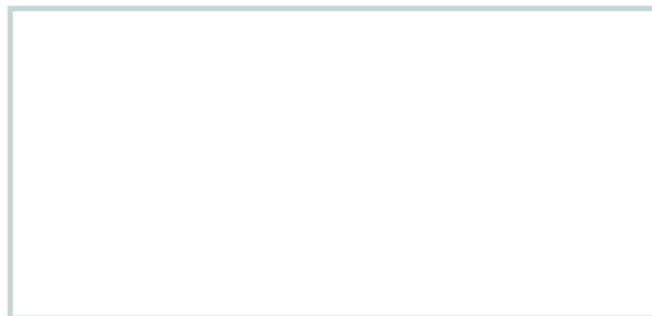


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856

The
Season
of
Lent



March 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

“The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.” Isaiah 9:10

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.” Philippians 3:13

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:18-19

We have now reached the month when one year ago everything seemed to come to a screeching halt around here. During the next few months, we learned how to do worship online and we focused on being the church outside the building. I am so pleased with the way you as a church family came together to assure that our staff did not lose income during these difficult days. And through it all we fared above the average on percentage of income retained. Of course, there were far less expenses as well. You were faithful givers even during the uncertainty of the times. Well done.

It seems only fitting, just one year later, that we should be adding to our programming and worshiping activities during the month of March. We have added to our staff, investing in our children and youth. We have, after much prayer, re-structured our morning worship. This has added to the ease of flow, addressed some needs for children, enhanced our music ministry, and provided a structure that will improve our online worship experience for those unable or unwilling to return to inhouse worship or simply seeking an alternative to inhouse worship. We are now able to reach individuals outside of the Franklin area. And the first Sunday evening in March at 6:00pm we will begin a once-a-month praise celebration called **Ignite**. The focus on this worship opportunity will be lifting our voice in praise through song and seeking to kindle the Holy Spirit within us to empower us for the week ahead as we seek to be the church in our schools, our work, our homes, our community. Come join us March 7 as we share praise and worship and a 6 minute devotion based on 2 Timothy 1:6.

Although we are not able to host our Lenten luncheons on the church campus as we have over the last 16 years, I am inviting each of you to join me Wednesdays in Lent for a brief devotional. They will be sent out via email and then available online. Let's keep our eyes on Christ as we journey with him to the cross.

The Worship, Education, and Children's ministry teams are working to provide meaningful worship and programming throughout Lent and Holy Week.

- Sunday Evening Pot luck and Lenten study, February 28, March 21 and 28.
- Devotions each Wednesday, (March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st)
- Ignite on March 7th, April 11th, and May 2nd at 6pm
- Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt March 27th 9-11am
- Palm Sunday Morning Small Groups at 9am and Worship at 10:15am with Children's Parade with palm branches.
- Holy Thursday Service at 6pm - Nursery provided
- Good Friday viewing of "The Passion Movie" for adults and youth 6th - 12th (with written permission) followed by communion (in Sanctuary) 6:00pm
- Good Friday video's and activities for preschool and elementary, hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks provided. 6pm

We are so excited to be adding these additional worship and programming events, and for safe and welcoming nursery care for our very smallest members. With these additions, we will see increases to our monthly expenses. So, more than ever, we need and appreciate your continued faithful giving to God and His church here at FUMC.

Together we are honoring the past and embracing our future with hope.

Pastor Polly



Mission of the Month

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:

All pasta products: Macaroni & cheese, egg noodles, ramen noodles, spaghetti

Toilet paper

Canned beefy meats (stews, chili, ravioli, etc.)

Powdered laundry detergent

You can bring your donations to the Food Pantry any Saturday morning between 9 and noon, drop them off at the Franklin Library during regular business hours~~or bring them to the church office. And of course monetary donations are gladly accepted.

We invite you to join us on Saturday, March 27th from 9:00am-11:00am for breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny. There will be crafts and egg hunts for children up to Fifth Grade.



Children are invited to participate in the Children's Parade with palms during Worship on Palm Sunday, March 28th at 10:15am.



As part of our church wide Good Friday experience on April 2nd at 6:00pm, we invite children First-5th Grade to discover Easter in a whole new way with a movie and devotion. Traditional movie theater dinner will be provided. Activities for Nursery-Kinder will be provided as well.



Children's Ministry News March 2021

Jesus Changes Everything, by Right Now Media. In this series our youth will discover how a relationship with Jesus changes everything—our identity, relationships, habits, and mission. Students will be challenged to allow Jesus to transform every aspect of their lives.



Youth will NOT meet on Wednesday, March 17th. Enjoy your Spring Break!

Our Youth Mission Project for the month will be hosting the Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th from 9:00-11:00am.



As part of our church wide Good Friday experience on April 2nd at 6:00pm, the Youth will have an opportunity to join us for the viewing of the Passion of the Christ. Permission slips are required for those youth viewing unaccompanied by a parent.

Youth Ministry News March 2021

The FUMP CORNER



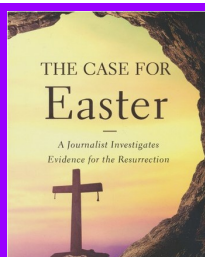
We are officially thawed out at the preschool and we are so EXCITED! In spite of the cold, ice, power outages, and busted pipes, God is still on the throne. The sun is shining, the temperatures are pleasant, and the kids are excited to be back.

March is full of fun things at the preschool. In honor of Dr Seuss' birthday, the staff and kids will celebrate by wearing "Silly Socks & Crazy Hair" on March 2nd. It is quite a sight, but oh so fun! March 30th is our annual Rodeo Day with live animals, games, western snacks, and prizes. Our Bible theme is taken from Philippians 4:5-*Let your gentleness be evident to all.* Wouldn't it be great if everyone lived by these words, especially in these trying times?

Great news about our latest endeavor. Since we cancelled the Daddy Daughter Dance, we raised \$2574.00 dollars selling Butter Braids. The sale only lasted two weeks which is amazing that we made that much, but then again when God is involved, He will meet all our needs. Thanks to Mrs. Maria for suggesting this fundraiser.

Please be in prayer for our preschool as we minister to our little ones and their family. God reminds us to go out into the world and preach the gospel. We are preaching the gospel at FUMP. This is our primary purpose and loving our families.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan, Director FUMP



Lenten Bible Study
Sunday evenings
in the Activity Building

**CONTINUING IN MARCH ON
March 21 and March 28**

We will begin with a family potluck meal from 5 p.m. until around 5:30. Then kids will go do activities, and adults will watch the video together and do that evening's session. (This is definitely a study that 7th grade and older could participate in.) For more information contact Meghan Moran at (979) 240-4195 or meghanlmoran@yahoo.com



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

Beth Vickers

Tonya Boyette

Julia Ann Michael

Sherry Killingsworth
Cynthia Hanks' friend



**My God, accept my heart this day,
and make it always thine,
that I from Thee no more may stray,
no more from Thee decline.
Let every thought and work and word
To Thee be ever given:
Then life shall be thy service, Lord,
And death the gate of heaven.**

My God Accept My Heart This Day by Matthew Bridges

Did Ash Wednesday get a little lost this year as we faced historical freezing weather conditions? My, we have had so many challenges this past year! It has caused us to spend a whole year in introspection and reassessment of our lives and deciding what is really important to us. In a sense, we have spent a whole year in focus much as we do during Lent.

It may be difficult to decide what to "give up" during this Lenten season since we might feel we have already given up so much this year. So, maybe it is a time to "add". Perhaps it's time to concentrate on our blessings, because there are blessings no matter how bleak our situation may seem. Maybe there is a book of the Bible we have always wanted to study. We might feel a pull on our heart to mend a relationship or find forgiveness for someone who has wronged us. Or maybe we need to ask for forgiveness. Or maybe we need to forgive ourselves in some way. Surely there are many ways we can add to our lives during this Lenten season.

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know His love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

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



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

Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	21,163.54
Building Fund	\$	1,160.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	120.00

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Jill Harris	18th	Mikayla Sexton
	Jessica Richardson		Joni Bailey
4th	Aiden Peterson	19th	Howard Hoegemeyer
	Robbie Reinhardt	20th	Autumn Cloat
	Hudsyn Huggins		Bayley Janacek
8th	Kaitlyn Zamzow	22nd	Beth Vickers
9th	Leah Davis	24th	Keith Foltermann
	Amy Huggins	28th	Kathy Brimhall
11th	Todd Neyland		Bless Cloat
	Caleb Chanley	30th	Robyn McKinney
12th	Buddy Baxter	31st	Jim Miller
15th	Rex Vickers		



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1st	Buddy & Toni Baxter
4th	Jim & Barbara Eller
19th	Andy & Jill Harris
20th	Grady & Debbie Harris

