



## The Steeple Bell— April 2022

Franklin First United Methodist Church

*“Under the Green Steeple”*



*“The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy...Suddenly Jesus met them, ‘Greetings,’ he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid...’” Matthew 28:8-10 (NIV)*

I cannot even imagine the flood of emotions that must have gone through the women who went to the tomb on Resurrection Sunday. These women had watched Jesus go through agony, first at the mockery of a trial and a terrible beating, then as he was crucified on a cross – in terrible pain and eventually suffocating to death. They had accompanied his dead body to the tomb and performed a hurried burial rite prior to sundown on that horrible day.

Saturday came and went. Jesus’ followers could have only known abject horror at the turn of events. He had entered Jerusalem as a king adored by the crowds, and yet less than a week later – those crowds had mocked him and yelled for his crucifixion. Their hopes and dreams probably died with him.

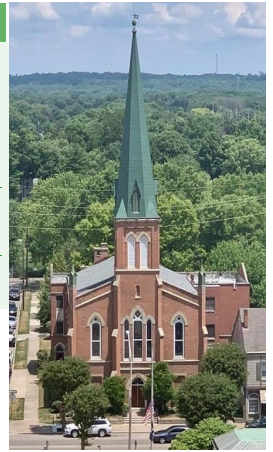
They had come to the tomb to finish the burial rite. They had no expectations other than tending to his dead body. Can you imagine their surprise and shock, the hope that wanted to creep back into their hearts? Jesus alive? This could not be true! And yet here was the risen Lord talking to them, telling them not to be afraid. Their emotional barometer had to rise from despair to incredible joy in just a few short moments.

Have you ever been in the same pit of despair? It is hard to go through those times when hope seems irrational, when the only options seem to be bad ones. What does our Christian faith have to say to us in those times?

Our perceptions are limited. The women had no frame of reference for the miracle right in front of their eyes. Their grief seemed to be a reasonable response to Jesus’ death. But God is in the miracle business, and as He raised Jesus out of the grave, death was no longer the final statement on life. The Bible tells us that the Almighty Father is always working for the good of his children.

Jesus death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead brings hope and joy to us. We do not have to live our lives in fear. The message of Easter is this: Love wins. The Apostle Paul in Romans 8 say it like this: “But in all things we win a sweeping victory through the One who loves us. I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord; not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.” (CEB) Even death is a passageway to eternal blessing for those who love the Lord. “Do not be afraid!” Let those words of Jesus really resonate in your heart and mind. That message is for us today and much as it was for the women at the tomb. Happy Easter!

Pastor Laura



## Discipleship Pathway

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter...special times that we reflect on what God has done for us through salvation in Jesus Christ. God reached out to gather us in as his children, bringing salvation through the forgiveness of our sins, and offering the promises of abundant life and eternity with God.

Throughout Lent, we have been reviewing how we as God's church reach out to welcome others and invite them to know God's saving grace through our ministry. The Discipleship Pathway invites us to consider the areas of Risk-taking Mission and Outreach, Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Faith-forming Relationships, and Compassionate Care – expanding our ministry beyond our walls in meaningful ways.

Pastor Laura will be meeting with ministry team leaders during April and May to discuss what we are doing well and discern how we can bring added emphasis to reach out into the community. Franklin First is already a very community-minded church and we do many ministries well. We will not be re-inventing the wheel with our activities, but will take current ministries and add some extra steps to engage our Franklin neighbors. Repeated invitations and warm welcomes are key elements to reaching our community. With each of our ministry efforts, we will be asking the question, "How can we include others and invite them to get to know us?"



## Angel Shop Blessings

On March 27, Franklin First offered the Angel Shop formal attire shopping opportunity for the first time. Organizer Jenny Chamberlain received more than 160 dresses, along with many pairs of shoes and jewelry. The fellowship hall was transformed into a boutique that was festive and inviting. There will be two more shopping opportunities in April, and we are looking forward to being a blessing to more Franklin students.



## ANGEL SHOP

DRESS TO BE YOUR BEST

Gently Used Formal Dress & Accessories

SHOP WITH US

March 27th; 1-3 pm  
April 7th; 4-6 pm  
April 10th; 1-3 pm





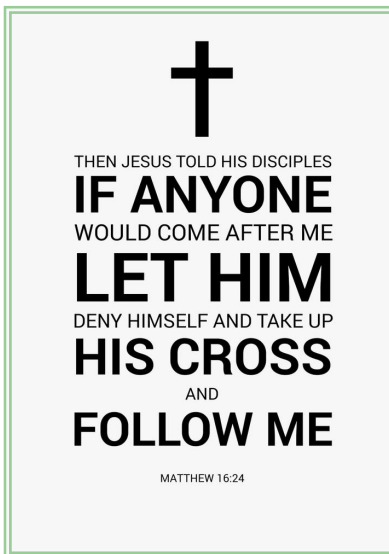
## Servants or Volunteers??

Jesus laid out the requirements of true discipleship, and one of his directives was, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (CEB). Jesus calls us

to a life of servanthood, asking us to give sacrificially of our time and talents for the Kingdom of God.

There is a difference between servants and volunteers. Servants of God know that they are the only hands and feet of Jesus available in this day to answer the call of discipleship to pass faith on to their neighbors and future generations. Volunteers aren't necessarily responding to a call of Christ, and let other considerations govern their willingness to respond to a need.

In the church, we have many ministries that build God's kingdom. Whether we are seeking servants for Children's ministry or Outreach activities or technology helpers – we have deemed these efforts important to discipleship. How will you give of your time and talents?



## Anthony Wayne Teacher Appreciation Week

The first week in May is Teacher Appreciation week, and Franklin First UMC wants to let our Anthony Wayne teachers and staff know how much we value them. Those

in the education field have worked tirelessly over the past couple of years, going above and beyond the call of duty in working with our children. **Our church will be putting together gift bags, and you can help by bringing in supplies of wrapped chocolate candy by April 24.** Let's give our educators and support staff a bit of love.



## Women's Circle

**Next Meeting  
Monday, April 4th**

**6:30 pm**

**Join us for fellowship  
as we plan our upcoming  
events.**

**Dessert Provided.**

## The Pantry Collection

**Baby Care Items  
this Quarter**

The Mission Team is collecting baby items such as diapers, wipes, formula, etc. this quarter. Bring your items to church and deposit in the bin the front lobby.





**Holy Week**

**SCHEDULE**

April 10 Palm Sunday Worship	10: 45 AM
April 14 Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 PM
April 15 Good Friday Service	6:30 PM
April 17 Easter Sunday Worship	10:45 AM

  
 Franklin First  
 UNITED METHODIST  
 CHURCH

## Lent & Holy Week

Observing Lent and Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** is April 10, and we will be celebrating in worship with a procession of palms and a remembering of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

**Maundy Thursday** is April 14. Our 6:30 worship service will include Holy Communion.

**Good Friday** is April 15, and this somber 6:30 service will include a stripping of the altar and the sounds of sorrow.

We will celebrate the high holy day of **Easter** on April 17 at our 10:45 worship service with much music and a message of hope.

We invite you to join us in this special commemoration of Jesus’ journey to the cross and resurrection from the dead. As Christians, these remembrances are central to our faith.

## Permanent Endowment Fund

A friend was sharing that his father had died without a will, and how this oversight to leave a directive created a financial disaster for his children. With no will, the government stepped in with procedures about how an estate would be processed. Although his father had verbally indicated how he wanted his affairs to be settled, he had never followed through with the legal paperwork. The consequences were devastating.

Many of us don’t like to think about estate planning, making a will, insurance needs, or end of life issues. Part of Christian stewardship is to manage one’s assets with intentionality. We might be tempted to think that financial planning is for the wealthy only - yet in Luke chapter two, Jesus commended a widow who lived with very limited means for her stewardship practices.

Franklin First has established a Permanent Endowment Fund as a way to utilize “legacy giving” to bless our church. Giving to this fund through your will and estate planning establishes funding for future generations. The grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great- grandchildren of the community will witness the love of God through the ministry of Franklin First.

If you have questions about the Permanent Endowment Fund, feel free to talk to Ken Smith or Pastor Laura.

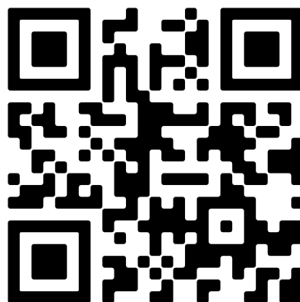


## Franklin High School to Present Once Upon a Mattress

Once upon a time, Queen Aggravain decreed that no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, found a bride. Dozens of princesses tried to win the prince's hand, but none could pass the queen's impossible tests. Then a "shy" swamp princess, Winnifred the Woebegone, showed up.

Franklin High School Drama Club will present *Once Upon a Mattress*, a hilarious musical treatment of the classic tale of the princess and the pea, on April 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. and April 24 at 2 p.m. All performances will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$5 for students. They're available for purchase online at [fhsdrama.booktix.com](https://fhsdrama.booktix.com) or at the door. Scanning the QR code will take you to the ticket site.



*Once Upon a Mattress's* music is by Mary Rodgers and lyrics are by Marshall Barer. The book is by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer.

Several adult members of our church family are involved in the production.

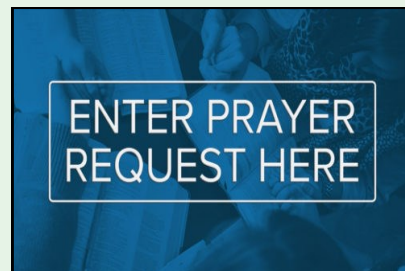


### FHS Musical—Cast & Crew Dinner at Franklin First

April 22-24, Franklin High School students will be putting on the musical "Once Upon a Mattress," with Jeff Sams di-

recting, Joe Chamberlain will be providing tech support, and Peggy Darragh-Jeromos with communications

Franklin First UMC will be hosting a dinner on April 24 for students and staff of the production. Monica Rhude is organizing the event and needs the help of our entire congregation. Whether for set-up or tear down, cooking or dish-washing, or other miscellaneous duties – please let Monica know how you can help. ***What a great way to let our Franklin students know how much we value them!***



### Submit a Prayer Request Anytime

Use the link below to submit a Prayer Request anytime. The link will send an email directly to the Pastor and our prayer warriors will begin the prayers for your request.

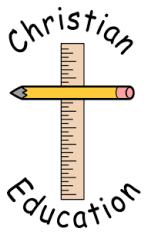
[franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54](https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54)

## Church Council

Church Council is shifting its focus — rather than using the entire meeting to discuss Brick and Mortar issues and reports from each committee more time will be spent discussing how we live our mission of Making Disciples. Refer to Matthew 28: 19 & 20.

The shift in format will accomplish two (2) very important processes that enhances Franklin First's ministry in the next decade and beyond. First, we deliberately focus on Outreach and Mission, seeking a **coordinated** process to better serve the community where we live, and to purposefully be inviting them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Second, we recognize and empower those who agree to serve on the different ministry teams, allowing them to be the servants they were invited to be, knowing they will bring their plans to Council so we can coordinate and support each other's efforts.

The Steeple Bell will share the committee updates on a regular basis to keep everyone to update on the work of our leadership teams.



### Christian Education:

- Children's Church: We have a lead teacher through the end of May. We have a few Sundays to fill for Assistant Teacher.
- Nursery: We have many slots open for April and May. It has helped to rearrange the choir anthem in the service so the choir people can help with the nursery. It is much appreciated.
- 3rd Grade Bible Presentations: We have not yet done this for the 2021-2022 school year. We will present the Bibles on April 24th.
- Background checks for Safe Sanctuary are being submitted and are under way.
- We are now using iPads to document attendance for Nursery and Children's Church. Volunteers will be trained as they volunteer.

Future Items We are Discussing:

- Summer Children's Church: Should we, have it? We have a curriculum, but do we have teachers?
- Confirmation Class: When should we hold one? Next school year? The year after?
- VBS: Selecting package. Looking at another 3-day program, possibly Tuesday-Thursday this year with a Sunday program similar to last year. July 12-

14? Would like to open it to the public to be more in alignment with "Risk Taking Outreach and Missions." More to come.

Looking at a curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year for Children's Church.

We still invite folks to prayerfully consider being a lead teacher for Children's Church or Volunteer for Nursery.

### Worship:

We had a worship meeting on Tuesday March 8th. We decided to add the offering during the service again. We changed order of worship service. Discussed services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Special Sunday morning Music program was scheduled for May 22nd. This will be last Sunday for the choir. Also discussed live streaming. Some people watching from home are having issues with the live stream.



### Trustees:

We successfully negotiated a cost reduction on the elevator quote. That amounted to approximately \$1600.00. The contract was



signed, and initial deposit sent to get the job underway.

There was an initial lead time of 4-6 weeks, however, due to supply chain issues, some parts are on back order with an additional 4-5 week expected delivery.

The broken handrail has been repaired on the third street stairway, will need to touch up paint when time allows.

The third street door is still not in. The trustees agreed to try to hold off the install until warmer weather, and to keep that expense from hitting at the same time as the elevator. We have agreed not to contact the door company until we hear from them the altar area continues to show signs of water intrusion. Once the weather breaks, we plan to get estimates for finding and repairing that leak.

We also intend to get estimates for re-finishing the front doors of the church. The door estimate is for reference only for now. We need that number for planning purposes for expenses.

Lastly the Water Softener is leaking. We have bypassed the softener to stop the leak. No one seems to know the age of the unit, but I believe we would be looking at a replacement unit. I'm not sure the old unit has been operating correctly. Our plan is to get estimates in the near future.

*(Continued on page 7)*





### Finance:

In our recent meeting on March 16, 2022, the

Finance Committee reviewed the status of the new Third Street door and the Elevator initial rebuild projects. Both projects are awaiting back-ordered parts. Also, both projects require additional funding. Information regarding looking into potential grants for the Church's stain glass window repairs have not been fruitful. It appears our church does not currently qualify according to their selective criteria.

The trustees made us aware that there is a need for both a repair or replacement of our current soft water system. Additionally, there still appears to be a water

leak above the altar. The trustees will be getting quotes for this repair.

Just a reminder that donations for these repairs can be made the old fashion way by cash or check or try something new/different by using the text to give by texting to the following number: (937) 582-9009. Or, Online Giving/We SHARE:

This 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: [franklin-firstumc1.weshareonline.org](https://franklin-firstumc1.weshareonline.org)

### Missions:

We are currently preparing 125 snack pack per week and as we close in toward the end of the school year, we are trying to keep a smaller inventory and not purchase an excess of items with a short expiration date.

We also received a wide variety of items from Caring Partners. Some of the items will be included in the snack packs, other items will be included in our quarterly donation to The Food Pantry.

We will deliver our January, February and March personal hygiene items at the end of March. During April, May and June we will be collecting Baby care items, the most needed items are disposable diapers in all sizes.



## General Conference Postponed

Due to the ongoing pandemic and government policies/restraints, the Commission on the General Conference announced the postponement of the 2020 General Conference until 2024

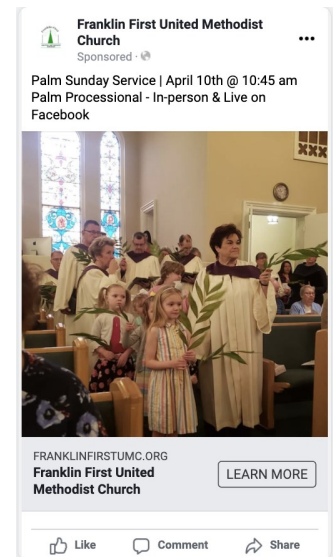
Learn more at : <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>



## Watch for Our Facebook Ads

Recently, Franklin First received a grant from United Methodists Communications for Easter ads on Facebook. From April 1—April 17, our Palm Sunday service and our Easter Sunday service will receive \$300 of ad time on Facebook focusing on a 20 mile radius of our address.

Watch for ads (they should have sponsored by under our name indicating they are a paid ad) and please like, share, and comment. The more interaction the ads receive the more people the ads will reach.





## Frankie Adventures!

**Don't forget** to email your Frankie photos to: [office@franklinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@franklinfirstumc.org) and Frankie will post them on his Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstKids](http://www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstKids) Be sure to like his page so you can follow his adventures.

If you still need a "Flat Frankie" to travel with you, stop by the office or pick one up the Children's Ministry Welcome desk on the second floor.

## Franklin First Giving

### Online Giving/We SHARE:

This 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:

[franklinfirstumc1.weshareonline.org](http://franklinfirstumc1.weshareonline.org)

### Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Franklin First United Methodist Church. Support us every time you shop. Just follow the prompts from the link below:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0599434>



GIRLS IN GRADES K-5

# NEW GIRL SCOUT TROOP FORMING IN FRANKLIN

Meet the Leader  
April 12 \* 5:15-6:15pm  
Franklin Public Library

Troop meetings begin in May  
2nd & 4th Tuesday  
at the Franklin Public Library

Email: [sknathan@gmail.com](mailto:sknathan@gmail.com)

<https://www.gsw.org/en/girls-families/join.html>



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.

KROGERS COMMUNITY REWARDS:

Go to:

[www.krogers.com](http://www.krogers.com)

New account users: go to "Register"

Create Account

Or Sign-in

Go to: Community

– Community Rewards

Click: Enroll now

Church #: RK151



# Eight Ways to Nurture Faith in Children

By Lauren Buchanan

It's never too early to begin sharing faith practices with our children. "Helping kids to know God's love and to know that God loves them is a really foundational concept that little ones, even from diapers, can be taught," says the Rev. Kathy Pittenger, Children's Initiatives Coordinator for the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Joanna Cummings, pastor with children and families at East End United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, agrees, "I believe that children are spiritual beings and I believe that they have a lot to show us about who God is."

## Weave faith formation into the everyday

Nurturing faith in babies, toddlers and preschoolers is not only meaningful, it can also be a lot of fun. It is possible for your busy family to incorporate this important work into day-to-day life, you just have to find the spiritual practices that work best for your unique family.

Cummings and Pittenger share these practical ideas:

### 1. Evaluate your daily rhythms

Identify transitions and pauses where you can add prayer, discussion and Scripture to your routines. For example:

Write or print prayers and hang them above the changing table as a reminder to pray in those moments together.

Keep a stack of conversation starters in the car. Ask questions that have no "correct" answers, such as, "I wonder what it would have been like to see Jesus walk on the water?"

Use meals, naptime and bedtime as opportunities for reading Bible stories and sharing prayers.

### 2. Pray in different ways

Explore a variety of prayer practices to find options that your child most enjoys. As they grow, try new ones to meet their changing needs.

The Lord's Prayer and the Doxology: Repetition is helpful for children. Saying the same prayer over and over is fine; in fact, it can bring familiarity and comfort.

Body prayer: Use movement to express a prayer.

Take a walk: Head outside to marvel at God's creativity and give thanks for it.

Artistic prayer: Ask your child to draw what they'd like to say to God.

### 3. Read, play and learn

Reading a story Bible, such as the Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, brings Scripture to life through illustrations and approachable vocabulary. Also consider board books, snuggle time books and books focusing on prayers for families. Since children learn through play, finger puppets or interactive tools can help make story time fun and memorable. Check out free Digital Faith Formation Playlists, created by Pittenger and her team, which include readings, questions, prayers, music, activities and more.

Resourcing parents for faith formation

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rev. Joanna Cummings saw a need for accessible, creative resources for faith formation at home. She founded A Sacred Home, offering subscription-style boxes that she and her team lovingly create, design, pack, pray over and ship to families yearning for engaging, intentional, daily spiritual practices.

Boxes contain thoughtful tools that can be adapted for children of all ages, such as a guidebook, handcrafted interactive items, elements to create a beautiful focus space, conversation prompts, family craft projects, prayer practice tools, devotional readings and more.

Past boxes have focused on Lent, Advent, Pentecost, Thankfulness and Everyday Faith. Learn more and explore current availability at [ASacredHome.com](https://www.asacredhome.com).

### 4. Model your faith

Our kids learn from us by watching us. As you lead the way in prayer, Bible study, engaging in worship, talking about God, serving others, being part of a faith community and exploring spiritual practices, children will want to join you. They'll come to expect these components of your routine and they will begin to incorporate them into theirs as well. Kids might even remind you to complete a forgotten activity or suggest a new one.

### 5. Welcome hard questions

It's okay to not have answers to big questions, to say, "I don't know – let's try to find the answer together," and then turn to a pastor, resources or friends to help you unpack challenging

## Resourcing parents for faith formation



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rev. Joanna Cummings saw a need for accessible, creative resources for faith formation at home. She founded A Sacred Home, offering subscription-style boxes that she and her team lovingly create, design, pack, pray over and ship to families yearning for engaging, intentional, daily spiritual practices.

Boxes contain thoughtful tools that can be adapted for children of all ages, such as a guidebook, handcrafted interactive items, elements to create a beautiful focus space, conversation prompts, family craft projects, prayer practice tools, devotional readings and more.

Past boxes have focused on Lent, Advent, Pentecost, Thankfulness and Everyday Faith. Learn more and explore current availability at [ASacredHome.com](https://www.asacredhome.com).

topics. After all, parents are on a spiritual journey of growth, too, and it's great for kids to see you learning alongside them. For preschoolers, answer questions with one in return: "What do you think?" This will encourage them to lean on their spirituality and prior learning to draw conclusions, discover other topics they wonder about and generate further conversation.

### 6. Offer a blessing

Saying a blessing over your child at a key point in the day, such as before preschool or at bedtime, can help them connect deeply with you and with God. Hold or make eye contact with your child to create a special moment. Cummings shares this with her baby: "I bless you as you grow, I bless you as you go, I bless you as you play, I bless you today." Pittenger shares this with her school-age children: "God bless my children and help them to grow bigger and stronger and wiser and more in love with God

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

and all people every day.”

### 7. Help others

Engaging in community service can be an excellent way to bond as a family, and it provides an opportunity to talk about loving our neighbors, being a Jesus follower and living out our faith. Projects such as sorting items at a food bank are often appropriate for volunteers of all ages. Participating in an advocacy effort related to a social justice issue that your family is passionate about is a powerful way for kids to see that their voice matters and that they can make a difference on behalf of others.

### 8. Find connection

Being active in a faith community helps children see their role in the body of Christ. Including young children in worship services broadens their understanding of church and what it means to praise God. It's also important that kids know they can trust and learn from adults other than their parents, whether they be Sunday School teachers, grandparents or family friends. As an

added bonus, the community provides parents with a support system as you seek ideas and resources from pastors, church staff and other families who are in a similar life situation.

### Encouragements for parents

“[Parents] may not be the expert on all things theological, but they are the expert on their kids. We don't have to have all the right words or all the right answers,” says Pittenger.

Cummings shares, “Parents, give yourself grace. You are loving and nurturing the faith of your child in the middle of a season that's really difficult and challenging, especially for young families. Anything that is intentional about sharing the love of God, about sharing the story of God, or even just sharing your faith with your child in conversation is really impactful.”

[Laura Buchanan works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact her by email.](#)

[This story was published on March 2, 2022.](#)

## Birthdays

- April 04 Kim Chewing
- April 04 Trisha Dicken
- April 05 Evelyn Chamberlain
- April 12 Greg Trout
- April 17 Kailey Chilcutt
- April 17 Margaret Taylor
- April 20 Patti Noland
- April 28 Molly Chamberlain
- April 30 Marg Farmer

## Anniversaries

- April 02  
James & Susie Mears
- April 13  
Lisa & Rick Dillon
- April 29  
Jennifer & Matt Schramm



Sharing God's  
Love & Peace  
Around the World

Special Music Sunday  
Sunday, May 22nd  
10:45 am



Guest soloist, violinist,  
& cellist performing in  
addition to Franklin  
First Choirs



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



## How are United Methodists Present in Ukraine?

---

United Methodists have both congregations and mission partners on the ground in Ukraine, offering hope, support and aid in every way they can.

The nation of Ukraine is included, with Moldova, in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, part of the [Eurasia Episcopal Area](#), led by [Bishop Eduard Khegay](#).

This episcopal area also includes the Central Russia Conference, Eastern Russia and Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference, Northwest Russia Provisional Annual Conference and Southern Russia Provisional Annual Conference. These include the nations of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. There were 1123 professing members recorded across these conferences in 2017.

Methodism in Eurasia began with a missionary pastor from Sweden, Carl Lindborg, in 1882. He founded the first Russian Methodist congregation in St. Petersburg in 1889. A few congregations were planted in Ukraine prior to the first World War, notably near Uzhgorod and Ternopil, but of these, all but the community in Uzhgorod were shuttered during the Soviet era. The outreach that would lead to the current churches in Ukraine began after the end of the Soviet Union, which brought an influx and spread of United Methodist missionaries from the United States, Germany, and Liberia into many of the newly independent nations in the 1990s.

While numbers of United Methodists in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference are small (351 total across six congregations based on 2017 data), the congregations are strategically located in or near larger cities, including Kharkiv, Kyiv, Poltova and Chernivtsi, as well as the two breakaway areas recognized by Russia in Donetsk and Luhansk. This means that they are well positioned for outreach across the whole of the country and that several of their cities are among those most under attack at this time. Indeed, many in the church at Luhansk had previously fled in 2020 because of attacks by pro-Russian insurgents that hit their church building.

Global Ministries encourages United Methodists to give generously to UMCOR's [International Disaster and Recovery fund](#) to enable United Methodists and other mission partners on the ground to deliver support where it can do the most good.

We pray with the people of Ukraine and all those affected by this campaign of war against its sovereignty within its own borders, joining the words of Bishop Khegay, who published [this prayer for peace in Russian](#) on his episcopal area website:

Lord we know that it shouldn't be.  
People should not bear death.  
People should not be killed.  
People should not lose their loved ones on the battlefields.  
Cities and villages should not be turned into a war zone,  
children should not be victims,  
and war should not be a means to achieve peace.

Lord, we need a new heaven and a new earth.  
We remember the world that You gave us,  
and mourn that we have lost it.

We all want to be safe.  
But our security is not in force.  
Spare us the ravages of war.  
Teach us the ways of peace.



---

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications. Taken From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-how-are-united-methodists-present-in-ukraine>*

---





# Easter

## SPRING FLOWER SALE

LILIES, TULIPS,  
HYACINTHS, &  
DAFFODILS

**\$10**

Women's Circle is sponsoring the Annual Easter Spring Flower Sale for your home or help decorate our Easter altar in honor of or in memory of someone special. Order forms available on Sunday or order online at: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a616150> Submit payment to the office or drop in offertory plate on Sunday.



# Easter

## EGG HUNT

### APRIL 9TH

**1:00 PM**

**NOLAND HOME  
8076 EAST LAWN DRIVE,  
FRANKLIN, OH**

Women's Circle will be hosting the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for all of the kids. Mark your calendar!

Donations of filled Easter eggs are appreciated. Please return to church by Wednesday, April 6th, 1:00 pm

Thanks to Patti Noland for hosting the event at her home.



**Noisy Bucket  
Collection**

**Sundays in Lent**



We will continue with the noisy bucket collection every Sunday through Lent. We have collected more than \$350 so far. Make the bucket ring on Sunday!

**THE PANTRY**



erving Franklin • Springboro • Carlisle

**January—March Pantry  
Collection**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Personal Care collection for the Panty—more than 260 items were donated!



## Ohio River Valley District Events

Save these dates!

**May 6:** Our third annual District Wide Ice Cream Social (since we still can't gather at Lakeside) will be held on Friday, May 6 at 7pm. This year it will be at The Main Hub (former Deerfield UMC) in Maineville. Back again will be the giant Johnny's Ice Cream Truck with all kinds of delicious treats including cones, sundaes, shaved ice and flurries!

**June 7:** ORV's Spring Celebration highlighting the past year in ministry. We'll recognize our retirees, ordinands, pastors coming/pastors going and more. Combined with this annual event will be a Thank You Send Off for Todd and Suzanne before they transition to co-pastors of Hyde Park Community UMC. These events will take place at Westwood UMC. We'll begin with an hors 'd'oeuvre reception at 6pm followed by the Spring Celebration at 7pm and ending with a time together enjoying Todd and Suzanne's favorite dessert!



### Six Foods that Fight Depression

Fighting depression can be a prolonged journey filled

with highs and lows. Many people battling depression have looked to holistic cures and even food in an effort to overcome the lows associated with depression. OhioHealth Dietitian Jenalee Richner says that while food may not actively fight depression, there are plenty of foods that can improve overall brain function and aid those looking to improve their mental health.

#### 1. Dark Leafy Greens

These healthy vegetables are filled with items known to improve brain health. Greens contain antioxidants known as lutein and zeaxanthin which can help the mind stay sharp. These natural foods are also high in compounds that promote healthy thinking and decrease mental deterioration.

#### 2. Walnuts

Walnuts are a prime source of vitamin E which assists with memory and improves focus. They also contain high levels of Omega-3 fatty acids which might not

sound healthy, but actually helps to stimulate cognitive and motor function!

#### 3. Broccoli

Broccoli is high in compounds known as lignans, which are a phytoestrogen that benefits cognitive skills. Choline and folic acids are also present in broccoli, and help improve memory and mood levels.

#### 4. Blueberries

Blueberries are good for more than just pancakes or smoothies! They contain elements that slow down the effects of aging by preserving memory. In addition to these memory preserving agents, blueberries are a potent source of antioxidants which protect against brain degeneration and stress.

#### 5. Beans

Beans of all kinds help stabilize blood glucose in the brain. This stabilization can help increase the speed of message transmission in the process.

#### 6. Wild Salmon

There is plenty of truth to the idea that fish, especially salmon, can be good for the brain! Wild salmon contains Omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin B12 which helps to eliminate brain fog while promoting clear thinking.

Taken from: <https://blog.ohiohealth.com/six-foods-that-fight-depression>



# Franklin First United Methodist Church

## 2022 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



### Church Council:

[churchcouncil2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:churchcouncil2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Lee Ann Lee
Communications Coordinators	Carol & Mike Runyan
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

### Ministry Team Representatives:

Staff-Parish	Julie Abell
Finance	Paul Anderson
Endowment	Ken Smith
Trustee Tri-Chairs	John Lass, Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	Judy Bowman
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator	Cindy Kuntzman
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

### Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer)

[staffparishrelations2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:staffparishrelations2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Terms expiring 2022:	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2023:	Julie Abell, Judy Parker, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland

### Trustees: Tri-Chairs: John Lass, Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

[trustees2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:trustees2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Terms expiring 2022:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2023:	Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2024:	John Lass, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken

### Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

[layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

#### Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Charlotte Summer, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2022:	Pam Bishop, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2023:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold

### Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

[finance2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:finance2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Julie Abell
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Tri-Chairs:	John Lass, Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Julie Abell
Lay Leader:	Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Charlotte Summer
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

[endowment2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:endowment2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Chair of Finance Committee	Paul Anderson
Church Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Chair of Board of Trustees	Jim Martin
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Charlotte Summer
Member at Large (Term: 2022 only)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2022-2023)	Ken Smith, Chair
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

### Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

[worship2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:worship2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Kay Marksberry, Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Usher Organizer:	Judy Parker
Lay Leader:	Charlotte Summer
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

[mission2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:mission2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Lisa Dillon, Madelyn Lang, Tracy Easter, Ken Smith, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain, Marna Rogers, Judy Parker, Sally Fitzgerald, Amber Ramsey

### Technology Team: Chair: Joe Chamberlain

[technology2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:technology2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Joe Chamberlain, Trisha Dicken, Andy Kuntzman, Tami Chamberlain, LeeAnn Lee, Paul Anderson

### Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

[layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Chris Womack, Charlotte Summer

### Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

[careteam2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:careteam2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com)

Lee Saunders (phone contact); Charlotte Summer, Dorothy Rayburg, Jan Truesdell, Judy Bowman (visitation team)



Franklin First

United Methodist  
Church

Pastor  
Laura Saunders



**Sunday Worship Service**  
10:45 am  
Livestreaming on Facebook

## Upcoming Events

- April 7th** Angel Shop Open 4—6 pm
- April 10th** Palm Sunday Worship; 10:45 am  
Angel Shop Open 1-3 pm
- April 14th** Maundy Thursday Service; 6:30 pm
- April 15th** Good Friday Service; 6:30 pm
- April 17th** Easter Sunday Worship; 10: 45 am
- May 8th** Mother's Day
- May 22nd** Special Music Sunday

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.  
Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232  
E-mail: [office@franklinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@franklinfirstumc.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

