

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



**May 2020**



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

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."  
Ephesians 1:16*

One of the first things I remember about John Wesley, the unintentional founder of our faith, was that he grew up in a home where prayer was held in great regard. I knew this because I had read about one of his mother Susanna's habits. There were multiple times a day when she would pull her apron over her face and she would enter into prayer. During this time the children knew not to disturb her. She was the mother of between 17 and 19 children, 10 of which survived. John and Charles Wesley (writer of many of our hymn's lyrics) were two of those 10 children. Both young men grew to value the power of prayer.

Sharon Glasgow states that "When Susanna was young, she promised the Lord that for every hour she spent in entertainment, she would give the same to Him in prayer and in the Word." The only problem was that as a mother of so many living in poverty and doing the schooling herself at home (some of you have a whole new experience of this struggle) and all the farm chores there was no time for entertainment so she altered her agreement with God settling on two hours in prayer! Mind you that is what she settled on—she wanted more. And in order to get those hours of prayer in she devised a system telling her children that whenever they saw her with her apron over her head, they would know that she was in prayer and they were not to disturb her.

When John was older, he wrote a letter to Miss March (3-29-1760) and said that prayer "is the grand means of drawing near to God." In his New Testament notes on 1 Thessalonians 5:16 he stated that prayer is "the breath of our spiritual life." In fact, he felt so strongly about prayer that he stated in his sermon entitled "The Wilderness State" that it was the "neglect of prayer" that is the most common reason people lose their faith.

During this time of isolation and social distancing there is One to whom we can draw closer. We do not need to meet in a fancy building (don't get me wrong—I can't wait for that day) because no matter where we are **we are the church** and our spiritual growth can and will continue if we take seriously the power and the spiritual enrichment that can be found in prayer. I am so grateful for the way you already demonstrate your understanding of the truth as you pray for one another. I am grateful for our prayer committee that is willing to intercede in prayer on our behalf. And I am so grateful for the many opportunities I have to pray with you all as we seek to be God's family of faith appointed here to Franklin United Methodist. John Wesley understood that praying for others was an act of love.

In fact, I recall that at the end of Jesus' life he spent much of it in prayer. Praying with and for his disciples. And on the cross Jesus even entered into prayer asking God to forgive the people because they did not know what they were doing.

So, as you sit in your homes, or in your backyard, you can grow and deepen your spiritual life through prayer and in the process we will be strengthening our family of faith in preparation for returning to worship together.

Oh, and one more thing, just before Jesus was arrested, he prayed for you and me "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As You, Father, are in me and I am in You, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You sent me."  
John 17:20-21

## Pastor Polly

**NEW LANDLINE FOR PASTOR POLLY.**



**You can now also reach  
Pastor Polly on the newly  
installed landline of  
979-828-4423.**



The Worship Committee has postponed our meeting when we would normally be planning worship events for May, so there are no set plans for these very special

worship opportunities at this time. However, the following are dates of importance to remember.

**Mothers' Day May 10**

**Memorial Day Remembrance May 24**

**Please remember our graduating seniors.** This has been a painful and disappointing year for those students – certainly not how they expected to end this time of their lives. Each one of them experienced the very last day of their high school or college days without even realizing that this would be their last day – the last day on campus with their friends and teachers. For them, there was little opportunity for closure. Let's remember them and express our love and pride to them.

We are so fortunate that we have had the creative and diligent efforts of Pastor Polly, Mary Kamas and Frances Boyette to provide a sense of worship community during this time. Pastor Polly has had the very difficult challenge of delivering a message each week without the benefit of looking out at the faces of the congregation she loves.

We also had the opportunity to share communion "together" without actually being together. What a blessing this was!

Mary Kamas has provided lovely devotionals and Frances Boyette has kept us bound through communication and sending us the weekly Worship Guide.

Aren't we lucky to have these wonderful, devoted people in our lives who work tirelessly to help us maintain a semblance of order during this unprecedented time in our lives! Please take the time to thank them, as well as others who work to continue the work of our church – like Beth Vickers and Barry & Jenny Cate or any other person that you know who has worked hard to continue the work of our church.

Expressing gratitude is also a form of worship. Take time to show gratitude and thanks for the dedicated efforts of others and the good things that remain in our lives.

*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.*

## The FUMP CORNER

Spring is in the air and the grounds at the Church look amazing!! We have some beautiful new flower beds by the playground. A big "shout-out" of thanks to the trustees of the FUMC under the leadership of Barry Cate and his wife Jenny. The landscape on the entire property is absolutely beautiful!

Fall registration has started and God willing we will be back in our comfort zone soon.

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



## May Mission of the Month Franklin Food Pantry

Serving families experiencing food insecurity in Franklin ISD.

Every Saturday a group of very dedicated volunteers gather to help those that are needing a little help with food items. Since the COVID-19 crisis began request for assistance from food banks in Texas has increased by almost 300%. This increase in request for assistance has obviously depleted existing inventory. Most in need are any kind of non-perishable goods:

All pasta products; macaroni and cheese, egg noodles, ramen noodles, spaghetti

Toilet paper

Ground coffee and tea bags

Canned meat products; chicken, tuna, chili,

Vienna sausage

**Monetary donations are also gladly accepted.**



MAY 3, 2020 is  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

Prepackaged and blessed Communion elements will be available from Noon to 5pm Saturday, May 2. This will be a no-contact pick up. Drive through the circle drive around the playground and reach through your car window and select one bag per household. Inside you will find the bread and juice. On Sunday morning put the juice in a small cup and place the bread on a small saucer. Then bring up the worship service and follow along. Together we will worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper in Spirit and truth.



Want to join a mission and help make face masks for the food pantry, nursing home personnel, Clothes Closet and really anybody that needs one? Here's how you can help. If you don't sew you can cut. We need 10" x 6" rectangles cut from 100% cotton material. Think old tee shirts, etc. If you can't cut why not just donate those old tee shirts? Lots of folks need something to do while watching those old I Love

Lucy and Columbo reruns! We could also use that old thread that's been in your sewing box for years! Doesn't matter the color. If you do sew, boy do we need your help in putting these masks together. You can leave or pick up these cut out rectangles from the church office. If nobody is at the office, just put the cut outs in an envelope or zip lock bag and drop in the mail slot at the church. Any questions you can contact Julie Jarrell or Olivia Campbell.

# Youth

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
 May the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
 And be gracious unto you  
 May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
 And give you peace...  
 Numbers 6:24-26

Since we were unable to participate together in the 30 Hour Famine at the end of April, the event will be rescheduled for a weekend during July.

In Christ's love,  
 Mary



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT LAKVIEW SUMMER CAMP HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR.**



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  
 Grady Harris  
 Tonya Boyette  
 Peggy Cooper

Madison Sexton Wilcox  
 United Methodist Family of Faith  
 Mike Allen  
 (Cynthia Hanks' Brother-in-Law)

The Stacey Family  
 Katherine Scasta  
 Tom and Bessie Fuller

## The National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7th

This is an annual event that we have participated in for years and although it will look a little different this year, the need for collective prayer at this time is very obvious. We will forgo the "come and go" prayer time in our sanctuary to protect the health of all; but will instead have brochures available outside the church that will suggest several areas of current concern along with a brief prayer. We plan to have these ready for pick up on Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7. Please don't feel limited by these suggestions.

- \*Pray for the Sick
- \*Pray for Healthcare Workers
- \*Pray for the Vulnerable
- \*Pray for the Unemployed
- \*Pray for Our Leaders and Our Country
- \*Pray for Students and Families
- \*Pray for our Churches

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Kay Kastner	16th	Virginia Akins
3rd	Charles Westerman		Bea Bridwell
	Allen Homann		Laura Cate
4th	Katherine Scasta	20th	Anne Perry
8th	Jay Davis	21st	Teddy Vickers
9th	Mary Kamas	23rd	Brody Huggins
	Brooke Broadus	25	Tammy Sexton
10th	Denver Richard		Cindy Briggs
11th	Dorthea Allen	29th	Colton Ripley
13th	Barry Cate		

## May Anniversaries



9th	Andy & Cathy Reed
20th	Jay & Brenda Davis
22nd	Kelley & Tammy Sexton
30th	Greg & Monica Stem
	Cole & Tiffani McKinney

### Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	18,959.90
Building Fund	\$	2,201.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	1,575.00



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