



STEEPLE BELL

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

There is something special about November. The leaves put on their colorful display, the air turns crisp, and kitchens begin to smell like Thanksgiving. Families gather, recipes are passed down, and we all begin the annual tradition of eating far more than we intended. After all, Thanksgiving dinner is the one meal where a nap afterward is practically a spiritual discipline!

But beneath the turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie, and family gatherings lies a beautiful truth worth remembering: Every good gift we have comes from God.

One of the simplest and most beloved hymns of the Christian faith reminds us of this truth:

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."*



These familiar words, written by Thomas Ken in the seventeenth century, are often sung as a doxology—a short song of praise to God. Many of us have sung them so often that we could probably sing them in our sleep. Some of us may even begin singing them automatically after the offering plates come around! Yet these four lines carry a powerful message: Our lives are filled with blessings, and our proper response is gratitude and praise.

The hymn doesn't say, "Praise God from whom some blessings flow," or "Praise God when everything goes according to plan." It reminds us that all blessings flow from Him. Our blessings include the obvious things—family, friends, meaningful work, and a comfortable home. But they also include the quieter gifts we sometimes overlook: a kind word when we're discouraged, strength for a difficult day, forgiveness when we fall short, and the comforting assurance that God walks with us through every season of life.

The Bible echoes this message in James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." What a wonderful verse to carry with us through November! When we pause to count our blessings, we are reminded that gratitude begins not with what we possess, but with the One who provides.

So how might we live out the message of this hymn during November? Perhaps we can begin with three simple practices.

- 1) **Name your blessings.** Before the busyness of the day begins, take a moment to thank God for three specific gifts. They need not be extraordinary. A beautiful sunrise, a phone call from a friend, or the strength to face another day are all reasons to give thanks.
- 2) **Share your blessings.** God's gifts are not meant to stop with us. A meal delivered to a neighbor, a visit to someone who is lonely, the opportunity to be generous, or a simple word of encouragement can become a blessing in someone else's life. We praise God not only with our voices but also with our actions.
- 3) **Make praise a daily habit.** We don't have to wait for Thanksgiving Day, Sunday worship, or the moment when everything finally goes our way. We can praise God in the ordinary routines of life—in the car, at the kitchen sink, at work.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, may the words of this familiar hymn become more than a tune we sing. May they become the prayer that shapes our hearts. My prayer for each of you this November is that you will find fresh reasons to give thanks, renewed joy in serving others, and a deeper awareness of God's presence in your life.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Laura

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING: FRANKLIN FIRST STEWARDSHIP

The Franklin First congregation has long been faithful in supporting the ministries of our church. Thank you for your continued generosity, which makes it possible for us to worship, serve, learn, and reach out to our community in the name of Christ.

Throughout November, we will focus on stewardship and celebrate God's many blessings in our lives. As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded that everything we are and everything we have are gifts from God. As Scripture tells us, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." In response to God's abundance, we are called to live with grateful hearts and generous spirits.

Stewardship is about more than finances. It is our commitment to offer God our time, talents, resources, prayers, and service. Giving back to God is both a privilege and an act of worship. Through stewardship, we deepen our faith, acknowledge our dependence on God, and participate in the work God is doing through the church.

As we prayerfully consider our commitments for 2027, we invite you to reflect on how God has blessed you and how you might respond. During our Thanksgiving Worship Service on November 22, we will have the opportunity to dedicate our commitments to God and the ministries of Franklin First.

Everyone will receive a brochure with ministry information along with a time & talent survey to be returned. A commitment card for prayerful giving consideration that need not be returned, but is your record of your 2027 stewardship covenant.

Join Lee & I as we commit to joyfully supporting the mission and ministry of Franklin First. Together, our gifts make it possible to care for one another, nurture faith, serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ in our community.

May this season of thanksgiving inspire us all to live as faithful stewards of God's many blessings, with grateful hearts and generous lives.

Pastor Laura



Did you know that one of the easiest ways to serve is by helping create a welcoming atmosphere on Sunday mornings? Whether greeting at the door, serving as an usher, or simply introducing yourself to a visitor, your friendly smile can make all the difference. If you're interested in serving on a hospitality team, contact the church office.

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 23, 2026
6:30 PM

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

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 23 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 Breakthrough Goals for next year.

A GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE: A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA



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 snack pack program, the permanent endowment fund, or another choice. Talk to treasurer Tami Chamberlain or Pastor Laura for more information or ideas.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HOLIDAYS

- November 22:**
Thanksgiving Sunday.
- November 29 – December 20:**
The four Sundays of Advent with Advent wreath lightings
- December 6:**
Blessing of the Nativities during worship. Bring a piece of your home nativity set.
- December 13:**
Children's Christmas Celebration
- December 20:**
Christmas Music Sunday
- December 24:**
Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.
- December 27:**
Worship Service at 10:45 am, including a carol sing.

A GIFT OF GOD'S WORD FOR OUR THIRD GRADERS

We will be handing out third grade Bibles on Sunday November 15. We love our children and consider it a priority that our youngsters come to know Jesus and God's Word.

AN ADVENT PLAYLIST FOR THE SOUL

We are turning our calendars to November! Can you believe it? Thanksgiving is a few short weeks away, and the Christmas season will soon be here. This year seems to have flown by. 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 29. Our Advent focus this year will build on the theme of three well-known pieces of Christmas Music.

November 29: "Oh, You Better Watch Out"

December 6: "Blue Christmas"

December 13: "Mary, Did You Know?"

December 20: Christmas Music Sunday

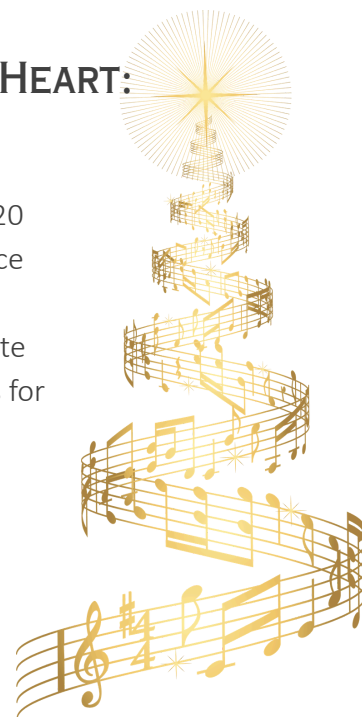
Advent provides a special opportunity for us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. Let's remember the reason for the season and include God's gift of grace and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as part of our holidays.



LET THE MUSIC PREPARE YOUR HEART: CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

Our Advent journey concludes on December 20 with Christmas Music Sunday, a worship service filled with the familiar songs and timeless message of Christmas. As we sing and celebrate together, we are invited to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming and to remember the true reason for the season.

Come and experience the joy of Christmas through music as we worship the One whose birth changed the world.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDERS COMING SOON

Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Watch for order forms and deadlines in the coming weeks. Your gifts help create a beautiful worship space as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

FUEL TANK REMOVAL PROJECT

Many years ago, Franklin First used fuel oil to heat the church. When the church converted to gas and electric heat, the underground fuel tank behind the church was disconnected and left in place, which was a common practice at the time.

This summer, a small patch of grass near the tank's vent and fill pipes turned brown. Upon inspection, damaged pipes were discovered, and it was determined that water had accumulated in the tank and mixed with residual fuel oil. Local experts recommended removal of the tank to prevent any potential soil contamination.

The project will include removing and properly disposing of the water and fuel oil mixture, removing the tank, obtaining permits, and restoring the area. The Trustees received quotes from two experienced local companies and approved moving forward with Tri-State Service Station Maintenance of Middletown at a cost of \$6,570. The project was unanimously approved by the Trustees, Finance Committee, and Church Council. **The work is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 3rd.**

Because this unexpected expense was not included in the 2026 budget, anyone who would like to contribute may mark their offering envelope or check memo "Fuel Tank." Donations may also be made through the church office, directly to Treasurer Tami, or via our [online giving site](#). We are also exploring grant opportunities.

Thank you for helping us care for and maintain our church property.



**FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
FUEL TANK
REMOVAL
PROJECT**

- Underground fuel tank requires removal
- Preventing potential environmental concerns
- Includes removal, disposal, and site restoration
- Project cost: \$6,570
- Approved by church leadership
- Designated gifts: "Fuel Tank"
- Grant funding options being explored



MANY HANDS, ONE MISSION

One of the greatest blessings of Franklin First is the willingness of so many people to share their time, talents, and hearts in service to others. Every week, members of our church family quietly make a difference through ministries that touch lives both within our congregation and throughout the community.

Each act of service, no matter how large or small, helps share the love of Christ with others. Together, we are building relationships, meeting needs, strengthening our community, and creating opportunities for people to experience God's grace.

Thank you to everyone who serves. Your faithfulness is a reminder that ministry is not the work of just a few people. It is the work of a church family answering God's call together. Through many hands and willing hearts, God continues to do amazing things at Franklin First.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

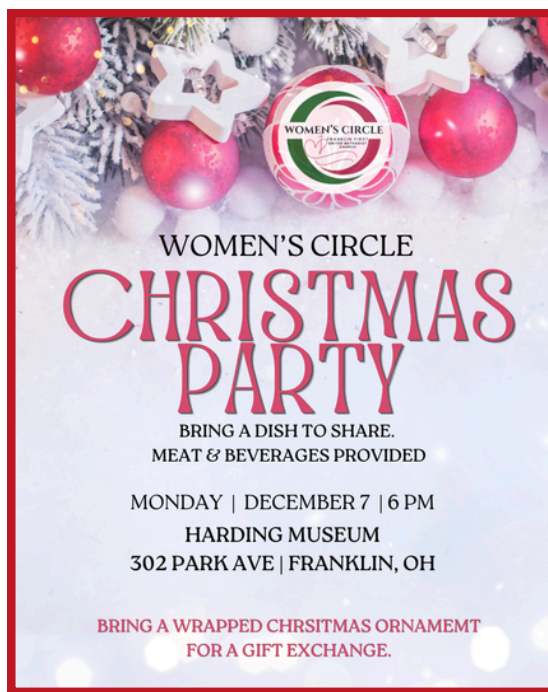
All women of Franklin First are invited to join us for our annual Women's Circle Christmas Party on Monday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the Harding Museum.

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, festive food, and Christmas cheer. Please bring a dish to share; meat and beverages will be provided.

We will also be collecting gifts for our adopted family, so please remember to bring your donated items. For a little extra holiday fun, bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to participate in our ornament gift exchange.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season together!

Monday, December 7 | 6:00 p.m.
Harding Museum
302 Park Avenue, Franklin, OH



ANGEL SHOP HELPS TEENS SHINE

The Angel Shop was a wonderful success this fall, helping more than 50 local students find formalwear for their Homecoming celebrations. Through the generosity of our community, young people were able to select outfits that helped them feel confident and special for an important milestone.



By providing gently used formal attire at no cost, the Angel Shop helps ease financial burdens for families while ensuring that students can fully participate in these memorable events. Donations of clean, gently used formalwear are accepted year-round.



Dresses, suits, shoes, accessories, and other formal items can all make a difference. Many of these items are worn only once, making them perfect for sharing with someone who can use them.

Together, we are making a difference one outfit, one student, and one act of kindness at a time.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE



Your Gift. Their Future.

Help Franklin First thrive for generations through the Permanent Endowment Fund. A gift today can provide lasting support for the church and its ministries well into the future.

Plant a seed of faith that keeps growing. Contact Pastor Laura Saunders to learn more.

A FALL MARKETPLACE TRADITION

The Noodle Masters have completed their work! Thanks to the dedication of our Women's Circle and many helping hands, the noodle-making crew made an incredible 407 batches of homemade noodles for this year's Fall Marketplace.

For weeks, volunteers gathered to mix, roll, cut, dry, and package noodles to prepare for the Women's Circle's largest fundraiser of the year. Pre-sale demand was so strong that an additional noodle-making session was added.

Plan to stop by the Fall Marketplace on Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Browse a variety of handmade crafts, baked goods, and holiday shopping opportunities.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., featuring chicken and noodles, bean soup, and barbecue. You can also purchase your favorite foods by the quart or pint and pick up a one-pound bag of our homemade dry noodles to enjoy throughout the winter months.

A thank you goes to everyone who donated ingredients, shared their talents, and rolled up their sleeves to make this project a success.

We look forward to seeing you at the Marketplace!



FALL MARKETPLACE

SATURDAY November 7, 2026 9 am - 2 pm

LUNCH SERVED FROM 11:30 - 1
Chicken & Noodles, Bean Soup, & Barbecue

Plus, grab your favorites by the quart or pint, or snag
one-pound bag of our Dry Homemade Noodles!

Pre-orders recommended at franklinfirsttmc.org

START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

303 S. Main St., Franklin, OH

FRANKLIN FIRST SHINES AT TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat on Main Street on October 17 was once again a success. Franklin First set up in multiple spots, including a booth that offered a photo shoot (VERY POPULAR!).

Volunteers estimated that they passed out about 800+ 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.



AN INVITATION FROM GREAT MIAMI RIVER DISTRICT BETTER TOGETHER: JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT LAITY

One of the gifts of being United Methodist is that we are connected. And sometimes the best way to strengthen those connections is simply to gather, share some food, hear one another's stories, and spend time getting to know each other. You're invited to a District Laity Tailgate Gathering, a relaxed time created especially for laity to connect with others from churches throughout your district.

Come enjoy: Faith | Fellowship | Food | Fun

There's no complicated agenda. Just an opportunity to meet other laity, share what's happening in our churches and communities, build new relationships, and celebrate the ways God is at work among us.



Tailgate Gathering: Great Miami River District
November 14 | 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Faith Community UMC, West Chester
8230 Cox Road
West Chester, OH 45069

Whether you've been serving in lay leadership for years or are simply looking for ways to become more connected, there is a place for you at the tailgate. And bring your friends, there is a place for them too!

Come for the faith, fellowship, food, and fun, and leave with new connections and a reminder that we truly are better together. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS BASKET MINISTRY

Franklin First will once again be spearheading our annual Christmas Food & Toy Basket Ministry for those in need this Christmas.

Community sign-ups for assistance will be held at the church on Monday, November 2, and Monday, November 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for residents served by FACS (Franklin Area Community Services). Recipients must provide a photo ID, proof of residency, and their food pantry card.

Our congregation can help in several ways. You may sponsor a Christmas food basket for \$25, make a donation toward the ministry, or purchase gifts for local children through our Angel Tree program.

The Christmas Basket Ministry is one of Franklin First's most meaningful community outreach efforts, providing food, gifts, and hope to families during the holiday season. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Tami Chamberlain, ministry coordinator or the church office.

Basket distribution will be held on Thursday, December 17, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thank you for helping us share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors in need.



2026 CHRISTMAS FOOD & TOY BASKETS SIGN-UPS

For residents that are served by FACS (Franklin Area Community Services)

Location:
Franklin First United Methodist Church
303 S. Main Street, Franklin, OH 45005

Date/Times:

- Monday, November 2 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Monday, November 9 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Requirements:

- PHOTO ID
- PROOF OF RESIDENCY (UTILITY BILL, INSURANCE CARD, COUNTY PAPERWORK, OR ANYTHING WITH NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS -- **IN ADDITION TO THE FOOD PANTRY CARD.**)

BASKET PICK UP WILL BE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 2-6 PM





Our special Thanksgiving offering this year will be used to purchase gifts for teenagers for the Christmas Basket Ministry. Thank you for supporting this effort.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE PACK AT A TIME: SNACK PACK MINISTRY

Franklin First has been packing snack packs for Gerke and Schenck Elementary 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 have been welcoming Franklin High School Honor Students as packing partners to help meet their community service hours quota. Between the two schools, we are packing almost 200 bags per week. Thanks to Linda Smith and Karen Anderson for coordinating this mission.



GROWING READERS, MAKING FRIENDS: GERKE 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, word and sentence recognition, and reading comprehension. 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. Thanks to all who give of their time and Christian concern. We are part of improving the lives of these wonderful kids.

November schedule: 5, 12, 19. Tutoring will resume on January 7 through March 18.



CASTING LINES, BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

The Franklin First Fishing Club's first outings brought together 13 youth and a great group of volunteers for a day filled with fishing, learning, and fun.

One of the highlights of the outing was that every young angler caught a fish! While the fish were exciting, the best catch of the day may have been the friendships that were formed. The Fishing Club created opportunities for youth and adults to connect, learn from one another, and enjoy God's creation together.



A special thank you to our Fishing Club leaders and volunteers who shared their time, knowledge, and encouragement. Their dedication made this new ministry a wonderful success.



FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN: WOMEN'S CIRCLE!

Looking for friendship, fellowship, and opportunities to serve? Join the Women's Circle at Franklin First! We enjoy connecting with one another while supporting church ministries, community outreach, and special projects throughout the year.

Next Meeting:
Monday, Nov. 9
6:30 PM
Church Dining
Room

All women are
welcome.

We'd love to have
you join us!

DEVOTIONAL: RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE WITH GENEROSITY

By the Rev. Tiffany McDonald

My daughter was selling cookies with her Girl Scout troop at our local grocery store. One person bought two boxes and handed a scout a one-hundred-dollar bill. "Keep the change," he said with a wink. The scout looked at the bill with big eyes, and turned to the group leader, unsure what to do. "Thank you!" the leader and I called after him, and the girls followed suit. They were stunned by his generosity.

Years later, I still remember and am inspired by this moment. I want to be generous with my money, my time and my gifts, but I am frequently stuck in the daily schedule of tasks, not looking for opportunities to be generous. Jesus says that he came that we may "have life and have it abundantly." Often, we have a scarcity mentality. We think we are not wealthy enough to be generous or that our schedules are too full to add one more thing. We see lack where God sees abundance.

A WEALTH OF GENEROSITY

The Apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous. He writes that the churches in Macedonia have "abundant joy" and "extreme poverty" but also a "wealth of generosity." He claims that "each gave according to their means and even beyond their means" ([2 Corinthians 8:3](#)).

Paul invites the Corinthians to join in generosity in response to the grace given to them by God. I believe this Scripture invites all of us to do the same today.

Being generous is one of the fruits of the spirit ([Galatians 5:22](#)). When we are filled with God's Spirit, we want to be generous. We want to share because we know everything we have comes from God. We want to give our time and talents, serve those in need and join in the mission of the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENEROSITY

Being an active member in our local church can lead to many opportunities to be generous. In The United Methodist Church, one of our [membership vows](#) is to "faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our congregation with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness."

Faithful participation is more than Sunday worship. There are countless ways to serve in your church and community. Maybe you could help with or attend Sunday school or a small group gathering or serve on a ministry team.

Many churches have a stewardship season, when congregants are asked to be in prayerful consideration about their financial support of the church in the next year. Churches are also usually asking people to consider a next step in ministry or their engagement in the congregation.

One other way that God invites us to be generous is by calling us to be in relationship with others. We can be generous with our time. We can be generous with our compassion and care, by reaching out first, sending a card or making a call. We can be generous by having a real, honest conversation with someone with whom we disagree.



*"For, as I can testify,
they voluntarily gave
according to their
means and even
beyond their means"*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

SPECIAL DAYS!

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 24	HARPER GLOSSIP
NOVEMBER 27	NATHAN GLOSSIP

ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER 12	HOLLY & JEFF SAMS
NOVEMBER 13	MARNA & DONNIE ROGERS

GIVING MADE SIMPLE: SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Life can get busy, but your generosity can stay steady. With Franklin First's updated Online Giving platform, supporting the ministries you care about is easier than ever—anytime, anywhere.



Why Give Online?

- Quick & Convenient: Make one-time or recurring gifts in just seconds—no cash, checks, or Sunday-morning rush needed.
- Consistent Impact: Regular giving helps our ministries plan wisely and serve our community with confidence.
- Safe & Secure: Our trusted system protects your personal information and ensures every transaction is secure.

Your gifts make life-changing ministry possible. Ready to take the next step?

Start today: franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources

Thank you for your faithful generosity and for helping us share the love of Christ in powerful ways!

DEVOTIONAL: RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE WITH GENEROSITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

We can be generous and believe the best about people, rather than jumping to conclusions. Generosity entails seeing and treating everyone we meet as a beloved child of God.

REFLECT

- Do you remember a time when someone was generous to you?
- When have you been generous?
- How did it make you feel to give or receive generosity?
- Can you think of a relationship that you have, or want to have, in which you could be generous with your love and care toward the other person?

Let us pray: Holy One, you have been so generous to us in so many ways. We thank you for the beauty around us, for the many blessings you give us and for your unconditional love. Give us a spirit of generosity so that those with whom we come into contact may know your love, joy and peace. Amen.

The Rev. Tiffany McDonald is an Ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church serving in the Minnesota Annual Conference. She has served as a University Chaplain, solo pastor and associate pastor, and is currently appointed to family leave. Tiffany lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota, with her husband and two daughters. Follow her blog: redheadedrev.org

Taken from:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/devotional-respond-to-gods-grace-with-generosity>

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Join us for homemade treats and fellowship after service on **November 15 & December 6.**



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, November 1, 2026

9:00 AM Faith Seekers Study Group
10:00 AM Children's Christian Education Program
10:45 AM Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM Worship Service

Monday, November 2, 2026

11 AM - 4 PM Christmas Basket Sign-Ups

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

3:00 PM Snack Pack Packing with NHS students
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 5, 2026

3:00 PM Gerke Tutoring
4 - 5:00 PM Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)

Saturday, November 7, 2026

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Fall Marketplace

Sunday, November 8, 2026

9:00 AM Faith Seekers Study Group
10:00 AM Children's Christian Education Program
10:45 AM Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM Worship Service

Monday, November 9, 2026

11 AM - 4 PM Christmas Basket Sign-Ups
6:30 PM Women's Circle Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 12, 2026

3:00 PM Gerke Tutoring
4 - 5:00 PM Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Private Event - Glossip

Sunday, November 15, 2026

9:00 AM Faith Seekers Study Group
10:00 AM Children's Christian Education Program
10:45 AM Livestream of Worship | Facebook
10:45 AM Worship Service

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 19, 2026

3:00 PM Gerke Tutoring
4:00 PM Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)

Sunday, November 22, 2026

9:00 AM Faith Seekers Study Group
10:00 AM Children's Christian Education Program
10:45 AM Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM Worship Service

Monday, November 23, 2026

6:30 PM Church Conference

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

5 - 6:00 PM Community Dinner - Coffee Collab

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 26, 2026

4 - 5:00 PM Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)

Sunday, November 29, 2026

9:00 AM Faith Seekers Study Group
10:00 AM Children's Christian Education Program
10:45 AM Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM Worship Service

EASY WAY TO SUPPORT FRANKLIN FIRST: CHECK YOUR KROGER RECEIPT!

Did you know your weekly grocery run can support the ministries of Franklin First—at no extra cost to you?

When you shop at Kroger, linking your account to our Community Rewards helps fund ministry all year long. It's free, takes just a minute, and if you're already enrolled, no action is needed—this is only for new sign-ups with our new church number.

How to enroll:

- Visit www.kroger.com
- Register or Sign In
- Community
- Community Rewards
- Enroll Now
- Enter RK151



Thank you for supporting Franklin First in this easy and meaningful way!

Franklin First United Methodist Church

2026 Lay Leadership Ministry

Church Council

Church Council Chair	Karen Anderson
Church Council Secretary	Cheryl Cyphers
Lay Leader	Cindy Kuntzman
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tami Chamberlain
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary	Theresa Fultz
Membership Secretary	Cheryl Cyphers
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

Ministry Team Representatives

Staff-Parish	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Finance & Endowment	Paul Anderson
Trustee Co-Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education Co-Chairs	Mike Smith, Kaylee Glossip
Missions & Outreach Co-Chairs	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Hospitality & Events	Carol Runyan
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member at Large	Amanda Leffew

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Lay Leader: Cindy Kuntzman
Terms expiring 2026
Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout
Terms expiring 2027
Sally Fitzgerald, Cindy Kuntzman
Terms expiring 2028
LeeAnn Lee, Cheryl Cyphers, Joe Chamberlain

Trustees

Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Terms expiring 2026:
Joe Chamberlain, Chris Womack Lorton
Terms expiring 2027
Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken, Jan Abell
Terms expiring 2028
Mike Runyan, Brian Graves, Jason Leffew

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders
Lay Leader: Cindy Kuntzman
Terms expiring 2026:
Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2027:
Barb Ogden, Charlotte Summer, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2028:
Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Bishop, Kathy Martin

Finance Committee (By virtue of office.)

Chair: Paul Anderson
Treasurer: Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary: Theresa Fultz
Church Council Chair: Karen Anderson
Trustees Co-Chairs: (one vote) Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair: Peggy Darragh – Jeromos
Lay Leader: Cindy Kuntzman
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Tami Chamberlain
Pastor: (non-voting member) Laura Saunder

Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

Chair of Finance Committee Paul Anderson (**Chair**)
Church Treasurer Tami Chamberlain
Chair of Board of Trustees Jim Martin
Chair of Church Council Karen Anderson
Lay Leader Cindy Kuntzman
Member at Large (Term: 2025-2026) Jerry Truesdell
Member at Large (Term: 2026-2027)
Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
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: Cindy Kuntzman
Pastor: Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Madelyn Lang, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain,
Sally Fitzgerald, Cindy Kuntzman

Technology Team

Chair: Joe Chamberlain
Joe Chamberlain, Trisha Dicken, Andy Kuntzman, Tami Chamberlain, Rick Chamberlain, LeeAnn Lee

Christian Education Team

Co-Chairs: Adult: Mike Smith/Children's: Kaylee Glossip
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Mike Smith, Kaylee Glossip

Care Team

Chair: Lee Saunders
Lee Saunders, Dorothy Rayburg,
Jan Truesdell, Judy Deskins



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 7	Fall Marketplace
November 29	Advent Begins
December 20	Christmas Music Sunday
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Franklin First United Methodist Church
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Franklin, OH 45005

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