



FRANKLIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEEPLE BELL

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

UNTANGLING CHRISTMAS: PREPARE THE WAY

In those days John the Baptist came...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Matthew 3:1-3

The holiday season is officially upon us! While Thanksgiving may have just passed, our calendars are already pointing to the next big event: Advent. For many of us, Advent is all about lighting candles, maybe eating chocolate from this year's Advent calendar, and slowly inching toward the Big Day. But spiritually, it's about preparing our hearts for the arrival of Jesus. And who better to remind us of this preparation than the original wild-man: John the Baptist!

Picture this: You're out wandering in the wilderness, minding your own business, and suddenly you meet a guy wearing camel hair, eating grasshoppers, and yelling about repentance. That's John! He was the voice crying out in the wilderness, the spiritual forerunner whose job was to clear the path for the Lord.

John wasn't suggesting spiritual superficiality; he was telling people to make a U-turn in their lives! His message was straightforward: get rid of obstacles, straighten out the crooked places, and prepare the runway for Jesus to land.

How does John's ministry apply to our modern, very busy Advent season? Well, we have a lot of modern-day "crooked paths" and "rough places" that need straightening out before we can truly appreciate the miracle of Christmas:

1. ***The "To-Do List" Traffic Jam:*** *we can get so focused on finding the perfect gift, wrapping 70 things, and baking 12 dozen cookies that we've created a huge spiritual traffic jam. Application: Maybe our "rough place" is over-scheduling. This Advent, try clearing the calendar just a bit—take 15 minutes a day for quiet reflection instead of adding another trip to the mall. Make the path straight by simplifying.*
2. ***The "Comparison" Cul-de-Sac:*** *We scroll through social media and suddenly feel inadequate because our Christmas lights and holiday table isn't exactly Pinterest-perfect. Application: The "crooked place" here is distraction. Put the phone down. Focus on the simple, genuine gifts in your life and the real reason we celebrate. Make the path straight by choosing contentment.*
3. ***The "Grudge" Obstacle:*** *Is there an old resentment that we're tempted to drag into the New Year? Application: This is a huge spiritual obstacle. John called people to repent, which means turning away from sin and toward God. This Advent, make a call, write a note, or simply pray for grace to forgive. Make the path straight by releasing the past.*

This season, as we untangle the Christmas lights, let's take a moment to untangle our obstacles. Let John the Baptist's spirit inspire us to be simple, be intentional, and most importantly, be ready. Because the King is coming, and He deserves a clean, clear path to our hearts!

Your Generosity is a Blessing

The year 2025 is almost ready to draw to a close, and Franklin First has engaged in some amazing ministry this year:

- * About 2840 weekend snack packs will have been distributed to Gerke first grade children in need. This year, Franklin High School's National Honor Society partnered with us to provide assistance with packaging the snack packs. We are so grateful for their help!
- * We provided literacy tutoring for ten first grade students at Gerke. These kids also received free books regularly for their home library. The students love the relationships they build with their tutors.
- * Our church provided appreciation gifts for Gerke staff at the end of the school year.
- * We collected school supplies estimated to be worth \$1,355 in value, which were divided up between all the schools in Franklin.
- * We have participated in community events like the July 4 Parade, National Night Out, and the Community Trick or Treat – increasing our visibility in the area.
- * The Angel Shop Boutique was blessed with continued formal wear donations and welcomed 137 young people who chose their special occasion attire free of charge.
- * Our FFUMC kids collected \$1,800 in the noisy bucket for Heifer Project International to provide animals for needy families around the world. They will be collecting again during Lent 2026.
- * Monthly birthday contributions totaling \$570 will have been given to the following charities: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Abilities First, Big Brother/Big Sisters, and Franklin High School Senior Fees.
- * FFUMC is administrating the Christmas food and gift ministry for approximately 75 families this month. The cost to sponsor a food basket is \$25 per basket.
- * We have made quarterly contributions to the Franklin Community Pantry of paper products, baby items, cleaning supplies, and personal care items, amounting to approximately \$2,747 in value.
- * We are hosting and co-sponsoring an average of more than 325 community meals per month in partnership with St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Coffee Collab food truck.
- * Our very active Women's Circle provided funeral dinners as requested, and supported Breast Cancer research in October with a \$300 donation from their bake sale – which was met with a quadruple match from the Susan Komen Foundation. The Fall Marketplace was another success, and workers prepared 425 batches of noodles. They also provided a meal for students and staff prior to the FHS Spring Musical.



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- * Our music program has inspired us with the Chancel Choir, Women's Ensemble, and the Aspenleiter Bell Choir gracing our worship with their songs.
- * Our Christian Education program serves both children and adults. Kids enjoyed Vacation Bible School and Church School classes for Elementary and Intermediate aged children. We offer a nursery and a Sunday morning "Faith Seekers" adult class. Twenty-seven adults took Safe Sanctuary training.
- * We confirmed four young people in the faith in April. FFUMC hosted the district confirmation retreat in March.
- * Emphasizing our social media presence and on-line worship has increased the visibility of our church in the greater Franklin area and beyond. Theresa Fultz and Joe Chamberlain have spearheaded this ministry.

Your faithful stewardship has enabled this and more. Thank you for your year-end generosity that keeps our ministries vibrant!

Pastor Laura

75 Families & Counting: Franklin First Spread Christmas Joy

Franklin First, with Tami Chamberlain as director, is again leading the Community Christmas Distribution for local households in need. The sign-up was held on the first two Mondays in November, with 75 families registered.

Each family will receive a food basket created for the number of people in the house. Ministry partners will be providing part of the menu, including the Franklin Pantry and Franklin Schools and the Franklin

Area Community Services. Local volunteers transport items to the church, and another team works to create the holiday-appropriate nutritional boxes. Students from the high school are typically part of the volunteer base. Most of these provisions were sponsored by people who chose to donate \$25 per basket for the mission.

An Angel Tree complete with tags for each child will be available early in December. Gifts for the child you choose should be returned wrapped and tagged. The Thanksgiving special offering will offset the cost of purchasing teenage gifts.

Franklin First is a church that cares deeply for our community. Thanks for the hours of volunteering and the sharing of resources that make this important ministry possible.



BEYOND THE PEWS AT FRANKLIN FIRST UMC

MEGAN DUFF

RADICAL LOVE DREW MEGAN HOME



If you've spent any time around the music ministries of Franklin First UMC, chances are you've seen the bright smile, warm presence, and quick empathy of Megan Duff. While many know her as the accompanist for the Chancel Choir, her story—woven through generations, shaped by compassion, and grounded in a deep commitment to justice—reveals why her presence is such a gift to our church family.

Megan's roots stretch from Hazard, Kentucky to Springboro, Ohio, but her heart was shaped in the home of her father, Gregory, a history and theology scholar whose passion for civil rights and contextual understanding of the world left a lasting imprint. His graduation as the first in the Duff lineage to earn a college degree lit a path that Megan proudly followed years later. Her Mamaw and Papaw—Prudy and Hiram—watched her cross the stage at Miami University, fulfilling the dream her Papaw had when he left the coal mines of Kentucky for a safer life for his family.

On her mother's side, Megan learned spirituality in a much different classroom: her Nana's kitchen. From narrated "ballets" starring household pets to classical music on the way to church, to cleaning up flour explosions from a too-spirited KitchenAid mixer, Nana taught Megan the kind of love Jesus describes—gentle, patient, steady, and fun.

A LIFE LED BY EMPATHY

Guided by her favorite scriptures—Matthew 25:31-40 and Matthew 22:37-40—Megan strives to live out Christ's calling to serve "the least of these" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." Her ministry extends well beyond the walls of the church into her role as Vice President of the Middletown Musical Arts Club, where she quietly feeds hungry families, advocates for students, and ensures that every child who wants to make music has access to the opportunities they deserve.

Her Nana's reminder echoes in her work: "Food always tastes better when you share."

Megan's passion for inclusion and understanding youth culture gives her hope for the future of the church. She dreams of Franklin First becoming an even more vibrant home for young people—bridging generations, uplifting emerging leaders, and living out a faith that welcomes all.

FINDING A CHURCH THAT HEALS

Megan joined Franklin First's music staff in 2013 but hesitated to fully commit due to past church trauma. Everything changed on a Sunday she will never forget. A visitor, overwhelmed and emotional, interrupted the sermon. Megan braced for the rejection she would have expected in her childhood congregation—but instead, the entire sanctuary rose as one. Pastor Bryan and the congregation surrounded the woman with prayer, comfort, and unconditional love. "That moment healed something in me," Megan reflects. "It was radical, agape love in action—and that's the sermon I needed."

FAITH THAT WELCOMES EVERYONE

Megan delights in the United Methodist Church's renewed commitment to acceptance following the 2024 General Conference decisions. For her, "God's love was never meant to live inside 4 walls, it is supposed to travel with us in everything we do and everyone we meet."

Her belief is simple but profound: Christ's love should meet people where they are—and love them as they are.

COMMUNITY THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

Outside of meetings, music, and ministry, Megan is most often found cheering on her son Elliot and the next generation of Middletown performers. And on Sunday mornings, she'll never turn down one of the Fellowship Team's lemon bars.

Through the years, FUMC has become more than a place to worship—it's become her family.

"I have gained a community to grieve with, share joys with, and grow with. The love in this church inspires me."



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



franklinfirstumc.org



[FranklinFirstUMCOhio](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstUMCOhio)



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

Sweet Success! Festive for “Window Wonderland” & “Very Merry Main Street”

Franklin First Church may not have a traditional front window facing Main Street, but that didn't stop a team of creative volunteers from making a big splash at the city's "Very Merry Main Street" event held on November 15!

For the NWWC Chamber of Commerce's "Window Wonderland" exhibition, which used the theme "A Candy Coated Christmas," our dedicated "Franklin First folks" didn't miss a beat. They designed and built a free-standing window display frame! This clever solution allowed us to join the festive fun and share an important Christian message right in the heart of Downtown Franklin.

The beautiful display brought to life the Legend of the Candy Cane, turning the sugary treat into a meaningful reflection on the true spirit of the season:

- White:** Represents the purity of Jesus.
- Hard Candy:** Symbolizes the rock-solid foundation of the Church.
- J-Shape:** Stands for **Jesus**, the Good Shepherd.
- Red Stripes:** Remind us of the blood Christ shed for our salvation.
- Shepherd's Staff:** Reinforces that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

In addition to the main attraction, our window boxes and planters also boasted festive pieces, making the entire church front incredibly attractive. In fact, our efforts were such a success that festival attendees were spotted using the church steps as a charming backdrop for family Christmas pictures!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who put their time and talents into creating this wonderful display!

Be sure to take a stroll down Main Street to enjoy all the creative displays—and please **cast your vote** for your favorites. We hope our "Window Wonderland" makes your top list!



A Heartfelt Thank You!

Lee & I would like to thank you for the many ongoing expressions of appreciation for our shared ministry. You certainly know how to make your pastoral family feel loved. Pastor Laura

Good News for 2026

We have been notified that we will be receiving the following grant next year.

- ♦ A Great Miami River District “Community Connection” grant in the amount of \$5,000 to support the outreach work we do in the schools and community.

Once again we are benefiting from being part of a “connectional church” where apportionment dollars are re-allocated to the ministries of those churches who are doing good in the community. One eligibility requirement for these grants is to have paid and continue to pay 100% of our apportionments. Your continued faithful support of the church has resulted in some real financial blessings.



Warmth for Winter Ministry

As the coldest part of the year approaches, we are launching our annual Warmth for the Winter collection to provide essential cold-weather gear for our community dinner guests.

We will be collecting gently used and new blankets, coats, hats, scarves, and socks to ensure our neighbors stay warm.

Key Details for Donation:

- When to Donate: Please refrain from bringing items in before Christmas. We ask that you bring your donations starting in January, immediately after the New Year.
- Where to Donate: Totes will be placed out after the new year for your convenient drop-off.



Thank you in advance for your generosity in sharing warmth during the cold months. We extend a special thank you to Kim Chewing for spearheading this important ministry.



Women's Circle— Christmas Gathering

Celebrate the season with friends!

Join us for a joyful evening of fellowship and holiday cheer!

Date: Monday, December 8

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Bowman Residence
(117 Miami Ave)

Bring a favorite dish for our potluck dinner and a wrapped Christmas ornament for the exchange. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the season together—don't miss it!

Fall Marketplace Recap—Thank You!

What an incredible day at our Fall Marketplace! Thanks to the hard work, generosity, and teamwork of so many, this year's event was a huge success. From cooking and noodle making to donations, organizing, setting up, cleaning up, and supporting our vendors—every effort mattered, and we are deeply grateful.

Together, we raised over \$4,800 to support our ministries—and the blessings keep coming! We still have dry noodles available for purchase, so spread the word and stock up while supplies last.

A special shout-out to everyone who helped make 425 batches of homemade noodles, plus the delicious barbecue, bean soup, salads, and desserts that kept everyone smiling. Your dedication and hospitality truly made this event shine.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Fall Marketplace: November 7, 2026! We can't wait to do it all again.



Chili Cook-Off: Save the Date

Get ready to spice things up! The Women's Circle is hosting its Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 28th, and you won't want to miss it.



Think your chili has what it takes to win? Start prepping your best recipe now—because the competition is heating up! Whether you're a seasoned chili chef or just love a good bowl of comfort food, this event promises great flavors and even greater fellowship.

Stay tuned for more details on how to enter, judging categories, and all the fun we have planned. For now, mark your calendars and get those pots simmering!

The Pantry —Help Stock The Shelves

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

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

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Tissues

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



Give With Ease: Online Stewardship

Life moves fast, and we know that sometimes being with us in person on Sunday just isn't possible. But your faithful support of Franklin First's vital mission and ministries never has to take a backseat!

We're inviting you to try the simplicity and security of our updated Online Giving platform—the perfect way to continue your stewardship journey from anywhere, at any moment.

Why Make the Shift to Online Giving?

Our platform is designed to seamlessly integrate your commitment with your busy life:

- ◆ **Super Convenient:** Set up a secure one-time donation or establish a consistent recurring gift in less than a minute. **No more searching for cash or checks!**
- ◆ **Keep It Consistent:** Whether you're traveling, juggling a busy schedule, or just enjoying a quiet Sunday at home, Online Giving ensures your commitment remains steady. **This consistency is crucial** for allowing our ministries to plan effectively and make a reliable impact.
- ◆ **Safe and Secure:** We partner with a trusted financial platform to ensure your transactions and information are completely protected every time you give.

Every single gift fuels our ability to grow the church's impact, right here in our local community and far beyond!

Ready to Get Started?

Making the transition is quick and simple!

Visit our website today: franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources Thank you, Franklin First, for your inspiring faithfulness and continued generosity!



Birthdays

December 08 Ken Lang
December 10 Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
December 11 Mishelle Dicken
December 11 Greyson Roberts
December 11 Karlie Goodpaster
December 12 Lisa Dillon
December 17 Andrew Goodpaster
December 20 Judy Bowman
December 21 Mike Smith
December 23 Joseph Chamberlain
December 25 Janet Kirby
December 26 Amber Ramsey
December 26 Gary Ogdin
December 26 Colby Trout
December 27 Gracelynn Lucas
December 29 Karen Anderson
December 31 Cody Chilcutt
January 03 Debbie Banks
January 05 Rhonda Roberson
January 06 Vicki Jarvis
January 11 Karson Kelly
January 12 Richard Taylor
January 17 Bill Kuntzman
January 27 Jerry Truesdell
January 28 Lee Saunders

Anniversaries

December 16 Marisa & Caleb Humphries
December 27 Julie & Jan Abell
December 28 Judy & Robert Bowman
January 13 Hiram & Sue Fullen
January 31 Teresa & John Lass

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.

United Methodist Ratify Church Restructure

The United Methodist Church has overwhelmingly approved a landmark change to its global structure, marking the most significant shift since the denomination's formation in 1968. With a 91.6% vote in favor, members worldwide ratified the **Worldwide Regionalization Plan**, along with three other constitutional amendments.

Why This Change?

For decades, United Methodist governance has been heavily U.S.-centric, even though the denomination is truly global, with growing membership in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. This imbalance often created tension when cultural and legal differences made uniform policies difficult. The new structure aims to **decentralize authority**, allowing each region to adapt certain rules for its own context while maintaining unity in core beliefs.

What Does Regionalization Mean?

- All regions—including the U.S.—will become **regional conferences** with equal legislative authority.
- Regions can adapt parts of the *Book of Discipline* related to membership, ordination, worship resources, and practices such as marriage and funerals.
- Decisions on LGBTQ inclusion will now be made regionally, respecting local laws and cultural realities.
- Core doctrines, the constitution, and Social Principles remain unchanged to preserve theological unity.

Additional Details:

- This plan was first approved by the 2024 General Conference and then sent to annual conferences for ratification.
- The restructuring is designed to strengthen mission work and ministry by giving conferences flexibility to respond to local needs.
- It also addresses long-standing concerns about equity between U.S. and non-U.S. conferences, ensuring all voices have equal legislative power.

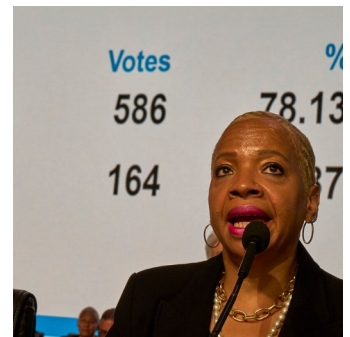
Next Steps:

Bishops will form a committee to establish a U.S. Regional Conference and study whether current U.S. jurisdictions should continue. Regional conferences are expected to convene after the 2028 General Conference.

Why It Matters:

This restructure promotes equity, flexibility, and contextual ministry, enabling the church to remain united while honoring diverse cultures and legal frameworks worldwide. Leaders see this as a step toward a more inclusive and globally balanced future for United Methodism.

Summartized from: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/new-united-methodist-church-structure-ratified>



Bishop Tracy S. Malone surveys the results of a delegate vote in favor of a worldwide regionalization plan as she presides over a legislative session of the 2024 United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, N.C., on April 25, 2024. File photo by Paul Jeffrey, UM News.



Honor a Loved One with Christmas Poinsettia

This Christmas season, help us fill the altar with beauty and remembrance by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone special. Red, white, and pink poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary, creating a festive and meaningful display for worship.



Cost: \$10

Deadline to order: Sunday, Dec. 7th

After our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, you are welcome to take your poinsettia home to enjoy through the holidays.

Celebrate the season by sharing love and remembrance in this beautiful tradition. To order, contact the office or order online on our [website](#).



Save the Date: Cropping Good Time

Get ready for two fun-filled days of creativity and fellowship at *A Croppin' Good Time*! Join us for 16 hours of scrapbooking and crafting with friends:

- Friday, March 6, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Enjoy plenty of time to work on your projects, share ideas, and connect with others. Saturday brunch and dinner are included, so come hungry and ready to create!

Register and learn more at www.franklinfirstumc.org.



FRANKLIN RESOURCE RALLY



FREE EVENT FREE DINNER

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 9TH, 2025
3 PM - 6 PM**

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
303 SOUTH MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH 45005

CONNECT: 3-6 PM
With local agencies and get
enrolled with services

EAT: 5-6 PM
Enjoy a hot meal prepared for you
by Dayton Coffee Collaborative

TAKEAWAY
Some personal care products
and items you may be in need of



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

Mark Your Calendar! What's Happening at Franklin First

3-Dec- Wednesday	
All Day	Office Opens at 10 AM
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
4-Dec- Thursday	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)
7-Dec- Sunday	
All Day	Second Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:40 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
8-Dec- Monday	
6:30 PM	Women's Circle Meeting
9-Dec- Tuesday	
3- -6 PM	Franklin Resource Rally
10-Dec- Wednesday	
All Day	Office Opens at 10 AM
3:00 PM	Snack Pack Packing
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
11-Dec- Thursday	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)
14-Dec- Sunday	
All Day	Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:40 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:00 AM	Youth Intermediate Bible Class
17-Dec- Wednesday	
All Day	Office Opens at 10 AM
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal

18-Dec- Thursday	
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Christmas Basket Distribution	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Community Dinner (St. Mary's K of C)	
21-Dec-25 Sunday	
All Day	Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:40 AM	Children's Church & Nursery for Worship
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
11:45 AM	Christmas Luncheon
22-Dec-25 Monday	
All Day	Office Closed
23-Dec-25 Tuesday	
All Day	Office Closed
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Community Dinner (Coffee Collab)
24-Dec-25 Wednesday	
All Day	Office Closed
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25-Dec-25 Thursday	
All Day	Office Closed
26-Dec-25 Friday	
All Day	Office Closed
28-Dec-25 Sunday	
9:15 AM	Faith Seekers Study Group
10:45 AM	Livestream of Worship on Facebook
10:45 AM	Worship Service
29-Dec-25 Monday	
All Day	Office Closed
30-Dec-25 Tuesday	
All Day	Office Closed
31-Dec-25 Wednesday	
All Day	Office Closed
1-Jan-26 Thursday	
All Day	Office Closed



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	(Appointed by Council Chair)
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
<i>Terms expiring 2026</i>	
Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout	
<i>Terms expiring 2027</i>	
Sally Fitzgerald, Cindy Kuntzman	
<i>Terms expiring 2028</i>	
LeeAnn Lee, Cheryl Cyphers, Joe Chamberlain	

TRUSTEES: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

<i>Terms expiring 2026:</i>	Joe Chamberlain, Chris Womack Lorton
<i>Terms expiring 2027</i>	Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken, Jan Abell
<i>Terms expiring 2028</i>	Mike Runyan, Brian Graves, Jason Leffew

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATIONS):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Lay Leader: Cindy Kuntzman
<i>Terms expiring 2026:</i>	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
<i>Terms expiring 2027:</i>	Barb Ogden, Charlotte Summer, Brian Graves
<i>Terms expiring 2028:</i>	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
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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

DECEMBER 9

FRANKLIN RESOURCE RALLY

DECEMBER 21

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

DECEMBER 24

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 7 PM

FEBRUARY 28

CHILI COOK-OFF



Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.

Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232

E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



December 2025