



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 25, 2026

DON'T TAKE A SUMMER BREAK FROM YOUR SOUL

There is a distinct aroma that hits the air right around late June. It's a delicate blend of sunscreen, charcoal smoke, and the faint scent of panic from parents realizing they still have two full months of summer vacation left to fill.

June 21 officially marked the first day of summer, and for many of us, our calendars are already shifting into holiday mode. Road trips are booked, packing lists are being scribbled, and the temptation to skip church on Sunday mornings is reaching its annual peak.

It's easy to treat summer like a spiritual intermission—a time to hit pause on our routines, step away from our commitments, and take a vacation from everything, including our faith. We pack our bags, head out to new vistas, and leave our spiritual disciplines sitting on the nightstand.

But here is a gentle pastoral truth: while our schedules need a vacation, our souls just need rest. There is a massive difference between vacationing and Sabbathing. Vacations can actually leave us exhausted (anyone who has ever spent forty-eight hours in a theme park knows exactly what I mean). Sabbath, however, is about restoration. It's about slowing down long enough to remember who God is and who we are in Him.

Jesus understood this perfectly. In Mark 6:31, after a grueling season of ministry, He looked at His disciples and said: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Notice that Jesus didn't tell them to go find a distraction; He told them to come find Him. He knew that true replenishment doesn't come from a change of scenery, but from a change of focus.

So, as you step into the warmer months, I want to challenge you to make this a summer of intentional restoration, not spiritual drift. Here are some simple ways to stay fueled up:

- Find God in the wild: If you are traveling or spending time outdoors, use that change of pace to worship. Look at the mountains or the ocean and read Psalm 121. Let creation remind you of the Creator's scale and care.
- Take Franklin First with you: If your travels take you away on a Sunday, jump on the livestream and drop us a comment to let us know where you're worshipping from.
- Honor God by staying consistent in your regular giving to his ministry.
- Invest in relationships: Summer is the perfect time for unhurried hospitality. Fire up the grill, invite guests, or sit out on the porch with your family without a screen in sight.

The church's mission doesn't take summer break because human need doesn't take a summer break. Let's use this beautiful season to rest our bodies, quiet our minds, and fill our tanks—so that we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Enjoy your summer!

Pastor Laura

DON'T TAKE A SUMMER BREAK FROM YOUR SOUL
STAY ROOTED, WHEREVER YOU GO.



"COME WITH ME BY
YOURSELVES TO A QUIET
PLACE AND GET SOME REST."
MARK 6:31



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.**



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.

Mark Your Calendar

Vacation Bible School Team Meeting

July 15th, 5:30 pm

Mission/Outreach Team Meeting

July 26th After Worship

Jun 28, 2026	Jul 5, 2026
Greeters: Mike & Carol Runyan	Greeters: Jan & Jerry Truesdell
Elevator Greeter: Volunteer Needed	Elevator Greeter: Cheryl Cyphers
Ushers: David Setser Dorothy Rayburg Paul Anderson Karen Anderson	Ushers: David Setser Dorothy Rayburg Nancy Massey Sally Fitzgerald
Liturgist: NA	Liturgist: Mishelle Dicken
Opening/Closing: Jim Martin	Opening/Closing: Jim Martin



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.

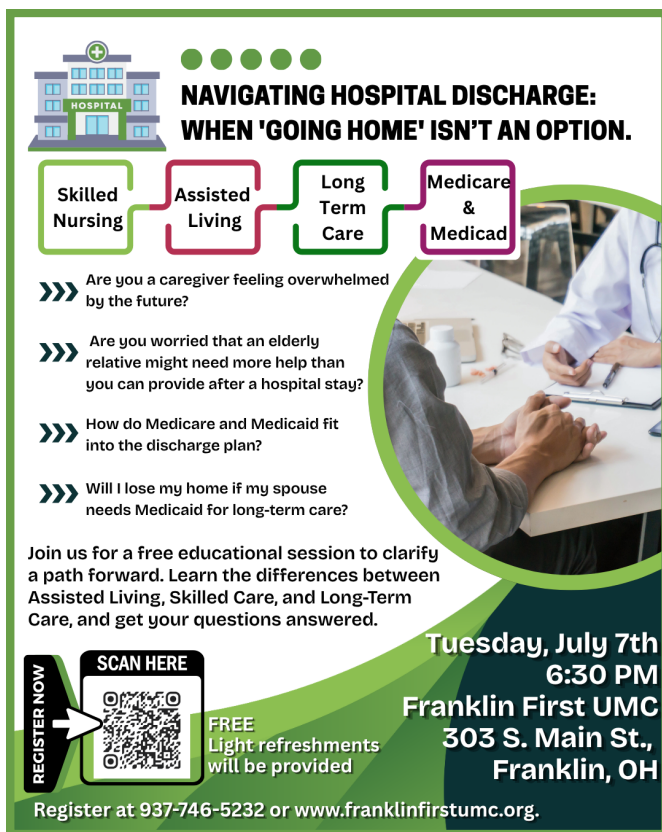
Navigating Hospital Discharge: When "Going Home" Isn't An Option

- 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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6/28/2026	6/29/2026	6/30/2026	7/1/2026	7/2/2026	7/3/2026	7/4/2026	7/5/2026
	Office Closed	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9 —2:30 pm	Office Closed	Office Closed	
	← Pastor Laura's Vacation →					10 am Franklin Parade	
9:15 am Faith Seekers							9:15 am Faith Seekers
10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed						Happy 4th of July	10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed
				4:00—5:00 pm St. Mary's Community Dinner			



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Birthdays

- June 26 Tyler Smith
- June 26 Lily Smith
- June 30 Kathy Martin
- 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

- June 27 Lee & Laura Saunders
- June 27 Carol & Bill Hatfield
- July 03 Jessica & Deric Lucas
- July 11 Tom & Jo Steinberger
- July 16 Barbara & Gary Ogdin
- July 20 Cheryl & Greg Cyphers

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



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
- Jill Drake – stepson Justin, exhaustion from working long hours & in car accident, vehicle totaled but he wasn't hurt
- *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 – starting pulmonary rehab
- 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.