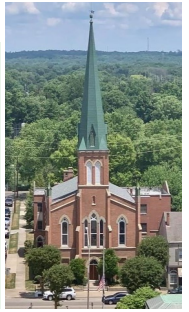




# The Steeple Bell— November 2022

Franklin First United Methodist Church

*“Under the Green Steeple”*



## Grateful Hearts

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:15, 17

There’s a Christian song that I love entitled “Give Thanks.” It was written by Don Moen, and I’d like to share some of the lyrics:

“Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son...(repeat)  
And now let the weak say, ‘I am strong,’ let the poor say, ‘I am rich,’  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks.”

Do we make a habit of giving God thanks for our many blessings in life, or do we take them for granted? When things are going well it is easy to get complacent, thinking that the good in our lives is all our own doing. This good has a divine origin. “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights...” James 1:17

Charles Spurgeon, in his ministry, often referred to “the common mercies of God.” This phrase points to God’s daily gifts:

- a relationship with our loving God
- forgiveness for our sins and new starts
- the promise of eternal life for those who make Jesus Christ their Lord
- another breath/day of earthly life
- God’s presence with us in good and difficult times
- shelter, food and water
- family, friends, community
- contentment found in simplicity
- the opportunity to dream & follow those dreams

November is a time for thanksgiving. Not just one day out of 365, but an orientation that can become a way of life. It is easy to focus on what we perceive we lack and live a life of complaining. But it is soul-enriching to focus on God’s blessings and be grateful. Let’s give thanks!

Pastor Laura



## GIVE THANKS

**O GIVE  
THANKS TO  
THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS  
GOOD,  
FOR HIS  
STEADFAST  
LOVE  
ENDURES  
FOREVER.**

**PSALM  
107:1**



## Stewardship Blessings

The Franklin First congregation has been faithful in support of the church's ministries. Thank you for your continued generosity! As our year begins to draw to a close, let's make the commitment to stay strong in our giving as it enables ministry within our fellowship and out into the community.

During November, we will be focusing on stewardship for 2023. We give to God with our time, talents, resources, and service. We are asking that you prayerfully consider your commitment to God through Franklin First as we make that part of our Thanksgiving service on November 20.

God doesn't "need" us to get his work done. He is sovereign and could do it without our help. Yet God has arranged it so that his work depends on our generosity. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. As we give, we place God first in our priorities. We learn that we cannot outgive God.



## Free Medical Clinic

Tuesday of each week, Dr. Chamberlain and a volunteer staff welcome the uninsured and underinsured to receive free medical attention and prayer. Patients are treated with dignity and respect and are always grateful for the care they receive. Since January, the clinic has had around 138 patients. We are grateful for the ministry opportunity and the staff that feels called to provide these services.

### Looking Ahead to the Holidays

**November 20:** Thanksgiving Sunday.

**November 20:** Hanging of the Greens following the morning worship service.

**November 27 through December 18:**

Four Sundays of Advent with Advent wreath lightings and a sermon focused on the Angels of Christmas.

**December 4:**

Blessing of the Nativities during worship. Bring a piece of your home nativity set.

**December 11:** Children's Christmas Program.

**December 18:** Christmas Music Celebration.

**December 24:**

Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.

**December 25:** Worship Service at 10:45 am.

**January 1:**

Worship Service at 10:45 am, including a carol sing.

*Have you been on our updated website? Check it out:*

*[www.franklinfirstumc.org](http://www.franklinfirstumc.org). Let us know what you think!*



## Church Conference

One time each year, each United Methodist church has a conference to do the official business of the congregation. Ours is scheduled for Monday November 7 at 6:30 pm. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend, church

members will have voting rights. Officers are expected to attend. Items on the agenda include reports from ministry teams, a membership report, the pastor's compensation package, and a presentation of our Breakthrough Goals for next year.

## Christmas Food Baskets

Franklin First will once again be spearheading the Christmas distribution for the needy in our community. Sponsored by local businesses and sister churches this year, sign-ups will be the first two Mondays in November from 11:00 – 4:00. Tami Chamberlain is the coordinator. Contact her to see how you can help. Distribution will be held on Monday December 19 from 1:00 – 6:00.

A flyer for Christmas Food Baskets. The background is a festive winter scene with snow, evergreen branches, and red berries. The text is as follows:

**Franklin First  
United Methodist Church**

# Christmas Food Baskets

**SIGN-UPS - FOR FRANKLIN, CARLISE, & SPRINGBORO  
RESIDENTS THAT ARE SERVED BY FACS (FRANKLIN  
AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES)**

**LOCATION:**  
**FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
303 S. MAIN STREET**

**DATE/TIMES:**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 11:00 - 4:00  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH FROM 11:00 - 4:00**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- PHOTO ID
- PROOF OF RESIDENCY (UTILITY BILL, INSURANCE CARD, COUNTY PAPERWORK, SOMETHING WITH NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS)

A circular logo for Franklin First United Methodist Church, featuring a green steeple silhouette and the church's name.

## Correct Contact Information?

Please be sure the office has the correct cell phone number, home phone number, address, email, etc. for your family. Confirm with the office if you are unsure.



## Fall Marketplace

Our Women's Circle has been working diligently to prepare for the Marketplace on Saturday November 5 from 9:00 – 2:00. Lunch will be served; food and vendor items will be available for purchase. Thanks to everyone who has labored for this event.

## An Amazing Noodle Crew

The noodle crew must have set a record this year! Over five weeks, **567 batches** of homemade noodles were mixed, rolled, cut & packaged. Wow!

For the second time, we have taken pre-order sales and the crew could barely keep up with sales. There will be a limited number of noodles for sale on the day of the Marketplace. Be sure to stop by!

## Missions Team Update

### Paper Products for The Pantry

The Missions Team is continuing to collect paper products for The Pantry in November and December.



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.



### College Student Christmas Gift Bags

We will be preparing Christmas gift bags for college students of the church. If you would like one prepared for your college student

please contact a member of the Missions Team or the office.



## Snack Packs

Franklin First has been packing snack packs for Anthony Wayne students who deal with food scarcity on the weekends at home. This school year, the need is great – as we are providing 159 packs per week at a cost of \$3.50 each (due to the increase in grocery costs). Since January, we have delivered over 3,000 snack packs to the school for home use. **What a blessing to be able to help a child be his/her best self!**



Some of the items included in the Snack Packs are pictured below. Consider picking up an box of one of the items next time you are shopping.

See a great sale on one of the items, let us know - we are always looking for ways to stretch our funds.



Women's Circle  
Next Meeting  
Monday,  
Nov. 14th  
6:30 pm



PRAY  
to one  
another

JAMES 5:16

Submit  
your  
prayer request.

### 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.

[franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54](http://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54)

## All Saints Sunday

On November 6 in our Worship service, we will be remembering those who have joined the Church Triumphant since last November. It is always difficult when we lose a loved one, but through Christian faith we believe that the parting is temporary – that those who have died in faith are part of the Communion of Saints in the eternal presence of Almighty God. Join us as we celebrate their victory.

### *A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day*

*We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever  
worshiped you*

*Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals,  
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement  
meeting houses*

*Where your name was lifted and adored.*

*We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:  
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or  
soil,*

*Strong hands and those gnarled with age  
Holy hands*

*Used as wave offerings across the land.*

*We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;*

*Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,*

*Head ragged or aproned,*

*Blue-collared or three-piece-suited*

*They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for  
our children to come.*

*Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made  
by those who have gone before us.*

*Bless the memories of your saints, God.*

*May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples  
of faith, dedication, worship, and love.*

## Trustee Update

The Trustees are currently working on the security lights on the back of the education wing. The old lights won't turn off, and are on 24/7. We cannot buy replacement bulbs for the fixtures, so we are looking at newer technology for those lights with LED bulbs that should provide energy savings.

We are starting a search for a handrail that will come closer to the existing rails on the front steps to the sanctuary. The small handrail is a temporary replacement since the chair lift was removed.

## Thank you from Pastor Laura



I would like to thank the congregation for the special Pastor Appreciation gifts given October 16 during worship. I loved the poster with the gracious comments, the beautiful flowers, and the gift bag with all things necessary for a personal self-care spa day: chocolates, fluffy socks, lotion, and gifts cards to Chipotle, Barnes & Noble, and a nail salon. I love serving with you. I'll think of you as I'm pampering myself. The thank you song by the choir was lovely.

Pastor Laura

## Anthony Wayne Tutoring



## Anthony Wayne Elementary Tutoring Program

We are slated to begin tutoring again on Thursday, January 12 through March 16, a ten-week session. We will be working exclusively with first grade students this year. Tutors arrive

at the school by 3:15 and leave after their student's designated ride signs them out around 4:30. Please consider tutoring! Talk to Linda Smith, Karen Anderson, or Pastor Laura for details.

## Faith Seekers Sundays 9:30 am



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings. They are currently studying what happens when we die. All are invited!



# FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FALL MARKETPLACE

## NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9 AM - 2 PM

"UNDER THE GREEN STEEPLE"

AT 303 S. MAIN ST.,

FRANKLIN, OH

## LUNCH IS SERVED FROM

## 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

CHICKEN & NOODLES,  
BEAN SOUP, AND  
BARBEQUE

SOME OF THE VENDORS  
INCLUDE THIRTY-ONE,  
APPAREL & JEWELRY,  
CROCHETED ITEMS,  
HANDMADE HOLIDAY  
ITEMS, AND HOMEMADE  
BAKED GOODS.



PRE-ORDER FOR  
ADVANCE SALES BY  
PINT OR QUART AND  
POUND BAGS OF OUR  
HOMEMADE NOODLES  
AT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.FRANKLINFIRST  
UMC.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG)

## Poinsettia Sale

Women's Circle will once again be sponsoring the Annual Poinsettia Sale. You can order poinsettias (red, pink, white, or marble) for \$10

Place your order for your home or as gifts by **Nov. 20th** using this link: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a6150> or call or stop by the office.

Help us adorn the Christmas altar and purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Place your order by **Dec. 5th** using this link: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a616149> or call or stop by the office.



## Sunday Worship

If you are interested in helping with Sunday Worship as an usher or greeter, please contact the [office](#).



## Upcoming October Meetings

**Church Conference**  
Monday, Nov. 7th  
6:30 pm

**Finance Meeting**  
Wednesday, Nov. 9th  
2:15 pm

**Women's Circle**  
Monday, November 14th  
6:30pm

**Women's Circle Christmas Gathering**  
Monday, Dec. 12th  
6:30 pm  
Bowman Home

## New Franklin First Apparel

A new look for Franklin First apparel!

Polos, t-shirts, crewneck sweatshirts, and hoodies are all available. The polos will be \$23; prices for the t-shirts and sweatshirts are estimates and are dependent on the number of orders we received but the estimated prices are t-shirts (green or athletic heather) \$14; crewneck sweatshirts (athletic heather– not pictured) \$22; and hoodies (athletic heather) \$25. Add an extra \$2 for 2XL and \$3 for 3XL on all styles.

To order use this link: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/122a6d> or contact the office to order over the phone or to use a paper order form. **Order Deadline: Monday, November 14th.** Payment due at pickup.



## Franklin First Giving

### Online Giving/We SHARE:

This 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:

[franklinfirstumc1.weshareonline.org](http://franklinfirstumc1.weshareonline.org)



### Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Franklin First United Methodist Church. Support us every time you shop. Just follow the prompts from the link below:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0599434>

## Birthdays

November 01 Macie Goodpaster  
November 02 Mary (Susie) Mears  
November 07 Anabella Chamberlain  
November 07 Judy Parker  
November 08 Jonathan Jones  
November 09 Shirley Berold  
November 10 Rick Dillon  
November 15 Jan Abell  
November 27 Nate Glossip

## Anniversaries

November 13 Donnie & Marna Rogers

### HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED THIS COUNTRY!

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM;  
FOR THOSE WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR OTHERS;  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BORNE SUFFERING OF MIND OR OF  
BODY;  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT THEIR BEST GIFTS TO  
TIMES OF NEED.

ON OUR BEHALF THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO DANGER,  
ENDURED SEPARATION FROM THOSE THEY LOVE,  
LABORED LONG HOURS, AND BORNE HARDSHIP IN WAR AND  
IN PEACETIME.

LIFT UP BY YOUR MIGHTY PRESENCE THOSE WHO ARE  
NOW AT WAR;  
ENCOURAGE AND HEAL THOSE IN HOSPITALS OR MENDING  
THEIR WOUNDS AT HOME;  
GUARD THOSE IN ANY NEED OR TROUBLE;  
HOLD SAFELY IN YOUR HANDS ALL MILITARY FAMILIES;  
AND BRING THE RETURNING TROOPS TO JOYFUL REUNION  
AND TRANQUIL LIFE AT HOME;

GIVE TO US, YOUR PEOPLE, GRATEFUL HEARTS  
AND A UNITED WILL TO HONOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN  
AND HOLD THEM ALWAYS IN OUR LOVE AND OUR PRAYERS;  
UNTIL YOUR WORLD IS PERFECTED IN PEACE THROUGH  
JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.

COMPILED BY THE REV. JENNIFER PHILLIPS VETERAN'S  
DAY PRAYER

*Happy*  
**VETERANS  
DAY**

Nov.  
11th

## Congratulations! It's a girl!

Rick & Tami Chamberlain  
welcomed their  
11th grandchild.



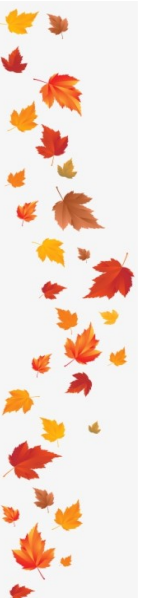
Josephine Grace McConaughy  
Friday, October 21, 2022  
7 lbs. 5 oz; 19.75 inches  
Parents: Tara & Chris McConaughy



*Fellowship Sunday*

**NOVEMBER 13TH**

*After Worship in the Dining Room*





## Golden Anniversary of the FUMC Noodle Makers

For decades the women of the Franklin Ohio First United Methodist Church (FUMC) have been holding their Annual Bazaar (now called Marketplace) to raise funds that support missions and other needs. After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the luncheon featuring homemade chicken and noodles, which has been a key component of this annual event, will return on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Also, once again limited quantities of the packaged frozen noodles will be available for purchase in order to restock personal larders.

According to the newspaper article entitled “Women using their noodles to earn money for the church” published in the Oct. 16, 1987 issue of the Middletown Journal, this process of making noodles by hand for selling and serving during the FUMC Bazaar luncheon started in 1972. Hence, a golden anniversary

commemoration is in order for 2022. As reported in that 1987 article, two groups from the United Methodist Women (UMW) calling themselves the “Rotary Women” had been preparing weekly lunches since circa 1967 for the members

of the Franklin Rotary organization who met on Fridays at the UMC church. As plans were formulated for hosting that first bazaar, it was decided to serve chicken with homemade noodles as the focus of a companion luncheon. Hence, these “Rotary” ladies started making lots of noodles and the legend began.



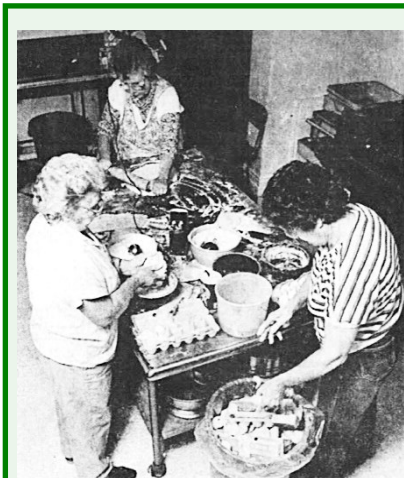
Judy Bowman and Judy Parker in September 2022.



Area businessmen enjoying their chicken and noodle lunch at an FUMC Fall Bazaar (Photo was published in the 10/31/84 issue of the Franklin Chronicle)

Originally, the UMW members prepared the noodles and hosted the fall bazaar until 2006 when this group was dissolved. Another church organization called Women Outreach Workers (WOW) took over the responsibilities for both the fall bazaar and also the Spring Salad luncheon for the next several years. When the WOW members decided they couldn't continue performing these events in 2012, the FUMC Women's circle took over the noodle making and hosting the fall bazaar.

Traditionally, the noodle making process started about a month before the bazaar using donated flour and eggs in their simple time-honored recipe where each batch consists of the yolks from three eggs along with one whole egg mixed



Mary Lucas, Joyce Gabbard, Agnes Etter (Photo from the 10/16/87 issue of Middletown Journal)

*(Continued on page 10)*

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

(Continued from page 9)

with two cups of flour, a teaspoon of salt and three table-  
spoons of water to form the dough. Numerous batches are  
made every year. Next, each ball of dough is rolled out ac-  
cording to “the thinner the better” approach. After two  
hours of drying, the rolled dough is shaped into long strips,

and then  
cut, sepa-  
rated, and  
allowed  
to dry for  
two days  
before  
weighing  
and bag-  
ging the  
finished  
noodles  
into one  
pound  
bags. Fi-



Jim Martin, Mike Runyan, and Jan Truesdell  
(10/6/22)

nally, the noodles are frozen and stored until Marketplace  
(bazaar) time.

In a 2001 article, the Franklin Chronicle reported that  
FUMC women had made 60 batches while 567 batches  
were made during the five week 2022 season. Per tradi-  
tion, the women and in more recent times a few dauntless  
men meet in the church basement at 9:00 a.m. on Monday  
mornings and make noodles for the next four or five hours  
without stop or breaks.

The  
different  
steps in  
the nood-  
ling  
make  
process  
are illus-  
trated by  
this se-  
ries of  
photo-  
graphs  
taken  
over the  
years.



Methodist women make up a batch of noodles from scratch.  
Clockwise from left, they are: Mary Lucas, Ida Woody, Sarah  
Chasteen, Jackie Byrd, Martha Hatfield and Agnes Etter.

Starting from left: Mary Lucas, Ida Woody, Sa-  
rah Chasteen, Jackie Byrd, Martha Hatfield,  
and Agnes Etter (Photo from Franklin Chronicle  
10/31/01)

First, there is the eggs breaking and separating.

Mixing the noodle dough over the years.

Rolling out the dough balls into flat discs according to “the  
thinner the better” approach.

After the rolled dough have been given two hours of  
drying, each disc is sliced into long strips, cut into the nood-  
les,  
which  
are sep-  
arated  
and al-  
lowed  
to dry.



Karen Anderson, Linda Smith, Shari Tutt, Char-  
lotte Summer, Mary Harville, Sally Fitzgerald,  
Alice Caudell, Nancy Massey, Dorothy Rayburg,  
Rhonda Roberson, and Jackie Messmore.

After two full days of drying, the finished noodles are  
weighed and bagged. Finally, the noodles are frozen and  
stored until the Market Place (bazaar) time, which will be  
November 5<sup>th</sup> in 2022.

It can  
be conclud-  
ed that for  
50 years,  
noodle  
making has  
not only be  
an effective  
and profita-  
ble means  
to generate  
funds for  
special pro-  
jects and

other needs at FUMC, but the process has been simply a  
“Great Time” quoting from the last words in the 10/06/03  
article published by the Franklin Chronicle.

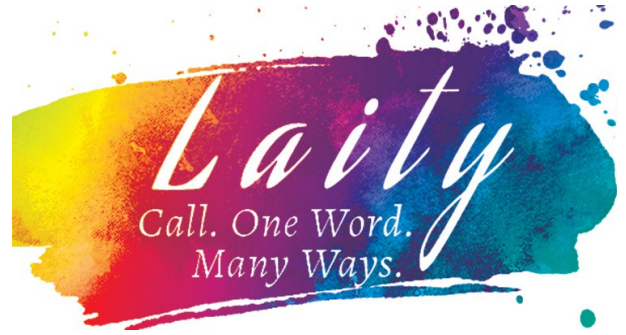


Monica Rhude and Dee Simonton (Photo from  
Franklin Chronicle 10/31/01)



## Laity Sunday - October 9th

A special thank you to all who lead the service and shared their messages of ministry on Laity Sunday. Mike Smith preached, Ministry leaders Rick Chamberlain, Monica Rhude, Linda Smith, and Karen Anderson gave testimony about their areas of service, Megan Duff lead our children, and Mishelle Dicken was Liturgist. The work of the Laity drives the ministry of the church. Not all of our ministries were show-cased, and Franklin First is blessed with many faithful servants of Jesus Christ.



## Franklin Pumpkin Roll Festival & Trunk or Treat—October 15

It was a lovely fall day for a festival that brought quite a crowd to the downtown area. Along Main Street, folks set up their vehicles for Trunk or Treat and Franklin First was able to have a booth with a picture-taking opportunity along with several decorated vehicles with candy to pass out. The church provided information and connected with our community. Thanks to everyone who participated.





## Children's Sabbath— October 16th



This special Sunday is a time to learn about the issues that face children across our land. Poverty, disparities in health care and education, the challenges faced by minorities and immigrants – all of these have direct bearing on the lives of our nation's kids. Every child is born a child of God, endowed with divine worth and deserving of opportunity. Thanks to Franklin First youth for helping to lead the service: Hayden Chamberlain,

Kailey, Mallory, and Tilley Chilcutt, Lily Smith, and Kaylee and Samantha Womack.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday—October 23

It was a meaningful worship service as we were reminded through music and message that God is with us in all our circumstances, and especially the difficulties of cancer diagnosis and treatment. We recognized cancer survivors, remembered the deceased who had battled cancer, and used many pink symbols as means of retrospection. If you drive past the church's front lawn, you will see a breast cancer awareness banner and pink pin-wheels as a sign of concern to our community.

The Women's Circle sponsored a bake sale to raise funds for breast cancer research. They prepared fudge and ladies brought yummy baked goods. The proceeds amounted to **\$404** and will be forwarded to research efforts. Thank you!





"An attitude of gratitude" – that's what we seek to instill in ourselves and in our family members. Thanksgiving lends itself to helping us name the many ways

we are blessed.

Stopping to identify blessings doesn't mean that life has been easy in the past year. Everyone experiences difficulties and hardships. We can't ignore the fact that hardships are part of life.

This Thanksgiving, reflect together on families all around the world who have left their homes to move to other countries because of war, because of economic issues or because of instability in their home countries. Many may not have the opportunities to enjoy a meal with family members, to reflect together on the year or to have a safe place to live. Yet, they too may be looking at life with an "attitude of gratitude," despite finding themselves in new places, with circumstances they didn't anticipate and with people they do not know.

This year, consider using one or more of the following suggestions when you observe Thanksgiving in your home or with others. Use these suggestions to enable your family to focus not just on being thankful for the food of the day, but also on true gratefulness for the many blessings experienced throughout the year.

- ◆ Many countries have a day of thanksgiving to celebrate the harvest of crops and the food provided by the land that sustains us. Create a list of the foods you enjoy. Give thanks for the earth and the blessings of the world that God has created.
- ◆ Create a place tag for every person who will share the Thanksgiving meal in your home. On one side of the tag, write the name of the person. On the other side, place a word or phrase from a verse of scripture. Ask

everyone to line up so the words from the verse are in the correct order. This determines who sits by whom during the meal. Say the scripture together after everyone has been seated.

- ◆ Identify family members and close friends of your family who will not be able to be with you at Thanksgiving. Create or purchase cards for each of these people. On Thanksgiving Day, invite all who are gathered in your home to sign and/or write a note on the cards to those who are missing. Don't forget to mail the cards on the Friday following Thanksgiving!
- ◆ Make a blessing box. Ask different family members to write on slips of paper things for which they are thankful and to place the slips of paper in the blessing box. Use the box as a centerpiece on Thanksgiving Day. Pass around the box, pull out the slips of paper and read the blessings.
- ◆ Reflect on the past year. Ask each person gathered at your Thanksgiving celebration to share one thing that happened to him or her during the past year for which he or she is thankful.
- ◆ Take a photograph of all who are gathered with you to celebrate Thanksgiving. Label it "Thanksgiving 2022" and list on the back the names of all who are there and one thing each person is thankful for this year.
- ◆ Pray for those who have lost family members during the last year. Light a candle of remembrance and call out the names of those in the family who are no longer physically present.
- ◆ Use the following as a litany of thanks prior to your Thanksgiving meal:

Reader 1: Today is Thanksgiving Day. We are grateful to be together at this time of the year.

Reader 2: Hear these words from the Bible: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2, NIV)

Reader 3: As we light the candles on this table, let them be a reminder to us of God's presence with us.

Reader 4: Let us pray:

All: O God for all the blessings we enjoy, we give you thanks. Help us look at the world around us in such a way that we see your hand in creation and in those we meet. Help us be a blessing today to those gathered around this table and in all our days to those we meet at home, at school, in church, and in our community. Amen.

Adapted from: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/celebrating-with-gratitude-at-home>

## Advent Studies for 2022

The past few years have been full of anxiety and uncertainty. Yet, the Spirit is still calling us to trust and experience God's goodness and peace. As we approach Advent, the Upper Room and the United Methodist Publishing



House have produced several Bible studies to help you and those around you rediscover the hope, love, peace and joy Jesus brings. Click on the click to [Find your advent study](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/books-studies-for-advent) or visit: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/books-studies-for-advent>

## FAMILY MISSIONS: BUILD A LIFE OF SERVICE

LEARN HOW TO BUILD A MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE AND EXPLORE PRACTICAL WAYS TO PUT FAITH INTO ACTION.  
BY LAURA BUCHANAN

Busy families might find it hard to dedicate time and energy to mission projects or serving others, but it doesn't have to feel that way. Reconsider what this type of work looks like and build a missional lifestyle that will nurture and strengthen lifelong faith.

"Serving and seeking ways to incorporate mercy and justice into our everyday life is a component of discipleship. To offer that to children at a young age helps them incorporate it into their lives in a way that doesn't make it feel separate," says the Rev. Melissa Collier Gepford, Intergenerational Discipleship Coordinator for the [Great Plains Conference](#) of The United Methodist Church.

### BUILD A MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE

Embrace a mindful, faith-filled approach to your day-to-day routine. Rev. Gepford encourages, "Equipping ourselves and our kids with the tools to be loving and produce the fruit of the spirit – listening, caring for others, how we engage with folks who are different than us, our online presences...all of that is a mission field in and of itself. It's a posture rather than a checklist.

"John Wesley said, 'The world is my parish.' The world is our parish, too. ... It's a more holistic vision for what it means to follow Jesus. Jesus served people. Jesus sought justice. We can do the missional work of Jesus Christ right here in our communities. [Kids] are missionaries in their schools every day."

### AUDIT YOUR TIME, TOWN AND PASSIONS

In addition to daily missional living, it can be helpful for families to focus on a mission area or project. Find space for this by auditing your time. Maybe you'll find a free Saturday afternoon or a less-busy season of the year, such as Lent, Advent or summertime. Gepford mentions, "It doesn't have to be adding something. Take inventory of your structure and build within that."

Once you find time, pray about the kind of project(s) or work you might do. Is your family passionate about an issue facing your community? Is there a global issue that you can be a part of solving? Reach out to your United Methodist district or conference office to learn more about ministries in your area. Once you choose a focus area, begin to research, discover, listen and respond.

### MAKE IT AN ADVENTURE

If you have time available but you don't have specific mission work in mind, Gepford suggests "gamifying" the decision. This could be a monthly activity or something done randomly as schedules allow.

"There's something to be said for predictability, but there's also something about mixing it up," she says. "You could create a spinner, you could roll a dice – if it hits a five, go out and do something, if it hits a two, stay in and do something. You have a bank of ideas, but you don't know what the adventure is going to be. There's a building of expectation."

### INVITE OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE

Involving family members and friends from different generations and backgrounds is also worth considering. "Part of being the Body of Christ means being able to do different things, being able to be with other people who are in different life stages than us," shares Gepford. Depending on the project, even babies can get involved. Gepford continues, "For infants to see helping, serving, missions... that's exposure at an early age, which is absolutely developmentally appropriate.

"And then the next piece I think about is, as we are serving, what does it look like to serve alongside those we are serving, to be neighbors with them rather than 'othering' them and creating that separate identity."

### WONDER TOGETHER

Missional efforts, whether project-based or opportunities found in daily living, help us grow.

"Spark curiosity," says Rev. Gepford. "Rather than just saying, 'Jesus did this so we do it, too.' Also ask, 'I wonder why Jesus did this? I wonder why it's still important for us to do this today? What did you see when we were serving together? What questions do you have?' The experience itself is formative. And helping [kids] make those [faith] connections through questions is key."

*Laura Buchanan works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact her by [email](#).*

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## 8 WAYS FAMILIES CAN ENGAGE IN MISSIONS

Rev. Gepford offers these ideas:

1. **Love your literal neighbors** – Connect with your eight nearest neighbors. Get to know them, spend time outside with them, go to their soccer games and offer to help them when needs arise. Make them feel loved and welcome.
2. **Perform random acts of kindness** – Pay for someone's groceries, pick up trash at a park, bake cookies and deliver them to first responders or call people who you haven't seen at church in a while.
3. **Serve a nearby school** – Clean up the playground, collect food for a backpack meals program, donate supplies or create artwork and thank you cards for teachers and administrators.
4. **Volunteer at your church** – Be a part of the prayer team and pray as a family, welcome people to worship, help with the food pantry or visit church members who are unable to attend in person.
5. **Solve a problem** – Find a need in your community and figure out what factors are causing that problem. Brainstorm a solution and work together to put it into place.
6. **Raise funds** – Host a lemonade stand, sell holiday treats, rake leaves, mow lawns or shovel snow. Donate the proceeds to a missionary, a local nonprofit or your church's mission fund. This will also offer a bonus lesson on generosity!
7. **Learn about other cultures** – Research diverse cultures and identify what makes them unique and beautiful. Learn about how other kids live, learn and grow. If you find needs you can help fulfill, do so.
8. **Find a local shelter** – Whether it's a homeless shelter, animal shelter or food distribution program, there are likely to be several local nonprofit organizations that need volunteers.

# Franklin First United Methodist Church

## 2022 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



### Church Council:

[churchcouncil2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:churchcouncil2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Charlotte Summer
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 Tri-Chairs	John Lass, 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	Judy Bowman
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator	Cindy Kuntzman
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

### Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer)

[staffparishrelations2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:staffparishrelations2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Terms expiring 2022:	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2023:	Julie Abell, Judy Parker, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland

### Trustees: Tri-Chairs: John Lass, Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

[trustees2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:trustees2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Terms expiring 2022:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2023:	Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2024:	John Lass, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken

### Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

[layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

#### Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Charlotte Summer, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2022:	Pam Bishop, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2023:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold

### Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

[finance2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:finance2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Julie Abell
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Tri-Chairs:	John Lass, Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Julie Abell
Lay Leader:	Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Charlotte Summer
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

[endowment2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:endowment2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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	Charlotte Summer
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

[worship2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:worship2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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:	Charlotte Summer
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

[mission2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:mission2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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

[technology2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:technology2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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

### Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

[layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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

### Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

[careteam2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:careteam2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

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

## 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

**November 5th**

**Fall Marketplace (Fall Bazaar)**

**November 6th**

**All Saints' Sunday**

**November 20th**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**November 27th**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 11th**

**Children's Christmas Program**

**December 24th**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service**

**December 25th**

**10:45 am Worship**

Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, OH 45005

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