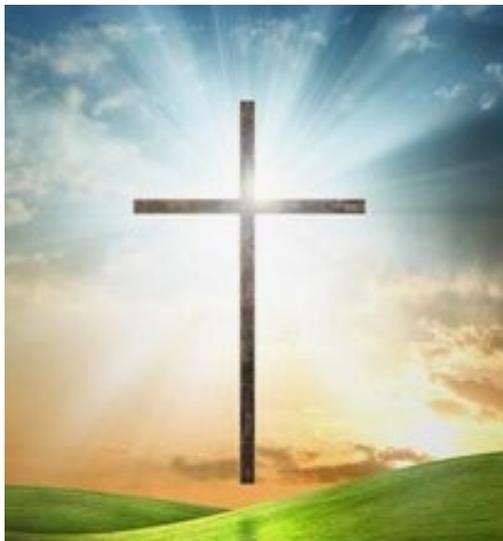


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



July 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

*“But let all who take refuge in Thee rejoice, let them ever sing for joy; and defend them,
that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee” Psalm 5:11*

One of the hardest things about the changes in the way we worship has been the lack of singing. Music has always been one of the strongest forms of worship for me. The words are so powerful, convicting, convincing, soothing, and healing. There is a hymn I have been singing for days on days now. It was a hymn that was written in 1900. Now you might be wondering why this song, why this ancient song at that. So, let me tell you.

The hymn is entitled: *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*. It was written by James Weldon Johnson 1871-1938. I first came across this song in the Hymnal of the United Methodist Church. It is on page 519 of our current hymnal. For many of you the first time you heard this song was about 10 years ago in February when I introduced it in worship shortly after my appointment here. I love this song. It's rich harmonies and soulful lyrics touch depths in me that often need convicting and healing all at the same time. During these days of confusion and unrest I find I am singing it more often. I woke up with its tune on my mind this morning and the words greeted my granddaughter's sleepy presence in my room. “Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring the harmonies of liberty...”. Together we filled her cereal bowl and pushed her chair in as the words continued to roll off my lips “let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.”

It was many years ago in college that I took those words in and wrestled with their meaning. I was taking a class on African American Literature. We were starting our study of James Weldon Johnson's literary work. Imagine my surprise when I came across these words in the The Norton Anthology of African American Literature: “Molded by the classical education for which Atlanta University was best known, Johnson regarded his academic training as a trust given him in the expectation that he would dedicate his resources to black people. Immediately after college Johnson responded to this sense of obligation by becoming principal of Stanton School in his hometown. There in February 1900, he wrote “Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing” for a school commemoration of Lincoln's birthday.”

I invite you to read these words with fresh ears as disciples of Jesus Christ, who calls us all brothers and sisters. How can we love one another – without blame – without excuse – accepting accountability for those things that we need to change within ourselves – and seeking to lift each other up to reach the best that each of us can achieve. And may we forever see that if we lose our connection to God and fail to heed His command to Love The Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind as well as to love our neighbor as ourselves, we will never know the joy of the freedom of the Lord.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Continued next page

POLLY'S PONDERING

(continued)

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met
Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we
forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

When we truly learn to love as God loves, then we will be able to live this truth:

*"Blessed are those who dwell in Thy house,
ever singing Thy praise! Psalm 84:4*

Pastor Polly



ELECTRONIC GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!

Can't get to church and want to save a stamp? You now have two **NEW** options for giving online. PayPal and Venmo accounts are being set up to receive your electronic giving. With over 350 million users these two options are both easy and secure to use. Use the information below to search for our accounts and to send your giving straight to the church's bank account. You can even indicate how to apply the amount you are sending (Giving; Building; Mission, etc.) No more need for writing two checks~just indicate the split (\$100 giving; \$100 building.) Also, many banks have bill paying options that you can use to set up and send a check to the church, either at your request or automatically generated. Check with your individual bank for specific information on that service.

The electronic accounts should be activated during the first week of July, but before making your first transaction please feel free to check with the church office and of course if you have ANY questions do not hesitate to give the church office a call (979-828-3355.)

PAYPAL

<http://paypal.me/Franklinoxumc>

VENMO

<http://www.venmo.com/FranklinTXMethodist-Church>



The Worship Committee has not been able to make a solid plan for worship in the months ahead as our situation remains fluid, as we are all certainly aware.

The very good news is that worship services have resumed, and Pastor Polly no longer preaches to an empty sanctuary. Our church is meeting and complying with the guidelines set by our Conference officials and the Governor of Texas, Gregg Abbott. In order to ensure that we can continue to worship together in our sanctuary, we will respect the guidelines by wearing masks, social distancing in the sanctuary, refraining from handshaking or gathering around the coffee maker.

Our membership is such a warm, welcoming, loving congregation that some of these behaviors just do not come naturally, and we long for that interaction with each other. We thank you for your patience and for loving your neighbor enough to comply with a smile and maybe the occasional chuckle, as we find we are using fist bumps and elbow taps to greet one another.

Please stay informed by continuing to read the emails sent out by Frances and by Pastor Polly. Although we are not certain when, we do know that "this too shall pass." Continue to love and support each other as we deal with this challenging time together.

Love to all of you from the Worship Committee.

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.

July Mission of the Month Seth & Kailey Kissinger's Southeast Asian Mission

For as long as Seth and Kailey Kissinger have been following Jesus they have felt God's leading them towards overseas ministry, but had no idea what that looked like, and had a great amount of fear at the prospect. Throughout their time at Texas A&M, they learned about the Unreached - those in our world who have little, to no, access to hear of the Good News of Jesus's death and resurrection. Their hearts broke for the 3 billion Unreached people that are living and dying without the Gospel, and knew that going to these people was obedience for them. God has also given them a conviction for local churches, and a desire to train local believers to obey the Great Commission! After a few years working in their church in College Station, they have been trained and prepared to go. They plan, Lord willing, to move to Southeast Asia this Fall to train and equip believers to better share the Gospel and start churches among the unreached.

They will be here in person on Sunday, July 12 and are excited to share about where God is calling them next!

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.

Furman Richard
Grady Harris
Samantha
Shirley Keen's granddaughter
Tonya Boyette

Madison Sexton Wilcox
Peggy Cooper
Mike Allen
(Cynthia Hanks' Brother-in-Law)
Sissy Rawson

The Stacey Family
Katherine Scasta
Chip Blevins
Amy Huggins' uncle
Tom and Bessie Fuller



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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st	Cadie Martin	15th	Louise Cates
	James Buckner		Lee Ann Scasta
2nd	Mac Mareth	16th	Rylie McKinney
4th	Hanna Westerman		Mason Corn
5th	Elizabeth Reinhardt	17th	Cade Rue
	Frank Cates	20th	Carlee Thompson
	Justin Frieda	22nd	John Harris
	Tessa Frieda		Barbara Eller
7th	Kevin Foltermann		Maloree Neichoy
	David Bailey	23rd	Toni Baxter
8th	Jill Foltermann	24th	Molly Dean
	Keith Kamas	27th	Kylie Caubarreaux
	Sissy Rawson	28th	Sadie Buckner
	Lloyd Scasta	29th	Marie Stem
9th	Melvin Bailey		Karlie Kissinger
	Thad Allen		Drew Neyland
	Andrew Moran		Hap Campbell
10th	Bo Campbell		Addie Nelson
	Aaron Huggins	30th	Brenda Davis
14th	Cynthia Hobart		
	Evelyn Huggins		

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5th	Scott & Amy Huggins
9th	Chip & Marla Zahn
6th	Howard & Sandra Hoegemeyer
28th	Roye & Meghan Moran

Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	18,882.46
Building Fund	\$	2,510.00
Memorial-Designated-Other	\$	306.38

Elizabeth House Maternity Home

We will continue to collect items for The Elizabeth House Maternity Home in Bryan/College Station. Here are just a few of the items on their "wish-list."

- Diapers (all sizes)
- New Clothes
 - * Maternity Clothes
 - * Baby/Children's (all sizes)
- Batteries for toys
- Disinfectant
- And of course cash donations

You can drop off donations at the church office anytime or bring them to church on Sunday.

For even more information about this special place please visit their website at:

<https://elizabethhousematernityhome.com/>

THANK YOU

"A BIG thank you to Pastor Polly, Olivia Campbell, Austin Corn, Cooper Huggins, Julie Jarrell, Mary Kamas, Katlyn Phillips & Noah Smith for your help during our work week at church!!! We appreciate it very much & we enjoyed working with you!

Blessings!

Barry & Jenny Cate"

FRANKLIN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

**GARAGE
SALE!**

JULY 10, 2020

The garage sale will benefit
the Grady Harris family.

**Start to gather
your items now!!!**

You can bring them to the Church Activity Building anytime during the week of July 6 through July 8.