

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



December 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

At the beginning of the services during the Advent season as we move closer and closer to Christmas worship, the children and youth will lead us in the tune “Light One Candle” by Natalie Sleeth. By now the tune will be familiar to most of you. The tune is simple and catchy and repetitive.

Light one candle for Hope, one bright candle for Hope, He brings Hope to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for Peace. One bright Candle for peace, He bring Peace to every heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for joy. One bright candle for joy every nation will find salvation in Bethle’em baby boy.

Light one candle for Love. One bright Candle for love. He brings Love for every heart. He comes, he comes.

Yet in this simple song is the truth of God’s great plan for us. Salvation come to earth in a baby boy. And for those of us who find belief in the saving work of Jesus on the cross, hope, peace, joy, and love abound. Yes, the message of salvation is clear, but perhaps the song’s greatest work is harder to find. It comes in the form of a command to light one candle.

If you are like me, the childhood tune This Little Light of Mine, I’m Gonna Let It Shine....comes to mind.

I was sitting in an African American Studies Class at the university. I loved this literature class and found all the reading a pleasure not a chore. And as you can imagine, I always had a thought or two to share about the text when I was asked. Some of the text were songs – like. “Lift Every Voice And Sing” and “Wade In The Water”. The teacher asked me one day to sing “This Little Light Of Mine” and I agreed, so I sang it just like I had learned it back in Sunday School in my little Northern American Baptist Church in Liberty Missouri, complete with “and if the devil doesn’t like it he can sit on a tack...”. You should have seen her eyes. “That is not the way the song goes.” came the response from the class, as if in stereo. After I assured them that I was indeed singing it as I had learned it, and they assured me that I was wrong, the teacher invited them to sing it for me. Out of the students, both those who would share in class and those who never spoke a word, came the most soulful rendition of “This Little Light of Mine”... It was magical. After class the teacher stopped me and said “You did that on purpose, didn’t you?” I assured her I did not. Then she replied, “Yes, you did, you just wanted to get them to sing.” Really, I said, I sang it the way I had learned it. They sang it like they intended to do it.

That is the power of the song – the command and the commitment to light our candles, for hope, peace, joy, love, and Christ. The only question is whether we intend to simply sing it, or to sing it with the intent to do it.

Maybe you will bring a meal to a sick friend. Or babysit a child for a single parent. Maybe you will purchase a gift for the less fortunate, or participate in the service projects of the Feast of Sharing. Maybe you will add intentional pray for your neighbor’s, or make phone calls to the lonely. Maybe you will visit the nursing home, or make cookies for the EMS workers. Whatever you do in love, will shine a little Christmas light on those who receive it, see it, and participate in it.

**Merry Christmas!**

*Pastor Polly*

## December Monthly Mission



### Christmas Angels

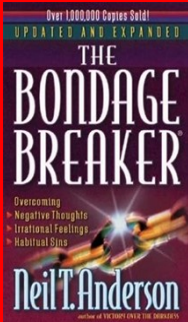


### Christmas Angels

Every year the churches and businesses in the Franklin Community join together to provide

Christmas Gifts for children in need in the Franklin ISD area. We consolidate our lists and divide them up...our church family will be providing presents for 24 children this year. The wish lists for these children are available at the back of the church sanctuary or call the church office. Wrapped presents are due back by **Sunday, December 15**. If you would like to sign up to be a blessing to a child (or several children), please let us know. You can buy and wrap the gifts yourself or provide a monetary donation and others will shop for you! **Gift instructions** are on take-home slips by the signup lists. For more information call the church office or contact Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406 or [rexandbeth@gmail.com](mailto:rexandbeth@gmail.com).

*Suggested value of presents per child is \$50-\$75 and items purchased on Black Friday or on sale should be counted at their normal retail price.*



The Journey Sunday morning small group is beginning a new study on January 5th.

If you aren't already committed to a Sunday morning small group, come join us as we explore how to be set free to live fully as a child of God.

Some of the topics we'll cover:

- ♦ the battle for our minds and how to win it
- ♦ who we are in Christ and how God wants us to live
- ♦ how to recognize spiritual conflict and take thoughts captive
- ♦ how to heal damaged emotions
- ♦ what it means to forgive from the heart

**We meet in the Activity Building kitchen at 9:00 am Sunday mornings.**

For more information contact Mary Kamas 979-777-1038

## Holiday Feast of Sharing

The Community **Holiday Feast of Sharing** will be on **Saturday, December 7**. The Franklin Community has a 20-year tradition of providing delicious Holiday meals for families and individuals that may not receive that meal any other way and that need a reminder that our community cares for them. Many churches in the community join together to make this event a reality and there are numerous ways for you, as a member of our church family, to participate in this event. The signup lists are at the back of the church sanctuary or call the church office to volunteer!

**Prep Work:** the week before December 7. Our Church is in charge of sautéing all onions and celery for the cornbread dressing.

**Kitchen Worker:** 2 hour prep shift the morning of 12/7 at the Franklin Middle School Cafeteria.

**Bake Sheet Cakes:** to be cut and delivered as part of the Holiday meal. We need 25 from our church!

**Clean-up Crew:** Around 1:00 on 12/7 at the Middle School cafeteria.

**Delivery Driver:** Deliver food on 12/7. Each year, we deliver nearly 1,000 meals! The more drivers we have, the lighter the load & more importantly, the more time you get to visit with those on your route! Often, the best part of the day is sharing His love with our neighbors! Meal pickup will start around 11am.

**To volunteer for any of the above needs, please contact the church office, Beth Vickers, [rexandbeth@gmail.com](mailto:rexandbeth@gmail.com), or Keith Zamzow, [kw-zamzow@live.com](mailto:kw-zamzow@live.com)**

## The FUMP CORNER

*'Tis the season! For unto us a child is born*

*Isaiah 9:6*

Practice makes perfect~well almost perfect. When you are leading a group of preschoolers, from 14 months to 4 years of age, you get as close to perfection as you can. The Christmas Program practice is in full swing. The Angel's halos are set straight, the Drummer Boy's drums are getting polished, and the Reindeer are sharpening their antlers. The Christmas Trees are decorated, and the Gold Star is shining brightly. Everyone is ready to hear our preschool kiddos sing their hearts out. The program will be December 17 at 6:00pm.

I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support. The preschool is a mission field as we minister to our children and their families. May you and your family find many blessings to celebrate during this joyous season. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,  
Sherry Buchanan, Director FUMP



The Season of Advent is upon us. What a joyful time for our Church family as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ

Child. The Worship Committee has already been busy making plans for the Season.

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent. The sanctuary will be decorated for the season.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 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.*

## PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

We will be meeting on the 9th and 23rd of the month. Come join us in the Activity Building Kitchen from 9am - Noon. We enjoy working on sewing, quilting and other various projects, while we fellowship and enjoy a potluck meal together.

If you don't have your own project to work on, we'd be happy to let you help in this wonderful outreach project.

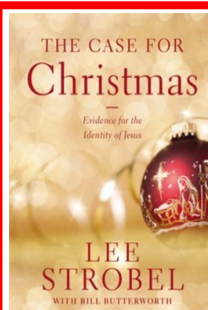
### Music Note:

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Psalm 95:1*

The Choir, Sonshine Strummers and even our youngest, newest Ukulele players, continue to praise Him with a joyful noise!

The Sonshine Strummers have two performances in December. On Friday, December 6 at 6:30pm at Crestview in Bryan and at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 18 at Parc at Traditions also in Bryan.

Mrs. Otto is continuing to book gigs for the Ukulele Band, so if you've never had the blessing of watching them perform, make plans to do so soon!



Please join us for an  
Advent study

### ***The Case for Christmas.***

By Lee Strobel

Every Sunday

9:00am—10:00am

In the Activity Building

Questions? Contact Meghan Moran  
(979) 240-4195 or

[MeghanLMoran@yahoo.com](mailto:MeghanLMoran@yahoo.com)





# Youth

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever."  
(2 Chronicles 16:34)

This month we have many opportunities to demonstrate our gratitude to God for His eternal love shown through the gift of His Son. Just a couple of ministries that our youth will be participating in are the Feast of Sharing (Dec. 7th) and the Cookie Walk (Dec. 14th). We will also celebrate Jesus's birth at our Christmas party the evening of Dec. 14th at Julie Jarrell's home.

## Important Dates

Wed. Dec. 4th: Baking cakes for the Feast of Sharing  
Sat. Dec. 14th, 8:45 am: serve as Mrs. Claus' elves  
Wed. Dec. 18th: Mystery destination  
Wed. Dec. 25th: No FUMYF  
Wed. Jan. 1st: No FUMYF  
Jan. 8th @ 5:00 pm: 2020 Youth Council will meet.  
Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, 2020: Ignite Youth Retreat (for 7th-12th graders) at Lakeview

Thank you, faithful church family members who bring supper for our youth on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays each month! We so appreciate your loving offering!

The following dates are available:

Wed. Feb. 12, 2020

Wed. Feb. 26, 2020



Would you consider preparing a meal for us? The youth are not picky :-)) and are very appreciative of the meals they receive. Please contact me if you can help on a monthly or occasional basis.

In Christ's love,  
Mary

## FUMYC KIDS



Precious children of our church family!

You are invited to a birthday party for Jesus.

Sunday, Dec. 22 at 9:00 am in the Education Building



### SPRING WALK DATES MOVED UP

#### Upcoming Spiritual Retreats

**Men's Walk Weekend: FEBRUARY 6-9**

**Women's Walk Weekend: FEBRUARY 20-23**

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 @ 6:30am in Kitchen

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

**Women's Awaken Reunion Group**  
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in Education Building



## Prayer Committee

Are you getting the weekly email of Prayer Request from Your Church Family? If you are not, please call the church office to confirm your email address. Also, always check the Prayer Request in this newsletter for others in need of prayer.

*Be joyful always; pray continually  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*

# Cookie Walk

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 9AM TO NOON**

It's that time of year again...time to decide on which Cookies you will be baking for our 5th Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser! All proceeds go to pay off the Building Note! If you are new to FUMC you may be asking

**"What is a Cookie Walk?"**

Tables and tables of **HOMEMADE COOKIES!** Sold by the pound. Each customer is provided with a bakery box to walk around the tables choosing the cookies they wish to purchase. We weigh their box on the way out...it's that simple.

**What do we need from YOU?**

**NOW is the time to sign up to bake cookies!!**

## **\*\*COOKIES, COOKIES AND MORE COOKIES!!\*\***

We need many varieties of fresh-baked delicious cookies; good old-fashioned ones as well as fun new creations.

**Details:** All must be Homemade Goodies. (Fudge and Candies are also welcome) Each family is asked to commit to making a MINIMUM of 5 pounds (which should be about equivalent to a double or triple batch, maybe 4-5 dozen). They should be fresh baked that week. Cookies can be made by people individually or some work in teams at the church. We really need medium or smaller size, attractive cookies that have a little weight to them. Larger ones are fine if they are specialty...we often bag those individually or in small batches. Festive Christmas cookies are a big hit. We don't need too many of the ordinary cookies (plain chocolate chip, etc) no matter how delicious, they don't sell quite as well at these type of events, so although we still need them, we will limit the number of basic cookies. Please call the church or Beth Vickers (979-255-1406) to sign up and let us know what variety of cookies you are bringing (that way we don't have too many of the same kind!). If you need help, we have a list of suggested recipes available (there are many wonderful Christmas cookie ideas on Pinterest under "Cookie Walk".) We will need the cookies delivered to the church by Friday, December 13.

## **\*\*CHRISTMAS STORE ITEMS\*\***

We will once again have a fun Christmas Store. We need unique "select" items that can be bought for Christmas presents or used as decorations.

Suggestions: Decorative gift baskets filled with goodies, homemade jams, specialty breads, fun or beautifully crafted items ...please call church office or Beth Vickers to let us know what you are planning to provide for our Christmas Store.

*Also, if you would like to help as a hostess on the day of the event, please let us know!*

### **In Memory of**

*Bartie and Tom Adams  
By: E.W. and Bea Bridwell*

*Ray Akins  
By: Virginia Akins*

*Dona Harris  
By: Sebie Harris*

*Jimmy Harris  
By: Andy and Jill Harris*

*Robert and Anne Hovey  
By: Anne and Frank Perry*

*Jimmy Huggins  
By: Scott Huggins Family*

*Robert Allen Martinez  
By: The Smith Family  
Josh, Felicia, Jaycee and  
Jordy*

*Mary Lou Miller  
By: Rhonda and James Miller*

*Our Parents  
By: John and Mickie Callaway*

*Haile and Gertrude Perry  
By: Anne and Frank Perry*

*James Pye  
By: Rhonda and Jim Miller*

*Tracy Stem  
By: Monica and Greg Stem*

*Mary Jane Welty  
By: Julie Jarrell*

*Charlie, Lou and Family  
By: Lou Whatley and the Girls*

*Kenny and Ruth Wootton  
By: Betty Craig*

### **In Honor of**

*Thad and Dortha Allen  
By: Deborah and Carty Hicks*

*God for answered prayers  
By: Andy and Cathy Reed*

*Grandchildren: Brandon, Ryna, Archer,  
Nate, Alexandra and Jackson  
By: Terri Foltermann*

*Andy Harris Family  
By: Helen and Gary Shumaker*

*Our Parents and Grandparents  
By: Todd, Julie, Drew and Will Neyland*

*Our Parents and Grandparents  
By: Ken, Robbie, Lilly and Noah Reinhardt*

*Marie Stem  
By: Monica and Greg Stem*

*Kye Tonlon, U.S. Navy  
By: Jody E. Smith*

### **In Prayer for**

*Ginger Mareth  
By: Molly Dean*

**Poinsettias Donations  
(as of November 25, 2019)  
Please let the church  
office know of any name  
corrections as soon as  
possible.**

# 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.

Stephanie Broadus

Ginger Mareth

Barbara and Jim Eller

Grady Harris

Madison Sexton Wilcox

Mike Allen  
(Cynthia Hanks' Brother-in-Law)

United Methodist Family of Faith

Tonya Boyette

The Stacey Family

Katherine Scasta

Tom and Bessie Fuller

Church family-  
We're excited to  
share that our  
church now has ac-  
cess to an extensive,

new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As a church staff, we're always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow.

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## December Anniversaries

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

## Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	24,021.54
Building Fund	\$	5,500.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	2,410.50
Poinsettias	\$	480.00
Feast of Sharing	\$	500.00
Christmas Angels	\$	390.00



## Lay Readers

1st	Meghan Moran
8th	Julie Jarrell
15th	Wayne Huggins
22nd	Wenona Taylor
24th	Wayne Huggins
29th	Joe COrn



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

## Ushers for December

Jody Smith and  
Greg Stem

**Average Attendance**  
82

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Scott Hailey	15th	Isaac Kamas
	Shane Broadus	16th	Cathy Reed
2nd	Erabella Cloat		Mary Kay Smith
3rd	Scott Huggins	17th	Steve Conrad
	K.C. Kamas	18th	Lauren Comer
4th	Sandra Hoegemeyer	19th	Rachel Kamas
	Kip Kissinger	22nd	Alex Huggins
	Charles Ellison	24th	Wayne Cloat
	Lilly Harris	25th	Jesus
5th	Madison Sexton-Wilcox	26th	Lara Barnett Thibodeaux
7th	Wenona Taylor		Bobby Graham
9th	Ariel Kissinger	27th	Earnest Smith
10th	Jeff Ripley	28	Laura Ripley
	Isaac Michael		Birgitte Bly
11th	Rhonda Miller	29th	Caleb Moran
13th	Luke Kamas		



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 MOPS 10am-12pm Children's Choir Practice 3:45-4:30pm	3	4	5	6 Sonshine Strummers 6:30pm Crestview in Bryan	7 Community Feast of Sharing
Regularly Scheduled Events listed below!						
8	9 Praying Piecers 9am-12pm Children's Choir Practice 3:45-4:30pm	10	11	12	13	14 COOKIE WALK 9:00AM—NOON
15 Christmas Angels Wrapped gifts due	16 MOPS 10am-12pm Children's Choir Practice 3:45-4:30pm	17 Preschool Christmas Program 6:00pm	18 Sonshine Strummers 6:00pm The Parc at Traditions in Bryan	19 Last Day for Preschool before Christmas break	20	21
22 Children's Choir Performance During Worship	23 Praying Piecers 9am-12pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 6:00PM	25 Christ is born! Have a Blessed Christmas! Church office on limited hours or closed.	26	27	28
29	30 Church office on limited hours or closed.	31	January 1	2	3	4

Choir - Wednesdays 5:00pm-5:40pm	Girl Scouts - Wednesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm	Praying Piecers - Select Mondays
Clothes Closet Volunteer -	Youth - Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm	United Methodist Women - 1st Mondays at 9:30am
Mondays 3:00pm-5:00pm	Men's Emmaus - Thursdays at 6:30am	Ukulele - Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm
Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am	Women's Emmaus - Wednesdays 7:00am & 6:00pm	Beginner Lessons - Thursdays By Appt.

## Lectionary Reading for Weekly Worship

December 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
December 8	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
December 15	Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 1:46-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
December 22	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
December 25	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-4	John 1:1-14
December 29	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalms 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23