

# BEYOND THE PEWS AT FRANKLIN FIRST UMC

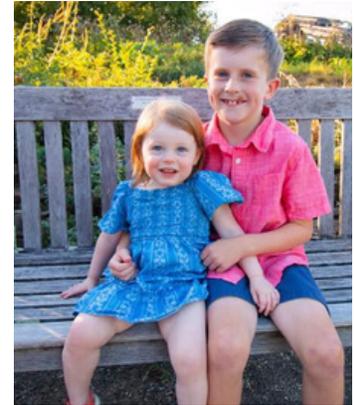
## AMANDA LEFFEW

### FAITH, FAMILY, & GOD'S PERFECT TIMING



It doesn't take long to notice the gentle, uplifting spirit that Amanda Leffew brings to the Franklin First community. A Registered Nurse with more than 20 years of experience, Amanda shares her compassion freely—whether at work, at home, or in church. She and her husband, Jason, will celebrate 18 years of marriage this May, and together they cherish life with their two children: Grayson (9) and Amelia (2).

When she isn't caring for patients or spending time with family, Amanda enjoys simple joys—pool days in summer, visits to the zoo, afternoons at the park, and browsing antique malls. In 2024, she and Jason officially made Franklin First their church home, though Amanda's roots here go back decades.



*"My grandparents helped me build my faith, and now I get to pass that gift to my children."*

### ROOTED IN FAMILY, ROOTED IN FAITH

Amanda's earliest faith experiences were shaped by her grandparents, Paul and Ina Stahley, who faithfully brought her and her sister to Franklin First as children. Those childhood Sundays built a foundation she returned to in her early 20s, always feeling welcomed and at home in the congregation.

In 2008, Amanda and Jason were married in the same sanctuary where she grew up learning about God's love. She credits her grandparents with nurturing her faith—a gift she now hopes to pass along to her own children.

One scripture has guided her through life's joys and challenges: Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

### SERVING WITH JOY

Since joining the church officially, Amanda has become an active and joyful servant through:

- Children's Church
- Greeter ministry
- Vacation Bible School

She especially loves serving with kids and helping them grow in their own faith journeys.

"Our church family is wonderful," Amanda says. "Everyone is so kind and always ready to help. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a loving community."

Looking to the future, Amanda hopes to continue growing in her faith, serving others, and helping strengthen the church family that has supported her so deeply.

### A TESTIMONY OF HOPE: GOD'S PLAN REVEALED

Amanda's faith deepened through one of the hardest seasons of her life: a six-year journey through infertility. It was a time that required patience, faith, and unwavering hope.

"We never gave up the hope of becoming parents," she shares. "I knew in my heart that God had a special plan for us."

That plan blossomed in 2016, only weeks after Amanda and Jason began the adoption process. They were chosen almost immediately, and their son Grayson was born that September—an answer to years of heartfelt prayer.

In November 2023, their hearts were filled again with the arrival of Amelia, a precious gift they hadn't expected but wholeheartedly welcomed.

"God not only blessed us once, but twice," Amanda says. "We are thankful every day for our children."

### LIFE BEYOND CHURCH

Outside of her roles in healthcare and church, Amanda loves:

- Browsing antique malls
- All things Disney
- Traveling to Gatlinburg, Tennessee
- Reflecting with gratitude on her family, health, and career

Her favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art," beautifully echoes the deep sense of awe and thankfulness that fills her story.



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