

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



December 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

I was reading an article by B.J. Funk entitled “Hear the Corn Grow”. That is right, did you know that corn makes a sound when it grows? I wasn’t sure I believed her so I instantly looked it up on-line and guess what. It really makes a sound. Just as B.J. Funk said, “the growth of corn involves millions of tiny breakage events. These breakage events trigger the plant to rush to “repair” the broken regions. As the plant continues breaking and repairing, the plant is able to grow taller and taller.” Just in case you want to hear what I am talking about here is the link: [LISTEN AND WATCH CORN GROW](#)

About now you might say, interesting but where are you going with all this. For some people Christmas is not an easy time of year. In fact, it can be difficult and even depressing. Broken places of life can seem to be more in focus, painful in intensity, and emotionally overwhelming at this time of year. And that can be difficult. All the songs that speak of joy and peace can often make those places of unrest, and struggle seem so crushing. My own Mama struggles around this time of year. Yet, ironically, it seems to be the most fitting time of year for these struggles. You see Christ didn’t come into a perfect world. He came into a world full of brokenness. He came into a world full of longing with hope for a better day. One where the heartbreaking losses of this world would seem to make more sense or at least find rest and purpose. I wish I could make things better for those who really struggle. I wish I could repair their broken hearts, restore all that was lost, rebuild that which has fallen apart. But alas, that is not mine to do. All I can do is point you to the One who has collected your tears, heard your cries, protected your heart, carried you through, and prepared a place for you where there would be no more sorrow.

That is what this time of year is about. Bringing the hope of a better day into our world, to remind us that death does not have the final say. That brokenness can be used for a greater good. It is reminding us that as we grow and time moves forward there is healing happening. Those little places of brokenness are being restored, those painful places where we have been stretched have brought us to new stages of growth and life. If we could hear the sounds of our tiny fractures and see the evidence of our growth then just maybe we could embrace the One who is behind the healing.

Time doesn’t move backwards. We cannot undo the past. But we can look for the evidence of continued growth and give thanks for that. And we can embrace the future knowing that God has not abandoned us. And we can reach out to those people of compassion, whom God has surely placed in our path.

If you are struggling to relate to this message, then just maybe, you are one of those with compassion, who is able to reach out with the love of Christ to bring Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love into the life of another. Remember that Jesus told us the Greatest Commandment was to Love the LORD our God with our whole heart, mind, spirit, and strength just before he reminded us to love our neighbor as our self. So, it turns out we are, indeed, our brother’s keeper. Let’s keep our brothers well.

Send a card, express forgiveness, make a phone call, deliver a meal, purchase a Christmas gift for their child, listen to their stories, offer prayer, walk with them through the breaking and repairing...be creative and fear not for the Hope of the World has come, Emmanuel.

Pastor Polly



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 9AM TO NOON

Cookie Walk

It's that time of year again...time to decide on which Cookies you will be baking for our 6th 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 the 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?

****COOKIES , COOKIES AND MORE COOKIES!!****

**NOW is the time
to sign up to bake
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!). We will need the cookies delivered to the church by Friday, December 11.

****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. Unfortunately, due to the Covid virus, Mrs. Clause and the elves will not be able to attend. They are quarantining at the North Pole.

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

(Building occupancy and social distancing will be enforced and all participants and visitors are required to wear masks.)

Lectionary Readings

December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-8

December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

The FUMP CORNER

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas greetings to all! This glorious season is upon us. What kind of thoughts does Christmas bring to your mind? The smells, the decorations, the gifts under the tree, or family sharing love and laughter. Maybe family members are unable to visit due to the pandemic or a loved one is no longer with us, so grief overtakes us. As we experience these very real feelings, let's not forget the real meaning of Christmas!

Our preschool is practicing for the Annual Christmas Program; however, this year we hope and pray to present it virtually. The scene is set and the characters are dressed and ready. We will be travelling with Mary and Joseph as they are looking for an inn to have baby Jesus. Even though we will perform without an audience, the message of the program is clear—the Messiah was born in a stable. The program is simple but we will proclaim the Lord's birth, loud and clear.

The preschool continues to be blessed, as we raised over \$400.00 from our Thanksgiving Silent Auction. The creativity and dedication from our staff was amazing. The total dollar amount that we made was a decrease from previous years, but considering the times it was such a blessing!

My prayer for each of you this Christmas is that you experience the Prince of Peace, the Messiah, the Holy One-Jesus Christ. Let us carve out some time in our busy schedules to worship the King.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan,
Director FUMP



Music Note:



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

If you've thought about a good way to support our church, then the choir might be the perfect place for you~COME ON! We have a chair just for you! That chair will be set up for social distancing and we will be wearing masks, but the music that will come from behind those masks will most certainly be heavenly! Choir practice is on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 5:00pm~~COME MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE with us.



"Sing"cerely, Rhonda



Non-Traditional Giving Opportunity

On Amazon, the church has a [WISH LIST](#) that contains various items used to carry on the business of the church. You can purchase items for the church and they will be delivered right to the church. Of course, we want to acknowledge all gifts, so be sure to fill out the gift receipt. You can access the wish list by following the links (above and below) or by searching in Amazon by the church's name or email address.

FUMC Amazon Wish List

Thank you to Jill Specion for the generous gifts of several office supplies. These donations allow church funds to be used in other areas of ministry.



Would you like to have communion delivered to you at home? If so, Please contact Julie Jarrell at 979-255-2966



“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:32-33

We are all so ready for our lives to return to what they were. It has been ten months, but feels like so much longer as we struggle to remain optimistic and hopeful during this time of chaos, illness, loss and global pandemic.

BUT

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE!! We can still decorate our homes and watch endless Christmas movies on the Hallmark Channel. We can bake and sing along with our favorite Christmas soundtrack and send cards and make phone calls to those we love. And ZOOM! We have ZOOM! There are opportunities to give to and do for others in creative ways. Worship is very different for us this year, but there are still ways we can stay connected.

This joyful time reminds us of Who is in charge of this world and its future. We have so much to celebrate because we are the children of a living God who loves us so much that He sent his Son to walk among us.

Let us keep our eyes on the greatest gift we have ever been given – Jesus Christ, God’s Beloved Son. How can we not feel the joy of the season when we focus on Him? We will not allow current circumstances to steal our Worship at Christmas.

Rejoice, Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel.

God bless you all during this season of joy, love, worship and celebration.

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.

Deborah Hicks, Worship Committee Chair

Please come join us for an
Old Fashion Family Christmas
Friday, December 18
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Activity Building
**Christmas Carols, Hot Chocolate,
Popcorn, Children’s Crafts and
Santa!!**



Christmas Flower Donations

The Christmas flowers for the church are being ordered soon.

This year, instead of purchasing individual poinsettias, there will be one large order of flowers made. If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers for the church please contact the church office at 979-828-3355 or indicate “flowers” on your check or electronic donation. You can still make that donation in honor or memory of someone, just please be sure to indicate that. If you have any questions just call the church office.



Sunday Small Groups at 9:00 am

- ARK** - Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten
- Kingdom Kids** - 1st thru 4th grades
- Encounter** - 5th thru 8th grades
- Fusion** - 9th thru 12th grades
- Home Builders** - Adult
- Wisdom** - Adult



Click below to see a short video.

This short clip shows the power of gathering as a family during the Christmas holiday and reading the account of Christ's birth. For everyone, everywhere, it is still the greatest story ever told.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

This is just one of the **THOUSANDS** of resources available through your **FREE RightNow Media account.**



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.

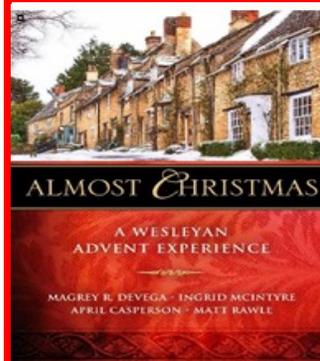
Be joyful always; pray continually! 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

December Monthly Mission 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 25 children this year. The wish lists for these children is available in the sanctuary or you can call the church office to request a child. The wrapped presents are due back by **Sunday, December 13**. 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! Listen for more information at worship services during the month or contact Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406 or rexandbeth@gmail.com.

Suggested value of presents per child is \$75-\$100 and items purchased on Black Friday or on sale should be counted at their normal retail price.



ADVENT STUDY 9:00 - 10:00am

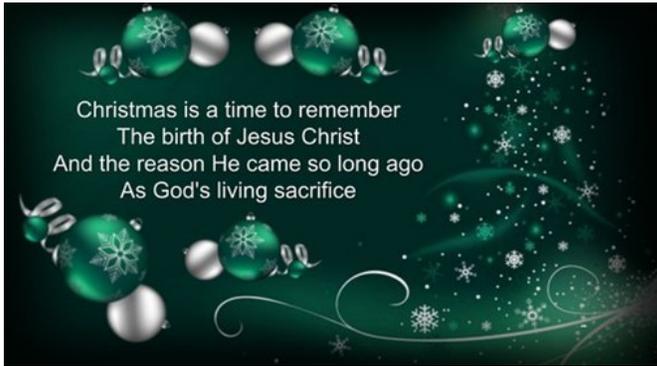
Come join the church family in Sunday Morning Small groups as we get ready for Christmas. Our Advent Study will continue at 9:00am on December 6, 13 and 20.

All Adults will gather in the Activities Building. Youth and children will meet in their classrooms.

For more information contact Meghan Moran at 979-240-4195 or meghanlmoran@yahoo.com



Youth



"This is how we have discovered love's reality: Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Because of this great love, we should be willing to lay down our lives for one another. If anyone sees a fellow believer in need and has the means to help him, yet shows no pity and closes his heart against him, how is it even possible that God's love lives in him? Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds" (1 John 3: 16-18 TVT).

This is the message of Christmas: God, Who is Love, sent His beloved Son to earth as a baby to be the atoning sacrifice for us. Our response? Laying down our lives for others. During our time together, the youth group will explore how to fulfill this way of life as individuals and as a community of believers.

Big shout out to the wonderful people that provide our meals each youth night! We appreciate you!

Thank you to Julie Jarrell for her faithful service to our youth every Wednesday night.



Wednesday, Dec. 2nd : FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm) - cleaning potatoes for the Feast of Sharing

Sunday, Dec. 6th: Ice Skating in College Station. Meet @ church at 12:00 with a sack lunch. Bring warm clothes. Masks are required at the Spirit Ice Arena.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Wednesday, Dec. 16th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd: No FUMYF - Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, Dec. 30th: No FUMYF

Thursday, Dec. 31st: Youth New Year's Eve party from 8 pm to 12:30 am in the Activity Building.

February 19-21st: Ignite Youth Retreat for 7-12th graders. More info to come.

In Christ's love,
Mary

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

Peggy Cooper

All those that are suffering during the pandemic

Tonya Boyette

Tom and Bessie Fuller

Julia Ann Michael

Keith Foltermann

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

All Students

The Stacey Family

Katherine Scasta

All Teachers & Educators

Chip Blevins

Amy Huggins' uncle

Mark Hailey



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

Ushers for December

Ken & Noah Reinhardt

News from the Pews~ We want to know, and share with others, your Good News. Did your son or daughter make the Dean's List or loose a tooth? Has your spouse received a promotion or achieved a new personal goal? Do you have a new family member (pets included?) We want to celebrate with you. Please email or call the church office with your good news items.

ELECTRONIC GIVING~ TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!!

It really is very easy to give electronically. One click is basically all it takes. When you get your Worship Guide email each week there are links to both the new PayPal and Venmo accounts on the back page of the Worship Guide. There are also links in the signature of the email. Clicking on those links will take you immediately to the page where you can enter your giving amount and complete the process. You can indicate how to apply the amount you are sending (Giving; Building; Mission, etc.) No more need for writing checks~just indicate the split (\$100 giving; \$100 building.)

ANY questions do not hesitate to give the church office a call (979-828-3355.)

PAYPAL

<http://paypal.me/Franklintxumc>

VENMO

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Scott Hailey	15th	Isaac Kamas
	Casey Chanley	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	26th	Lara Thibodeaux
5th	Madison Sexton		Bobby Graham
7th	Wenona Taylor	27th	Earnest Smith
9th	Ariel Kissinger	28th	Lauren Ripley
10th	Jeff Ripley		Birgitte Bly
11th	Rhonda Miller	29th	Caleb Moran
13th	Luke Kamas		

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	\$	16,668.00
Building Fund	\$	3,510.00
Memorial-Designated-Other	\$	2,764.00

We appreciate and need your continued faithful giving.