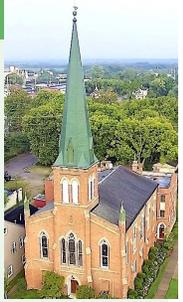




The Steeple Bell— March 2023

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"



**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**

There are many fascinating women that have contributed to the human understanding, and Marie Sklodowska Curie is remarkable in her achievements in the area of radioactivity. God gives us all skills and talents, and Ms. Curie had an incredible mind.

She was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland the youngest of five children. Her parents were educated but poor. They instructed their children in mathematics and physics. Women were not accepted as students in higher learning institutions at the time, so she enrolled in the "Flying University," a clandestine institution that admitted women. She was later admitted to the University of Paris, and earned a degree in physics.

Marie married Pierre Curie in 1895, and together they won the Nobel Prize in 1903 for their work in radiation phenomena. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Marie and Pierre published a total of 32 scientific papers between 1898 and 1902. In 1903, Marie was awarded her doctorate from the University of Paris.

It is interesting to note that the Curies worked out of a shed that was formerly a medical school dissecting room. It was poorly ventilated and not waterproof. They had no knowledge of the dangerous effects of radiation exposure and worked unprotected with radioactive substances.

Pierre was killed in a road accident in 1906, and Marie was devastated. The University of Paris had been in the process of creating a Chair in physics for Pierre, and upon his death offered the position to Marie. She was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris.

Marie was awarded a second Nobel Prize in 1911 in the field of Chemistry for her discovery of the elements radium and polonium. She was the first person to win two Nobel Prizes, and is one of two people to win a Nobel Prize in two fields of study. With Marie's second Nobel Prize, she was able to persuade the French government to support the Radium Institute to be built in 1914. She was appointed Director of the Curie Laboratory there.

During WW1, Marie saw the need for mobile X-Rays in

treating injured soldiers. She developed mobile radiography units and became the Director of the Red Cross Radiology Service. It is estimated that over a million wounded soldiers were treated with her X-ray units.

Marie Curie died at the age of 66 from aplastic anemia believed to have been caused from her long-term exposure to radiation resulting in damage to her bone marrow. She carried test tubes containing radioactive isotopes in her pockets and stored them in her desk drawers. She also was exposed to X-rays with unshielded equipment while in field hospitals in the war.

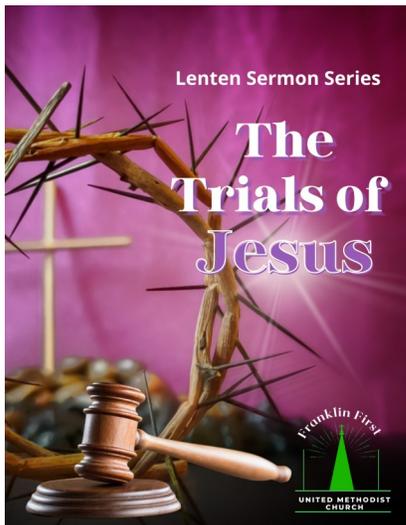
Sixty years after their deaths, the remains of both Marie and Pierre Curie were transferred to the Paris Pantheon in honor of their achievements. Their bodies were sealed in lead-lined enclosures due to radioactivity, her papers are considered too radioactive to handle because of contamination.

Her work was groundbreaking in both the scientific and social communities. Marie had to overcome barriers as a woman in a male-dominated field of study. Albert Einstein was said to have remarked that she was probably the only person who could not be corrupted by fame. She gave much of the money from her Nobel Prizes to research associates. She also refrained from patenting much of her work so that the scientific community could do research unhindered. In a 2009 poll conducted by the New Scientist, she was voted the most inspirational woman in science.

I stand in awe of Marie Curie. Her work was foundational for so many of our modern-day advancements. She did not let prejudice or roadblocks in opportunity dissuade her from pursuing her passions. Which women in history inspire you? May we all live up to our God-given potential.

Pastor Laura





The Trials of Jesus

What did you think of Judas’ testimony on February 26 during our worship service? Did you discover any hidden insights that might not have occurred to you before? As we journey through Lent and into Easter, we will be hearing from a wide variety of the witnesses that were present for Jesus’ passion, crucifixion, and resurrection. As they share their perspectives, perhaps we will gain a deeper understanding of the miracle of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

March 5	Annas	First person Jesus was taken to for trial, a Jewish ex-High Priest
March 12	Caiaphas	Jewish High Priest at time of Jesus’ arrest
March 19	Peter	One of Jesus’ closest disciples
March 26	Herod	Ruler of Galilee
April 2	Child	A Witness from the crowd (Palm Sunday)
April 6	Claudia Procula	Wife of Pontius Pilate (Maundy Thursday)
April 7	Satan	The Deceiver (Good Friday)
April 9	Mary Magdalene	First person at the empty tomb (Easter)

Anthony Wayne Tutoring

Franklin First volunteers began tutoring nine Anthony Wayne first graders shortly after the Christmas break. We work with the students on literacy training using curriculum provided by teacher Mrs. Simas. As the kids work on their language arts skills, they are also building relationships with their tutors. Principle Jim Rhoades’ plan is for the same students and tutors to partner next school year to continue the progress.

As I was talking to Mr. Rhoades about the importance of the tutoring program, he observed that these early elementary students are at a disadvantage due to COVID restrictions. Kids that might normally have had the opportunity for advance learning opportunities in preschool were denied those benefits when preschools could not operate. Thus, the children are entering school without the basic preparation that preschool learning can provide.

I am so thankful for our faithful volunteers that enable this mission project! You are giving the kids a hand up with your time and encouragement. God bless you!

Pastor Laura

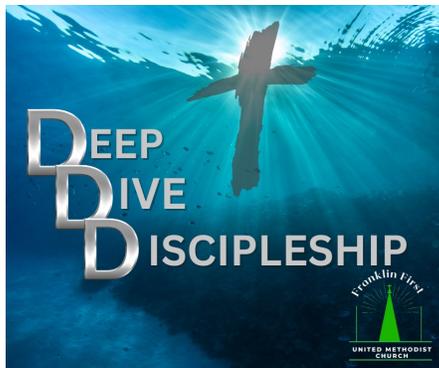


Deep Dive Discipleship

One of my spiritual mentors, Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, recently commented on “spiritual epiphanies.” According to our church calendar, the season of Epiphany is associated with the visit of the Wise Men to baby Jesus. But epiphany has another meaning: sudden insight or awakening. For Christians, this type of epiphany is tied to spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of our true identity as a child of God.

Whether we’ve been a person of faith for decades or days, there is always more to fathom in our relationship with God. Our faith journey can get lackadaisical unless we intentionally seek to expand not only our head knowledge, but also our heart knowledge about the mercy, grace, and love of our Lord.

With that in mind you are invited to join **Deep Dive Discipleship**, a study led by Pastor Laura beginning in March on Sundays from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. A light meal will be provided. The course will meet mostly bi-weekly according to the schedule below:



- March 19** Living faith & the meaning of my baptism
- April 2** Making a daily connection with God
- April 16** Developing deeper spiritual relationships
- April 30** Vibrant worship
- May 21** Having a servant’s heart
- June 4** Deep discipleship insights
- June 11** What does hospitality look like in the Body of Christ?

All adults are invited to participate, and pre-registration will be helpful to provide necessary materials. Please call the church office or register online [here](#) by March 12. It will be a great way to take next steps in your faith. Pastor Laura will be glad to address any questions you may have.



Scouting Ministries

Were you a Boy or Girl Scout? How many people do you know who were? While we’ve heard about the challenges of the Scouting program in the last year, it is important to remember that the vast majority of adult volunteers who give of

their time are working to give our kids solid footing to face their adult years. Our son Gene is an Eagle Scout and we’ve seen him use the skills and attitudes he learned in scouting countless times in his adult years. Lee and I are proud scouting parents.

On Sunday, March 12 during worship, we will be honoring our Boy and Girl Scouts. They will help lead us during the service and we will have an opportunity to congratulate them on their accomplishments. We will also be recognizing the adults among us who give leadership to the many programs that benefit our young people. Invite a scout you know to come and be applauded.

Pastor Laura



Angel Shop

Help us spread the word! Only two more shopping days for the prom season. Encourage teenagers to come check out our more than 200 pieces of formal wear, plus jewelry, shoes, and other accessories.

UMCOR Sunday—March 19

Imagine you are sleeping peacefully in your bed one night and suddenly you hear what sounds like the roar of a freight train. You run for shelter but moments later your house, indeed your entire community, has been leveled by a major tornado. You were lucky to have survived, but what do you do now?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a Special Sunday on March 19. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to HELP.

UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- ◆ For victims of natural disaster, UMCOR is often one of the first relief teams on the scene.
- ◆ When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, UMCOR responded.
- ◆ UMCOR delivers food, water, shelter, and long-term recovery assistance to help many of the 68.5 million people displaced by war, persecution, and natural disaster.

UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's Church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn't have to be something "they" do, it can be something "we" do. Contributions from UMCOR Sunday fund administrative costs so that when we donate to specific disaster efforts through UMCOR – 100% of those funds reach the victims. We can also be part of the support efforts by praying for the volunteers, the lives they touch, and for hearts to be moved in Jesus' name.

Epilepsy Awareness

March 26 is Epilepsy Awareness Day. Do you know much about Epilepsy? It is a disorder of the brain, not a disease. The brain sends electrical signals through nerves to control body operations. When there is a misfire of a large amount of electrical energy, it causes a seizure. When the electrical signals stop misfiring, the seizure stops. It can last anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes. The person may return to normal with a headache and some sense of confusion about what has happened.

Anyone at any age from any ethnicity can develop Epilepsy. It affects more than 2% of the population, which means that three million Americans have the disorder. It is not contagious and does not cause mental illness. It is a medical disorder. Medication is the most common treatment for Epilepsy.





Women's Circle News

Next Meeting: March 13th at 6:30 pm

The Women's Circle has numerous upcoming activities.

- March kicks off with the Croppin' Good Time weekend with 26 participants signed up.
- Easter Egg Hunt for FFUMC kids on Saturday, April 1st at 1 pm at the Noland home.
- Spring Altar Flowers: order your tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and lilies in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Order forms available at the office, call the office or online at: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a61615095> or our website. Orders due on March 30th.
- Blooming Hanging Baskets have returned! Order a 12" hanging basket, choose from a wide-selection of colors and types. Order forms available at the office, call the office, or online at: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a61615095> or our website. Orders due on April 17th.
- Start decluttering and save the date for the upcoming Garage Sale on August 9-12th during the Franklin community garages. Stay tuned for more details.

FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
GARAGE SALE
 AUGUST 9 -12TH

Mark your calendar and clean out your closets. Stay tuned for updates on donating to the Garage Sale.

Easter
 EGG HUNT

SATURDAY
APRIL 1ST
 1 PM

Franklin First
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Women's Circle

Noland Home,
 8076 East Lawn Dr.,
 Franklin, OH

Easter
SPRING FLOWERS
 FOR ALTAR OR HOME

LILIES, TULIPS,
 HYACINTHS, &
 DAFFODILS

\$10

HANGING BASKET SALE
\$25

ORDERS DUE BY APRIL 17TH

TRUSTEES

Trustee Team Update

The Parsonage suffered roof damage during a recent wind storm. We decided to initiate a claim with our insurance company for the damage.

Upon completion of an inspection by an adjuster, it has been determined the damage will be covered. We have contacted two roofing contractors who have both inspected the damage. Both contractors have been sent the details of the replacement dictated by the insurance company. We hope to have both quotes by early March. At this point, we are not certain 100% of the replacement will be covered.

Franklin First Online Giving

Franklin First has a new online giving platform. We have employed a Vision2 to replace Weshare and save on fees for 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/member-resources-%26-giving>



Missions Team Collections

Personal Care Products for The Pantry

The Missions Team is collecting personal care products such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc for The Pantry during the months of January, February, & March. Bring your contributions to the church on Sunday or drop them by the office during the week.



Personal Hygiene Product Collection for High School

The Franklin Junior and Senior High School is in need of personal hygiene products for their students. Products such as tampons, pads, deodorant, etc. for students not able to afford such products.

Thank You—Christmas Offering

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your donation of \$377 to the Warren County Community Services—Early Learning Centers. Your donation will help those in greatest need. Please know that you are making lives brighter and strengthening the fabric of our community in Warren County by your generous support.

Sincerely,
Maureen M Hird
Chief Financial Officer



UMCOR—Turkey & Syria Earthquakes

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 am on February 6, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude. The earthquake and aftershocks also impacted north-west Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance.

The death toll continues to rise and the humanitarian response is struggling to ramp up to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already offering hope and healing through its ministry partners. Initial solidarity grants have been released to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. You can join others in financially supporting this response by donating to UMCOR Advance #982450. Donations can be given online by clicking [here](#) or by sending a check to West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085, with 'Advance #982450' in the Memo line.

Please join UMCOR in prayer for the many people affected by these devastating earthquakes, including the rescue crews seeking survivors and those caring for the injured and displaced.



March Calendar of Events

- 1 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 2 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 3-4 Scrapbooking Event hosted by Women's Circle
- 8 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 8 Communication Meeting; 2:15 pm
- 12 Scout Sunday/Daylight Savings Begins
- 13 Women's Circle Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 15 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm; 6:30pm
- 16 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 19 Deep Dive Discipleship: Living Faith & The Meaning of My Baptism
- 20 Church Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 21 Mission & Outreach Team Meeting
- 22 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 23 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 25 Angel Shop; 4 -7 pm
- 26 Angel Shop 1—3 pm
- 29 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 30 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm—Final

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2 - 10:45 AM
PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

APRIL 6 - 6:30 PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

APRIL 7 - 6:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 9 - 10:45 AM
EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin – Part 3 (1848-1873)

As the third article in this series that commemorates the 225th anniversary of forming the congregation that became the Franklin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC), the period from 1848 through 1873 will be briefly described. Our congregation dates our founding to Monday August 14, 1798 when the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) missionary Rev. John Kobler (1768-1843) held the first religious service in the frontier hamlet of Franklin. Over the next 50 plus years, itinerant Methodist “circuit-rider” preachers held irregular services that were initially held in private home then in a small shared community church and finally in dedicated churches built in 1832 and 1836. As the population of Ohio grew the size of the M.E. circuits shrank with the Franklin circuit forming in 1836. In the 1840 census Franklin had 770 inhabitants rising to 972 being recorded in 1850 and reached 1834 in 1870.

With its prosperity, the village of Franklin was made a station (i.e., a full time minister would be assigned in 1853. The congregation had purchased a parsonage in the early 1850s to ensure their new pastor would have a home roof when sent by the M.E. conference. The Rev. Gilbert C. Townley was its first assigned pastor; however, he died of consumption (i.e., tuberculous) during his first year in Franklin. The initial pastor’s salary was fixed at \$200 per year. By 1872 it had risen to \$1000 annually.

The Sunday School classes that had been organized in 1833 by Daniel Harper continued to grow. The average weekly attendance was 175 in 1861 and would increase to 250 in 1878. In circa 1865 Eden Burrows (E.B.) Thirkield became its superintendent would hold that post for over 20 years. One of E. B. sons, Wilbur Patterson Thirkield, born in 1854 would be ordained a M.E. minister and would eventually become a church bishop. In 1850 E. B. became a partner and later the proprietor of the Thirkield dry goods store, which was the oldest and leading dry goods house in Franklin, as well as the President of the Franklin Paper Company The Thirkield family owned and managed the department store until 1955 when it was sold to others. E. B. Thirkield is shown in Figure 1.

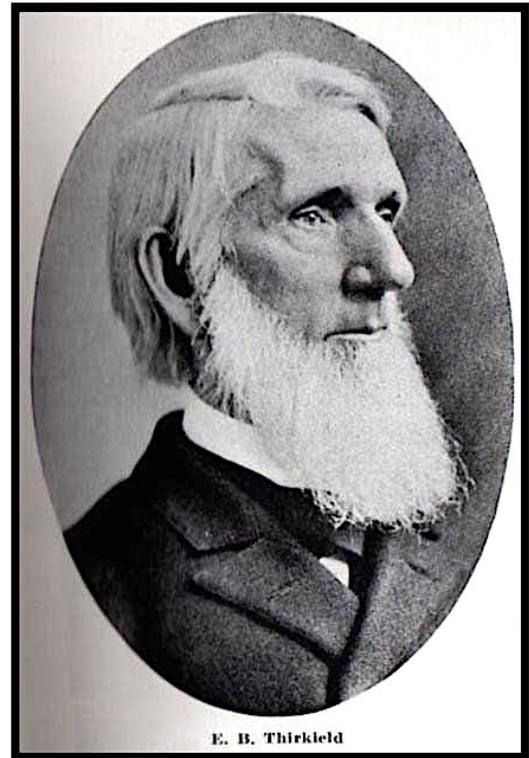


Fig.1. Eden Burrows Thirkield (1828-1905), photograph (date unknown)

Due to the size of both church membership and size of the Sunday school, the brick building constructed in 1836 rapidly became too small. Consequently, this building was torn away in 1859 and a new building in Gothic style, having buttresses exteriorly with a steeple rising 120 feet from the ground while in the lower floor were the vestry, Sunday-School room along with five classrooms. The upper level sanctuary is a very large one with stained glass Gothic windows across the front of the church. This structure remains the main portion of the FFUMC to this day. The appearance of the church building circa 1900 is shown in Figure 2. The cost of the church, exclusive of old material and furnishings, was \$10,300. On September 16, 1860, Bishop Matthew Simpson (1811-1884) and Rev. LaFayette van Cleve (1825-1892), the current pastor, dedicated the new church for the Franklin Methodist Congregation. During services held on the previous day, \$3575 had been raised to free the building from debt.

(One of a regular series of reports on the people and events associated with the history and ministry of the Franklin First United Method Church. Robert Bowman, Historian)



Fig. 2. Postcard showing the Franklin Ohio Methodist Episcopal Church circa 1900

Much of the credit for this accomplishment as well as increasing the size of the congregation was given the preceding minister Rev. Alexander Meharry (1813-1878) who, when he came, found a debt on the parsonage, an old church building and a congregation of old people, and who left this charge clear of debt, with the new church almost completed and a large number of young men and women members of the church.

The stained glass windows that were installed in the front of the 1860 building are shown in Figure 3.

In 1862 a large bell cast by the G. W. Coffin & Co. Buckeye Bell Foundry of Cincinnati Ohio was installed in the steeple. The bell was the donation from Ransom Lockwood (1810-1889). He was a self-made highly successful businessman with no formal school education. In 1846 he was elected a Justice of the Peace and held that office for 43 years. He was also elected Franklin village mayor and Franklin Township clerk. While the bell in the steeple is not too fancy, it has rung nicely for over 160 years. It is rung every Sunday to start worship services.



Fig. 3. Photograph of stained glass windows above the front entrance on Main Street in current building that during tis 1860 construction.



Fig. 4. Photograph of the bronze bell in the steeple of FFUMC.

SAVE THE DATE

Franklin First United Methodist Church

HOMECOMING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
CELEBRATING 225 YEARS

Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Get Them Talking: Helping Others

Scripture

“I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.” [Matthew 10:42, CEB](#)



Reflection

When we hear about church missions, we often think of big, organized programs: missionaries serving far from home or the annual church mission trip. But Jesus often talked about missions as simply helping the people we encounter every day, like giving a cup of cold water to someone who is thirsty, food to a neighbor who is hungry, or visiting those who are alone. We don't have to travel far from home to do these things, we can do them wherever we are.

When we think of missions in this way, every day—at school, work, home, wherever we go—can be a mission trip.

Get them talking

- When has someone helped you? How did you feel?
- When was a time you helped someone? How did that make you feel?
- Why do you think it matters to Jesus that we help others?

Prayer

Dear God, give me a heart to be a helper. Amen.

Activity

Decide on a family service project. It could be donating clothes, taking a meal to a neighbor, or collecting money to donate.

Get Them Talking: Discussion starters for families

Each month, we provide a scripture, reflection, prayer, activity and some starter questions to help families initiate conversations about faith issues. For more on the series visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/get-them-talking-discussion-starters-for-families>

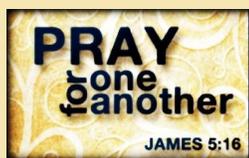
Birthdays

March 01	Lisa (Carpenter) Quillen
March 11	Daran Bishop
March 02	Aubree Kelly
March 03	Ryan Hynes
March 04	Elliott Duff
March 04	Linda Stevens
March 06	Mike Runyan
March 07	Rick Chamberlain
March 12	Carol Hatfield
March 14	Don Chamberlain
March 14	John Lass
March 14	Barbara Ogdin
March 14	Pastor Laura Saunders
March 15	Rick Marksberry
March 15	Gib Woody
March 22	Oakland Roberts
March 26	Rachel Chamberlain
March 27	Easton Hinds
March 27	Noah Hinds
March 27	LeeAnn Lee
March 30	Carol Runyan
March 31	Kay Marksberry

Anniversaries

March 9	Joe Jeromos & Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
March 26	Tom & Dorothy Rayburg

Submit a Prayer Request Anytime



Submit your prayer request.

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.

franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54

'THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING " ORGANIC SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AT ASBURY DRAWS THOUSANDS FROM ACROSS THE US

WILMORE, Ky. – When Georgia Dobson and Haley Smith saw on TikTok that a spiritual revival was taking place as Asbury University, they knew they had to go see it for themselves. The friends, both 16, live in New Albany, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville and about a 90-minute drive from Wilmore.



"It's so close," Haley said Wednesday, Feb. 15, as she and Georgia stood outside Hughes Memorial Auditorium on the Asbury campus, waiting to go inside where a student-led revival, dubbed by some the "outpouring," was in its eighth day and showing no signs of ending anytime soon.

Added Georgia, "We want to be a part of it."

The two were among at least 100 people in line waiting to go into the auditorium, where the revival has continued day and night and spilled onto additional sites on the campus and across the street at Asbury Theological Seminary. It began Feb. 8 after what appeared to be a routine chapel service. Since then, aided by TikTok, Facebook, and other social media, word has spread far and wide and at last count had attracted people of all ages, including students from at least 20 colleges and universities, both Christian and secular.

Bishop Leonard Fairley, who is currently leading a tour in the Holy Land, said he supports the movement at Asbury "and everywhere the Spirit deems to move." He also expressed excitement that the revival is being led by young people.

University staff and other longtime residents of the area have expressed amazement and awe at what is transpiring in Wilmore, attributing the organic and student-driven awakening to the Holy Spirit. They noted that Asbury, a private school founded in 1890 with roots in The United Methodist Church, has a history of such revivals. But this one, they say, is special in its size, scope, and power, drawing comparisons to a revival in 1970 that went for a week and a half and drew thousands of pilgrims – much as this one is doing.

The scene on the greenspace outside Hughes Auditorium on this sunny, springlike day was peaceful, but energetic and festive. People were coming to and going from the auditorium. Media crews from Lexington and elsewhere were interviewing people; small groups were

gathered together praying; children ran and played on the periphery. People waited patiently in line to go inside the auditorium as others in front of them left and room opened up.

"The unity is beautiful," said Donna Cherry, 65, of Indianapolis, who traveled to Wilmore with JoAnn Richmond, 83, and Karen Mitchell, 48. They had arrived a few hours earlier, "just to be in the presence of God," Mitchell said. "This is just the beginning." They also had learned of the revival on social media.

They, like others interviewed and posts on social media, were struck by the low-key but powerful spirit present – no hype, no agendas – just people of all ages, races, and walks of life, coming together to worship Christ.

Cherry said that when she was active in a United Methodist church in the 1970s, the pastor had two daughters attending Asbury who had experienced revival. "So, I knew it was real," she said of this event.

"The kingdom of God is here," Richmond said. "You can feel it."

Sarah, 33, who did not provide her last name, was in line with two other people from Monticello, Kentucky. They also had learned of it on social media. "We're just here to check out the movement," she said.

Kayla Mattox and Tyler Frye, both 27 and students at the seminary, also were in line to check it out. Frye said the feeling across the campuses has been different since the revival broke out. "The spirit's presence is in the classrooms, too," Mattox said.

Rev. Jim McIlrath, 70, a retired elder from the South Georgia Annual Conference, was sitting outside the auditorium as the line slowly filed past. He said he was present at the February 1970 revival, doing some janitorial work on campus at the time. He said someone came into the campus library and shouted for people to "get over to the chapel; the Holy Spirit is moving!"

McIlrath said he'll never forget the scene – people lining up to give personal testimony, sometimes four deep kneeling at the altar. It lasted 10 days. When he arrived this week, he said, he felt the same sense of God's spirit in the room.

"I'm so privileged. How many people can say they've been through two of these things?" He said that

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

“there’s something about this place (Hughes Auditorium) that’s unique,” adding that he heard of similar revivals in 1905, 1923, and 1950.

Rev. Dr. Esther Jadhav, the university’s associate vice president of intercultural affairs, also mentioned the smaller revivals that have periodically taken place through the years at Asbury, But this one, she said, is something special.

“God’s presence has been tangible,” she said. “Our students, faculty, staff have just shared across the school that they have been experiencing God.”

Revs. Shirley and George Burke, co-pastors of the UMC church community Agape Fellowship in Louisville, also were present Wednesday. They also were drawn to Wilmore after hearing about the revival.

Shirley Burke said she was amazed at the range of ages of the people present and also how far many have traveled. She sat next to someone in the auditorium from San Antonio, Texas. Like others, she said the common theme is that people just want to gather and worship the Lord.

“I’ve just sensed that people are hungry and thirsty for God. You can feel it,” she said.

Rev. D. Merricks, pastor of Wilmore UMC, a couple of blocks from the auditorium, said he first ventured down to the revival Friday morning, mainly out of curiosity. He stayed about an hour.

“Within a few moments of being there, I felt a sense of peace in the room. That’s probably the best way to put it,” he said. His church and GCF Vineyard, another church that shares the Wilmore UMC building, have hosted an overflow space in the building as needed. Meantime, they are mostly carrying on with their normal church activities as best they can, given the parking challenges with so many visitors.

“My experience is that this is very real,” Merricks said. “They’re calling it the ‘outpouring.’ I think that’s a good term for it.”

Rev. Dr. Iosmar Alvarez, superintendent of the Kentucky Annual Conference’s Lexington District, is also among the Kentucky UMC clergy who have been to the revival. Many of them have posted about the experience online, including video clips.



themselves.

In an email, he wrote: “I experienced a Spirit-led revival that began with repentance among the young adults, college kids and have now extended to all generations. ... I saw people from all generations, no labels, no distinction of race worshipping the One King who has no equal, Jesus Christ.”

As to how long the revival lasts, people said they will stay as long as the Holy Spirit leads them to stay. But the hope is that this will help to spark a widespread and lasting revival, and there have been secondhand reports online and at the revival of students returning to their campuses and revivals breaking out there, as well.

“It’s just really, really cool” to see God at work, said Ha-ley, the 16-year-old from Indiana. She and Georgia planned to be there as long as they sensed the Lord’s leading them to stay.

Taken from: <https://www.kyumc.org/newsdetail/this-is-just-the-beginning-organic-spiritual-revival-at-asbury->

Ohio River Valley District & West Ohio Conference E-News



The Ohio River Valley District has a weekly publication called News

and Notes. To subscribe, sign up at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zxhn199?source_id



The West Ohio Conference NewsNet newsletter is



published twice a month and delivered to your email. Mission Mosaic is a conference quarterly publication highlighting conference mission activities. Subscribe to email newsletters at:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/news>



Alvarez and his wife, Rev. Zulayne Alvarez, senior pastor at Fuente de Avamamiento in Lexington, were there Tuesday evening with their two daughters. It was his second time at the revival, and Alvarez said he wanted the girls to see it for



Women's Circle Hanging Basket Sale

Basket Pick Up: May 12 or 13th

Orders Due: April 17th

12" Blooming Hanging Baskets - \$25 each

Begonia- Shade/Sun

Dragon Wing (Red)



Scaevola- Full Sun

Lavender



Calibrachoa- Full/Part Sun

Blue

Pink

Red

Yellow

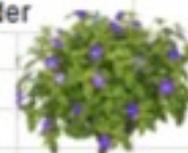
Mixed (3 colors per basket)

Lavender



Streptocarpella- Shade

Lavender



Ivy Geraniums(Vining)- Full/Part Sun

Red/white

Lavender

Pink

Red



New Guinea Impatiens- Full/Part Sun

Lavender

Hot Pink

Purple

Red

White

Orange



12" Mixed Flowering Baskets

*Combination of 3 different complementing plants.

Mixed Flowering



Petunia Basket- Full Sun

Blue

Lavender

Pink

Red

Purple w/white eye



11" Boston Fern Basket

Boston Fern



11" Foliage Baskets

Bridal Veil

Swedish Ivy

Spider Plant

Sprengerii

Wandering Jew

(Purple Varigated)

Zonal Geraniums (Upright)- Sun

Pink

Purple

Red

Salmon



Email:

Name:

Phone:

To order online: visit our website or [click here.](#)

Franklin First United Methodist Church

2023 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	Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Lee Ann Lee
Communications Coordinators	Carol & Mike Runyan
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

Ministry Team Representatives:

Staff-Parish	Julie Abell
Finance	Paul Anderson
Endowment	Ken Smith
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator	
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Mike Smith)

Terms expiring 2023:	Julie Abell, Judy Parker, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland
Terms expiring 2025:	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2023:	Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Mike Smith, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2023:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Julie Abell
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Co-Chairs:	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Julie Abell
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Charlotte Summer
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: 2022 only)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2022-2023)	Ken Smith, Chair
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
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Usher Organizer:	Judy Parker
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

Lisa Dillon, Madelyn Lang, Tracy Easter, Ken Smith, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain, Marna Rogers, Judy Parker, Sally Fitzgerald, Amber Ramsey

Technology Team: Chair: Joe Chamberlain

Joe Chamberlain, Trisha Dicken, Andy Kuntzman, Tami Chamberlain, LeeAnn Lee, Paul Anderson

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Chris Womack, Charlotte Summer

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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

Communication Team: Mike & Carol Runyan, Linda & Mike Smith, Pastor Laura Saunders, Theresa Fultz

Upcoming Events

Franklin First United
Methodist Church

Pastor
Laura Saunders



**Sunday Worship
Service**

10:45 am

Livestreaming on Facebook

Faith Seekers Bible Study

Sundays, 9:30 am

March 19	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Living faith & the meaning of my baptism	5-6:30 pm
April 2	Holy Week Begins Palm Sunday	10:45 am
	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Making a Daily Connection with God	5—6:30 pm
April 6	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
April 7	Good Friday	6:30 pm
April 9	Easter Sunday	10:45 am
April 16	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Developing Deeper Spiritual Relationships	5-6:30 pm
April 28	Franklin Food Truck Park Fun	
April 30	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Vibrant Worship	5-6:30 pm
May 21	Music Sunday	10:45 am

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.
Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232

E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

