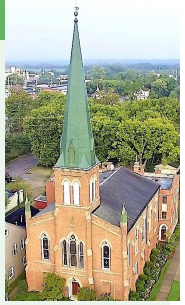




The Steeple Bell— April 2023

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen?” Luke 24:5

This was the question that the angels asked the women who went to the tomb Jesus had been laid out in. It was on the morning that we now celebrate as Easter, the morning of the resurrection. The Bible tells us that the women were terrified at the sight of the angels. They were even more afraid when the angels spoke. The immediate consensus was that this news was an “idle tale,” but soon the impossible proved to be true.

Resurrection. Devotional writer Gwen Ford Faulkenberry calls this word a metaphor for the whole Christian life. Without resurrection, dead is just dead. And when death has the final say, hope dies with it.

Jesus’ death was not the final word in the stories of the women who went to the tomb or of Jesus’ disciples. Their lives went on with new purpose and passion, renewed hope, after they encountered the risen Christ. They went on to establish the Church and we have faith in the Lord today because of their hope-filled ministry.

When in your life have you experienced death? Perhaps it was with the passing of a loved one, a literal death. Persons with faith grieve differently than those who have no faith. While we experi-

ence the void left in our lives with our dear one’s death, we celebrate their passage to an eternal existence with God in a place of no more suffering and tears. Death does not have the final victory. The victory is in their resurrection.

We can experience death in other areas of life as well. The ending of a relationship, or the loss of a job. Consequences of bad choices or a health crisis that necessitates lifestyle changes. When these “deaths” occur, we grieve and feel like we can’t handle our new normal.

That’s when our faith reminds us that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Scripture tells us that God works all things together for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28). Jesus invites us to lay our burdens at his feet and he will give us rest (Matthew 11:28-30). God’s word also points out that extreme difficulties only last for a period of time (Psalm 30:5b).

The angel’s words “why do you look for the living among the dead” remind us that even though one thing may be finished, new life pops up in unexpected places. Hope lives in faith in Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Laura

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Every child should be able to grow up in a safe environment with their basic needs met, yet that is not the reality for many of our children. How can the church help kids to be safe?

We have all known people who have grown up in difficult circumstances yet seem to thrive despite their challenges. According to the American Psychological Association, *resilience* is the key. Defined as “the ability to adapt to or cope with adversity (including trauma, tragedy, threats, and significant stress) in a positive way, resilience can be developed through positive relationships with adults such as parents, caregivers, and mentors.

Faith communities can provide a community of positive adults who affirm and mentor young folks with a sound belief/value system and a place to belong. We can offer emotional and spiritual support and help kids find their interests and passions. We introduce young people to the Way of Jesus and model his teachings of love, respect, forgiveness, and inclusion.

Churches can offer parents a place to belong as well, a place where their needs are heard, and support is offered. Churches can partner with other social institutions like schools to provide tutoring, nutritional enhancement, and staff appreciation. (Franklin First is very proactive in these areas!)

For Jesus, love was a verb, not just well wishes – but taking action to improve situations. Let love be a verb for us as well.

A promotional poster for a kick-off event. The top left says "Franklin First at Food Truck Park Kick-Off". The top right features the Franklin First logo (a green tree) and a photo of a burger and salad. A yellow starburst on the left says "Stop by & see us!". The bottom left shows a "Franklin Food Truck Park" logo with a truck. The bottom right says "Join us as we kick off Franklin Food Truck Fridays April 28, 4-8 PM 20 E. Fourth Street" and lists activities: Food Trucks, Live Music, Games, Community Banquet, Vendor Booths, Kids Activities, and Fall Schedule. A QR code is also present.

It's Almost Kick-off Time!

Franklin Food Truck Friday official kick-off is scheduled for April 28. Did you take the opportunity last year to visit the food truck park and enjoy a special meal? Franklin First is planning to have a booth at the kick-off this month to greet our neighbors, share information about the church, and provide a fun game. If you would like to help staff the event, talk to either Linda Smith or Karen Anderson. We are seeking to get our smiling faces and ministry information out to our community.

Ohio River Valley District & West Ohio Conference E-News



The Ohio River Valley District has a weekly publication called News and Notes. To subscribe, sign up at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zxhn199?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>



Anthony Wayne Tutoring

March 30 was our final winter tutoring session with Anthony Wayne first graders. Nine students identified by school staff worked with Franklin First tutors to improve their literacy skills. It is such a blessing to see the kids grow in their academics, and also to build relationships with their mentors. We celebrated with the students and their families with a pizza and games party, along with an awards ceremony. Thanks to our compliment of tutors who gave of their time and talents to make the program such a success. As one of the parents observed, "My daughter has improved her overall attitude toward school and her grades as well. Thank you for investing in her future."



Earth Day

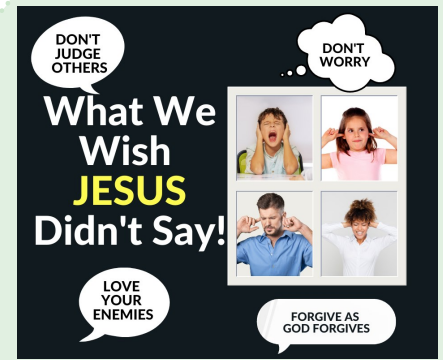
Earth Day was first held on April 22, 1970 and has been observed every year on this date since. What began mainly as a K-12th grade school initiative, with students around the US involved in beach cleanups, tree planting, and recycling

initiatives, has grown now to include more than one billion participants from 192 countries around the world.

Just prior to 1970, news of some environmental catastrophes brought activism to the forefront of people's minds. In January 1969, there was a massive oil spill of the cost of Santa Barbara, CA that resulted in the death of much wildlife and the desecration of the area around the spill. The Cuyahoga River caught fire due to pollution, and studies reported about the damage of use of pesticides in farming.

With a new emphasis on healthy earth ecology, this led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and passing of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

The Earth Day theme for 2023 is "Invest in Our Planet." How will you invest time and resources into improving earth health?



Upcoming Sermon Series: What We Wish Jesus Didn't Say

April 16

"How Can I Forgive?"
Matthew 6:7-15
Forgive as God Forgives

April 23

"Don't Worry, Be Happy"
Matthew 6:25-34
Don't Worry

April 30

"Log Jam"
Luke 6:37-42
Don't Judge Others

May 7

"A Hard Pill to Swallow"
Luke 6:27-36
Love Your Enemies



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2 - 10:45 AM
PALM SUNDAY
SERVICE

APRIL 6 - 6:30 PM
MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE

APRIL 7 - 6:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE

APRIL 9 - 10:45 AM
EASTER
CELEBRATION
SERVICE



“Light It Up Blue”

April 2 is Autism Awareness Day. Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. It is estimated that autism affects 1 in 44 children in the US today. There is not just one type of autism, but many sub-types. Each person with has a distinct set of strengths and challenges.

How do I help a person with autism?

- ◆ Realize that each autistic individual is unique in their makeup.
- ◆ Learn about autism. Listen for needs.
- ◆ Practice acceptance of the individual as they are, a beloved child of God.
- ◆ Offer positive reinforcement.
- ◆ Identify triggers, what is stressful or frightening for them. Try and discern the reason behind disruptive behaviors.
- ◆ Identify what is calming and enjoyable for them.
- ◆ Accommodate their sensory sensitivities.
- ◆ Create a safety zone for them – a place where they can go to decompress.
- ◆ Provide structure and a schedule. Consistence is important.
- ◆ Make time for fun.
- ◆ Support not just the autistic person, but their loved ones as well.



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.

Deep Dive Discipleship

Pastor Laura's class started meeting on March 19 with a lesson on the meaning of our baptism. So often, we can speak the words of our liturgies without really realizing the important impact that they have for our daily lives. God claims us as his own with the covenant promise of baptism, and we are given the gifts of faith and eternal life that infuse our lives with hope. At this point, we have a total of 24 people enrolled in the class. It's not too late to join in future classes. Just let Pastor Laura know you plan to attend.

- April 2** Making a daily connection with God
- April 16** Developing deeper spiritual relationships
- April 30** Vibrant worship
- May 21** Having a servant's heart
- June 4** Deep discipleship insights
- June 11** What does hospitality look like in the Body of Christ?

Women's Circle News

Next Meeting: Monday, April 10th at 6:30 pm

Upcoming activities.

- Easter Egg Hunt for FFUMC kids on Saturday, April 1st at 1 pm at the Noland home.
- Blooming Hanging Baskets have returned! Order a 12" hanging basket, choose from a wide-selection of colors and types. Order forms available at the office, call the office, or online at: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/362a61615095> or our website. Orders due on April 17th.
- Start decluttering and save the date for the upcoming Garage Sale on August 9-12th during the Franklin community garages. Stay tuned for more details.



Women of the Year Nominations

The Women of the Year award is presented to someone who has been an extraordinary worker for her church. Someone who has gone above and beyond to help in anyway possible for the better of the church. Nominations letter should be submitted to the office or to Monica by May 7th.



TRUSTEES

Trustee Team Update

The roof on the parsonage will be replaced as soon as the weather permits. The cost was totally covered by insurance.

We have had the area above the altar inspected, as it has been leaking for some time. The roof is a rubberized material for flat roof installation. The existing material is compromised. Compounding the problem are the heat/cool ductwork for the sanctuary. All of that must be removed so the roofing material can be correctly installed. That is no small task, the ductwork is over 3 foot square.

I'm awaiting a quote from the roofer as I write this. Submitted by : Mike Runyan

Franklin First Online Giving

Franklin First has a new online giving platform. We have employed a Vision2 to replace Weshare and save on fees for 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/member-resources-%26-giving>



Missions Team Collections

Personal Care Products for The Pantry

The Missions Team is collecting personal care products such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc for The Pantry during the months of January, February, & March. Bring your contributions to the church on Sunday or drop them by the office during the week.



Personal Hygiene Product Collection for High School

The Franklin Junior and Senior High School is in in need of personal hygiene products for their students. Products such as tampons, pads, deodorant, etc. for students not able to afford such products.

West Ohio Conference—New District Names and Boundaries Announced

When annual conference met in June 2022, members approved the reduction of districts in the West Ohio Conference from seven to six. *The Book of Discipline* authorizes the bishop “to form the districts after consultation with the district superintendents” (§415.4), while giving the annual conference the authority to determine the number of districts.

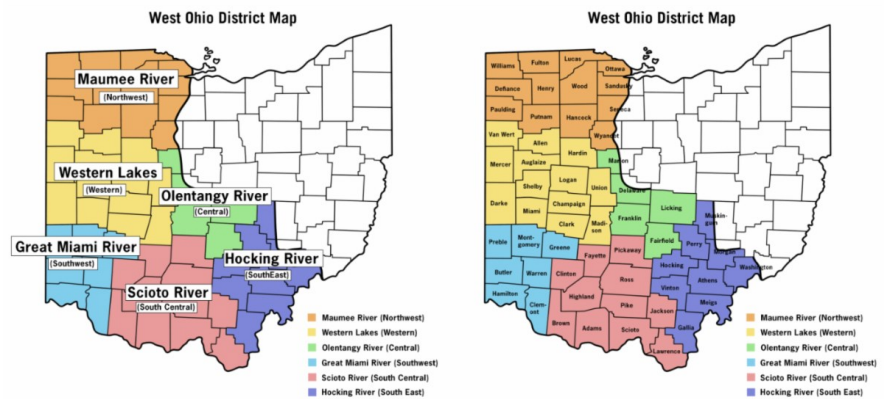
A task group, assigned by Bishop Palmer, included representation from each of the seven existing districts. Working with the district superintendents, the task group created new district names and boundaries. These districts will focus on new ways to do mission and ministry as The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Effective July 1, the new district names and clergy who will serve as district superintendents are:

- Great Miami River District - Rev. Jenn Lucas
- Hocking River District - Rev. Mark Chow
- Maumee River District - Rev. Amy Haines
- Olentangy River District - Rev. Dr. Tim Bias
- Scioto River District - Rev. Calvin Alston
- Western Lakes District - Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson

District names were chosen because the image of water encourages Christ followers to *remember their baptism and renew their commitment to God and to discipleship — with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

We will miss our churches in Clinton county but know that you will be in good hands in the new Scioto River District. As Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties become the Great Miami River District, we look forward to welcoming over 50 new churches from Greene, Montgomery and Preble counties.



April Calendar of Events

Missions Team begins to collect baby care items

- 1 Easter Egg Hunt, 1 pm—Noland home
- 2 Palm Sunday/Start of Holy Week
- 2 Deep Dive Discipleship: Making a Daily Connection with God
- 6 Holy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm
- 7 Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 10 Women’s Circle Meeting
- 12 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 13 Finance Committee Meeting, 2:15 pm
- 16 Deep Dive Discipleship: Developing Deeper Spiritual Relationships
- 19 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 26 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 28 Food Truck Park Event
- 30 Deep Dive Discipleship: Vibrant Worship

Annual Conference

The 54th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference will be held in person June 1 – 3

at the **Dayton Convention Center**. Our theme is *Committed, Connected, Community* based on the scripture from Hebrews 10:23-25.



225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin – Part 4 (1873-1898)

As the fourth article in this series that commemorates the 225th anniversary of forming the congregation that became the Franklin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC), the period from 1873 through 1898 will be briefly described. Our congregation dates our founding to Monday August 14, 1798 when the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) missionary Rev. John Kobler (1768-1843) held the first religious service in the frontier hamlet of Franklin. For than 50 years, itinerant Methodist “circuit-rider” preachers held irregular services first in private homes but gathering in increasingly bigger churches by the 1830s. A full time minister was assigned to Franklin in 1853 and much larger building was constructed in 1860 that remains as our Sanctuary until the present time.

A description of the Franklin M.E. church was published in the 1882 issue of Beers’ History of Warren County describing as follows: “The new building is of the Gothic style, having buttresses exteriorly and having a steeple, which rises 120 feet from the ground, in the lower part of which hangs a magnificent bronze bell, the donation of Ransom S. Lockwood (1810-1889). This house cost about \$10,000, and was a marvel of cheapness. The building is heated by means of furnaces and lighted with gas.” Church records for 1883 indicate that the “gas machine” used for the lighting fixtures was repaired. Room for the said machine had been achieved by building additional walls at the west end of the church. In 1891 the Board conferred with P. H. Rue regarding electric lights, and these were installed during March 1892 at a cost of \$64. In 1893 the old furnaces were replaced at a cost of \$200.

As a local center of manufacturing and commerce with three railroads plus the Miami-Erie canal, the population of Franklin continued to increase reaching 2,385 at the 1880 census and 2729 in 1890. Though it is certain that, as now, the women of the church always had much to do with its progress: however, it was not until 1866 that the official records listed any of their names. Sisters Beall, Moler and Scharff were appointed on the Committee of Circulation of Tracts. Sister Beall, who was a minister’s widow, was one of the class leaders of the church. Most of the Class meetings were held on Sunday morning, but Sister Beall’s class consisting entirely of ladies, met on Friday afternoons at four. Additional women

led groups and activities continued during the rest of the 19th century.

Among the most prominent families in the Franklin Methodist congregation were the Thirkields who had pioneered in this area at beginning decade. James E. Thirkield and his wife Jane were among the founding members of the first Methodist class in Franklin circa 1825. Their son Eden Burrows (E. B.) Thirkield (1828-1905) was one of the founders of the subsequent Franklin Methodist Episcopal Church. E. B. became the church’s Sunday school superintendent in about 1865 and served in this capacity for over 25 years as discussed in Part-3 of this series. He also led the singing during worship services for many years.



Fig. 1. Dr. Wilbur P. Thirkield (1854 – 1936) Image as a young man.

In 1854, Wilbur Patterson Thirkield was born the son of E. B. and Amanda Thirkield. After graduation from the Franklin public high school, Wilbur was educated at Ohio Wesleyan University earning degrees in 1876 and 1879 as well as degree in Sacred Theology degree from the Boston University in 1881. Later, he was awarded doctoral degrees from Ohio Wesleyan and Emory College. He began his pastoral service during 1878 in the Cincinnati Conference of the Methodist Church. Rev. Thirkield was appointed the founding President of the Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta GA, in 1883. This was the first school established in the South to educate African Americans for the ministry and he served as its president for sixteen years. As an educator, he devoted himself to

(One of a regular series of reports on the people and events associated with the history and ministry of the Franklin First United Method Church. Robert Bowman, Historian)

uniting and guiding African American Methodists during a period of racial intolerance and segregation. He gave a featured lecture during the 1898 Miami Valley Chautauqua meeting, which was the third one in the old Franklin Fairgrounds on the west side of Great Miami River across the Lions Bridge.

In 1880, the lot at Third and Front (River) streets was purchased by the church. In 1881 a stable, outhouse and parsonage were constructed. This house would serve as the residence and office for the Franklin's ministers and their families until 1975 when a new "modern" parsonage located on Morgan Court in Franklin was purchased and this property sold.



Fig. 2. The Former 19th Century Methodist Parsonage (Photo from March 2023)

Because music traditionally plays a major role in Methodist worship services, the early Franklin Methodist church probably formed its first choirs that were likely ac-

companied with a reed or pump organ or perhaps a piano by the time that the third church was built in 1860. Singing with or without accompaniment was a Methodist practice since the days of the circuit riders, who always carried a small hymnal along with the Bible and Methodist Book of Discipline. With much celebration, the Franklin church installed a large pipe organ in 1894 after the congregation had authorized its purchase. The original cost for purchase and installation of this substantial instrument is not documented; however, it was to have a predominate role during services for over six decades. A 1949 photograph of this organ and contemporary choir members is presented below.



Fig. 3. Easter 1949 with Rev. J. R. Sanforth, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Pipe Organ.

Also, in 1893 Charles Smith presented stained glass designs to replace sanctuary windows on the north and south sides with new cathedral glass memorial windows. In December 1894 a newspaper ad offered a reward for information regarding a person who cut a jewel from the window, and the trustees made plans for better protection in the future.

A booklet was created in 2018 by Tami Chamberlain, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, and Bob Bowman providing background information along with images of these Memorial stained-glass windows and biographies of individuals named in the panels. This booklet is available in the FFUMC church office or by emailing me (rcbjr1967@gmail.com) for a digital version.

Get Them Talking: Connected

Scripture

“So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.” [1 Thessalonians 5:11, CEB](#)

Reflection

All of our devices—tablets, phones, gaming systems, computers—need good connections to work best. Sometimes those connections are wired, and we can see the connection. Other times the connections are invisible—WiFi, Bluetooth and more. When the connections fail, the device simply doesn't function well.

The Bible tells us it is best when people have good connections too. We all need people in our lives who encourage us and build us up. Some of those connections are obvious and visible, like our family members. Others may be a bit harder to see, like our connections to those who live far away, but they are just as important.

As we have benefited from the encouragement of others, we should be people who build others up.

Get them talking

- What's the worst part of losing electricity during a storm or other outage?
- One of your connections may be a best friend. Why is that person your best friend, your closest connection?
- Is there someone who you don't see often (maybe they live far away) who you feel connected to?
- The Bible tells us to encourage each other and build each other up. Who does that for you?
- Who can you encourage and build up?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for connecting me to people who build me up. Amen.

Activity

Do a family encouragement circle. Have each person take a turn being quiet while the others each say one thing they appreciate about her/him.



Get Them Talking: Discussion starters for families

Each month, we provide a scripture, reflection, prayer, activity and some starter questions to help families initiate conversations about faith issues. For more on the series visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/get-them-talking-discussion-starters-for-families>

Faith Seekers Sundays 9:15 am



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings.

All are invited!

Birthdays

April 04	Kim	Chewning
April 04	Trisha	Dicken
April 12	Greg	Trout
April 17	Kailey	Chilcutt
April 17	Margaret	Taylor
April 20	Patti	Noland
April 30	Marg	Farmer

Anniversaries

April 02	James & Susie	Mears
April 07	Joe & Marty	Wright
April 13	Lisa & Rick	Dillon
April 15	Kaylee Bishop & Nathan	Glossip Wedding Day
April 29	Jennifer & Matthew	Schramm

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.

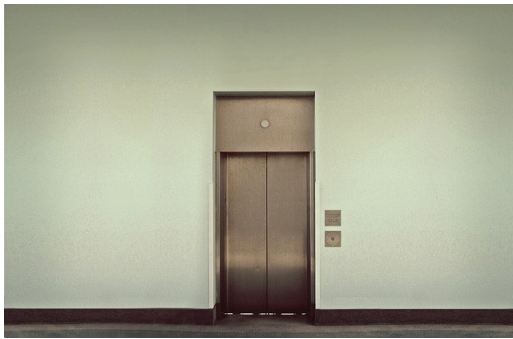
franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54



Sunday Worship

If you are interested in helping with Sunday Worship as an usher or greeter, please contact the [office](#).

Easter: a breaking out, a triumph over fears and insecurities. Want to understand how that is possible?



If you've even been stalled in a crowded elevator, you know how uncomfortable that is. If you've ever been crushed in the crowd in a stadium, you know that it can be a bit scary. If you've ever been trapped in a New York City subway in a brownout, and gotten stuck underground — particularly on a busy Friday evening — you know that either panic or despair can quickly set in.

A lot of people suffer from claustrophobia to one degree or another. The word is from the *claustrum* ("a shut-in place") and Greek *phobos* ("fear"). It is the fear of having no escape and being closed in — especially in a small, confined space.

I've heard many people say that they have felt trapped in a dead-end job, a failing marriage or a house they can't afford. A lot of people feel trapped by circumstances. Some feel trapped by physical limitations, like illness or disability. Some feel limited by physical appearance, age or a lack of education. Most of us feel somewhat limited, trapped or as if we have obstacles that we cannot overcome. Some people feel trapped by grief, anger or regret. All these things leave us feeling limited. They hold us back. They make us feel powerless.

Easter reminds us of the beginning of something new, of a fresh start, of a time to triumph over our fears and insecurities. Easter offers a time to focus on the possibilities of life, rather than what we perceive as limitations. It is a time to trust that God through Christ has removed the barriers that hold us back, that keep us in fear or that close our hearts and minds.

It is the dawning of a new day, of a new life. The stone sealing Jesus' tomb was rolled away. Similarly, all that stands in our way — all that holds us back — is gone. The Easter story shows us that so much more is possible than what we allow ourselves to see. The Easter story empowers us, and we empower others to live fully into the vision of life that God has for us.

What do you want to do differently today? Do you want a more peaceful, loving relationship? What do you have to do to make that happen? Do you want better grades in school? Do you want to get out of debt or start to

save for retirement? Do you want to make new friends or go out more? Do you want to give more of your time to make the world a better place? Do you want to tutor a child or become a foster parent or adopt an animal companion or feed the hungry? What do you want your life to look like from today on?

God has moved the rock away from the tomb. God has shown us through Christ that nothing is impossible. God has granted us freedom to live an unimaginable life, to live with joy and hope, to redefine relationships and how we see them, to let the lives of those people who have loved us and enriched our lives continue to shine out into the world. In the Resurrection story we are reminded that each new day brings with it new possibilities.

What if we took the rolling away of the stone of the tomb seriously? Could we end war? Could we end poverty? What could we accomplish for the good of our families, our communities and the world if we took seriously the Resurrection message that anything is possible, even to triumph over death? If we lived with that sort of confidence, what might we do? If we believed in ourselves and in God's love and promise with real passion rather than just an intellectual assent to the idea of what it means to follow Christ, what could we do with our lives?

What would a life without limits really look like? When we only see the obstacles in our lives, when we focus on the negative, what miracles do we miss? What opportunities do we forego?

The Resurrection story reminds us that it matters not where you've been or where you are today. It matters not if you are old or young, married or single, gay or straight, rich or poor, well-educated or barely educated. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate that through Christ, the rock has been rolled away, the obstacles have been removed, life as we know and understand it has been turned on its head, everything has changed, and nothing — not even death — stands in our way.



HAPPY
EASTER

Taken from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/easter-and-limitless-possibilities>



Women's Circle Hanging Basket Sale

Basket Pick Up: May 12 or 13th

Orders Due: April 17th

12" Blooming Hanging Baskets - \$25 each

Begonia- Shade/Sun

Dragon Wing (Red)



Scaevola- Full Sun

Lavender



Calibrachoa- Full/Part Sun

Blue

Pink

Red

Yellow

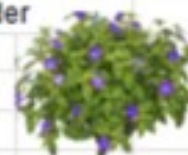
Mixed (3 colors per basket)

Lavender



Streptocarpella- Shade

Lavender



Ivy Geraniums (Vining)- Full/Part Sun

Red/white

Lavender

Pink

Red



New Guinea Impatiens- Full/Part Sun

Lavender

Hot Pink

Purple

Red

White

Orange



12" Mixed Flowering Baskets

*Combination of 3 different complementing plants.

Mixed Flowering



Petunia Basket- Full Sun

Blue

Lavender

Pink

Red

Purple w/white eye



11" Boston Fern Basket

Boston Fern



11" Foliage Baskets

Bridal Veil

Swedish Ivy

Spider Plant

Sprengerii

Wandering Jew

(Purple Varigated)

Zonal Geraniums (Upright)- Sun

Pink

Purple

Red

Salmon



Email:

Name:

Phone:

To order online: visit our website or [click here.](#)

Franklin First United Methodist Church

2023 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
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 Chairs	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	
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator	
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Mike Smith)

Terms expiring 2023:	Julie Abell, Judy Parker, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland
Terms expiring 2025:	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2023:	Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Mike Smith, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2023:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

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

Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

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	Mike Smith
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

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:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

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

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

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

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

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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

Communication Team: Mike & Carol Runyan, Linda & Mike Smith, Pastor Laura Saunders, Theresa Fultz

Upcoming Events

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

April 2	Holy Week Begins Palm Sunday	10:45 am
	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Making a Daily Connection with God	5—6:30 pm
April 6	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
April 7	Good Friday	6:30 pm
April 9	Easter Sunday	10:45 am
April 16	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Developing Deeper Spiritual Relationships	5-6:30 pm
April 28	Franklin Food Truck Park Fun	
April 30	Deep Dive Discipleship Session Vibrant Worship	5-6:30 pm
May 21	Music Sunday	10:45 am

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

