



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 2, 2026

MORE THAN FIREWORKS: THE GIFT OF TRUE FREEDOM

Happy Fourth of July week! There are two things you can absolutely guarantee will happen this week: over the top fireworks (it's the 250th anniversary of our country!), and burgers, hot dogs, and various other meats will be hitting the grill grates.

It is the peak of summer, and across the country, we are gathering lawn chairs, wearing massive amounts of red, white, and blue, and watching the night sky light up. It's a wonderful time to pause, celebrate the freedoms we enjoy, and eat too much potato salad.

But as we celebrate national freedom, it's also the perfect moment for us to reflect on a much deeper, unconditional kind of liberty. Because let's be honest: you can live in the freest country on earth and still find yourself completely enslaved. We can be bound by anxiety, trapped by our past mistakes, chained to the relentless urge to compare ourselves to others on social media, or held hostage by our own packed schedules.

True freedom isn't just about what country you live in; it's about Who lives inside you. The Apostle Paul wrote a powerful reminder about this in Galatians 5:1. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

I love the urgency in Paul's words. He doesn't say Christ set us free so we could just cruise along. He says, "Stand firm!" Don't willingly walk back into the bitterness, worry, or guilt that Jesus already unlocked for you.

Spiritual freedom means we no longer have to carry the heavy burden of trying to prove our worth to the world. We don't have to live under the tyranny of "never being enough." Christ paid the ultimate price so that we could live joyfully and fully alive. So, how do we live out that freedom this weekend?

- Declare independence from your screen: Give your phone a break this weekend. Look up from the digital noise, look into the eyes of the people sitting around your patio table, and enjoy the freedom of being fully present.
- Be a liberator of grudges: Is there someone you need to forgive? Holding onto a grudge is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to get sick. Use this weekend of liberation to finally let it go.
- Share the abundance: Freedom is best enjoyed when shared. Look out for neighbors who might be lonely this holiday, invite someone over who doesn't have family nearby, or find a way to quietly serve someone in need.

As we thank God for the blessing of our nation and the brave individuals who have sacrificed to protect it, let's thank Him even more for the freedom that no earthly power can touch.

Enjoy the fireworks, save a burnt hot dog for me, and stay safe out there!
Pastor Laura



Franklin First UMC & Hope UMC

GALAXY

Launching Kids on a Mission of God's Love

Vacation Bible School

July 29, 30, & 31st
6 - 8 pm

PRESCHOOL (3 YRS OLD) - 6TH GRADE (FALL 2026)

LET US CONTINUE TO
LOVE ONE ANOTHER, FOR
LOVE COMES FROM GOD.
1 JOHN 4:7

REGISTER NOW



OR VISIT
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

HOSTED AT: FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
303 S. MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH 43005




Mark Your Calendar

Vacation Bible School Team Meeting
July 15th, 5:30 pm

Mission/Outreach Team Meeting
July 26th After Worship

Jul 5, 2026	Jul 12, 2026
Greeters: Jan & Jerry Truesdell	Greeters: Barb & Gary Ogdin
Elevator Greeter: Cheryl Cyphers	Elevator Greeter: Charlotte Summer
Ushers: David Setser Dorothy Rayburg Nancy Massey Sally Fitzgerald	Ushers: David Setser LeeAnn Lee Cheryl Cyphers
Liturgist: Mishelle Dicken	Liturgist: Pam Trout
Opening/Closing: Jason Leffew	Opening/Closing: Chirs Lorton Trisha Dicken

July 19th - Ushers Needed
If you can help, please
reach out to the office.

Galaxy Vacation Bible School

A fun, faith-filled experience for kids this summer!

Hosted together by Franklin First UMC & Hope UMC

Galaxy VBS Dates: July 29–31

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM

Kids (Preschool age 3+ through 6th grade, Fall 2026) will enjoy music, games, Bible stories, hands-on activities, and tons of fun while learning how to shine God's light in the world.

VBS Location (All 3 nights):

Franklin First United Methodist Church
303 S. Main St., Franklin, OH

Closing Celebration (Families invited):

Sunday, August 2 at 10:30 AM – Held at Hope United Methodist Church

Franklin First UMC Worship service will be held at Hope UMC on Aug. 2nd.

After service everyone is invited to stay for a picnic lunch (Optional: Bring a dish to share.)

Register by **July 20** at Noon at www.franklinfirstumc.org or **CLICK HERE**

We'd love for you to join us—and invite your friends and family!

Explore the stars. Grow in faith. Share God's love.



Joint Worship Will be Held at HOPE UMC
on Sunday, August 2nd at 3642 Shaker Rd, Franklin, OH
45005 for the VBS Closing Celebration
with a picnic afterwards.

Look who's 90

Jackie!



2PM | July 25th
Carlisle Manor

Lets celebrate with a
party!!

Please NO Gifts!
come celebrate with
cake and ice cream!

Franklin July 4th Parade & Hospitality Assistance

We are participating in the Franklin 4th of July Parade and hosting a hospitality station at the church.

There are plenty of ways you can help make this day a success:

- **Parade Walkers & Riders:** While we won't have a formal float this year, we will have a truck! We need individuals to ride in the back, as well as volunteers to walk in front of the truck carrying our VBS sign.
- **Hospitality Workers:** We will be hosting a hospitality table on-site, opening our doors for community bathroom use, and handing out free water bottles. We need friendly faces to help host!
- **Water Donations:** We are going to need lots of water bottles. Donations of cases of water can be dropped off at the church.

If you can help walk, ride, host, or donate, please sign up [HERE](#) or contact the office to help. Link in comments.

Navigating Hospital Discharge: When "Going Home" Isn't An Option

- Are you a caregiver feeling overwhelmed by the future?
- Are you worried that an elderly relative might need more help than you can provide after a hospital stay?

When a doctor says a patient is ready for discharge but cannot return home immediately, many families face uncertainty.

Join us for a free session to help understand the critical differences between Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Long-Term Care, and answer essential questions about financing:

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#) OR CONTACT THE OFFICE.

**NAVIGATING HOSPITAL DISCHARGE:
WHEN 'GOING HOME' ISN'T AN OPTION.**

Skilled Nursing Assisted Living Long Term Care Medicare & Medicaid

Are you a caregiver feeling overwhelmed by the future?

Are you worried that an elderly relative might need more help than you can provide after a hospital stay?

How do Medicare and Medicaid fit into the discharge plan?

Will I lose my home if my spouse needs Medicaid for long-term care?

Join us for a free educational session to clarify a path forward. Learn the differences between Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Long-Term Care, and get your questions answered.

**Tuesday, July 7th
6:30 PM
Franklin First UMC
303 S. Main St.,
Franklin, OH**

REGISTER NOW **SCAN HERE**

FREE
Light refreshments
will be provided

Register at 937-746-5232 or www.franklinfirstumc.org.

**BACK TO SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**

- Headphones
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils,
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pens - blue, black, red
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- Spiral notebook
- 1 & 5 -subject
- Folders - with pockets
- Binder - 1.5", 2"
- Composition notebook
- Backpack - no wheels
- Glue sticks 4
- Pencil Box/Pouch
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Binder Tab Dividers



Water & Pop

We're in need of donations of water and pop to stock the beverage refrigerator—help us fill the cooler! Proceeds from the refrigerator support outreach ministries through Pastor Laura's discretionary fund.



FFUMC Weekly Calendar

A current Franklin First Calendar can also be found on our [website](#).

Sunday 7/5/2026	Monday 7/6/2026	Tuesday 7/7/2026	Wednesday 7/8/2026	Thursday 7/9/2026	Friday 7/10/2026	Saturday 7/11/2026	Sunday 7/12/2026
9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed	Office Closed	Office Open 9—2:30 pm 7:00 pm Navigating Hospital Discharge: When “Going Home” Isn’t An Option	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9 —2:30 pm 4:00—5:00 pm St. Mary’s Community Dinner	Office Closed	Office Closed	9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed

Faith Seekers
Bible Study meets at 9:15 am on Sundays.



ALL ARE WELCOME!



Pastor Vacation Notice

Pastor Laura will be on vacation from June 19 through July 3.

- For emergencies June 23–July 3, please contact the church office during office hours (937-746-5232), or the parsonage (937-746- 5562) after office hours, and arrangements will be made for pastoral care.

Thank you for your understanding.

THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

SUMMER SERMON SERIES
JULY 5 - AUGUST 30TH

- Follow Your Heart
- Live Your Truth
- Believe in Yourself
- God Just Wants You to be Happy

SUNDAYS, 10:45 AM
IN-PERSON OR LIVE ON FACEBOOK



FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
303 S. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, OH 45005
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

GRAB YOUR PORCH HAT & JOIN US FOR
SWEET TEA SUNDAY
JULY 19TH | 10:45 AM



Discover what Scripture really says about “God helps those who help themselves”—and join us for uplifting music, sweet fellowship, baked goods, and refreshing sweet tea!



FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
303 S. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, OH 45005
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

Birthdays

- July 01 Jo Steinberger
- July 05 Devyn Johnson
- July 06 Jan Truesdell
- July 07 Jimmy Trout
- July 21 Chris Womack Lorton
- July 21 Tami Chamberlain
- July 22 Emily Hynes
- July 25 Kathy Eich
- July 25 Jackie Messmore

Anniversaries

- July 03 Jessica & Deric Lucas
- July 11 Tom & Jo Steinberger
- July 16 Barbara & Gary Ogdin
- July 20 Cheryl & Greg Cyphers

PRAYER LIST

-Italicized green text indicates a new prayer request since last week's announcements.

Our confined members:

- JoAnn Achtermann – home (6734 Catskill Dr. Franklin 45005)
- Don Chamberlain – home (6338 Decker Rd. Franklin)
- Hiram Fullen – home (6649 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Franklin)
- Jackie Messmore – Carlisle Manor (730 Hillcrest Ave. Carlisle 45005)
- Dick Taylor – home (8096 E. Lawn Dr., Franklin, OH 45005)

Our weekly prayer list:

- War with Iran
- For Linda Rose & family – in Hospice
- *Shirley Berold for current health challenges.*
- *Mary Harville is undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma after 11 years of remission; her sister Sheila stopped chemo is now under hospice care.*
- *Runyans for travel mercies for grandson, Logan Runyan will be celebrating the 4th of July in Washington DC. Miami University pays for the trip for a select group of professors and students.*
- *Gib Woody for sister-in-law Nancy Woody, with undetermined health issues*
- Jill Drake – stepson Justin, exhaustion from working long hours & in car accident, vehicle totaled but he wasn't hurt
- Mike Runyan for cousin Peggy Roasch has lung cancer that also manifested in her brain.
- For Lori Hemmelgarn – health concerns, continued healing after neck surgery.
- *Mike Smith for Eddie & Michelle Wallace; decision made to remove Eddie from chemo and provide quality of life care.*
- Julie Abell for co-worker LeeAnn's 8-year-old son who was hit by a car while on his scooter; has broken collar bone and a concussion.
- Cheryl Cyphers for husband Greg – heart tests require no treatment, seeing pulmonologist; daughter Ashley's job needs
- For John Lass – broken nose after a fall
- Jan Truesdell- for Judy, her sister is starting radiation in July for reoccurrence of cancer
- Ogdins – for Barb – more kidney stones; unspoken request
- Sherri Tutt - multiple family members in health crisis
- Connie Bolinger for Ray McDaniel – discontinued cancer treatments because of heart disease
- *Jo Steinberger – her sister Carol recovery from car accident, is out of ICU & in rehab and will not need additional surgery. Jo needs continued prayer for her respiratory issues; cannot do pulmonary rehab due to the issues*
- Mike & Vicki Jarvis – prayers needed for illness
- Regina Sams for Wyatt French – out of coma, continued recovery
- For Kim Chewning – recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Judy Deskins for son Jared – unspoken request
- Mary Harville for sister Sheila – metastatic cancer
- Chamberlains for Tami's Aunt Connie in WI – dementia & other health issues

Contact Theresa or Pastor Laura to make additions or changes to this list



IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE PRAYERS?

Text or call request sent to our Prayer Chain.

If you have an immediate prayer request, text Lee Saunders at 513-833-6920 & Lee will forward it to our prayer warriors.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST ANYTIME

Your church family cares for you. Whether you're carrying a burden or celebrating a joy, we are here to pray with you. Your request goes directly to Pastor Laura and will be added to our prayer list as indicated in your request.

[Click here](#) or visit our [website](#)—to share your Prayer Request.