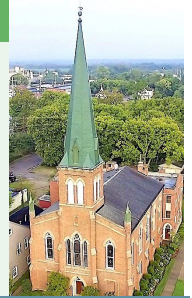




The Steeple Bell—February 2024

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

I was thirty years old when I hit a spiritual wall. My father had died a terrible death of kidney cancer, and Lee and I had welcomed our son born with a genetic disorder. I remember sitting in church and feeling angry and confused.

I had gone to church all my life, the same church that many generations of my family attended. Sunday School lessons had taught me about a loving God and a Savior who died for my sins. My church family was an important part of my life. Yet I began to doubt in a big way all that I had been taught.

Questions arose and would not be denied. Why suffering? My dad was a well-loved good Christian man. Why did he have to suffer and die at the age of 54? Our baby was innocent and vulnerable. His disease could have terrible consequences. We could not get life insurance for him because his prognosis was so tenuous. Why would a loving God allow (cause?) this kind of tragedy?

Doubt. We all have periods of questioning and wonder if our faith is unfounded or whether God exists or is not who we thought He was. When we have a time of doubting, we can begin to think that we're losing every foundation we've stood upon.

During Lent, I will be leading a Bible Study written by Rev. Adam Hamilton discussing doubt and questions of faith. Rather than shy away from talking about these difficult times in our spiritual journey, we may find that genuine doubt can lead us to a deeper understanding of faith and a deeper relationship with God. The topics of our study will include:

- ◆ Is there a God?
- ◆ The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible.
- ◆ Are All Non-Christians going to Hell?
- ◆ Is Heaven Real?
- ◆ When Prayers Go Unanswered.
- ◆ Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

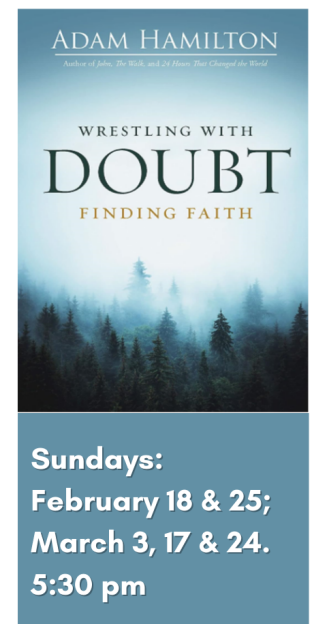
I invite you to this important study. It may be a life changer for you. I know that wrestling with doubt was a life changer for me. And if you're doubting right now, this may be the perfect opportunity for you. You do not have to be able to attend every class to participate. Please register in advance so that we know how much material to prepare.

Our class time will begin at 5:30 with a light supper and short time of fellowship.

We will transition to a study time which will end by 7:30. You can purchase the book on Amazon if you choose, although we will be using handouts in the class.

One of the greatest helps to me when I've gone through times of doubt has been the love and support of my Christian family. It is not God's design for us to have to navigate difficult times alone. Come and share in a faith fellowship that invites questions and allows for doubts.

Pastor Laura



The Trials of Jesus

You won't want to miss the Lenten/Easter sermon series starting Sunday February 18. Each week, a character from the story of Jesus' passion will give trial testimony to share their story of the events leading up to and following Jesus' crucifixion. Jeff Sams and Pastor Laura will be presenting the dramas, which play out like a courtroom scene. Learn details of Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection from these perspectives:



February 18	John Jesus' beloved disciple
February 25	Mary Jesus' mother
March 3	Thomas The "doubting" disciple
March 10	Joseph of Arimathea Pharisee who buried Jesus in his tomb
March 17	Nicodemus Pharisee who sought Jesus out at night & later helped bury him
March 24	Pontius Pilate Roman Governor who tried Jesus
March 28	Simon of Cyrene Made to carry Jesus' cross (Maundy Thursday)
March 29	Barabbas Criminal released instead of Jesus (Good Friday)
March 31	Angel Present in Jesus' empty tomb "He is risen!" (Easter)

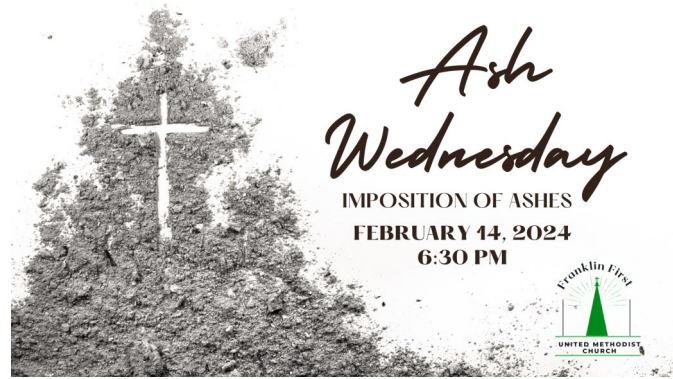
Noisy Bucket

During Lent (beginning February 18), our children will once again be collecting change in the Noisy Bucket to benefit Heifer International. This program provides animals to impoverished families around the world to give them a hand up to supplement their income and better their community. Friends, you are invited to start hoarding your change. Our smiling children will be asking you to contribute later this month.



Ash Wednesday

February 14 is the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday. We will have a short Imposition of Ashes service at 6:30 that evening to serve as a time of repentance and remembrance. Lent continues through Holy Saturday March 30, a time of preparation and spiritual retrospection as we bear in mind Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.



Lenten Practices

There are traditionally three main practices in the Christian faith for a proper observance of Lent. They include prayer, fasting, and giving alms. Let's explore them a bit.

- ◇ **Prayer** – In Wayne Muller's book "Learning to Pray," he pictures prayer as "a doorway into heaven on earth" in which our minds, hearts, and senses are attuned to God's presence all around us. Prayer is not a one and done daily activity, but a focus on how God is present and communicating with us throughout the day. Lent is an especially appropriate time for reconciliation: getting our hearts right with God and with one another.
- ◇ **Fasting** – Many of us grew up giving up a food item during Lent: sweets, soda, meat, etc. Fasting is a giving up OR taking up something as a form of self-discipline. We can fast as well from busyness, negativity, verbal insults, emotional stuffing of feelings, and electronics. We can take up practices such as kindness, Bible reading, outreach activities, etc. as a way of growing spiritually.

- ◇ **Alms-giving** – God's command to give to others is a lifestyle that takes on special significance during Lent. We can share our resources, our time, and our talents with those who are in need. We can work in areas of social justice, compassion care, and providing basic needs. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Trustee Update—Downtown Renovation

The trustees are watching the city's progress on the downtown renovation. We are receiving regular updates from the city and will react to construction plans as they affect the operation of the church.

We do expect some issues entering the building through the front doors and elevator entrance later this year and will try and make accommodations. In some cases we get less than a weeks notice from the city of construction and road closures.

Anthony Wayne Tutoring

Second grade tutoring continues this winter at Anthony Wayne Elementary. We have ten awesome students who work with their tutors to increase their literacy. At 3:15 after school lets out, the kids join Jenny Chilcutt in the gym for a short time of recreation to blow off some energy. They then head to the tutoring room for Sally's Fitzgerald's tasty snacks, followed by about 40 minutes of time with their tutors. The program has been gifted a number of books, so the children got to take a few publications home with them to keep. Thanks to all the volunteers who are working to bless these students!



Gently Used
Formal Attire & Accessories

ANGEL SHOP AT FRANKLIN FIRST

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
303 S. MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH 45005
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

Angel Shop

It is the time of year when young ladies and gentlemen begin to think of prom and the formal wear that they will need for the festivities. Jenny Chilcutt and her crew continue to collect dresses, along with accessories and men's wear to offer free of charge to any interested student. The Angel Shop is open for shopping on Sunday afternoons until prom time. Do you know someone who might enjoy shopping or might have formal wear to donate? Please make them aware of this opportunity.

Exciting news for our Angel Shop! We applied for a grant from the West Ohio Conference to purchase new racks and display items, along with money for yard signs and advertising. The Angel Shop was awarded \$2,000. Furthermore, we were notified that out of 150 grant requests, we were in the top four selected for outstanding ministry ideas. On Sunday February 4, we will be attending a banquet in Columbus for grant recipients and find out if we placed number one. In any event, well done Jenny Chilcutt! God has blessed your Spirit-inspired idea.



Attention
croppers
and
crafters!

Franklin First United Methodist
Church invites you to

A Croppin' Good Time

Scrapbooking Weekend Coming Soon!

Mark Your Calendar for a weekend of scrapbooking fun! The Women's Circle is once again sponsoring "A Croppin' Good Time" on Friday, March 1st (6 pm—9 pm) and Saturday, March 2nd (9 am—8 pm). It is sixteen hours of scrapbooking fun! You will get your table, Saturday brunch and a salad & potato bar for dinner will be provided. Space is limited so register now on our website or [click here](#).

Franklin High School Presents: Murder on the Orient Express

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it has one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

Franklin High School Drama Club will present *Murder on the Orient Express* on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.; and Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. All performances will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$5 for students. They're available for purchase online at fhsdrama.booktix.com or at the door.

Several adult members of our church family are on the production staff.

A senior citizens' performance of the winter play, "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express," will be offered on Thursday, February 8, at 11:30 a.m. Cookies and coffee will be served for seniors at 11 a.m. prior to the start of the show.

There is no cost to attend, but seniors must RSVP by calling the FHS main office at 937-743-8611.

Performances will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium, 750 E. 4th St., Franklin.



Women's Circle

Next meeting will be on **February 12th at 6:30 pm.** Bring a sandwich and join us for some fellowship.



Men's Group

All men are invited to the monthly meeting of Franklin's Men's Group on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm. Grow in faith and in service to others with Christian brothers. The next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 11th.**





Join Our Greeter & Usher Team

Do you have a warm smile and a welcoming spirit? Are you looking for a way to get involved in our Worship service? If so, we encourage you to consider joining our **Greeter and Usher Team!**

Greeters and ushers play a vital role in creating a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere for our church community. As the first and last faces our visitors see, you set the tone for their entire worship experience. Your friendly greetings, helpful directions, and willingness to assist make a profound impact on everyone who walks through our doors. Contact the office to learn more.

Greeter Responsibility Include:

- Arrive 10:15 am
- A name badge will be provided for you by the entrance
- Greet everyone with a smile
- Introduce yourself to members you do not know
- Handout a Welcome Packet to new members
- Offer directions to guests/new members or escort them to their desired location
- Offer Daily Bread Devotional at the beginning of the month
- **Elevator Door** – Assist with opening and closing of elevator doors before and after service

Usher Responsibilities Include:

- Arrive 10:15 am
- Greet everyone as they enter the sanctuary
- Hand everyone a bulletin
- Take the offering
- Assist with the elevator doors prior to the start and following service.



Faith Seekers Sundays, 9:15 am

Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. All are invited!



Kroger Community Rewards

Have you checked the bottom of your Kroger's Receipt? If it does not list our church as your designated Community Rewards Beneficiary, follow the instructions on the back and get signed up now!

Please note our new church num-

ber! You do not need to change your current account; this is for new sign-ups.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS:

Go to: www.krogers.com

New account users: go to "Register" Create Account Or Sign-in

Go to: Community – Community Rewards

Click: Enroll now

Church #: RK151

Franklin First UMC

Text An Amount To: (937) 582-9009

TEXT TO GIVE



- Text the amount you would like to give.
- If it's your first time, you will receive a link to set up the account with your information.
- After the first time, you will just receive thanks for your gift reply.

East Ohio Conference and West Ohio Conference to Share an Episcopal Leader Effective September 1

For Immediate Release: January 24, 2024

From: The Offices of Communications from the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference

A special-called session of the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Tuesday, January 23 “for the sole purpose of approving new episcopal areas for episcopal assignments to be effective September 1, 2024.”

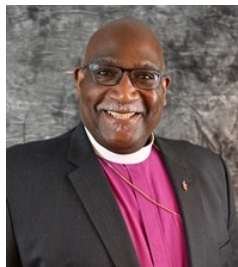
Delegates to this special-called NCJ Jurisdictional Conference voted to form two new episcopal areas, one to include the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, and one to include the Northern Illinois Conference and the Wisconsin Conference. The two conferences in each new episcopal area will share one bishop.

By the action of the special session, the North Central Jurisdiction will transition from nine to seven episcopal areas. The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy assigns the bishops to the episcopal areas and all assignments will be announced at the NCJ Jurisdictional Conference July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The new episcopal areas and the bishop assignments to each of the seven episcopal areas will be effective September 1.

Executive staff leaders and members of the Committee on the Episcopacy in both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference have been engaged in strategic conversations to explore the sharing of an episcopal leader since the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy proposed the possibility during the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference

“I and Bishop Palmer convened a leadership team that has been working to identify the key administrative matters that need to be addressed and to examine the best practices of other episcopal areas where shared episcopal leadership has worked well. This work will continue as we prepare the conferences for this transition,” said Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference.

“I am confident the people of the East and West Ohio Conferences are well suited to be served by one bishop with a single eye to living the mission of ‘making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,’” said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, resident bishop of the West Ohio Conference.



Birthdays

February 02	Regina	Hynes
February 09	Kaylee	Glossip
February 13	Monica	Rhude
February 15	Emelia	Glossip
February 17	Eden	Osborne
February 23	Samantha	Womack
February 25	Lori	Hemmelgarn
February 25	Tracy	Easter
February 26	Brad	Lorton
February 27	Kaylee	Womack
February 29	Madelyn	Lang

Anniversaries

February 26 Mike & Vicki Jarvis

In Case of Cancelled Worship Services Or For Church-wide Announcements

We will inform about cancelled services through the following methods:

- Email to all currently active individuals
- Text to all currently active individuals
- Posted on our Website & Social Media platforms

If you not do have access to any of the above listed forms of communication and would like a phone call, please contact Theresa in the office to be added to the contact list to receive a personal phone call.

Also, please be sure the office has your current mobile phone number to receive a text.

February 2024 at Franklin First

February

- 1 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 6 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30
- 7 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 7 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 7 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 8 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 11 Heart Wellness Awareness Sunday
- 11 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 12 Women's Circle, 6:30 pm
- 13 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

- 14 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 14 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 14 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday Service; 6:30 pm

- 18 Noisy Bucket Campaign Begins
- 18 Lenten Bible Study, 5:30pm
- 20 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 21 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 21 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 22 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 25 Lenten Bible Study, 5:30 pm
- 27 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 28 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 28 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 28 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 29 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

From the District: Super Serve Saturday!



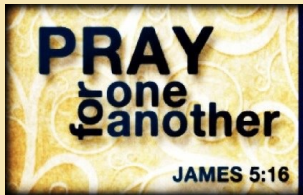
Introducing Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serving opportunity!

In the new year we are partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September-May. We are hoping to see families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds put their faith into action by serving in the community.

Currently we have 4 organizations and 6 projects to choose from in January. All of the opportunities are in Hamilton county but our goal is to expand to all 7 counties in the Great Miami River District very quickly.

Super Serve Saturdays (S3) will take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month - February 17, March 16, April 20 and May 18. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

[Click here](#) to see the opportunities and/or sign up.



Submit a Prayer Request Anytime

Use the link below to submit a Prayer Request anytime. The link will send an email directly to the Pastor and our prayer warriors will begin the prayers for your request.

franklin-firstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54



Franklin First Online Giving

Online giving is a great choice for when you are unable to join us for Worship to continue

to support the church. You can either set-up a recurring payment or give each time you visit the site.

Connect by using this link:

<https://franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources>

HEART & WELLNESS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



Lent 101 by Penny Ford

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

WHEN IS LENT?

It's the 40 days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithing of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday.

MARDI GRAS? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH JESUS?

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Lent starts. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. And it's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved (in some places) into a pretty wild party with little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. Oh well. But Christians still know its origin and hang onto the true spirit of the season.

SO THE REAL BEGINNING OF LENT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and we return our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on people's foreheads, using ashes.

WHY ASHES?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago,

when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.



WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO WITH ASHES?

At an Ash Wednesday service, people are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, nonverbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

SO WHAT IS LENT?

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, the Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, he was ready to begin his ministry.

(Speculation)

Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers. Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

WHY "DO" LENT? HOW DO I START?

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to “repent” — to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It’s a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God’s creation. What do you need to let go of or “fast” from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do? [Learn more about or design a fast.](#)

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on *for* Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, coworker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. Visit The Upper Room Prayer Ministry to [request a prayer](#), [pray for others](#), or [try one or two new prayer practices](#).

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, email and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or every day of Lent!) Use the time to read and pray. [Learn about fasting.](#)

9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, [go to The Up-](#)

[per Room's prayer wall](#) and pray for another person.

- 8. Go deeper.** [Take an online course](#) as a part of your Lenten discipline.
- 7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself).** Study a book on forgiveness, such as [Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey](#).
- 6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Let [Juliana's Ice Cream Fast](#) inspire you to give up some food or drink as a way to grow closer to God. Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis.
- 5. Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. [Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent.](#) See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.
- 4. Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank-you letter each week, and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. [Learn more about the spiritual practice of gratitude.](#)
- 3. Visit [Sight Psalms](#)** and spend time in visual meditation and prayer.
- 2. Volunteer** one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home or prison ministry. [Pray for the world.](#)
- 1. Pray for others** you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.

The Rev. Penny Ford is senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Taken from: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/lent-101>



Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday Service
March 24th - 10:45 am
- Maundy Thursday Service
March 28th - 10:45 am
- Good Friday Service
March 29th - 10:45 am
- Easter Sunday
March 31st - 10:45 am

Franklin First
United Methodist Church
303 South Main St.
Franklin, OH 45005



Franklin First United Methodist Church 2024 Lay Leadership Ministry

Making disciples... Building Christian community... Transforming lives!



Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tami Chamberlain
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Cheryl Cyphers
Financial Secretary	Theresa Fultz
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

Ministry Team Representatives:

Staff-Parish	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Finance	Paul Anderson
Endowment	To Be Determined
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	TBD
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: Mike Smith
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland
Terms expiring 2025	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2026	Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2026:	Gary Ogden, Joe Chamberlain, Joe Wright

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Mike Smith, Lay Leader
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2026:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Theresa Fultz
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Co-Chairs:	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Tami Chamberlain
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

Chair of Finance Committee	Paul Anderson
Church Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Chair of Board of Trustees	Jim Martin
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Member at Large (Term: 2023-24)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Ken Smith
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Kay Marksberry, Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Madelyn Lang, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain, Marna Rogers, Sally Fitzgerald,

Technology Team: Chair: Joe Chamberlain

Joe Chamberlain, Trisha Dicken, Andy Kuntzman, Tami Chamberlain, LeeAnn Lee, Paul Anderson, Rick Chamberlain
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Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Joe Wright (Adult) Rhonda Roberson (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

Lee Saunders (phone contact); Charlotte Summer, Dorothy Rayburg, Jan Truesdell, Judy Deskins (visitation team)
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Upcoming Events

Franklin First United
Methodist Church

Pastor
Laura Saunders



**Sunday Worship
Service**

10:45 am

Livestreaming on Facebook

Faith Seekers Bible Study

Sundays, 9:15 am

February 14

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Lenten Bible Study Begins

March 1 & 2

Croppin' Good Time

March 24

Palm Sunday/Holy Week Begins

March 28

Holy Thursday

March 29

Good Friday

March 31

Easter Sunday



STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER

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February