

FRANKLIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEEPLE BELL

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

A DIGNIFIED FAREWELL: WHY HOSPICE IS A MINISTRY OF HOPE

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21

November is Hospice Awareness Month. Let's be honest, talking about the end of life isn't exactly a barrel of laughs. But here's where the beautiful, often unsung ministry of Hospice steps in, flipping the script from a stark finale to a tender, deeply human last chapter.

Think of it this way: for most of our lives, we're rushing around, ticking off to-do lists. But a Christian approach to a "dignified death" isn't about maintaining maximum control or putting on a brave face to the bitter end. It's about remembering a fundamental truth: our dignity isn't earned by our hustle; it's a gift from God, woven into the fabric of our being.

Hospice care recognizes that our value doesn't disappear when our strength does. Instead, it creates a loving, supportive space where that intrinsic worth can truly shine. It's the team that says, "We may not be able to add more days to your life, but we sure can add more life to your days!" They manage pain, yes, but they also bring peace, permission to talk (or not talk), and great pillow fluffing.

The true dignity of dying well, from a faith perspective, is less about how we leave and more about who we are as we approach the threshold—a beloved child of God, fearlessly heading home. It's a chance to offer a final, beautiful witness to the peace that passes all understanding. I have interacted with many Hospice teams during my time in the ministry, and every one of them has been outstanding. Join me in offering the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those in the hospice ministry and those in their care.

For the patients, grant a comforting peace that stills all fear and gentle release from all suffering. Remind them, in their final days, of your constant presence and the hope of their eternal home.

For the Hospice workers, grant them strength for every shift, wisdom for every conversation, and the true joy of being your hands and feet. Let their weariness be refreshed and their compassion never run dry. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

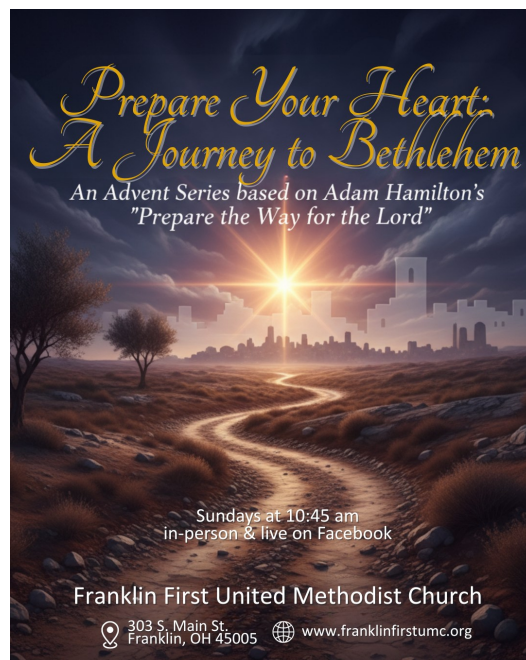
Pastor Laura



Paving the Way: A Look at John the Baptist — Our Advent Focus

Thanksgiving is a few short weeks away, and the Christmas season will pass quickly. This year seems to have flown by. One of my favorite radio stations starts playing Christmas music the day after Halloween. Ready or not, the holidays will soon be upon us.

The season of Advent precedes Christmas, and we observe Advent on the four Sundays before Christmas – this year beginning November 30. Our Advent focus will be on John the Baptist and his message of preparing the way of the Lord. Advent provides a special opportunity for us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. Let's remember the reason for the season and include God's gift of grace and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as part of our holidays.



Be A Blessing this Christmas: Sponsorships for Food Baskets Needed

Franklin First will once again be spearheading the Christmas distribution for the needy in our community. You can choose to sponsor a food basket for \$25 and/or buy children's gifts. 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 Thursday December 18 from 2:00 – 6:00. Recipients must have a photo ID and proof of residency.



Thanksgiving Offering

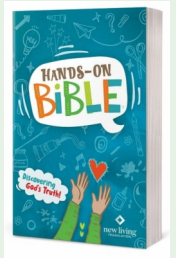
This year, our special Thanksgiving offering will be dedicated entirely to purchasing Christmas gifts for teenagers in our community. Teens are often overlooked during holiday gift distributions, and your generosity will ensure they feel remembered and loved this Christmas. Thank you for supporting this meaningful effort!



Fall Marketplace

Our Women's Circle has been working diligently to prepare for the Marketplace on Saturday November 1 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. The noodle crew was amazing, and they have the process down to a science.

Third Grade Bibles



On **Sunday, November 9th**,

we'll celebrate our third graders with a very special gift: their own **Bibles**. We consider it a top priority to help our children grow in their relationship with Jesus and learn the power of God's Word. We are excited to present these Bibles as a foundational tool for their faith journey!

Women Circle in Action!

The Women's Circle has been hard at work, making a major impact in the church and the community this fall!

- * **Noodle Mania!** A huge thank you goes out to our Women's Circle members and their helpers for their incredible effort during the annual noodle preparation. This year, they prepared a staggering 425 batches of homemade noodles for the Fall Marketplace. These noodles will become the foundation of countless warm meals enjoyed by families. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and effort to this monumental task!
- * **Baking for a Cure**—The Women's Circle's mission extends beyond our church walls. They sponsored a successful bake sale to raise funds for breast cancer research. The sale brought in \$268, and the members graciously decided to round up the donation to \$300. This thoughtful gesture ensures their contribution will be maximized, as the Susan G. Komen Foundation offers a quadruple match for this level of donation!
- * **Christmas Celebration: Save the Date!** Women's Circle members, mark your calendars! We will be gathering for our annual Christmas celebration on Monday, December 8, hosted by Judy and Bob Bowman. Thank you, Judy and Bob, for your wonderful hospitality! Please plan to bring a covered dish to share and gifts for our adopted family this year. We will also have a fun ornament exchange.



ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

All are welcome to attend our Annual Church Conference! Church Council members are required to attend. This important business meeting includes updates from church leadership, approval of reports, and decisions that guide our mission and ministry in the coming year.

MONDAY
November 10, 2025
6:30 pm




Annual Church Conference: Nov. 10th

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 10 at 6:30 pm. Everyone 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 Break-through Goals for next year.

Time, Talent, Treasure: Finishing the Year Strong as We Look to 2026

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 2026 as 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 23.

A SEASON OF BLESSINGS AWAITS

NOVEMBER 23
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 30,
DECEMBER 7, 14, 21
SUNDAYS AT 10:45 AM
FOUR SUNDAYS OF ADVENT
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTINGS

“PREPARE YOUR HEART:
A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM”
SERMON SERIES

DECEMBER 7
BLESSING OF THE NATIVITIES
Bring a piece of your home
Nativity set.

DECEMBER 21
CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE, 7 PM

DECEMBER 28
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:45 AM,
INCLUDING A CAROL SING.

Franklin First United Methodist Church
303 S. Main St., Franklin, OH 45005 www.franklinfirstumc.org

Stumped by Your Gift List? Give a Give with Meaning!

As you are thinking about your Christmas gift list, do you have a person on the list that you have a hard time buying for? Why not give in their honor to a special project at the church? We will provide a gift card for you to give them that allows you to share what ministry or project your gift will be supporting. You could specify the music ministry, Franklin First's children's ministry, the mission program, the permanent endowment fund, or another choice. Talk to treasurer Tami Chamberlain or Pastor Laura for more information or ideas.

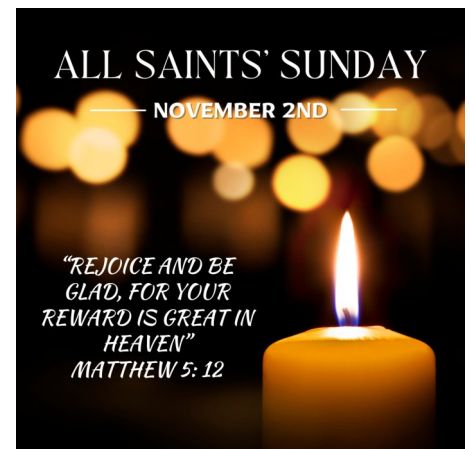


More Than a Dress: Angel Shop Homecoming Success

The Angel Shop was a great success this fall, helping more than 100 young people dress their best for Homecoming events. Donations of gently used, clean formal wear are accepted year-round for both female and male students. This is a great opportunity to bless a teenager and share outfits that otherwise might just be one-use clothing choices.

All Saints Day

On November 2 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.



Fueling Futures:

Franklin First and FHS Team Up for Gerke Students

Franklin First has been packing snack packs for Gerke Elementary first grade students who deal with food scarcity on the weekends at home. What a blessing to be able to help a child be his/her best self! We look forward to welcoming Franklin High School Honor Students as packing partners beginning in November to help meet their community service hours quota.

Count Your Blessings: Finding Joy in an Attitude of Gratitude

“When upon life’s billows you are tempest toss’d, when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” These lyrics were written by Johann Ostman and the hymn’s title is “Count Your Blessings.”

This is one of my favorite hymns because it reminds me to have an attitude of gratitude. It is easy to get stuck in the “but if I only had this” frame of mind, and with that mindset we are never satisfied.

In November, we will be celebrating God’s blessings in our lives and reminding ourselves that everything we are and have is a gift from God. Giving back to God from the richness of his blessings to us is an act of worship. It is a privilege and a responsibility for every Christian.

The church teaches stewardship as a means of deepening our faith walk and reminding us that we are dependent on God for life and all of our needs. Join Lee and I as we commit to joyously giving to our church, funding the important ministry that happens through Franklin First.



More Than Reading: Building Bonds Through Literacy Tutoring

Franklin First is once again blessed to be working with Principal Jim Rhoades and the staff at Gerke Elementary providing literacy tutoring for first grade students. These children are nominated by the school to participate in the program and tutors work on letter sounds, sentence recognition, and reading. The school’s Title One professional provides the curriculum. One of the best parts of the ministry is the relationships that are built between the students and their tutors. This year we are working with ten kids, and our group of tutors is amazing. Jenny Chilcutt exercises some steam off the youngsters before we start study time, and Sally Fitzgerald is our dedicated snack lady. We end fall tutoring on November 13 and will resume with our winter session on January 8. Thanks to all who give of their time and Christian concern. We are part of bettering the lives of these wonderful kids.





The Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati

This organization is a campus ministry to the University of Cincinnati and Miami University in Oxford. The ministry provides community and spiritual guidance for college students at an influential formation time in their lives. The foundation is in need of funding, as their grant monies have lessened in recent years. You will find brochures and envelopes on the table in the fellowship hall. Let's support the work of Christ in this population of people.



Fall Back
for Daylight
Saving
Time

Don't forget!
Set your clocks to
"fall back" an hour.

Daylight Saving
Time Ends
November 2nd
2:00 am

Franklin High School Drama Club: "The Old Man and The Old Moon"

Franklin High School Drama Club kicks off its 2025-26 season with "The Old Man and The Old Moon," a music-filled adventure whose book, music, and lyrics are by Pigpen Theatre Co. Performances will be held November 14, 15, and 16, in the FCS McDade Auditorium, 750 E. 4th St, Franklin. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 p.m.; the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m.

The show is suitable for all ages, and tickets are available now at fhsdrama.booktix.com; tickets will also be available at the door.

The story follows an old man whose job is to fill the leaking moon with light each night. When his wife disappears, drawn away by a haunting melody from their past, he must choose between duty and love. His pursuit takes him through apocalyptic storms, naval battles, and encounters with both ghosts and leviathans of the deep—ultimately exploring the timeless challenge of embracing change.

Several adult members of our church family are involved in the production.

Senior citizens who live in the Franklin School District may get a pass that grants them free entry to high school plays and athletic contests. They should take ID to the Welcome Center at Franklin City Schools' Central Office (west side of Franklin Junior High on 4th St.)



700+ Treats and Smiles: Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat on Main Street on October 18 was once again a success. Franklin First set up in multiple spots, including a booth that offered a photo shoot. Volunteers estimated that they passed out about 700+ treats to kids, and the festival was well attended by all ages. Thanks to all those who made this mission a part of their day. Once again, our church was represented at this important community event.



Join the Sunday Team

We're seeking friendly and welcoming individuals to serve as ushers or greeters once or twice a month for Sunday Worship.

As an usher or greeter, you'll play a vital role in creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for our congregation and visitors. It's a wonderful way to share your smile!

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



Spreading Light: Mission Team Impact

The **Mission/Outreach Team** continues its work, touching the lives of many in our community, from students needing formal wear to local elementary children receiving weekly support.



- * **Angel Shop:** The Angel Shop, which provides formal wear for local students, reported a successful Homecoming season! An amazing 100 people were served with attire for their dances. The shop still has approximately 400 dresses remaining for future events.
- * **Weekly Support for Gerke Elementary:** The mission to provide weekly nourishment to local students is going strong! The team is currently assembling 83 snack packs per week for the first-grade children at Gerke Elementary. The National Honor Society from the high school will assist with filling packs one week a month, and the congregation is invited to help during designated Fellowship Sundays.
- * **Trunk or Treat Success:** The team participated in this year's Trunk or Treat in downtown Franklin! Participants Jenny, Sally and Gib, Mike and Carol, Karen and Andy, and Mike and Linda helped spread cheer. Together, they distributed candy and other items to over 700 children!

Ongoing and Future Ministry

- * **Tutoring** began on September 18th and will run until November 20th. It will then restart again in January to continue providing academic assistance.
- * **Christmas Gift Boxes** for college students will continue this year. The team will be compiling a list of students soon.
- * **Collections** for the community are in full swing! We are asking for donations of paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues) for the Food Pantry throughout October, November, and December. We also continue to collect personal hygiene products for students at Franklin High School and Jr. High.
- * **Teacher Appreciation** is being planned for the Spring, likely in May.

The next Mission Team meeting will be held on **November 11th** at 6:30 pm. **Get involved!** There are so many ways to help support these vital outreach efforts, from donating items to volunteering time to fill snack packs. Contact a mission team member or the office if you'd like to lend a hand!

The Pantry —Simple Need, Big Impact: Help Stock The Pantry

You know those everyday items you can't live without? So does The Pantry!

Paper goods are always among the most-needed items at The Pantry, and they are deeply appreciated by those who rely on them. We are collecting all types of paper supplies:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Tissues



Your donation, big or small, makes a difference in someone's home. Please drop off your donations in the designated bins located here at the church. Let's work together to stock those shelves high and share God's love in this very practical way this season! Thank you for your generosity!

Supporting Our Team: SPRC Up Reviews & Future Planning

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has been hard at work, focusing on staff support, planning, and preparing for the upcoming annual conference.

Staff Reviews Complete: The SPRC recently completed the annual staff reviews for Theresa and Megan. These reviews are part of supporting our staff, recognizing their dedication, and ensuring our ministries are effective and thriving.

Planning Our Future: We recently participated in the brainstorming session for the "dream" ministry budget initiative. Organized by the Church Council, this exercise allowed us to imagine the most impactful ways we can invest in our ministries and staff over the coming years.

What's Next: An SPRC representative will be present at the annual Charge Conference on November 10th. This will be our final official task for 2025

With the staff reviews complete and our planning input submitted, the SPRC is wrapping up a productive year. We look forward to continuing to support the relationship between our staff and the congregation in the new year! If you have any questions about the work of the SPRC, please feel free to reach out to any committee member!



Give Anytime, Anywhere: Online Giving is Easy and Impactful

Life gets busy, and sometimes you can't join us in person on Sunday. But that doesn't mean your support for Franklin First's mission and ministries has to stop!

Our Online Giving platform offers a simple, secure, and faithful way to continue your stewardship from anywhere, at any time.

Online Giving is designed to make supporting the church as easy as possible:

- **Convenient:** Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift in just a few minutes.
- **Consistent:** Maintain your commitment to the church's work, even when you're traveling or life throws you a curveball. Consistent giving helps our ministries plan and thrive.
- **Secure:** The platform is a safe and trusted way to manage your financial support.

Every gift helps us grow the church's impact in our local community and beyond!

Get Started Today: It's quick to set up and start giving online.

- Visit: franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources

Thank you for your faithful and continued support!

Do you have any questions about setting up your online gift, or would you like to explore other ways to give?— reach out to the office.



Safety Checked, Heat Installed: Your Trustees are on the Job!



October has been a busy and productive month for your Trustees! Our focus has been on maintaining the safety and functionality of our church building and getting an early start on the holiday spirit.

Behind the Scenes: Safety First: We've had a successful round of inspections .

- **Fire Safety:** Our fire extinguishers and the kitchen range hood's fire suppression system were thoroughly inspected and passed with flying colors.
- **Elevator Checkup:** The State elevator inspector made his annual, unannounced visit, and our elevator passed with no issues. The inspector even showed us how to adjust the magnetic closure on the folding doors, making them easier to open. Please continue to use the elevator whenever you need it!

New Look and Cozy Comfort: We're sprucing up the outside and warming up the inside!

- We built a new, sturdier framework for the banners we hang in front of the church. The old aluminum stand had definitely seen better days from the wind and weather.
- A huge thank you to the Women's Circle! Thanks to their efforts, the bathrooms in the Narthex now have heat. We'll keep the heat on low to prevent freezing pipes and will turn it up on Sunday mornings for a comfortable experience. Please bear with us as we make this a new habit—we might forget a time or two!

Get Ready for "A Very Merry Main Street" It's hard to believe, but we're starting our Christmas decorating outside the church in early November!

- We will be setting up our lawn window display again this year.
- The downtown theme this year is candy canes, so get ready for a sweet spectacle!
- We need to have everything completed by November 15th for the "A Very Merry Main Street" event.
- Be sure to stop by and vote for our display! We will have a QR code posted on the window for easy scanning and voting.

Do you have a question about any of the items the Trustees worked on, or are you interested in helping with the Christmas decorating? — reach out to a Trustee member or the office!

Save Your Change

Our kids will be running the next Noisy Bucket campaign for Heifer International during **Lent 2026** beginning in February. You can prepare to be part of this blessing by collecting those coins now.



Birthdays

November 01	Macie Goodpaster
November 02	Susie Mears
November 04	Amelia Leffew
November 08	Rylee Humphries
November 09	Shirley Berold
November 10	Rick Dillon
November 15	Jan Abell
November 17	Elisabeth Long
November 27	Nathan Glossip

Anniversaries

November 13	Marna & Donnie Rogers
November 12	Holly & Jeff Sams



Gratitude in Every Situation

by: Joseph Yoo

My wife and I struggled with infertility. During the real difficult stretches, it didn't

help that we were part of a Korean church that consistently asked us about when we were having kids. Someone asked my wife if she was pregnant and when my wife said, "No" the lady then asked, "Why are you gaining weight?" (We Koreans tend to be very blunt.)

It got even more difficult when our friends began announcing great news of impending bundles of joy. (It got annoying when friends were making their 4th pregnancy announcement...)

For me, it was the worst when my former youth kids were now married and sharing the news that they were pregnant.

How can I be grateful?

One year, a former youth called my wife to share her great news that she was pregnant. After their conversation, my wife told me to call them and congratulate them myself.

I couldn't. I *just* couldn't. I was feeling so many emotions. Anger. Frustration. Jealousy. And it was never really aimed at my former youth student. I was blaming God for all the emotions that were coursing through my body.

The worst part was that coming Sunday. I was preaching on 1 Thessalonians 5:18 which reads,

"Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I remember praying, "How the hell do you expect me to preach on *that* after this?"

But my mind kept circling back to the phrase "give thanks in every situation." That "every" was (is) a

sticking point with me. I would be able to get behind *some* situations...or even *most* situations... but *every* situation?

But here's what I've learned since that incident: The act of choosing is a spiritual act.

We can choose how we perceive things; we can choose the kind of world we create and live in. We choose how we react.

We can choose to focus on what we're blessed with or we can choose to lament on what we don't have.

The point is, we get to choose. It's just gratitude isn't often the go-to emotion we choose. We have the choice of how much power we give to our emotions and our responses. We tend to give more power and a bit more of a starring role to things like fear, grief, frustration, anger, regret, anxiousness, jealousy.

Choosing gratitude

So we have to be intentional in choosing gratitude. We have to practice giving thanks. And if we keep building the muscle of gratitude, we find the strength to give thanks in every situation, like Paul said (and did).

I spend way too much time focusing on what I don't have, lamenting on what's not right and pointing out what's wrong.

What we often may not realize is we will *always* find what we are looking for. We are in charge of the kind of world we create by the choices we make.

Gratitude helps me reframe the world. Being thankful opens my heart; my eyes; my soul to see beauty in this world. Practicing gratitude helps me discover the abundance of God. Gratitude turns what I have into enough. It reveals what I have more than what I need and surprisingly, what I have *is* enough.

That gives me strength to actually be thankful in every situation.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Paul's not saying be thankful for every situation. He's not asking us to be thankful that our life is a mess and that we keep hitting wall after wall, swimming through pain after pain. He's not asking us to be some crazy masochist thanking God for this unbearable pain that has forced its way into life.

But we find strength in giving gratitude and that strength might lead us to ask, "How will God use this situation?" even in the most difficult of situations.

The more we practice gratitude, the easier it will be to be thankful in every situation. We also create an environment — a world— that, not only makes it easier for others to be grateful, but encourages them to see the blessings around all of us.

In every situation

Back to the opening story, I eventually got over myself and called my former youth student and congratulated her and her husband. I was genuinely happy for them. As for us, we eventually adopted our foster son, who's on the autism spectrum. He's in a wonderful stage at his life (which I hope never ends) where he thanks people for everything and anything: "Thank you, Daddy, for tak-

ing me to the bathroom at Bucee's." (Note: Bucee's is a huge gas station that's like an attraction more than a pit stop). He is also the most joy-filled human being I know. I believe those two things go together As Karl Barth said: "Joy is the simplest form of gratitude."

May we choose gratitude not just during the season of Thanksgiving — but in every situation. May we choose to count our blessings more and more rather than lament on what we lack.

"If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul." — Rabbi Harold Kushner

Joseph Yoo is a West Coaster at heart living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves as an associate pastor at First United Methodist Church Pearland. Find more of his writings at josephyoo.com

Article Taken From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/gratitude-in-every-situation>

Free Community Meal

**4th Tuesdays
5 – 6 pm**
Hosted by:
The Coffee Collab

**Thursdays
4 – 5 pm**
Hosted by:
St. Mary's Knights of Columbus

If a free meal would be a blessing for you or your family, we'd love to have you join us.

**EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME!**

Women's Circle— Upcoming Meeting

Looking for connection, purpose, and friendship this fall?

The Women's Circle is a vibrant group of faith-filled women who would love for you to join us!

Our next meeting is **Monday, November 17th at 6:30 PM** in the Church Dining Room. All women are welcome! Contact the church office with any questions.



Mark Your Calendar! What's Happening at Franklin First

1-Nov-25	Saturday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Fall Marketplace
2-Nov-25	Sunday
9:15 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:50 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
3-Nov-25	Monday
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Christmas Basket Sign Ups
5-Nov-25	Wednesday
1:30 PM	Snack Pack Packing
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6-Nov-25	Thursday
2:45 PM	Gerke Tutoring
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)
9-Nov-25	Sunday
9:15 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:50 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:00 AM	Youth Intermediate Bible Class
12:00 -2:00 PM	Shirley Berold 90th Birthday Gathering
10-Nov-25	Monday
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Christmas Basket Sign Ups
6:30 PM	Church Conference
18-Nov-25	Tuesday
6:30 PM	Mission/Outreach Meeting
12-Nov-25	Wednesday
1:30 PM	Snack Pack Packing
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
13-Nov-25	Thursday
2:45 PM	Gerke Tutoring
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)
15-Nov-25	Saturday
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Private Event - Raynor
16-Nov-25	Sunday
9:30 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:50 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:00 AM	Youth Intermediate Bible Class

17-Nov-25	Monday
6:30 PM	Women's Circle Meeting
19-Nov-25	Wednesday
1:30 PM	Snack Pack Packing
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
20-Nov-25	Thursday
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)
23-Nov-25	Sunday
All Day	Fellowship Sunday
9:30 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:50 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:00 AM	Youth Intermediate Bible Class
25-Nov-25	Tuesday
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Community Dinner (Coffee Collab)
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
26-Nov-25	Wednesday
All Day	Office Closed
27-Nov-25	Thursday
All Day	Thanksgiving -Office Closed
30-Nov-25	Sunday
All Day	First Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:50 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:00 AM	Youth Intermediate Bible Class



Franklin First United Methodist Church

2025 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	
Lay Leader	Connie Bolinger
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tami Chamberlain
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	Paul Anderson
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Mike Smith, Kaylee Glossip
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	Carol Runyan
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amanda Leffew

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2025	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2026	Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout
Terms expiring 2027:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Cindy Kuntzman

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2026:	Gary Ogden, Joe Chamberlain, Joe Wright
Terms expiring 2027:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Lay Leader: Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2026:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2027:	Barb Ogden, Charlotte Summer, Brian Graves

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:	Connie Bolinger
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, Mike Runyan
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Connie Bolinger
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Member at Large (Term: 2025-26)	Jerry Truesdell
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Connie Bolinger
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

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Mike Smith (Adult) Kaylee Glossip (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Mike Smith,

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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

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

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 23

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

DECEMBER 24

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 7 PM

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.
Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232
E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

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