

FRANKLIN FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# STEEPLE BELL

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## WOVEN TOGETHER: SHINING A LIGHT IN A SEASON OF DIVISION

As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint our world and the days grow shorter, there's a certain beauty in the way nature prepares for a new season. Yet, when we look beyond our windows and into the wider world, it often feels as though the social landscape is anything but peaceful. We live in a time when division, disagreement, and discord seem to dominate headlines. It can feel overwhelming, can't it?

But for us, the Body of Christ, this challenging climate presents not a reason for despair, but a profound opportunity to shine as a beacon of God's reconciling love. Jesus prayed specifically for our unity, not just for the sake of internal harmony, but so that the world might believe (John 17:20-21). This isn't just a nice idea; it's central to our witness!

In a world prone to tearing itself apart, we are called to be an example of coming together. Think of a beautifully woven tapestry. We are all different threads—different colors, textures, and strengths—but it is precisely in our being woven together, through Christ, that we create something whole, strong, and beautiful. Each thread retains its unique character, but its true purpose and beauty are realized in connection with others.

The Apostle Paul spoke extensively about this in his letter to the Ephesians, urging us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." He reminds us that there is "one Body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4). This is our foundation! Our unity isn't based on political agreement, shared hobbies, or even identical opinions on every matter. It is rooted in our shared identity in Christ. So, what does this look like in practice, especially when the world around us is so divided?

1. **Listen with Grace:** Before we speak, let's commit to true listening—to God, to each other, and even to those with whom we disagree. Listening seeks understanding, not just rebuttal.
2. **Speak with Love:** When we do speak, let our words be seasoned with grace and truth, building up rather than tearing down (Ephesians 4:29).
3. **Prioritize Christ:** In every interaction, ask yourself: "Does this bring glory to Christ? Does this foster unity in the Spirit?" When Christ is at the center, our differences often fade in significance.
4. **Pray for Peace:** Let us continually pray for peace in our hearts, our church, our communities, and our world. Prayer is the ultimate act of bringing God's perspective into our brokenness.

This fall, as we gather for worship, for fellowship, and for service, let's intentionally choose unity. Let our church be a powerful illustration of what God can do when His people, despite their differences, choose to live out their shared identity in Him.

Pastor Laura



## Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and Franklin First will be observing Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday on October 12 during worship. We will be remembering those who have passed who had breast cancer (that does not need to have been their cause of death) and honoring those who are survivors. The Women's Circle will hold a bake sale that day as a fundraiser for breast cancer research with proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Their work includes (1) funding technologies that accelerate breakthrough treatments, (2) ensuring that breast cancer patients have access to high-quality, affordable care, and (3) providing a safe, supportive and hopeful community for all.



## Music Ministry

Franklin First is blessed with many talented musicians, as was evident during the Sundays of September. Our Chancel Choir resumed their ministry on Grandparent's Sunday, and the Women's Ensemble joined the Chancel Choir for Back to Church Sunday. Megan is a joy at the piano, Trisha keeps the beat going, and others share their instrumental talents as well...flute, violin, cello, organ. Connie whistles beautiful pieces. Thanks to everyone who shares their musical skills. You do not have to have perform solos to be a part of our music program. Talk to our directors, Monica and Tami, and see where you can plug in.



## Dreaming Together, Planning with Purpose for 2026

It is that time of year again where ministry leaders vision for Franklin First's next year of ministry. This is a prayerful and conscientious look at ministries that need to continue, new initiatives ahead of us, and which ministries may have run their course. We work to estimate next year's income and expenses, and Treasurer Tami Chamberlain works diligently to provide financial information for each ministry leader. Our church is known for its impactful contributions to the Franklin community, and we are grateful for your ongoing support that enables us to fund ministry.







# BEYOND THE PEWS AT FRANKLIN FIRST UMC

## KAYLEE GLOSSIP

### FAITH, FAMILY, AND SERVICE

If you've spent any time at Franklin First, chances are you've seen the contagious smile of Kaylee Glossip. A lifelong member of our church, Kaylee is the wife of Nathan (Nate) and a proud mom to Emelia (Emmy), with another daughter, Harper, due in November. Their family also includes Link, a lively 2 ½-year-old pup who keeps things fun. The Glossips are big Cincinnati Bengals fans—making it a tradition to attend at least one game each season.

When she's not busy cheering on her team or spending time with family and friends, Kaylee is hard at work completing her Master's in Business Administration at Northern Kentucky University. She also serves as a respiratory therapist, a career she began after graduating from Kettering College in 2022.



*"Being intentional with my faith hasn't always been easy but with new things that I have joined at the church, it has been very easy to spark conversations with those around me about Christ."*

### FAITH JOURNEY

Kaylee has been part of Franklin First since birth. Over the years, she has experienced seasons of closeness with God and times of struggle. One defining moment came after the birth of her daughter Emelia, when she faced postpartum depression and anxiety. She leaned heavily on her doctors, friends, and family—who surrounded her with prayer and strength until she could reconnect with her faith. Kaylee describes this season as pivotal, helping her grow deeper in her walk with Christ.

Now, her faith is more intentional, especially as she guides her daughter in learning about Jesus. "For Emmy, we enjoy reading scripture and worshipping through music," Kaylee shares.



### SERVING AT FRANKLIN FIRST

Over the years, Kaylee has sung in the choir, but more recently she has stepped into new roles within the church. She serves on the Children's Education Program and as a member of the Church Council. She finds great joy in helping kids engage with scripture and watching them begin to understand God's Word.

She especially appreciates how adaptable and open-minded the Franklin First family is: "They are never afraid to embrace new ideas or respond to new needs. They always strive to do what Jesus would do—advocating for the right thing for the most people."

### LIFE BEYOND CHURCH

Outside of church, Kaylee treasures family time and simple joys like Saturday mornings at Calypso Café with Emmy, or a post-service stop at Fizzy. She's grateful for the health of her daughters and loved ones, which she doesn't take for granted given what she witnesses daily in her work as a respiratory therapist.

Kaylee also finds inspiration in her close friend Rachel, describing her as a bold servant of the Lord, a prayer warrior, and someone who has walked beside her in faith.

### HOPES FOR FUTURE

Looking ahead, Kaylee hopes Franklin First continues to grow and adapt, especially to meet the needs of younger generations. "Modernization doesn't have to be all or nothing," she says. "But without change, I worry our church may struggle to connect with the next generation. My hope is that we can create a place where younger people feel welcomed, loved, and excited to be part of the family of Christ."

We are so thankful for Kaylee and her family's presence, energy, and commitment to Franklin First. The Glossips remind us what it means to live faithfully—embracing both tradition and change as God leads.

Share Your Faith Story with Us: email us at [office@franklinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@franklinfirstumc.org)



[franklinfirstumc.org](http://franklinfirstumc.org)



FranklinFirstUMCOhio



[franklinfirstumc303](https://www.instagram.com/franklinfirstumc303)



## Answering the Call: Building Our 2026 Ministry Teams

Our Committee on Lay Leadership is working to establish our roster of leadership for 2026, along with our ministry teams. It takes the talents and effort of the full Body of Christ to maintain a quality level of ministry. We have some key positions to fill this year. For each position, we prayerfully seek an individual who feels called to the ministry and is motivated to fulfill their commitment. If you are contacted, please pray about it. You are being called because you are a good candidate for a particular ministry. Thank you for offering your gifts and graces to our church's efforts.

## Little Disciples, Big Impact: Children's Ministry

Our Nursery and Children's Church are going strong as we move through the Fall. During the summer, many of our kids are with their families at various activities and then re-engage as school starts. Please take your turn in the Christian education of our children. This is a primary ministry of the church. We thank Kaylee Glossip for her leadership. You do not have to be a Bible scholar to lead the kids. We learn as we teach. Talk to Kaylee with questions or to volunteer. She will accommodate your schedule.

We are also excited about the new Intermediate Class that started in September for grades six and up. High School Sophomore Kaylee Womack is teaching, with her Granddad Lee Saunders assisting. They leave worship after Children's Moment and meet every week except for communion Sunday and special event Sundays.



## All Saints Day

Looking ahead, all Saints Sunday will be observed November 2. We will be remembering those who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints Day last year. You are welcome to submit a picture of your loved one by October 28th for use in the worship service.



## Confirmation Class

Franklin First's confirmation class has been postponed for a year, with the next class scheduled to start in September 2026.



## Snack Packs are Back!

Franklin First began packing Snack Packs on September 14 for Gerke Elementary First Graders. We are again working with Principal Jim Rhoades on this invaluable ministry. Packing was done Sunday during fellowship time, and folks enjoyed working together to get the ministry ready to start. If you'd like to donate, you can purchase shelf-stable food items or designate an offering for "snack packs."



## Style Meets Service: Angel Shop's HOCO Impact

Franklin First's Angel Shop has done a booming business during the Homecoming season so far this year. Jenny Chilcutt has done a great job heading this ministry as young people from the area have enjoyed shopping for their formal attire for Homecoming celebrations. Beautiful dresses, shoes, jewelry, and men's wear have been donated from supporters in the community. They are then made available for free. As word about the shop has gotten out the number of shoppers has increased. The ministry has served 97 shoppers through September 28! This valuable service will be made available again next year at prom time. Thanks Jenny and crew!

**Final Day for  
Homecoming  
Finds –  
Sunday, Oct. 5!  
12:30—2 pm**

## Building a Legacy That Lasts

Looking for a meaningful way to make a difference in our church's future? A gift to our Permanent Endowment Fund is a powerful way to ensure your generosity lives on. Your contribution will be carefully invested to support our mission and bring hope to those we serve—today and for generations to come. Be part of something enduring. Reach out to Pastor Laura to learn how you can help shape a brighter tomorrow.



## 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](#).**

## Rolling Out Tradition: Marketplace Prep Begins

The Women's Circle and friends have started producing noodles for the Marketplace on Saturday November 1 running from 9:00 – 2:00 pm. Pam Trout has lined up vendors, and plans are developing for take-out orders and the luncheon. Noodles can be pre-ordered. **Donations of Gold Medal all-purpose flour and large eggs are needed ASAP.** This is a well organized and well attended event. Thank you to all who work to make it happen. If you have any questions, please see Monica Rhude.



**Franklin First United Methodist Church**

**FALL  
MARKETPLACE**

**SATURDAY  
November 1, 2025  
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 a one-pound bag of our Dry Homemade Noodles!

Pre-orders recommended at [franklinfirstumc.org](http://franklinfirstumc.org).

**START YOUR  
HOLIDAY SHOPPING**

**303 S. Main St., Franklin, OH**  
**[www.franklinfirstumc.org](http://www.franklinfirstumc.org)**



## Women's Circle— Upcoming Meeting

Looking for connection, purpose, and fun this fall? The Women's Circle is a vibrant group of faith-filled women who gather monthly for service, fellowship, and friendship—and we'd love for you to join us!

Mark your calendar! Our next meeting is on **Monday, October 13th at 6:30 PM** in the Dining Room at the church. All women are encouraged to attend! Have questions or want to learn more? Reach out to a member or contact the church office—we'd love to welcome you!

*"The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10*



## Community Trunk or Treat

Franklin First has signed up to participate in the City of Franklin's Fall Festival on Saturday October 18. This year's event will take place downtown, with Trick or Treating from 5:00 – 7:00. Our church will have a booth sharing information about our ministries, a photo opportunity, and smiling hosts. We encourage you to provide wrapped store-bought candy donations for those who will be handing out treats, as we expect large numbers of Trick or Treaters for this event. It promises to be lots of fun.



You can also register to decorate your vehicle and wear a costume. Check the city's website for the registration form. The deadline is October 14 by 4 PM. Prizes will be given for the best decorations, best costumes, and most interactive.

## Back to Church Sunday

We celebrated "Back to Church" Sunday on September 21 with lots of music, membership recognitions, and some love for our worship leadership. Following worship, folks enjoyed a carry in dinner, and no one left hungry!





## From Bystander to Upstander: Answering the Call to Kindness and Courage

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, a time to stand together against behaviors that can cause lasting pain and harm. In a world that can

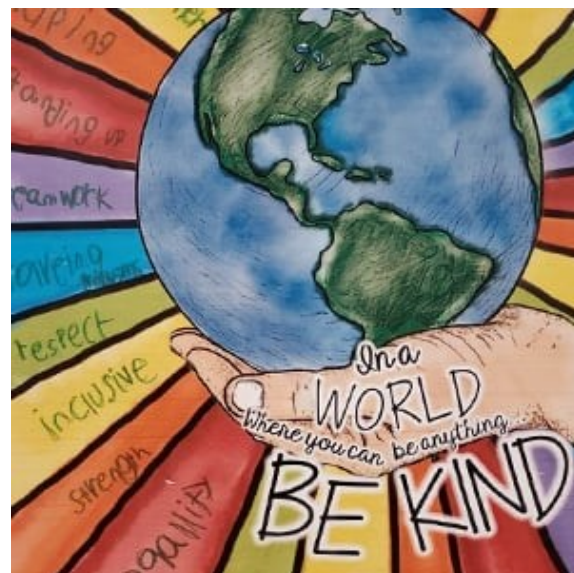
feel increasingly divided, our church is called to be a haven of unity, compassion, and love for everyone. We often think of bullying in a school context, but our society's communication has devolved into bullying as a means of coercion.

Bullying, whether it's in person or online, goes against the very core of our Christian values. It is a painful abuse of power that tears down others and isolates those who need our support the most. Our faith teaches us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and to "do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). This means treating every person with the dignity and respect they deserve as a child of God.

During this month, we are encouraged to be more than just bystanders. We can be "upstanders" by speaking out against injustice, offering support to those who are being targeted.

We can start by:

- Asking for the Holy Spirit to guide our words and actions.
- Modeling kindness and respect, even when we disagree with someone.
- Listening to those who have been affected by bullying.
- Speaking out against hurtful behavior, even if it feels uncomfortable.
- Praying for both those who are bullied and those who are doing the bullying.



## Franklin First Online Giving: Convenient, Consistent, Faithful

Can't attend in person? You can still support Franklin First's mission and ministries through **Online Giving**—a simple, secure way to give anytime, from anywhere.

- Set up recurring or one-time gifts
- Stay consistent, even when life gets busy
- Help grow the church's impact with faithful support

Start here: [franklinfirstumc.org/giving-&-member-resources](http://franklinfirstumc.org/giving-&-member-resources)

### Birthdays

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| October 02 | Sally Fitzgerald  |
| October 04 | Bill Hatfield     |
| October 08 | Brady Chamberlain |
| October 10 | Robert Bowman     |
| October 12 | David Setser      |
| October 15 | Cosette Sams      |
| October 15 | Sue Fullen        |
| October 19 | Emily Alyea       |
| October 19 | Maverick Line     |

### Anniversaries

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| October 11 | Carol & Mike Runyan    |
| October 12 | Linda & Mike Smith     |
| October 19 | Rick & Kay Marksberry  |
| October 23 | Chelsea & Jimmy Trout  |
| October 23 | Cody & Jenny Chilcutt  |
| October 26 | Tine & Don Chamberlain |
| October 27 | Ken & Madelyn Lang     |



## Beyond the Page: Celebrating the Unique Gifts of Dyslexic Thinkers

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month, a time dedicated to understanding and supporting individuals with this common learning difference. Dyslexia isn't about intelligence; it's a neurological difference in how the brain processes language. It affects how a person reads, spells, and writes, but it's important to remember that many people with dyslexia are highly creative, strategic thinkers, and problem solvers.

Our church community is a place where everyone, regardless



### SCHOOL-AGE SIGNS OF DYSLLEXIA

- HAVE A HARD TIME RECALLING WORDS
- NEED MORE TIME TO TAKE IN AND PROCESS INFORMATION
- DIFFICULTY WITH RHYMING
- HARD TIME HEARING AND SEEING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN WORDS AND WORD PARTS
- CONFUSE LETTERS THAT LOOK SIMILAR IN READING AND WRITING (B, D, P, Q)
- STRUGGLE TO RECOGNIZE AND READ HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS QUICKLY
- READ BELOW GRADE LEVEL
- STRUGGLE WITH SPELLING
- AVOID READING AND WRITING ACTIVITIES
- DIFFICULTY FOLLOWING MULTI-STEP DIRECTIONS



of their learning style, should feel welcomed and valued. By raising awareness, we can better support our children and adults who may be navigating the challenges of dyslexia. Let's use this

month as an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and celebrate the unique gifts of all our members. Recognizing and embracing these differences strengthens our community and helps everyone feel seen and loved for who they are.

## 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.

## Mission Team: Cleaning Product Drive

This August and September, our Mission & Outreach Team is collecting cleaning products to support The Pantry, our local food pantry serving families in need.

Items like dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, and all-purpose cleaners are greatly appreciated and help provide dignity and comfort to those facing tough times.



Drop off donations at the church anytime during office hours or bring them to Sunday worship.

Let's come together to make a difference—one bottle at a time!

## Eight Ways to Nurture Faith in Young Children

by: Laura Buchanan

It's never too early to begin sharing faith practices with our children. "Helping kids to know God's love and to know that God loves them is a really foundational concept that little ones, even from diapers, can be taught," says the Rev. Kathy Pittenger, Children's Initiatives Coordinator for the [Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church](#).

The Rev. Joanna Cummings, pastor with children and families at [East End United Methodist Church](#) in Nashville, Tennessee, agrees, "I believe that children are spiritual beings and I believe that they have a lot to show us about who God is."

Weave faith formation into the everyday

Nurturing faith in babies, toddlers and preschoolers is not only meaningful, it can also be a lot of fun. It is possible for your busy family to incorporate this important work into day-to-day life, you just have to find the spiritual practices that work best for your unique family.

Cummings and Pittenger share these practical ideas:

### 1. Evaluate your daily rhythms

Identify transitions and pauses where you can add prayer, discussion and Scripture to your routines. For example:

- Write or print prayers and hang them above the changing table as a reminder to pray in those moments together.
- Keep a stack of conversation starters in the car. Ask questions that have no "correct" answers, such as, "I wonder what it would have been like to see Jesus walk on the water?"
- Use meals, naptime and bedtime as opportunities for reading Bible stories and sharing prayers.

### 2. Pray in different ways

- Explore a [variety of prayer practices](#) to find options



*Faith formation isn't limited to time spent at church. United Methodist children's ministry experts share tips to help parents make the everyday more holy for the entire family. Pictured: Sunday worship attendees at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Fremont, Calif. Photo by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications.*

that your child most enjoys. As they grow, try new ones to meet their changing needs.

- The Lord's Prayer and the Doxology: Repetition is helpful for children. Saying the same prayer over and over is fine; in fact, it can bring familiarity and comfort.
- Body prayer: Use movement to express a prayer.
- Take a walk: Head outside to marvel at God's creativity and give thanks for it.
- Artistic prayer: Ask your child to draw what they'd like to say to God.

### 3. Read, play and learn

Reading a story Bible, such as the [Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook](#), brings Scripture to life through illustrations and approachable vocabulary. Also consider [board books](#), [snuggle time books](#) and books focusing on [prayers for families](#). Since children learn through play, finger puppets or interactive tools can help make story time fun and memorable. Check out free [Digital Faith Formation Playlists](#), created by Pittenger and her team, which include readings, questions, prayers, music, activities and more.

### 4. Model your faith

Our kids learn from us by watching us. As you lead the way in prayer, Bible study, engaging in worship, talking about God, serving others, being part of a faith community and exploring spiritual practices, children will want



to join you. They'll come to expect these components of your routine and they will begin to incorporate them into theirs as well. Kids might even remind you to complete a forgotten activity or suggest a new one.

### 5. Welcome hard questions

It's okay to not have answers to big questions, to say, "I don't know – let's try to find the answer together," and then turn to a pastor, resources or friends to help you unpack challenging topics. After all, parents are on a spiritual journey of growth, too, and it's great for kids to see you learning alongside them. For preschoolers, answer questions with one in return: "What do you think?" This will encourage them to lean on their spirituality and prior learning to draw conclusions, discover other topics they wonder about and generate further conversation.

### 6. Offer a blessing

Saying a blessing over your child at a key point in the day, such as before preschool or at bedtime, can help them connect deeply with you and with God. Hold or make eye contact with your child to create a special moment. Cummings shares this with her baby: "I bless you as you grow, I bless you as you go, I bless you as you play, I bless you today." Pittenger shares this with her school-age children: "God bless my children and help them to grow bigger and stronger and wiser and more in love with God and all people every day."

### 7. Help others

Engaging in community service can be an excellent way to bond as a family, and it provides an opportunity to talk about loving our neighbors, being a Jesus follower and living out our faith. Projects such as sorting items at a food bank are often appropriate for volunteers of all ages. Participating in an advocacy effort related to a social justice issue that your family is passionate about is a powerful way for kids to see that their voice matters and that they can make a difference on behalf of others.

### 8. Find connection

Being active in a faith community helps children see

their role in the body of Christ. Including young children in worship services broadens their understanding of church and what it means to praise God. It's also important that kids know they can trust and learn from adults other than their parents, whether they be Sunday School teachers, grandparents or family friends. As an added bonus, the community provides parents with a support system as you seek ideas and resources from pastors, church staff and other families who are in a similar life situation.

### Encouragements for parents

"[Parents] may not be the expert on all things theological, but they are the expert on their kids. We don't have to have all the right words or all the right answers," says Pittenger.

Cummings shares, "Parents, give yourself grace. You are loving and nurturing the faith of your child in the middle of a season that's really difficult and challenging, especially for young families. Anything that is intentional about sharing the love of God, about sharing the story of God, or even just sharing your faith with your child in conversation is really impactful."

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

*This story was published on March 2, 2022.*

*Article Taken From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/8-ways-to-nurture-faith-in-young-children>*

## Free Community Meal

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>4th Tuesdays<br/>5 – 6 pm</b><br>Hosted by:<br>The Coffee Collab | <b>Thursdays<br/>4 – 5 pm</b><br>Hosted by:<br>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!**

# Mark Your Calendar! What's Happening at Franklin First

## 1-Oct-25

6:30pm- Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm-Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## 2-Oct-25

9:00am - Noodle Packaging

2:45pm - Gerke Tutoring

4pm - Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C )

## 4-Oct-25

11am - Glossip Private Event

## 5-Oct-25

9:30am - Faith Seekers Study Group

10:45am - Worship Service

10:45am - Livestream of Worship on Facebook

11am - Children's Church & Nursery for Worship

12:30-2pm - Angel Shop

## 7-Oct-25

9am - Noodle Making

## 8-Oct-25

2:30pm - Finance Committee Meeting

6:30pm- Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm-Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## 9-Oct-25

9:00am - Noodle Packaging

4pm - Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C )

## 10-Oct-25

5:30pm - Frost Marsh Wedding Rehearsal

## 11-Oct-25

4:30pm - Frost - Marsh Wedding

## 12-Oct-25

9:30am - Faith Seekers Study Group

10:45am - Worship Service

10:45am - Livestream of Worship on Facebook

11am - Children's Church & Nursery for Worship

11am - Intermediate Youth Bible Class

11:45 am—Bake Sale

## 13-Oct-25

6:30pm - Women's Circle Meeting

## 14-Oct-25

9am - Noodle Making

## 15-Oct-25

4pm - Permanent Endowment Team

6:30pm- Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm-Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## 16-Oct-25

9:00am - Noodle Packaging

2:45pm - Gerke Tutoring

4pm - Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C )

## 18-Oct-25

5-7 pm Trunk or Treat

## 19-Oct-25

9:30am - Faith Seekers Study Group

10:45am - Worship Service

10:45am - Livestream of Worship on Facebook

11am - Children's Church & Nursery for Worship

11am - Intermediate Youth Bible Class

## 21-Oct-25

9am - Noodle Making

## 22-Oct-25

6:30pm- Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm-Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## 23-Oct-25

9:00am - Noodle Packaging

4pm - Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C )

## 26-Oct-25

9:30am - Faith Seekers Study Group

10:45am - Worship Service

10:45am - Livestream of Worship on Facebook

11am - Children's Church & Nursery for Worship

11am - Intermediate Youth Bible Class

## 28-Oct-25

9am - Noodle Making

4:30pm - Community Dinner (Coffee Collab)

## 29-Oct-25

6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm - Handbell Choir Rehearsal

## 30-Oct-25

9:00 am - Noodle Packaging

2:45pm - Gerke Tutoring

4pm - Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C )

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

*Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)*



# 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, Rhonda Roberson |
| 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:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b> Peggy Darragh-Jeromos | <b>Lay Leader:</b> 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):

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Chair:</b> Pastor Laura Saunders | <b>Lay Leader:</b> 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:

|   |
|---|
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b> 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, Rhonda Roberson

### 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

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>OCTOBER 12</b>  | <b>BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY</b> |
| <b>NOVEMBER 1</b>  | <b>FALL MARKETPLACE, 9 AM—2 PM</b>    |
| <b>NOVEMBER 23</b> | <b>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b>            |
| <b>NOVEMBER 30</b> | <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>         |
| <b>DECEMBER 21</b> | <b>CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY</b>         |
| <b>DECEMBER 24</b> | <b>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 7 PM</b>      |

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.  
Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232  
E-mail: [office@franklinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@franklinfirstumc.org)

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