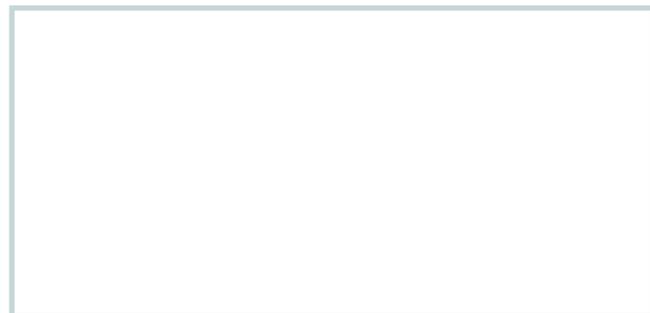


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



January 2021



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

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

A young mother was visiting her sister and was spending time with her niece and nephew a couple of weeks before Christmas. The cousins were together in the living room with toys strewn around as she walked in with great excitement and said,

"Guys in a couple of weeks Santa will be coming down that chimney."

Her five-year-old nephew looked up with a quizzical expression and asked "How does he do that?"

A bit taken aback his aunt answered "I don't know how he does that! I have never seen him"

With a great deal of conviction her nephew replied "I will sleep here and watch him do it."

"You can't sleep here," the aunt replied, "Santa, won't come if you are not sleeping."

Quite perplexed, the young boy inquired, "Can you explain why that is necessary?"

Isn't that just like us. We want to know the how and whys behind things. We want to understand them. And at least as far as I am concerned, we want to analyze them, perhaps even argue them. It occurred to me that the most important things of life, are to some degree unexplainable. I remember being asked by one of my children and a multitude of other youth, "How do you know when you are in love? And "How do you know when he is the one?" My father-in-law and I thought deeply about the way people talk about love multiplying when we give it away, yet we usually talk about an individual's power as diminishing when power is given away. How can a person talk about what they believe when true belief is not evidenced until a choice is made that costs that very person deeply? And what about faith. If you have to have evidence then it is no longer faith but response to proof.

What all these things seem to have in common is leaps. Taking a leap of faith, falling in love, vote of confidence, benefit of the doubt, jump into the unknown, etc. The truth is that even waking we give a vote of confidence that the sun will arise one more time. But that is just a leap of faith based on past experience and assumed assurance. Truth is we have no more control over the continuation of the Sunrise than we did the initial sunup.

So, we make leaps of faith. We plan for the future of which we are not absolutely sure we will have. We fall in love we give birth to children; we make decisions everyday because we choose to believe that life is good, and the God that created us loves us and wants the best for us. We have heard the story of Christ's birth and we choose to believe and because we do, we receive the assurance of eternal life. Sure, it is a leap of faith but remarkably once you take it everything seems to fall into place, the world seems clearer, fear seems conquerable, doubt seems diminished, suffering seems bearable, troubles seem purposeful, peace seems desirable if not obtainable, silence becomes a vehicle for hearing God more clearly, baptismal waters become the outward symbol of an inward grace being poured out upon us, and juice and bread become the body and blood of Christ.

I don't know what this next year will hold. I can't sit at the base of a chimney and get a rational explanation, but I know this. After this last year with all of its unexplainable chaos, illness, and conflict I have never been more ready to start the new year with a leap of faith. A faith that God is not through using us for His glory, and He is not through pouring out grace, forgiveness, and mercy upon His people through His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ. He has work for us to do, relationships to forge, and Biblical truths to discover. I am ready to jump - how about you? Want to take another leap of faith?

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". Hebrews 11:1

Pastor Polly

Youth

"Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis" (Matthew 11:28 TPT).



In the weeks ahead, we will be pursuing the reality of Jesus being our refreshing, life-giving oasis. How does this concept impact us as individuals and as a community called

Franklin UMYF? How do we as individuals and as a community create a Christ-centered, safe, renewing atmosphere during our times together and also carry that atmosphere into all areas of our lives?

"He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love, His tracks take me to an oasis of peace..." (Psalm 23:2 TPT).



Wed. Jan. 6th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)
Wed. Jan. 13th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)
Wed. Jan. 20th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)
Wed. Jan. 27th: FUMYF in Activity Building (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Feb. 19-20: Ignite Youth Retreat.

Due to COVID-related concerns, this retreat will not be an overnight event. We will begin Friday night in the Activity Building then return to sleep in our individual homes. Saturday morning we will return to the church to travel together to Carolina Creek Retreat Center in the Huntsville area. The events at Carolina Retreat Center are scheduled from 9:00 am-9:00 pm. The cost of the weekend is \$50 per person, and registration forms are due to me by Jan. 20th.



More specific information will be coming later.

In Christ's love,
Mary

The FUMP CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR! If you are like me 2021 has a nice ring to it. The staff and children at the preschool survived the Fall semester with few incidences of COVID-19 illnesses. All the glory goes to our Father in Heaven as He blessed us with our health.

Our Christmas Program went off without a hitch. Even though we did not perform in front of an audience, the message was loud and clear that God gave us the gift of Jesus Christ. A huge thank you to John Standing for his willingness to video the program and Pastor Polly for her leading us in prayer. We are so blessed to have the Standings and their obedience to God's call.

We will kick off the New Year with a pajama day. It is not only a favorite of the kids, but the staff enjoy it equally. The Bible emphasis for January is Joy taken from Philippians 4:4, "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" The staff will teach the children what rejoice means and how to keep joy in our heart.

Finally, we are picking up the pace as we prepare for the Daddy Daughter Dance, February 6th. A huge shout of thanks to Beth and Rex Vickers for their generous donation. Sponsorship letters have been delivered and donations have started to pour in. God continues to bless the preschool with unity, good health, and monetary resources.

The Preschool Board approved a Christmas bonus for all our staff members. Many thanks for their support and generosity. It is with such joy that I serve alongside these devoted individuals.

Continue to pray for the preschool as we minister to these precious families.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan, Director FUMP



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



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 Richards	All those suffering during this pandemic	Pastor Polly
Grady Harris	Julia Ann Michael	Katherine Scasta
Tonya Boyette	Keith Foltermann	Tom and Bessie Fuller



With you, We Walk (A New Years Prayer) by Dan Wilt:

Another year has turned its page, O Lord. We feel promises about to be fulfilled, hopes that may be realized, and sorrows unknown – that may become ours to bear. All of this, we carry into a New Year.

We declare at the doorway into this year, that our trust is not in any man or woman to fulfill us, nor is our trust in circumstance, or a belief that the days ahead will be easy.

We do not expect, in the New Year, for our every prayer to be answered in a way we would like. You are in control, and we release our lives to you.

We put our trust in this: That You who have been with us through this past year, Immanuel, will be with us in this New Year.

It is in You, Immanuel, we trust. If you go ahead of us, we will go; if you go behind us, we will go. If you will lead us in a cloud by day and if you will light the night and its shadows with Your fire, we will faithfully follow.

This is our prayer: In all things that happen this year, we ask that we would be aware of Your presence, O Lord. In this walk that will always be by faith and not by sight, let us perceive Your nearness.

We will stumble and fall, and we will also succeed and triumph. We will laugh, and we will also weep.

But in those moments, in which we cannot sense You near, let us see with the eyes of faith, the marks of Your presence all around us, beneath us, carrying us boldly into Your future.

With you we walk, with confidence and trust into this New Year.

In Your Name we pray, living Lord Jesus, Amen

Blessings to all in this New Year.

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Giving for Last Month		
General Offering	\$	16,779.00
Building Fund	\$	7,260.00
Memorial-Designated-Other	\$	3,263.00
Cookie Walk		4,033.95

2nd	Mary Jane Magill	22nd	Mary Beth Taylor
	Mickie Callaway	24th	Ben Zamzow
3rd	Andy Reed	25th	Caitlyn Martin
7th	Kyle Hoegemeyer	26th	Tabitha Cloat
9th	Austin Ray Corn	28th	Amy Neichoy
10th	Landon Vickers	30th	Stephanie Broadus
11th	John Kamas	31st	Jim Hanks
15th	Sebie Harris		Samantha Harris
	Cooper Huggins		
19th	Maddie Nelson		
21st	Keith Zamzow		
	Jan Westerman		
	Raheem Green		
	Meghan Moran		



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



14th	Todd & Julie Neyland	26th	Lewis Conner & Molly Dean
24th	John & Deborah Hicks	30th	Frank & Louise Cates