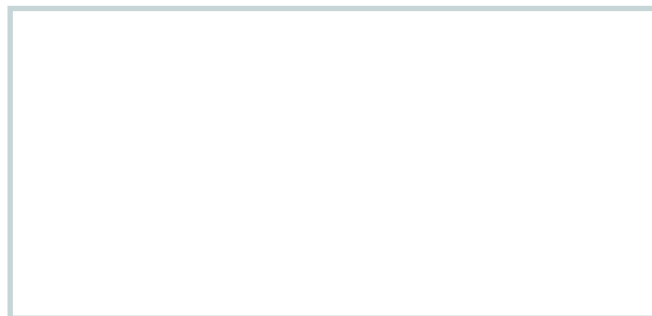


Franklin United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



January 2019



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**

# POLLY'S PONDERING

Welcome to 2019. Another year of opportunity. I was thinking about New Year's Eve resolutions. I mean when did they begin? So, I began to research. Come to find out the tradition has been in practice for about 4000 years. Of course, not exactly as it is seen today.

It was the Babylonians who are said to have made the first New Year's resolutions. They even held the party but it happened in March and lasted about 12 days when they would either crown the new king or reaffirm their loyalty to the returning king. The promises they made to their pagan gods can be seen to be the forerunner of today's New Year resolutions.

Rome had a similar tradition but it happened in January after Julius Caesar made some adjustments to the calendar somewhere around 46 B.C. in which he had the yearly calendar start in January instead of March. It was the pagan god who resided in doorways and arches, to which promises were made. The god's name was Janus, who was supposedly two-faced able to look into the past and the future at the same time. So, the Romans would make sacrifices to this pagan god and make promises of good behavior in the new year all in hope that they would find favor with their god.

Early Christians also followed a practice of using the first day of the year to reflect on their sins (mistakes) of the last year and to make pledges to do better during the new year. In 1740, our own founder, John Wesley, created the first Covenant Renewal Service, which allowed early Methodists to be accountable for their actions over the last year and to be prayerful about what changes were needed in their lives to make them a more faithful follower of Christ.

Today's New Year celebrations, have evolved into a party atmosphere with promises for self-improvement and little to no thought of God. Research shows that somewhere around 45% of Americans make resolutions with the unfortunate truth that only around 8% are able to reach them.

What if instead of focusing on the resolution this year we instead focus on the gift of God that makes those resolutions possible. In fact, it is only because of the gift of Christ that we can dare to truly examine our past mistakes, free from the shame that keeps us from seeking change, and therefore empowered to practice the change we seek. It is only because of the hope in Christ, freely given, that we allow ourselves to look at our future and know that change is possible. It is only because of the love of God in Christ Jesus that we can dare to offer forgiveness and live in love in the midst of hatred and negative actions around us. It is only because of the grace of God in Christ Jesus that we can make right choices in the face of fear. And it is only the favor of God poured out on all the world that Holy Night so long ago that we are able to offer our lives and our gifts to God, not to gain God's favor, but in celebration of God's favor already given in Christ Jesus.

We begin this New Year, bathed in the glow of the Christmas Star, embraced by Christ, who was held by Mary, led by God, who loved the world so much that He gave his only begotten Son, that all who believe in him will be saved, and freed from the condemnation of past sins, present failures, and future struggles.

So that is my resolution, to be more focused on Christ, God with us, not only through the twelve days of Christmas but into the months to come.

*Pastor Polly*

## Sunday Small Groups

Begin at 9:00 am

*Small groups are also traditionally known as "Sunday School Classes". We want everyone to feel welcome to come try a small group and find what works for you & your family!*

**ARK** - Nursery, Pre-K & Kinder

**Kingdom Kids** - 1st thru 4th

**Encounter** - 5th thru 7th

**Fusion** - 8th thru 12th

**Journey** - Any Adult

**Home Builders** - Any Adult

**Wisdom** - Any Adult

All Adult Small Groups will meet in the Activity Building for a video Advent series during the month of December!

If you've never done one of Max Lucado's studies, you are sure to be in for a real treat!

**Come join us!**

# Youth

Youth will not meet on Wednesday, January 2nd. They will resume on Wednesday, January 9th. As we continue to search for leadership in our Youth Ministry, we encourage you to get involved. Our biggest need is someone to help clean-up after meals and just be a second adult present during meeting times.

**More Youth news will follow!**



**KIDS**

**KIDS & CHORES: Where's the motivation?**  
(From Compassion International)

If you're a parent, you know how unpleasant your kids can be when you ask them to do their chores. But think about what life would be like if you had to rely on the work of your kids to pay your rent and put food on the table. This is a situation that many parents in the developing world face each day.

Visit <http://www.compassionmedia.com/explorer> to get a puzzle your kids can complete to teach them about the ways Luis from Colombia helps around his house. After they finish the puzzle, encourage your kids to explore the differences between their responsibilities and Luis'.



*A HUGE thank you to all of our kiddos for leading our congregation into worship with beautiful bells this Advent Season! What a blessing they have been!*

*Pastor Polly will have a parent's meeting later this month, please stay tuned for further info!*

***We are still searching for the person that God has called to lead our Children's Ministry, but in the meantime, we continue to learn & love!***

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

Children's Ministry serves ages 3 - 6th

# Cookie Walk

Thank you to everyone who helped with our cookie walk! We had a fabulous turnout and were able to raise \$4,615.50.



## PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

We will be meeting on the 14th and 28th this month at 9am in the Activity Building Kitchen. We invite anyone who has a stitching, quilting, knitting or other project to join us. If you've never visited our group before, feel free to call me or the Church office for details.

*Happy stitching!*  
Donna Otto

## Music Note:



Hey Everyone! Ukulele is taking off until February. If Donna gets a gig early in February, I'll text or call for a practice beforehand. I'll have the new lineup ready before then. There will also be changes for practices. We'll start meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:45. We'll stay at 2 gigs per month and Donna's going to try and put them apart from each other and stay away from Friday afternoons. You don't realize how hard her job is. She's taken a lot off my plate. I'm going to use the extra time working on solos and new medleys. Each of you need a special solo that is yours so let me know if you have a special song that you like to sing and I'll put it in a medley. Pastor Polly & I will rotate helping with Choir practice. Schedule to follow!

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**2019 will bring new leadership to some of our committees and you may notice a few committees have updated their name to better represent what they do... if you aren't part of a committee, this is a fabulous way to support our church! See a list of committee chairs below and feel free to contact them directly or the Church office for more information!**

Admin Council	Carty Hicks	Finance Committee	Rex Vickers
Trustees	Barry & Jenny Cate	SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations)	Frank Perry
Family Life	Debbie Harris & Beth Vickers	Connections	Beth Vickers
Outreach/Missions	Julie Jarrell	Christian Growth	Mary Kamas
Worship	Deborah Hicks	Laity Leadership	Kenner Reinhardt
Prayer Committee	Cathy Reed	Preschool Board	Christan Rawson
Kitchen Ministry	Elizabeth Reinhardt & Cynthia Hanks	Audio/Visual	John Standing

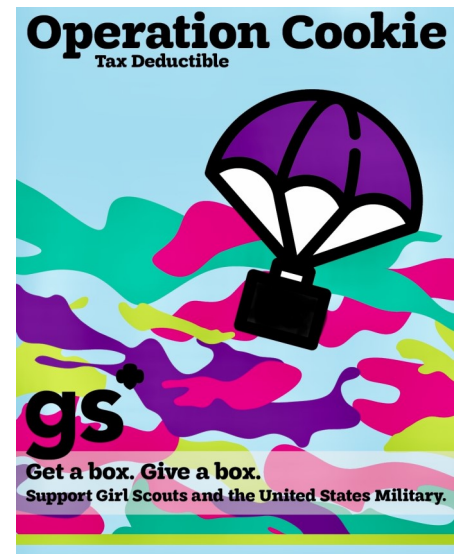


## OPERATION COOKIE

Girl Scouts will be knocking on doors soon -- tempting you with Thin Mints! If you have dietary restrictions that don't allow for these treats, or if you are blessed with superhuman willpower, please consider making a donation to Operation Cookie.

Each year Girl Scouts ship cookies to men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces around the world. Imagine a soldier from Texas stationed far from home, whether it be in Alaska or Afghanistan, receiving a little taste of home – a box of Girl Scout Cookies! Our Girl Scout Council covers the shipping costs, so every penny you donate buys more cookies for soldiers. In addition to the joy you bring a soldier, our local troop receives credit for the sale, so Franklin Girl Scouts earn the profit and rewards.

Donations will be accepted for the duration of the cookie sale, January 16<sup>th</sup> - February 24<sup>th</sup>. You may contact Wenona Taylor or drop your donation in the designated collection jar at any of our cookie booths. We also hope to have a collection jar in the church office!



## The FUMP Corner



Christmas is such a glorious season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. December has been a busy, short month for us at the preschool. The teachers assisted the children as they made special dough ornaments to be given to their parents for Christmas gifts. Each teacher made the ornaments unique to their class. I must admit, I was so proud of the teacher's creativity. In addition to the ornament making, our parents gave each class a special Christmas party with treats, crafts, story time, and just "plain ole fun." We love our wonderful, supportive parents. The Grand Finale was the FUMP Annual Christmas Program held at the FUMC Sanctuary on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. We performed to a packed house - our children are so loved!! Our very accomplished music teacher, Jenny Green, taught the children songs and Bible verses to present to family and friends. The program would not have been such a success without the extra practice provided by our parents and staff. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

The FUMP Staff continues to thank you for your prayers, as we minister to these precious children. We wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ,

Sherry Buchanan  
Director



# Christmas PARADE



Fun was had by all at the Franklin Christmas Parade! And... we won best Church Float! Thank you to everyone who made this possible!



## Committed to Prayer

As a praying church, we would like to form a group of people committed to praying for the concerns of the church and each other. This committee would be "where two or more" gather to intercede for the needs of others in addition to prayers already offered up by each of you in your daily prayer life - not instead of. Prayer should be our first priority in moving forward as a church and a resource for it's people. What does a committee like that look like? That will be up to it's members to decide once we meet. If you feel called to intercessory prayer, this is your place! Contact Cathy Reed to get connected and stay tuned to emails for our first meeting date!

Cathy Reed

979-255-7281

979-828-1776

[reed44@juno.com](mailto:reed44@juno.com)

*John 5:14-15: This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we*

## MOPS/MomsNext enjoys our Annual Jammies & Java Party



## Feast of Sharing

Thanks to each of you for sharing God's love with our neighbors!

Special memories were made and we look forward to continuing this community-wide tradition for years to come!

## Lending Library

Don't forget... we have motivational & Christian resources available to borrow! Take a minute or two to browse our new lending library located near the Narthex and find something that speaks to you! Have a book or DVD that you have found helpful or encouraging, we'd love your help to grow our library!

We also have greeting cards available!  
Pick some up today for a small donation to our Missions!



## Worship Committee

Happy New Year from the Worship Committee! The Season of Advent is behind us. What a joyful time it was for our Church family as we prepared for the arrival of and then welcomed the Christ Child.

January 7 - Meet to take down the Advent decorations. A chili dinner will be served.

January 28 - Meeting of the Worship Committee at 4:00 p.m.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to participate or volunteer to help the Worship Committee with these special opportunities of worship, please contact the church office and we will be happy to have your input and participation.

# 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.

Sanders Family	Harry Gilland	Marie Kellum	Ronny Hibbler
Archer Folterman	John Callaway	Jim Hanks	Madison Wilcox
Ginger Mareth	Katherine Scasta	Tom Fuller	Joey Mickelwitz
Mike Allen	Reeves Family	Dornbush Family	Akins Family

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



## Lay Readers

6th	Jeff Ripley
13th	Dave Klosterman
20th	Steve Peterson
27th	Grady Harris



## Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$20,040.57
Building Fund	\$13,437.00
Memorial/ Designated	\$2,945.00
Cookie Walk	\$4,615.50

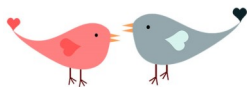
## Ushers

Jay Davis  
Jody Smith

## Average Attendance

98

*Christmas Attendance was 160*



## January Anniversaries

*14th - Todd & Julie Neyland*

*24th - Carty & Deborah Hicks*

*26th - Lewis Conner & Molly Dean*

*30th - Frank & Louise Cates*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st	Andy Reed	19th	Maddie Nelson
2nd	Mickie Callaway	21st	Raheem Green
	Mary Jane Magill		Meghan Moran
5th	Emalyn Klosterman		Jan Westerman
7th	Kyle Hoegemeyer		Keith Zamzow
	Kaye Poe	22nd	Mary Beth Taylor
9th	Austin Corn	24th	Ben Zamzow
10th	Landon Vickers	25th	Caitlyn Martin
11th	John Kamas	26th	Tabitha Cloat
14th	Austin Davis	28th	Amy Neichoy
15th	Sebie Harris	30th	Stephanie Broadus
	Cooper Huggins	31st	Jim Hanks
			Samantha Harris

# JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
Please see box below for list of regularly scheduled activities!						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Epiphany Fiesta Breakfast Christian Growth (Formerly Education) Meeting after Church				SPRC 6:30pm Conference Room		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Outreach/Missions Mtg. 5:30pm Activity Bldg.				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Choir - Wednesdays 5:00pm-5:40pm	Girl Scouts - Wednesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm	Praying Piecers - Select Mondays	Women's Emmaus - Wednesdays 7:00am & 6:00pm
Clothes Closet Volunteer - Mondays 3:00pm-5:00pm Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am	Men's Bible Study - TBA Men's Emmaus - Thursdays at 6:30am MOPS - Select Fridays 9:00am-11:00am	Preschool - Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm Ukulele - Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm United Methodist Women - 1st Mondays at 9:30am	Youth - Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

## Lectionary Reading for the Weekly Worship

January 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 13	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17,21-22
January 20	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 27	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Luke 4:14-21