kits and/or make a Chrismon ornament, please contact the church office.



Hello Church Family,

Christmas is such an exciting time for each of us and with that comes very busy schedules! However, I hope you will take time to slow down and remember the real reason for the season and make sure that Jesus is the focus for you and your children. That being said, there are a few upcoming events and activities I hope you will make plans to attend:

Sunday, December 10th - Children's Choir Performance (During Service)

Wednesday, December 13th - SOCIAL (See Below)

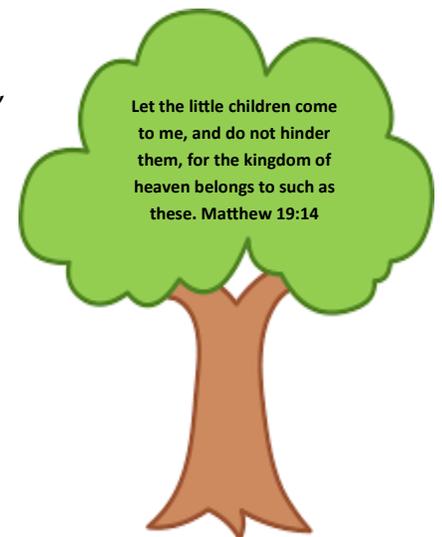
Sunday, December 24th - Happy Birthday Jesus Party at 9am

Sunday, December 24th - Brown Bag Christmas Pageant (Morning Worship)

For our social during the month of December, we will go watch "The Star" at Premier Cinema in Bryan and have dinner after. Anyone who would like to join needs to make plans to meet at FUMC by 3:25. If you need transportation, please get with me. Each person will need \$15 to cover cost of movie & dinner.

Again, I hope you enjoy the magic of this most special season!

Love in Christ, LeAnn Lennie



Holiday Feast of Sharing

This year's Community Feast of Sharing will be Saturday, December 2nd. Volunteer opportunities start early at the Franklin High School Cafeteria with food preparations beginning at 6:00am! Other service opportunities occur throughout the morning and early afternoon. There is a special need for driver teams to deliver the meals. Please call the church office if you wish to add your name to our list of volunteers!

L.E.A.D. INSTITUTE

Leadership, Education & Development

With Guest Speaker Dr. Jacqui King

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

Christ UMC Fellowship Hall in College Station

Come by the Church office for details.



PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

The Praying Piecers quilting group will meet on December 11th at 9 a.m. A pot luck Christmas luncheon will conclude their meeting for 2017. It's been a busy year and we're looking forward to a busy and active 2018.

Happy Stitching,

Donna Otto

Music Note:



It's December and for most it's the favorite month of the year. We're all busy learning new music for the promise and joy of Christmas. This year we have a Children's Choir and we will be singing songs for the congregation on Dec. 10th. Invite all friends and families for these children have worked hard. The adult choir will sing the special on Dec. 17th. This song, called Holy Night, is beautiful in lyrics and music and features our men. The Sunshine Strummers have three major performances at assisted living places in the Bryan area. It always makes us feel good to see the smiles on the faces of the residents, especially at this time of the year. Merry Christmas Everyone!

"Sing"cerely,

Rhonda Miller

Regular Meetings

Preschool—Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-3pm
Women's Emmaus—Wednesday Mornings at 7am
Men's Emmaus—Thursday Mornings at 6:30am
Ukulele—Wednesday Nights 5:00pm-5:45pm
Choir—Wednesday Nights 5:45pm—6:30pm
Youth Fellowship—Wednesday Nights 6pm-8pm

*Would you like to become better equipped
to serve Jesus Christ?*

Make plans to attend:

West District Lay Servant School

Saturday, February 10th (8:30-4:00) &

Saturday February 17th (8:30—4:00)

Cost \$35, Class is at First UMC in Bryan

Stop by the Church office for more details.

Youth News

The Reason for the Season is Love



As we begin to prep for the Christmas Festivities it is easy to get wrapped up in what we want. How much will mom and dad spend on me this year? Did I behave well enough to get that brand new iPhone? What can I do right now to ensure that I get what I want?

Be honest; have you ever thought those thoughts? I know I have. It is easy to forget the reason for the season and focus on receiving rather than giving. Television has constant commercials displaying the “latest and greatest”, my email is filled with ads claiming that I deserve to buy myself that new perfume. But do we do good just so we can deserve presents? Do we listen to our parents and do well in school so we can deserve that xbox game? I want to say “no” to that question because I know it is the right answer but the truth is sometimes my brain doesn’t cooperate with what my heart knows.

Jesus, God’s only son, was sent to earth to be a sacrifice for our sins. God’s gift of Jesus, and Jesus’ gift of sacrifice was one we did not deserve and yet the gift was still given freely with no strings attached.

This Christmas I challenge you to be good because it is right, to give instead of to receive and to love the way our God loves us. Think about what that challenge means to you and share with our group how this challenge has affected you. I look forward to hearing each of your stories and insights!

Merry Christmas,

Christina Martin

Fellowship

We still meet every Wednesday from 6-8 pm.

Fundraiser

The Thanksgiving Board will continue to be displayed on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.

Ministry/Missions

How can we share our knowledge with others? By serving others! We will be sharing the Christmas Joy during the Cookie Walk. Come visit the youth in the education building!

Upcoming Events:

December 6- Cookie making for the Cookie Walk

December 9-Cookie Walk

December 10- Youth Instrumental Song during Service

December 13-Youth Christmas Party



Cookie Walk

Festive cookies sold by the pound

Franklin United Methodist Church Fundraiser



Saturday, December 9th

9am - Noon

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., and items appropriate for Christmas gifts are needed. Please contact Wayne Huggins or Beth Vickers.

And, of course, we need a few more volunteers to work the event on Saturday, December 9th from 9am - Noon and early for setup and late for cleanup! 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.

Ginger Mareth

Ray Akins

John Callaway

Jim Hanks

Joey Mickelwitz

Tom Fuller

Katherine Scasta

Archer Foltermann

Lay Readers

December 3	Kip Kissinger
December 10	Evelyn Huggins
December 17	Jan Westerman
December 24	Wayne Huggins
December 31	Jeff Ripley



Tithes & Offering for Last Month

Average Attendance	97.5
Offering Income for November	\$18,637.75
Memorial Income:	\$2,640.00
New Building Fund	\$4,980.00

Ushers

Jody Smith

Greg Stem



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

December Birthdays

1st	Scott Hailey Casey Chanley Shane Broadus	13th	Luke Kamas
		15th	Isaac Kamas
3rd	Scott Huggins K.C. Kamas	16th	Cathy Reed Mary Kay Smith
4th	Sandra Hoegemeyer Kip Kissinger Charles Ellison Lilly Harris	18th	Lauren Comer
		19th	Rachel Kamas
5th	Madison Sexton Andy Herring	22nd	Alex Huggins
		24th	Wayne Cloat
9th	Ariel Kissinger	25th	Pat Pabst
10th	Jeff Ripley Isaac Michael Helen Shumaker	26th	Lara Barnett Bobby Graham
11th	Rhonda Miller Kim Herring	27th	Earnest Smith
		28th	Lauren Ripley Birgitte Bly



December Anniversaries

3rd	Barry & Jenny Cate
17th	Robert & Laura Hailey
20th	Earnest & Mary Kay Smith
21st	Frank & Anne Perry
29th	Billy & Sara Davis

▶ December 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Soneshine Strum- mers at Crestview	2
3	4 MOPS 9-11AM	5	6 UMW, Women's Em- maus, Ukulele, Choir, Youth	7 Soneshine Strum- mers at Water-	8	9 
10 Children's Choir Performance (During Service)	11 Quilters 9am—Noon Activity Bldg.	12	13 Women's Emmaus, Children's Social, Uku- lele, Choir, Youth	14	15	16
17	18 MOPS 9-11AM	19	20 Women's Emmaus, Ukulele, Choir, Youth	21	22	23
24 Regular Service At 10:15 Christmas Eve	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Reading for the Weekly Worship

December 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 3:24-37
December 10	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15	Mark 1:1-8
December 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-
December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:47-55	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
December 31	Isaiah 61:10-62	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40