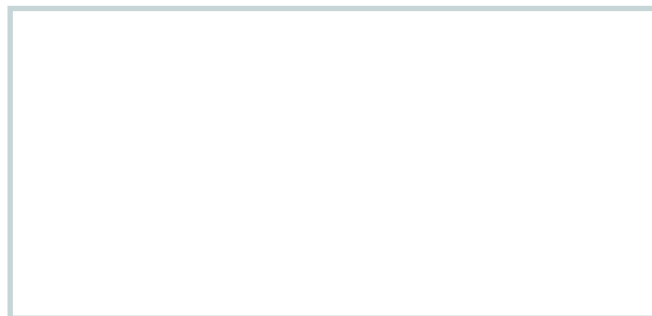


Franklin United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



**June 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

Note of Encouragement, Seminary Plea, and Words from The Past

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13*

While we have been worshipping on line we have had the opportunity to partner with several churches in the area. It has been a pleasure knowing they were joining us in spirit each week. Though I have not had the pleasure of meeting them in person, they have made an impact on my life. In fact, one member of another church sent a note of encouragement; word of thanks for the opportunity. Her words were a great source of encouragement to me. It was, however, her last two statements that have stayed with me taking hold of my thinking:

"The challenges and loneliness of this time of separation wasn't planned, but it has blessed us in many ways."

"New and different is sometimes what we unknowingly need."

This morning I opened up another message, this one was from the seminary I attended. In that letter it stated that Professor Alyce McKenzie's blogs "Preaching to an Empty Room" and "Preaching to an Empty Tomb" are reaching far beyond the seminary walls and these two texts are being translated into Portuguese and Spanish. I had Professor McKenzie for preaching class back in the old days when classes were held in person and students sat within two feet of each other. Long before society trends have shown a decrease in seminary attendance all across the U.S. The times certainly have changed. But then again change is the only constant in life. "New and different is sometimes what we unknowingly need." The message went on to say how there is increased need for scholarship funds to help support those who are willing to serve during these difficult times. I am one of those who has benefited from scholarships in the past having attended on a Dean's scholarship. There sitting alone in the house I was immediately taken back to the days when I would preach a sermon to a small class of ten while the professor video taped it. Then we would be asked into Professor McKenzie's office to watch it and receive constructive criticism and words of encouragements. Talk about feeling lonely – hard enough to watch yourself preach let alone sitting on the same couch as an expert in the field. But that was exactly what I needed. Yes, "New and different is sometimes what we unknowingly need." Professor McKenzie helped me to understand that the sermon is not just about words on a page, but about words being exchanged by those who are drawn into relationships through the God who enables both the giving and the receiving of words. I think it made me a more thoughtful preacher.

Many years ago, long before I thought about preaching or seminary, I was the one sitting in the pew. I sat at the back with the rest of the youth. Sometimes we played the dot to dot game on the worship guide, sometimes we wrote notes and passed them back and forth. We didn't always seem like we were paying attention, but we were. In fact, sitting in that small white framed church I heard some words that have stayed with me. There was a missionary from Russia who had come to speak to us. Really quite remarkable since this was in the early 70's. But this morning as I read about the difficulties at the seminary, and recalled the note of gratitude for the encouragement one woman felt during lonely and difficult times, the words of that Russian missionary came to the forefront of my memory. You see at the end of his talk he said "I ask that you pray for the Russian people, that their lives not be so difficult that they think there is no God, and we will pray for you that your lives will not be so easy that you think you need not God." If these days of isolation, and inconvenience are good for nothing else, then I pray that they will be just what we need to remind us of our need for God. And then I hope you will join me in praying not only for the Russian people but for people all over the world, that their lives not be so hard that they think there is no God.

See you Sunday at the Ranch!!!

*Pastor Polly*

# Youth

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-7)

The FUMYF will begin meeting together again on Wednesday nights on June 3rd @ 6:00 p.m. This first meeting will be spent outside at the Kamas's home. As we begin to experience the coexistence of youth group and social distancing, we will be challenged to "walk in the light, as he [Jesus] is in the light." We will explore that God has a lot to say to us in 1 John about the interconnection of fellowship, love, and obedience.

After more thought and prayer, the decision has been made not to participate in UM ARMY's Local program. However, UM ARMY is also offering UM ARMY Home, which is family based. Here's basic information:

**What is U.M. ARMY Home - \$50/person**  
For Individuals or families that cannot participate in a U.M. ARMY Local model

Mission in a box

Prerecorded worship services included with

"All-In" thematic materials

Participate any 3 days as an individual or with your family Families Register through [umarmy.net](http://umarmy.net)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

In Christ's love,  
Mary

## The FUMP CORNER

The year did not end the way we planned, but we were able to celebrate our preschool graduates with a drive through parade. It was such fun to see cars, trucks and ATV's all decorated as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins passed through. The graduates were gifted with a special Dr. Seuss book, *Oh the Places You Will Go*. This has been the tradition for several years and what a special book it is. The parents can have the teachers from now until high school graduation write in it each year. What a blessing for the children to read how their teachers through the years wrote encouraging words.

During the unknown journey of COVID-19, stay at home orders, school closures, loss of jobs and lives, the FUMP staff sends an enormous thank you to the Finance Committee, headed by Rex Vickers and Keith Kamas. They applied and obtained the Payroll Protection Plan which enabled the staff to receive paychecks. What a blessing it is to be brothers and sisters in Christ with each of you.

As you are adjusting to your "new normal," I pray that you are drawing nearer to God, finding peace and encouragement. 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



June 17 to June 25 there are several work days planned to take care of a few things around the church campus and parsonage.

- Painting/Repair to the soffit/facia
- Painting of playground cover
- Fence repair at parsonage

And a couple of others. If you are interested in helping please contact either Barry Cate at 979-229-3164 or Jenny Cate at 979-229-6937 or call the church office for more details.



We don't believe we will be able to open the Clothes Closet for business in June. The area is just too small for a large number of people to shop with social distancing. We might be able to work out a way to allow just a few people in at a time, but the main reason we cannot open at this time is that the Clothes Closet is in desperate need of volunteers to organize and clean the inside before we can even think of opening. We still need to change out the seasons (we had to cancel our scheduled big workday to do that.) As we cannot meet as a large group to work in such a small area, we are asking that volunteers pair up with a friend and sign up to take a few days to volunteer. Whatever time works for you. There will be instructions there for you to know what needs doing. Please contact **Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406** to let her know when you can help, so that there will not be more than two volunteers there at one time.



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

Peggy Cooper

Katherine Scasta

Tonya Boyette

Mike Allen

Tom and Bessie Fuller

(Cynthia Hanks' Brother-in-Law)



These are very challenging times for all of us as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, and this certainly applies to the worship

opportunities for our church. The May 31 service at The Ranch allowed us to recognize our Confirmation Class and come together in a safe outdoor setting. By now, you may have been contacted by a Worship Committee member to get your opinions about worship and how our church should proceed.

The Worship Committee will meet Monday, June 1, to discuss protocol for our first worship service on Sunday, June 7. The Committee will plan a meaningful, safe program to provide Communion and worship for our congregation.

Future plans for worship will be communicated to our congregation as decisions are made. Please be sure to read all communications coming from our church office so that you can be informed of any changes or updates.

Please continue to pray for our church, our community, our state and our country. We look forward to a time when we can all come together in our sanctuary once again. God bless you all.

*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.*



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

**Giving for Last Month**

(as of May 28)

General Offering	\$	14,564.42
Building Fund	\$	1,976.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	350.00

**June Mission of the Month  
Elizabeth House Maternity Home**

The Elizabeth House Maternity Home in Bryan/College Station, Texas provides expectant mothers and their children a safe, enriching and loving home. They are more than just a shelter. The mothers receive emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual support so that they have the tools they need to move forward toward a better life for themselves and their children. Some of the vital service the residents receive are:

- Education in planning their own meals, maintaining a home, and basic child care skills.
- Counseling, childbirth, child-care and parenthood classes while in residence, adoption information and financial planning.
- Assistance in navigating the local housing market and securing future housing.
- Support in obtaining their GED as well as earning college credits.
- Mentoring and tutoring services.

Please visit their website at

<https://elizabethhousematernityhome.com/> for even more information about this special place.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

4th	Harry Gilland	21st	Lilah Lennie
5th	Benjamin Cate	22nd	Beth Vickers
6th	Cynthia Hanks	23rd	Josh Smith
7th	Debbie Black	24th	Chelsea Janacek
9th	Clark Westerman		Charlie Harris
	Reese Rawson		Emily Harris
11th	Heather Frieda	26th	Shirley Creel
12th	Christina Martin		Regan Blajeski
14th	Jaycee Smith		K.C. McCormick Sr.
16th	Jim Eller		K.C. McCormick Jr.
	Douglas Hicks	27th	Ethan Sexton
18th	Maggie Easterly	28th	Sara Huggins
	Kari Smith	29th	Chris Caubarreaux
19th	David Kamas		

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

17th	Jerry & Cindy Briggs	25th	Wayne & Sara Huggins
18th	John & Mickie Callaway	27th	Ken & Robbie Reinhardt