



STEEPLE BELL

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

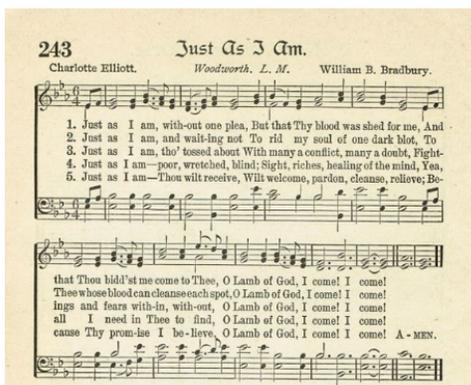
BROKEN YET BELOVED: THE STORY BEHIND JUST AS I AM

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we often look toward the pioneers who led movements or founded institutions. Yet some of the most profound legacies in church history were forged not in the public square, but in the quiet, often painful confines of a sickroom. This is the story of Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871), the woman who turned her "brokenness" into one of the most beloved hymns of all time: "Just As I Am."

Charlotte was born into a gifted, religious family in Brighton, England. In her youth, she was a talented portrait painter and a witty writer. However, by her early thirties, her life changed drastically. She was struck by a debilitating chronic illness that left her largely bedridden and in constant pain for the remaining five decades of her life.



For an active, creative woman, this "thorn in the flesh" was a source of deep spiritual struggle. She often felt useless, a burden to her family, and disconnected from the vibrant work of the church.



The turning point came in 1834. Her family was busy organizing a bazaar to raise funds for St. Mary's Hall, a school for the daughters of poor clergymen. Charlotte, confined to her sofa, felt a wave of bitterness and inadequacy. She couldn't help; she couldn't even attend. In the silence of her room, she began to doubt her own worth before God. She remembered the words spoken to her years earlier by the Swiss evangelist César Malan, who had told her to come to Christ "just as you are."

Picking up a pen, not to paint a portrait but to steady her soul, she wrote the verses that would travel around the globe. She wasn't writing for a congregation; she was writing to remind herself that God's love isn't a reward for our busyness, but a gift for our brokenness.

"Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!"

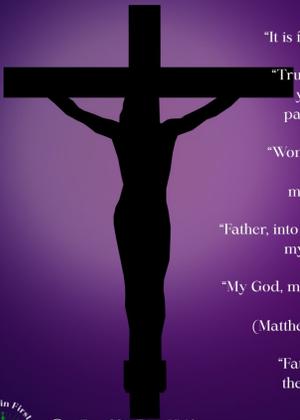
**IN MY WEAKNESS, MY DOUBTS,
AND THE PLACES WHERE I FEEL
LEAST USEFUL, I STILL COME—
BECAUSE GOD MEETS ME WITH
GRACE, JUST AS I AM.**

When the hymn was published, it resonated instantly. It became the anthem of the 19th-century revival movements and, later, the signature invitation song for the Billy Graham Crusades.

Charlotte Elliott eventually wrote over 150 hymns, but none captured the human condition quite like this one. She proved that physical limitations are not spiritual limitations. Her weakness became the very vessel through which millions of people found the courage to approach the throne of grace.

Charlotte's life reminds us that our value is not measured by our "productivity" or our health, but by our identity in Christ. Whether we are leading from the front or praying from a bedside, we are invited to come to Him—without plea, without delay, and exactly as we are.

Franklin First UMC
Seven Last Words of Christ
 Lenten Worship Series
 Begins February 22nd
 Sundays at 10:45 am



"I thirst." (John 19:28)

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

"Woman, behold your son. ... Behold your mother." (John 19:26-27)

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Franklin First UMC
 303 S. Main St, Franklin, OH
 www.franklinfirstumc.org

Seven Last Words of Christ

Jeff Sams and Pastor Laura are once again offering a special Lenten series on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Each week, we will explore the mind of Jesus during his crucifixion. Presented in a two-person dialogue format, we will learn the heart of the Savior during his darkest hours. The series began on February 22 and runs through Easter on April 5. The series is also available in our archived worship services.

Let the Buckets Ring! Kids on a Mission This Lent!

Help our children during the season of Lent collect donations for Heifer International, an organization which provides animals, clean water, and educational opportunities to needy families, offering a hand up to impoverished communities. During 2025, the kids collected \$1,000. Can we hit or exceed that goal once again? Save your change and assist our kids in learning about the power of mission work.



Journey to the Cross: Walking Through Holy Week Together

Franklin First UMC
Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday Service
 March 29th - 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday Service
 April 2nd - 7 pm

Good Friday Service
 April 3rd - 7 pm

Easter Sunday
 April 5th - 10:45 am

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

You are invited to keep Holy Week beginning March 29 with our Palm Sunday worship service at 10:45. We will be continuing our "Seven Last Words of Christ" series, looking at the thoughts of Jesus while on the cross and remembering the parade of palm branches as he entered Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday is April 2 and we will be observing Holy Communion. Good Friday is on April 3. Join us for both services at 7:00 p.m.

Our Easter worship will feature glorious music and a reflection on the empty tomb as we wrap up the "Seven Last Words of Christ" series. Easter is the high point of the Christian year as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his triumph over death. Invite family and friends for a meaningful Easter observance.

BEYOND THE PEWS AT FRANKLIN FIRST UMC

AMANDA LEFFEW

FAITH, FAMILY, & GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

It doesn't take long to notice the gentle, uplifting spirit that Amanda Leffew brings to the Franklin First community. A Registered Nurse with more than 20 years of experience, Amanda shares her compassion freely—whether at work, at home, or in church. She and her husband, Jason, will celebrate 18 years of marriage this May, and together they cherish life with their two children: Grayson (9) and Amelia (2).

When she isn't caring for patients or spending time with family, Amanda enjoys simple joys—pool days in summer, visits to the zoo, afternoons at the park, and browsing antique malls. In 2024, she and Jason officially made Franklin First their church home, though Amanda's roots here go back decades.

"My grandparents helped me build my faith, and now I get to pass that gift to my children."

A TESTIMONY OF HOPE: GOD'S PLAN REVEALED

Amanda's faith deepened through one of the hardest seasons of her life: a six-year journey through infertility. It was a time that required patience, faith, and unwavering hope.

"We never gave up the hope of becoming parents," she shares. "I knew in my heart that God had a special plan for us."

That plan blossomed in 2016, only weeks after Amanda and Jason began the adoption process. They were chosen almost immediately, and their son Grayson was born that September—an answer to years of heartfelt prayer.

In November 2023, their hearts were filled again with the arrival of Amelia, a precious gift they hadn't expected but wholeheartedly welcomed.

"God not only blessed us once, but twice," Amanda says. "We are thankful every day for our children."

ROOTED IN FAMILY, ROOTED IN FAITH

Amanda's earliest faith experiences were shaped by her grandparents, Paul and Ina Stahley, who faithfully brought her and her sister to Franklin First as children. Those childhood Sundays built a foundation she returned to in her early 20s, always feeling welcomed and at home in the congregation.

In 2008, Amanda and Jason were married in the same sanctuary where she grew up learning about God's love. She credits her grandparents with nurturing her faith—a gift she now hopes to pass along to her own children.

One scripture has guided her through life's joys and challenges: Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

SERVING WITH JOY

Since joining the church officially, Amanda has become an active and joyful servant through:

- Children's Church
- Greeter ministry
- Vacation Bible School

She especially loves serving with kids and helping them grow in their own faith journeys.

"Our church family is wonderful," Amanda says. "Everyone is so kind and always ready to help. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a loving community."

Looking to the future, Amanda hopes to continue growing in her faith, serving others, and helping strengthen the church family that has supported her so deeply.



LIFE BEYOND CHURCH

Outside of her roles in healthcare and church, Amanda loves:

- Browsing antique malls
- All things Disney
- Traveling to Gatlinburg, Tennessee
- Reflecting with gratitude on her family, health, and career

Her favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art," beautifully echoes the deep sense of awe and thankfulness that fills her story.



Share Your Faith Story with Us: email us at office@franklinfirstumc.org



franklinfirstumc.org



FranklinFirstUMCOhio



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

Scout Sunday: Honoring Service, Skills, & Spirit

Were you a Boy or Girl Scout? How many people do you know who were? On Sunday, March 8 during worship, we will be honoring our Scouts. They will help lead us during the service and we will have an opportunity to congratulate them on their accomplishments. We will also be recognizing the adults among us who give or have given leadership to the many programs that benefit our young people. Invite a scout you know to come and be applauded.



SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY
MAY 10**

MUSIC SUNDAY
SPECIAL MOTHER'S
DAY SERVICE.
INVITE ALL OF YOUR
SPECIAL LADIES

**SUNDAY
MAY 24**

PENTECOST - A
CELEBRATION OF THE
COMING OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT & THE
BIRTH OF THE
CHURCH

**SUNDAY
MAY 31**

GRADUATION SUNDAY

**SUNDAY
JUNE 21**

FATHER'S DAY
INVITE YOUR
FAVORITE GUYS TO
WORSHIP

Snack Pack Champions

The Franklin First congregation is amazing! On fellowship Sundays this winter, folks have followed the worship service by heading downstairs to pack snack packs in an assembly line fashion. Many hands make light work, and you have the process down to a science. Thanks for all your efforts to bless Gerke first graders with these weekend supplies of shelf-stable foods! And thanks to Dorothy Rayburg and her crew for the baked goods that sweetened the experience!



Living the Lessons of Jesus: Faith Seekers Group Returns March 8th

After a winter pause, Faith Seekers, our Sunday morning adult Bible study, is ready to gather again! Whether you're a long time participant or someone who's been curious about joining, this is the perfect time to step in.

- * Resumes: Sunday, March 8
- * 9:15 AM
- * Fellowship Hall

The group will be starting with Matthew 5:3, the opening of the Beatitudes. These short, powerful statements are far more than familiar words; they are Jesus' roadmap for living a life shaped by grace, mercy, humility, and hope.

Together, we'll explore questions like:

- *What does it actually mean to be "poor in spirit"?*
- *How do the Beatitudes reshape the way we see ourselves, our neighbors, and our world?*
- *What might Jesus be inviting us to become?*

This study aims to help us not just read Jesus' teachings, but live them—deeply, intentionally, and with renewed understanding.

From there, we will dive into one of the most well known and often spoken parts of Christian worship: the Lord's Prayer. Many of us recite it every Sunday—but what was Jesus truly revealing about God, himself, and our calling as disciples through this prayer? We'll explore what happens when a familiar prayer becomes a fresh encounter with God's heart.

Faith Seeker isn't a lecture or a test of knowledge. It's a warm, open conversation where we learn, question, share, and grow together. Whether you're exploring Scripture for the first time or diving deeper into lifelong faith, you'll find a place at the table.

Come join the journey. Come seek. Come find. We can't wait to see you there!

THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5: 3-10



Don't forget to Spring Forward!

Mark your calendars! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Before you head to bed on Saturday night, remember to set your clocks one hour ahead. While we lose sixty minutes of sleep, we gain that beautiful extra hour of evening sunlight.

Blessing First Graders: A Joyful Year of Tutoring

We will be concluding this school year's tutoring of Gerke Elementary first graders on March 19. We have helped ten students with their literacy skills using lessons prepared by Gerke's Title One Teacher Carly Green. Jenny Chilcutt has organized exercise time, Sally Fitzgerald brings amazing snacks, and tutors have included Debbie Banks, Pam Bishop, Judy Bowman (who has also done art projects), Rick & Tami Chamberlain, Lori Hemmelgarn, Cindy Kuntzman, Jim & Kathy Martin, Nancy Massey, Dorothy Rayburg, Lee Saunders, Linda Smith, and Jan Truesdell. Pastor Laura administrates the program with school leadership. Thanks everyone! What a great way to bless these kids! We have fun.



More than Just Food: Our 2025 Donation Wrap-Up

Did you know that throughout the year, we collect different categories of items for the Franklin Community Food Pantry – targeting things that are needed but not typically donated. We collect paper products, personal items, baby items, school and cleaning supplies. During 2025, the value of the year's donations amounted to \$3,802.00. Well done, Franklin First!



The Pantry —Help Provide Care Essentials

Franklin First is collecting **personal care items** for The Pantry this quarter. These everyday necessities make a big difference for families in need!

We are asking for donations of:

- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- And other hygiene items



Franklin First is collecting **Personal Care Items** for The Pantry this quarter: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.



Your generosity helps stock The Pantry with items that promote dignity and health. Please drop off your donations in the designated bins at the church.



Days in the District

Clergy and laity are invited to join Bishop Jung for his Days in the Districts!

If you cannot attend the event in your district, you are welcome to attend at another location.

Laity Schedule 11:00 am* - 3:00 pm

A special training for laity on leadership skills, with the opportunity to make connections with others, will be held at 11:00 am for those wishing to attend. All laity are encouraged to participate. Laity are then invited for lunch at noon. From 1:00 - 3:00 pm, the bishop will lead a discussion on the Five Strategic Pillars of the Ohio Episcopal Area Missional Direction and closing worship.

9:00 am *Clergy arrival*, Laity welcome if traveling with their pastors

9:30 am *Worship*

10:20 am *Break* – Laity proceed to the other space for their training

10:30 am *Clergy Bible Study with Bishop Jung*

11:00 am *Laity Training with Julie Carter*

Noon *Lunch for everyone*

1:00 pm *Bishop leads a discussion on the Five Strategic Pillars with Laity and Clergy*

2:30 pm *Closing worship with communion*

3:00 pm *Dismiss*

Scioto River District and Great Miami River District - Saturday, March 7, 2026

at Resurrection Mason UMC, 6315 S. Mason Montgomery Rd., Mason, Ohio

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Creativity & Connection: A Croppin' Good Time

Franklin First's Women's Circle is once again hosting a Friday evening and Saturday croppin' event on March 6 and 7. They welcome registered guests to exercise their creativity with friends, and our ladies provide brunch and a baked potato bar for Saturday dinner. The weekend is always a hit with participants.

The date has been set for our Fall Croppin' event as well so mark the calendar and plan ahead!



*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

Tips for a Meaningful Lent

Perform Random Acts of Kindness

Apologize to Someone

Serve in Sunday Worship

Say Thank You

Read a Book of the Bible

Visit Someone Who May be Lonely

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, March 9th at 6:30 PM** in the Church Dining Room. All women are welcome! Contact the church office with any questions.

Kroger Community Rewards

Have you checked the bottom of your Kroger's Receipt? If it does not list our church as your designated Community Rewards Beneficiary, follow the instructions on the back and get signed up now! Please note our new church number! You do not need to change your current account; this is for new sign-ups.



Go to: www.krogers.com

New account users:

go to "Register"

Create Account

Or Sign-in

Go to: Community – Community Rewards

Click: Enroll now

Church #: RK151

Giving Made Simple: Online Stewardship

Life moves fast, but your generosity doesn't have to slow down. Support the ministries you love from anywhere with Franklin First's updated **Online Giving platform**.

Why Give Online?

- **Quick & Convenient:** Set up one-time or recurring gifts in seconds—no cash or checks required.
- **Consistent Impact:** Steady giving helps our ministries plan effectively and serve our community better.
- **Safe & Secure:** Our trusted platform ensures your information and transactions are always protected.



Every gift fuels life-changing ministry. Ready to make the shift?

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

Thank you for your faithfulness and for helping us share God's love!

Remembering Holy Week; Celebrating Easter at Home by Cindy Solomon

Holy Week and Easter traditionally provide a wealth of opportunities for remembering, meditating and celebrating at church. Adults may set aside time for more intense prayer, study, and service. But what do families, especially those with younger children, do at home for Holy Week and Easter?

“While many families celebrate Advent in the home, it may be harder to observe Holy Week at home,” acknowledged Lynn Gilliam. “After all, it’s much easier to talk with our children about the baby in the manger than it is to discuss Jesus’ death and the events leading up to it. But just as the observance of Advent helps us to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, observing Holy Week helps prepare us for the joyous celebration of Easter.”

Gilliam, senior editor of *Pockets*, a magazine for children published by The Upper Room, shares additional ideas to help families journey toward Easter together and then to make Easter a season-long, rather than one-day, celebration.

Have simpler meals. Fasting, one of the most ancient spiritual disciplines, is not appropriate for everyone, certainly not for young children. But simplifying meals can remind everyone of the solemnity of the week leading up to sunset on Holy Saturday. Simply eliminating desserts is an easy way to do this. Talk to your children about how giving up something we enjoy can remind us of Jesus’ giving up his life for us.

Read together about the events of the last weeks of Jesus’ life in your Bible. Children who are old enough and enjoy reading can read some of the passages to the family. “Easter Eggs with a Difference” provides one way to read many of the pertinent passages with your family and talk about them. Other classics



are *The Legend of the Easter Egg* by Lori Walburg and *Easter Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist.

Add the events of Holy Week to your family prayers. For example, you could pray, “God, we remember today how Jesus served his friends by washing their feet. Help us to serve others, too.”

On Easter Sunday, celebrate at home in a big way. Make “Christ is risen!” banners to hang around the house. Have a special food. If fresh flowers — a colorful symbol of new life — are available, bring some in to decorate the spaces where your family gathers. Teach your children the traditional Easter greeting, “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” and the response, “The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

Lent- and Easter-related craft ideas can be found on Pinterest and online blogs.

Host an at-home foot washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday using the account of the Lord’s Supper in John 13:1-11. Washing someone else’s feet, especially for children to wash their parents’ feet and each other’s, can be a powerful experience.

Watch the sunrise together on Easter morning (the time of day the Resurrection was discovered).

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Remember that Easter is a season.

Create a family worship space. To continue the celebration throughout the Easter season, Gilliam suggested setting up praise space—a table, a corner of the family room, wherever the family can gather. Decorate the space for Easter with symbols of new life — flowers, a budding branch, pictures of butterflies or baby animals (invite children to draw these or cut them out from old magazines), etc. In the days following Easter Sunday, gather there each day as a family to pray together and read a short passage of scripture about the events following the Resurrection.”

Practice kindness and helping others. Write notes or make phone calls to other homebound people in the community. Let them know your family is praying for them. The number of people who could use Easter cheer is almost limitless and the joy of Easter is good news for all.

Hide a chocolate egg. Burrows offered an interesting idea. “When I was a kid,” he said, “one of the coolest things after Easter was to find that one chocolate egg that had gone unnoticed. It was like a little bit of Easter had snuck into the following week.

Taken from: <https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/local-church/celebrating-easter-at-home/>



Planting Seeds for Future Season

Have you ever wondered how we can ensure our church remains a beacon of hope for the next hundred years?

While our weekly offerings power our immediate ministry, the Permanent Endowment Fund is designed to protect our long-term mission.

Living Legacy



What is a "Forever Gift"?

Unlike a standard donation that is spent on today's utilities or programs, a gift to the Endowment Fund is invested. The principal remains intact, while the earned income provides a steady, reliable stream of support for our church's future. It's a way to ensure your generosity continues to work long after your lifetime.

Why Your Support Matters

By contributing to the endowment, you are:

- Building a Legacy: Your faith and values become a permanent part of our church's story.
- Providing Stability: You help create a financial foundation that can weather any season.
- Impacting Generations: You are supporting the spiritual home of children and families we haven't even met yet.

Start a Conversation

Whether it's a one-time gift or a designation in your estate planning, your contribution helps shape a brighter tomorrow.

Reach out to Pastor Laura Saunders to learn more about how you can leave a lasting mark on our community. Together, we can plant the seeds for a harvest we may never see, but that will nourish many for years to come.



What's Happening in March 2026



| | |
|--|--|
| March 1, 2026 Sunday | |
| 10:45 AM | Livestream of Worship on Facebook |
| 10:45 AM | Worship Service |
| 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Angel Shop |
| 5:30 PM | "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" Bible Study |
| March 4, 2026 Wednesday | |
| 1:30 PM | Snack Pack Packing |
| 6:30 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:30 PM | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| March 5, 2026 Thursday | |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C) |
| March 6 & 7, 2026 Friday/Saturday | |
| | Croppin' Good Time |
| March 8, 2026 Scout Sunday | |
| 9:15 AM | Faith Seekers Study Group |
| 10:45 AM | Livestream of Worship on Facebook |
| 10:45 AM | Worship Service |
| 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Angel Shop |
| March 9, 2026 Monday | |
| 6:30 PM | Women's Circle Meeting |
| March 11, 2026 Wednesday | |
| 3:00 PM | Snack Pack Packing |
| 6:30 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:30 PM | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| March 12, 2026 Thursday | |
| 2:45 PM | Gerke Tutoring |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C) |
| March 15, 2026 Sunday | |
| 9:15 AM | Faith Seekers Study Group |
| 10:45 AM | Livestream of Worship on Facebook |
| 10:45 AM | Worship Service |
| 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Angel Shop |
| 5:30 PM | "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" Bible Study |
| March 18, 2026 Wednesday | |
| 1:30 PM | Snack Pack Packing |
| 6:30 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:30 PM | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| March 19, 2026 Thursday | |
| 3:15 PM | Final Gerke Tutoring |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C) |

| | |
|---|--|
| March 22, 2026 Sunday | |
| 9:15 AM | Faith Seekers Study Group |
| 10:45 AM | Livestream of Worship on Facebook |
| 10:45 AM | Worship Service |
| 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Angel Shop |
| March 24, 2026 Tuesday | |
| 5:00 – 6:00 PM | Community Dinner (Coffee Collab) |
| March 25, 2026 Wednesday | |
| 1:30 PM | Snack Pack Packing |
| 6:30 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:30 PM | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| March 26, 2026 Thursday | |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C) |
| March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday | |
| 9:15 AM | Faith Seekers Study Group |
| 10:45 AM | Livestream of Worship on Facebook |
| 10:45 AM | Worship Service |
| 5:30 PM | "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" Bible Study |



Birthdays

| | | |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| March 02 | Aubree | Kelly |
| March 03 | Ryan | Hynes |
| March 04 | Elliott | Duff |
| March 06 | Mike | Runyan |
| March 07 | Rick | Chamberlain |
| March 11 | Daran | Bishop |
| March 12 | Carol | Hatfield |
| March 14 | Don | Chamberlain |
| March 14 | John | Lass |
| March 14 | Barbara | Ogdin |
| March 14 | Pastor Laura | Saunders |
| March 15 | Rick | Marksberry |
| March 15 | Gib | Woody |
| March 17 | Jason | Leffew |
| March 22 | Oakland | Roberts |
| March 26 | Rachel | Chamberlain |
| March 27 | Easton | Hinds |
| March 27 | Noah | Hinds |
| March 27 | LeeAnn | Lee |
| March 30 | Carol | Runyan |
| March 31 | Kay | Marksberry |

Anniversaries

| | | |
|---------|--------------|------------------------------|
| March 9 | Peggy Joe | Darragh-Jeromos & Jeromos |
|---------|--------------|------------------------------|



*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21*

Franklin First United Methodist Church

2026 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



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 (<i>Term: 2025-2026</i>) | Jerry Truesdell |
| Member at Large (<i>Term: 2026-2027</i>) | 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

MARCH 6 & 7

CROPPIN' GOOD TIME

MARCH 29

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5

EASTER SUNDAY

MAY 10

MUSIC SUNDAY

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 24

PENTECOST

MAY 31

GRADUATION SUNDAY

JUNE 21

FATHER'S DAY



STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER

Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, OH 45005

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E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

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