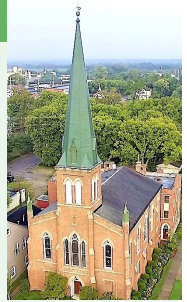




The Steeple Bell—February 2025

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"



National Donor Day



National Donor Day is February 14, Valentine's Day, a day set aside for raising awareness of the life-saving benefits of donating. Did you know that organs and tissue that can be donated include: heart, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, liver, intestines, corneas, skin, tendons, bone, bone marrow, nerve and heart valves? People of all ages and medical histories can be potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

The United States has performed more organ transplants than any other country. In 2023, there were more than 46,000 transplants performed. Every donor can save eight lives and enhance over 75 more.

Every eight minutes, another person is added to the transplant waiting list, which contains more than 103,000 men, women, and children. Seventeen people die each day waiting for an organ transplant. Kidney transplants are the most common performed.

This topic is near and dear to my heart. As I've shared before, my younger brother Kevin is the recipient of a kidney transplant. His procedure was done in Toledo, Ohio and he was not on the waiting list very long. Depending on the area of the country you are in, wait time can measure into the years.

The waiting list does not function on a first come – first served basis. Instead, organs are matched by blood and tissue typing, organ size, medical urgency, and geographic location. A national computer system applies strict standards to ensure ethical and fair distribution of organs. There is no standard age limit or cut off to receiving a transplant. Each transplant hospital has its own specific criteria for accepting transplant candidates.

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for organ and tissue donation. Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it. Otherwise, a patient's privacy is maintained for both donor families and recipients. Living donation is also a possibility in certain cases. For example, if a family member needs a kidney and a relative is a blood type and tissue match, a donation is an option.

Life-saving technology is continually increasing. If you decide to be a donor, you can indicate your wishes on your driver's license, the state donor registry, or the National Donate Life Registry. It is also important to share your decision with your family so they know your wishes.

I have made the choice to be an organ donor, and my driver's license reflects that decision. I hope that the circumstances surrounding my death will allow for many others to receive life-giving organ transplants.

Pastor Laura

"The Message of Jesus" Lenten Bible Study

Mark Your Calendars for this year's Lenten Bible study, featuring the esteemed work of Rev. Adam Hamilton, "The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World." This six-week study will convene on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m., commencing on March 9, and continuing on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 and 13.

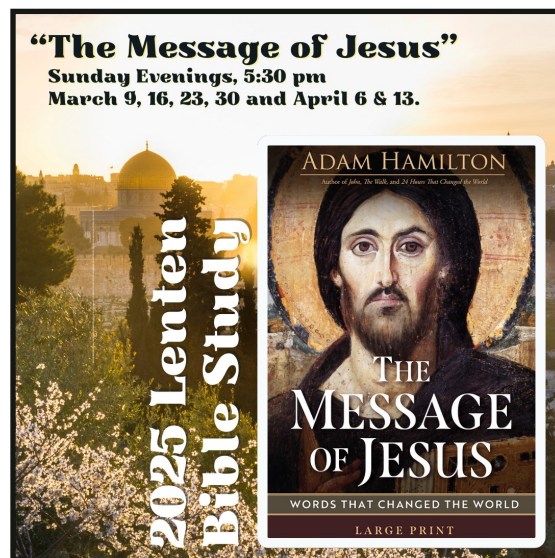
Each session will begin with a light meal, followed by a comprehensive lesson. Our curriculum will meticulously examine:

- The Kingdom of God
- The Sermon on the Mount
- The parables
- The "I am" sayings in the Gospel of John
- Jesus' final words
- The resurrection and the life

Rev. Adam Hamilton's book explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. It delves into Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. This study promises to offer a fresh encounter with the words of Jesus, providing insights that are both life-changing and world-changing.

Pastor Laura will lead these sessions, providing insightful guidance through these profound teachings. To ensure adequate preparation of materials, kindly register at our website, at this [link](#), or through the office. Handouts will be distributed during the class, and the book is available for purchase on Amazon for those who wish to own a copy.

We invite you to join us in this enlightening exploration of Jesus' teachings and the words attributed to Him.



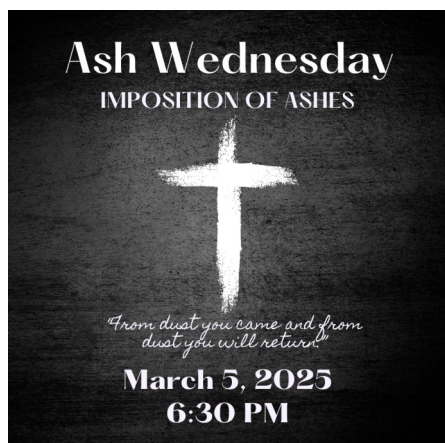
Preparing for Lent 2025: A Time for Reflection & Renewal

As we approach Lent 2025, it's important to start thinking ahead. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and continues until Easter Sunday, April 20th. This season is a time for reflection, fasting, and penance, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Why Prepare Now?

- **Spiritual Readiness:** Identify areas in your life that need attention and set meaningful goals.
- **Acts of Penance and Charity:** Plan your commitments to fasting, prayer, and charity.
- **Community Engagement:** Coordinate with family, friends, or church groups for a shared journey.

We invite you to our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. on March 5th. Let's prepare our hearts and minds for a season of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth.



Angel Shop Opens for Prom Season

The opening of our Angel Shop for Prom Season will start on February 2nd. The shop will be open every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., offering free formal attire to high school students. Our goal is to make prom an affordable and memorable experience for all teens.

Last year, we had the privilege of serving nearly 100 teens, helping them find the perfect outfits for their special night. This year, we hope to reach even more students and continue this important ministry.

All attire is provided free of charge, and we gratefully accept donations to keep this initiative thriving. We are accepting clean and gently used male and female attire and accessories. Your contributions help us ensure that every student can attend prom with confidence and joy.

Please help us spread the word to local teens so they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Angel Shop! Let's make this prom season unforgettable for our high school students.



Bishop Jung's Day on the District: February 22nd, Monroe UMC

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is hosting several a Day on the District gatherings for clergy and laity throughout the West Ohio Conference. The theme is "Healing and Restoration in Community," with the scripture Mark 2:1-12 as a guiding principle.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will spend Saturday, February 22, 2025 in the Great Miami River District with clergy and laity. The events will take place at Monroe United Methodist Church, 206 East Ave, Monroe.

Laity are invited to arrive at 4:00 pm for the installation service for Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen as our new District Superintendent. The Bishop's evening will be spent with the District Laity. They will be served a delicious dinner at 5:00 pm. The evening will be filled with Worship, Bible Study, and a Vision & Ministry Conversation with Bishop Jung and will conclude at 8:30 pm.

Registration is now live for the event. [Click here to register](#) or visit westohioumc.org



Chili Cook-Off

A Spicy Success

We are thrilled to share the spicy success of our recent Chili Cook-Off held on January 25th! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event a flavorful and fun-filled evening.

The competition was fierce, and the chili was hotter than ever. We extend our gratitude to our judges, David Edwards, Lori Raleigh, and Mike Smith, for their discerning palates and dedication.

Congratulations to our talented winners:

- **1st Place:** Connie Bolinger
- **2nd Place:** Greg Trout
- **3rd Place:** Karen Anderson

Your culinary creations truly stood out and delighted everyone's taste buds.

The Women's Circle raised an impressive \$700 through this event. Your generosity and participation are greatly appreciated and will go a long way in supporting

Franklin First.

Thank you once again to all who made this event a memorable and successful one. We look forward to more exciting events in the future!



Women's Circle

NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

6:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Embracing Love on Valentines Day

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12-13)

As Valentine's Day approaches, many children will exchange cards with classmates, while adults may share cards and gifts with loved ones. Some of us might remember the awkwardness of these exchanges during our youth. Expressing affection can be challenging and makes us vulnerable.

While Valentine's Day often focuses on romantic love, it's also a perfect time to reflect on God's love through Jesus Christ. The love Jesus commanded us to show extends beyond mere affection; it is unconditional. Jesus demonstrated this love by giving His life to free us from sin and offer eternal life. Embracing Christian love means committing to one another in many ways.

Encourage children to think about what it means to be a good friend. List these qualities and include spiritual activities like praying for friends and showing forgiveness. Reflect on how Jesus was a friend to His disciples and remind children that sharing Jesus' love is a wonderful way to be a good steward of God's love.

This Valentine's Day, let's focus on expressing God's love to our friends and family. Children can even create cards that share this Christian love.

Prayer:

Dear God, help me to show Your love to others. Help me to follow Your example of friendship. Thank You for Your great love for me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Discussion Questions:

- How was Jesus a good friend to others? What did He do for them?
- In what ways would you like to improve your relationships with others?
- Why is it important to love others as Jesus loves them?
- Name someone who has shown you God's love. What difference has that person made in your life? Let them know how they have impacted you.

Adapted from: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/celebrating-gods-love>



Snack Packs for Gerke Elementary

Our Snack Pack program provides weekend food packs for the first graders at Gerke Elementary who need a little extra help. Each pack includes shelf-stable items such as granola bars, peanut butter crackers, individual applesauce containers, and single-serving peanut butter.

We are always accepting donations of these items to ensure we can continue to support these young students. Your contributions make a significant difference in their lives, providing them with nutritious snacks to enjoy over the weekend.

Please consider donating to this important cause. Together, we can help ensure that no child goes hungry. Thank you for your generosity!



Get Ready for "A Croppin' Good Time"

Gear up for an epic scrapbooking weekend extravaganza with the Franklin First Women's Circle! Dive into "Crop 'til You Drop," an immersive crafting experience designed to unleash your creativity and connect you with kindred spirits.

Unleash Your Inner Scrapbooker:

- **Dates:** Friday, March 7th, 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM & Saturday, March 8th, 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Franklin First UMC, 303 South Main Street, Franklin, OH 45005
- **Registration Fee:** \$50 (tax-deductible and supports the church!)

What's Included:

- Your own crafting haven: A 5-foot round or rectangular table to sprawl out your supplies
- Fuel for creativity: Scrumptious Saturday brunch and a delightful dinner spread
- Stay connected: Electrical outlets and Wi-Fi (BYOE - bring your own extension cord)

Need to Know:

- Registration is non-refundable but transferable.
- Childcare is not available, so get ready for a fun-filled adult escape!

Ready to Crop 'til You Drop?

- Register online and pay conveniently at www.franklinfirstumc.org.
- Download a registration form to mail in if that's more your style.
- For any questions, contact Pam Trout at pktmango@yahoo.com or the Franklin First office at 937-746-5232/office@franklinfirstumc.org.

Don't miss this chance to unleash your scrapbooking passion and forge connections with fellow crafters. Reserve your spot for "Crop 'til You Drop" -



Leave a Lasting Legacy

Want to make a lasting impact on our church community? By contributing to our Permanent Endowment Fund, you can ensure that your generosity continues to bless future generations. Your gift will be invested wisely to support our mission and offer hope to those in need. Join us in this meaningful endeavor and create a lasting legacy. Contact Pastor Laura if you want to learn more.



Care Team

Our Care Team connects with our homebound and sick members. Here's a summary of our efforts:

- **36 Visits:** Our team made 36 visits to bring comfort and companionship to those unable to leave their homes.
- **40 Cards Sent:** We sent out 40 cards, including Get Well, Thinking of You, Christmas, and Sympathy cards, to let our members know they are in our thoughts.
- **4 Prayer Chain Texts:** We initiated 4 prayer chain texts to rally support and prayers for those in need.
- **37 Phone Calls:** Our team made 37 phone calls to check in and offer a listening ear.

We are committed to continuing this important work and appreciate your support. If you know someone who could benefit from a visit or a call, please let us know.

Submitted by: Lee Saunders, Chair

Staff and Parish Relations Committee

As we begin the new year, the Staff and Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is preparing for a busy season. In the coming weeks, we will receive the pastor evaluation forms from the district and begin working on Pastor Laura's review.



Here's a look at our recent activities:

- **Employee Handbook Update:** We have updated the Employee Handbook to ensure it reflects current policies and procedures.
- **2025 Lay Staff Raises:** We determined the salary increases for our lay staff members for 2025 and submitted these figures to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2025 budget.
- **Salary Increase Notifications:** Letters have been sent to lay staff members informing them of their 2025 salary increases.

Earlier in 2024, we also:

- **Safe Sanctuary Policy Review:** We reviewed and updated the Safe Sanctuary Policy to maintain a safe environment for all.
- **Parsonage Inspection:** In conjunction with the Trustees, we completed the annual parsonage inspection.
- **Annual Reviews:** We conducted annual reviews for Pastor Laura, Megan, and Theresa.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach

Submitted by: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Chair

Give Franklin First a Review!

Take a moment to tell others what you like about Franklin First. Use the link below to give us a review on Google. The more positive reviews and interaction, the better placement we receive when individuals search for a church in Franklin.

[Click Here to leave a review!](#)

"IN ALL THINGS I HAVE SHOWN YOU THAT BY WORKING HARD IN THIS WAY WE MUST HELP THE WEAK AND REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, HOW HE HIMSELF SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'" Act 20:35



Mission & Outreach Team Report

Key highlights from our Mission and Outreach Team. Here's what we've been up to:

- **Free Clinic:** Currently closed, with its future status still uncertain.
- **Angel Shop:** Reopening on February 2nd for the Prom season.
- **Snack Packs:** We continue to pack 108 snack packs per week, each costing \$2.
- **Community Dinners:** Thursday Dinner group is thriving, serving over 70 people each week. Coffee Collab also contributes by serving once a month.
- **Tutoring:** Likely postponed until the next school year due to curriculum issues.
- **Food Pantry:** Linda will reach out to the new director to invite her to speak at a church service in March.
- **Christmas 2024:** We provided 62 food baskets and gifts to approximately 96 children, plus gifts for 35 teenagers. We also gave "stockings" to our college students and NHS student volunteers.
- **Noisy Bucket:** Will restart for Lent in March.
- **Teacher Appreciation:** We are considering assembling items for each teacher's classroom, such as tissues, paper towels, and Ziplock bags, for the first week of May.

All are invited to join our next meeting:

March 11th at 6:30 PM.



Help Us Support "The Pantry"

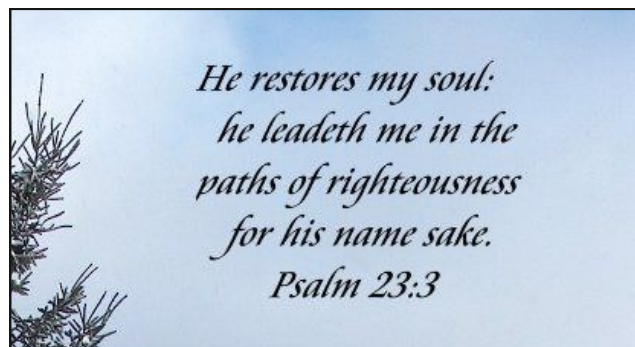
This quarter, the Missions Team is focusing on a vital need at "The Pantry": personal care items. These essentials—shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and more—are often in short supply but are crucial for those The Pantry serves.

Why Your Donation Matters:

Your contributions of personal care items will significantly impact lives by complementing the food items already offered by The Pantry.

Drop off your donations at Franklin First UMC:

Every little bit counts! Thank you for your support.



February 2025 at Franklin First

Week of Feb. 2nd

2-Feb	Angel Shop Opens for Prom Season	12:30 pm- 2pm
5-Feb	Snack Pack Packing	3:00 PM
5-Feb	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
5-Feb	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM

Week of Feb. 9th

9-Feb	Angel Shop Open for Prom Season	12:30 pm- 2pm
9-Feb	Heart Wellness Awareness Sunday	
9-Feb	Fellowship Sunday	
10-Feb	Women's Circle	6:30 PM
12-Feb	Snack Pack Packing	3:00 PM
12-Feb	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
12-Feb	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM

Week of Feb. 16th

16-Feb	Confirmation Class	After Worship
16-Feb	Angel Shop Open for Prom Season	12:30 pm- 2pm
19-Feb	Snack Pack Packing	1:30 AM
19-Feb	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
19-Feb	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM

Week of Feb. 23rd

23-Feb	Children's Choir	During Worship
23-Feb	Angel Shop Open for Prom Season	12:30 pm- 2pm
26-Feb	Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm	1:30 PM
26-Feb	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
26-Feb	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM

Birthday

February 02	Regina Hynes
February 09	Kaylee Glossip
February 13	Monica Rhude
February 15	Emelia Glossip
February 23	Samantha Womack
February 25	Lori Hemmelgarn
February 25	Tracy Easter
February 26	Brad Lorton
February 27	Kaylee Womack
February 29	Madelyn Lang

Anniversary

February 26	Mike & Vicki Jarvis
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Ohio Great Miami River District & West Ohio Conference E-News

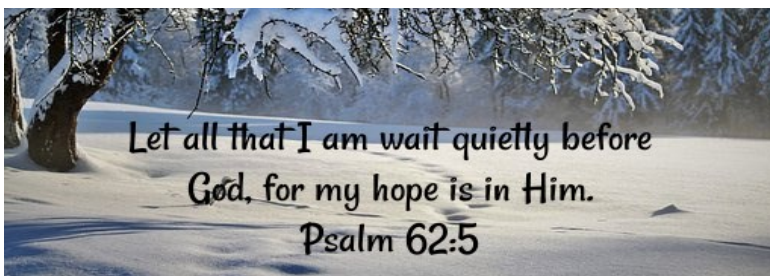
The Ohio Great Miami River District has a weekly publication called News and Notes. To subscribe, sign up at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zxhnl99?source_id

The West Ohio Conference NewsNet newsletter is published twice a month and delivered to your email. Mission Mosaic is a conference quarterly publication highlighting conference mission activities.

Subscribe to email newsletters at: <https://www.westohioumc.org/news>

Correct Address?

Please be sure the office has the correct cell phone number, home phone number, address, email, etc. for your family.



Lent 101

by: Rev. Penny Ford

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

WHEN IS LENT?

It's the 40 days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday.

MARDI GRAS?

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH JESUS?

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Lent starts. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. And it's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved (in some places) into a pretty wild party with little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. Oh well. But Christians still know its origin and hang onto the true spirit of the season.

SO THE REAL BEGINNING OF LENT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and we return our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an



Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on people's foreheads, using ashes.

WHY ASHES?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality,

because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS DO WITH ASHES?

At an Ash Wednesday service, people are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, nonverbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

SO WHAT IS LENT?

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, the Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness, where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, he was ready to begin his ministry.

Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers. Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

WHY "DO" LENT? HOW DO I START?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" — to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some

of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do? [Learn more about or design a fast.](#)

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on *for* Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, coworker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. Visit The Upper Room Prayer Ministry to [request a prayer.](#)

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

The Rev. Penny Ford is senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. This [article](#) originally appeared on UpperRoom.org and is used by permission of The Upper Room.

Taken from: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/lent-101>

TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR DURING

THE LENTEN SEASON:

- 10. Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, email and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or every day of Lent!) Use the time to read and pray. [Learn about fasting.](#)
- 9. Start a prayer rhythm.** Each day of Lent, [go to The Upper Room's prayer wall](#) and pray for another person.
- 8. Go deeper.** [Take an online course](#) as a part of your Lenten discipline.
- 7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself).** Study a book on forgiveness, such as [Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey](#).
- 6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis.
- 5. Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. [Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent.](#) See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.
- 4. Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank-you letter each week, and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. [Learn more about the spiritual practice of gratitude.](#)
- 3. Visit [Sight Psalms](#)** and spend time in visual meditation and prayer.
- 2. Volunteer** one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home or prison ministry. [Pray for the world.](#)
- 1. Pray for others** you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.



10 Tips to Keep You Safe from Scams

The FBI reported that cyber-crime has quadrupled during the COVID-19 pandemic—up

from approximately 1,000 complaints a day to nearly 4,000. Below are tips for protecting yourself on the phone, online and on social media.

1. Use a unique user ID and a strong, complex password; do not use the same password on different sites and never share your password.
2. Sign out of your accounts, close your browsers and set your devices to lock automatically when you aren't actively using them. Unlock via fingerprint scanning, facial identification or a strong device password.
3. Use multi-factor authentication when available, which requires several types of evidence that you are the accountholder (e.g., a password, a code or call to your phone and answers to secret questions).
4. Keep your computer, phone and tablet security software and applications up to date; immediately install all security patches after verifying their authenticity.
5. Avoid clicking links from unknown senders, and avoid links in text messages.
6. Do not respond to texts, emails or calls about offers or information that you are not expecting or are from an unknown person—even to ask to be removed from the list. Responding verifies that your phone or email address is active, which may lead to an increase in unsolicited contact.
7. NEVER provide personal, medical or financial information in response to text messages or unsolicited phone calls you receive.
8. Verify telephone numbers listed in emails, text messages or voice messages before calling back. Contact the bank, government agency or company identified in the message directly.
9. Prevent robocalls and texts by registering for the national Do Not Call list online at donotcall.gov or by phone at **1-888-382-1222** (voice) or **1-866-290-4236** (TTY).
10. Don't be rushed. You're less likely to think critically about risk when there's a limited time to respond.

Franklin First Online Giving

Online giving is a great choice for when you are unable to join us for Worship to continue to support the church. You can either set-up a recurring payment or give each time you visit the site.

Connect by using this link:

<https://franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources>



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

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
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
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:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: 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):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Lay Leader: 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)	Ken Smith
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:

Co-Chairs: 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) Rhonda Roberson (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Mike Smith, Rhonda Roberson

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

Lee Saunders (phone contact); Charlotte Summer, 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

FEBRUARY 2	ANGEL SHOP OPENS FOR PROM SEASON
FEBRUARY 9	HEART WELLNESS AWARENESS SUNDAY
MARCH 5	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 6:30 PM
	LENT BEGINS
MARCH 7 & 8	A CROPPIN' GOOD TIME
MARCH 9	SCOUT SUNDAY



Franklin First United Methodist Church

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