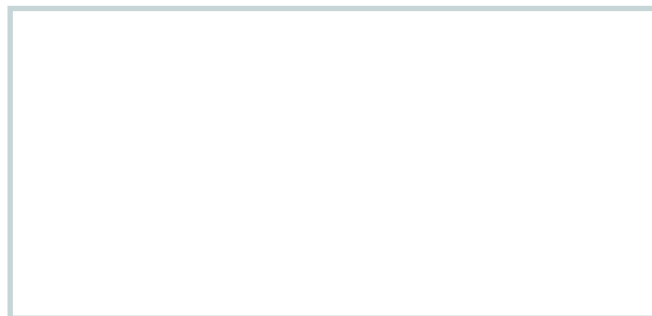


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



April 2020



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

“Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon Son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:17 & 18

Long before I have served as a pastor in a church, long before I was ordained and long before I attended seminary, I told one of the members of my church that I wanted to write about the reason for suffering in the world. He didn't laugh and for that I am grateful. But he did say that I was seeking to tackle an issue that has been a wrestling point for Christians since the time of Christ. Today that encounter that occurred so many years ago has returned to my thoughts. Maybe this is not too surprising considering all the talk of suffering and potential death due to the current health scare.

I certainly do not think I have the answer but I want to share with you some thoughts that I am pondering about today. I was reading ahead in my Celtic Daily Prayer Book and there on the section for April 1st there was mention of a book by Gene Edwards. “You must read this-you'll hate it!” Immediately I thought “what kind of recommendation is that?” Immediately following was the thought, “Where can I get this book?” Lucky for me the next few days devotions are based on that very book. And so, I continued reading ahead. Let me share with you words that were found under April 5th on page 370.

“There are enough stones here to build a city! A very large city. Can you hear the masons? They are beginning to return to their work over there. Hear the hammers? The chisels? One day, when all these stones are completed, they will be taken to the site, near the house. There they will be taken through the door, and from there to the builders' site itself, where the stones are being reassembled. Reassembled, but this time into a house...almost as one vast stone. At that site, on *that* side of the door, there will be no hammer, no chisel, no mason work at all. It is here, on this side of the building site, where all chiseling, sanding and polishing *must* take place. Here! Not there. All the thud of hammer and falling of axes, the grating of chisels and the grinding of sand...is done *here!* It is the plan of the Master Builder that all the business of making rough rock into perfectly fitting, polished stone be accomplished in the stone quarry. *There*, there, beyond this place, beyond that door, is only the assembling together of what has been done here.”

That put the verse found in Matthew declaring that Peter would be the rock upon which Christ would build his church to take on new meaning. Because it is no longer a statement only about Peter. In light of the idea that God is the Master Builder and has the means to take ordinary people who believe and to shape them into the stones that He will use to build His church tells me that you and I are some of the building stones that are being shaped, sanded and polished to fit perfectly together to build Christ's church. In this sense the earth becomes the quarry in which the stones are cut free. And the moments in time that shape us become the hammer and the chisel God uses to fit us for the determined place He has chosen for us in the building of the church.

It seems to me that with that kind of thinking I can begin to look at each situation, good or bad, as a potential for God to use that experience to shape and perfectly fit me for His plans for my life and for building up the church. So especially in this moment when things are uncertain let us look carefully and ask God's guidance to see what He has in for us to learn in this time that might shape us for His good. This might not remove the suffering but it can bring purpose out of the suffering.

And let us give God the glory because He is using ordinary people to build His church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.

Pastor Polly



Worship
Committee

Plans for the Lenten Season and Easter celebrations are fluid right now, as you probably already know. The Lenten Lunches and Devotionals have

been cancelled. The following is the current schedule for Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations, but keep in mind that this may not hold.

Please read Pastor Polly's communications as she continues to inform the congregation of ways and opportunities to continue your worship in your own home. She has worked diligently to find ways that we can continue to enjoy and enrich our lives during this holy season.

April 5 Palm Sunday Pick up Communion elements on Saturday, April 4 at the circle driveway in front of the Education Building. Palm Sunday Worship will be videoed and posted online.

April 10 Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be videoed and posted online..

April 12 Easter Sunday Easter Sunday Worship will be videoed and posted online.

God bless each of you as you prepare your hearts and minds throughout this most Holy Season. Our prayers are with each and every household as we weather this storm, knowing that God is with us and will see us through.

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.

April Mission of the Month U.M. ARMY

U.M. ARMY is an acronym which stands for **United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth**. U.M. ARMY's mission is: "To provide Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults."

U.M. ARMY mission programs are an opportunity for youth, young adults and adult leaders to experience Christian growth through mission, worship and fellowship. Individual participants and church groups combine their strengths with those of other groups to meet home repair and maintenance needs of those unable to help themselves.

U.M. ARMY has been in mission since 1979. Our program is constantly growing in size and territory. We have managed to touch many lives over those years. Annually we have approximately 5,000 participants working on about 2,000 projects and now have several mission models that serve throughout the year.

The FUMP CORNER

For He is not here. He is risen. Matthew 28:6



Teaching our kids about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most important lessons we can teach. It is the Gospel and it applies to our lives every day. Our goal is to provide the children with activities about Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Our goal is to demonstrate what He did for us and what it means to have a new life in Christ.

I want to assure each of you that during the COVID-19 health alert, the Preschool has and will continue to take every measure to help prevent any spread of the virus. Parents have been provided updated information as it has been given to me.

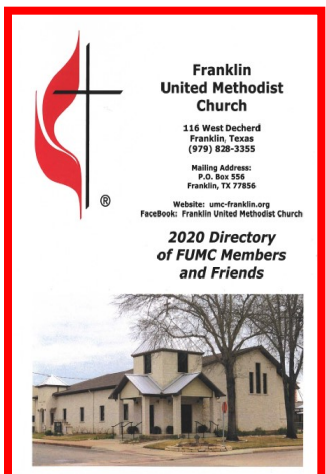
Thank you for your love, prayers and support as we minister to the precious children and their families. God bless each of you.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan, Director FUMP



**PLEASE BE
SURE TO
CHECK THE
CHURCH
WEBSITE
AND
FACEBOOK
PAGES FOR
UP-TO-DATE
MEETING
DATES AND
TIMES.**

**IT'S HERE!!!
THE NEW DIRECTORY.**



Contact the church office to arrange to get your copy.

Youth

I was recently encouraged to memorize Phil. 4:4-7. Here it is in the amplified version: "Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, take pleasure in Him]; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle *spirit* [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]".

The Apostle Paul knew the "secret" of living through uncertain times: delighting in God while replacing anxiety with prayer. May we each draw closer to Jesus as we navigate these "unchartered waters."

Events previously scheduled for April are presently on hold.

In Christ's love,
Mary



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.

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara and Jim Eller | Madison Sexton Wilcox | The Stacey Family |
| Grady Harris | United Methodist Family of Faith | Katherine Scasta |
| Tonya Boyette | Mike Allen | Tom and Bessie Fuller |
| Peggy and Edwin Cooper | | |

Thank You!

I want to thank you all for the awesome expression of love of which I was a recipient. Those of you who attended the luncheon noticed that I was moved and without words to express my gratitude. When the time came for the March newsletter to be published, I found I was still without words to express my thanks. And to tell you the truth I am not sure I am ready now.

That day as I looked around the room and saw the expressions on the faces of the family of faith I have truly come to love, I was then, and continue to be now, profoundly aware how extremely fortunate I am to have been called to serve among you. You have invited me into your lives. You have allowed me to pray with you; to listen to your dreams, hopes and fears. And you have cared for my family and offered your prayers. I do not take any of that for granted. So, thank you, not only for the gifts and the party, but for the loving relationship that it represented. I am proud to be called your pastor, your friend, and more importantly your sister in Christ.

Pastor Polly

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 1st | Peggy Cooper | 12th | Michael Homann |
| 2nd | Bettie Jordan | | Haley Caubarreaux |
| 3rd | Katie Kamas | 14th | Regan Corn |
| | Shane Huggins | 18th | Monica Stem |
| | Noah Reinhardt | 20th | Pate Cate |
| | Zachary Davis | 21st | Julie Jarrell |
| 4th | Jack Hutchinson | 22nd | Eric Law |
| 6th | Kyle Reinhardt | 23rd | Sarah Davis |
| | Laurel Lennie | 25th | Andy Scasta |
| 7th | Kevin Rawson | 30th | Debbie Harris |
| 8th | Lacey Buckner | | Jerry Rawson |
| 10th | Jason Bailey | | |
| | Lilly Reinhardt | | |

Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	19,921.05
Building Fund	\$	4,975.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	497.00



- Eric Michael (Air Force)
Rachel Johnson (Army National Guard, MP)
Benjamin Standing (National Guard)
PFC Joseph Pawley (Army)

April Anniversaries



- 9th Keith & Terri Foltermann
22nd Kip & Kristi Kissinger
29th Jack & Pamela Cloat