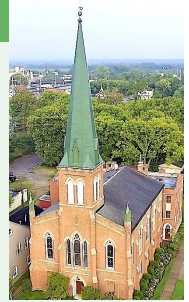




The Steeple Bell—April 2024

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"




An Easter People

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you..." 1 Peter 1:3-4.

"Our Sunday evening Bible Study group recently finished a series on experiencing doubt and finding faith. The curriculum was written by Rev. Adam Hamilton and was very worthwhile.

One of my professors in seminary regularly made the comment, "Doubt is not the opposite of faith, apathy is the opposite of faith." Every believing Christian experiences doubt at various times in their faith journey. Perhaps it comes after the death of a loved one, in the midst of a difficult illness, or during a loss such as the elimination of a job or the result of a natural disaster. These types of events cause us to ask difficult questions, many of which begin with, "Why...?" They also challenge what we have been taught or the assumptions that we carry with us.

If Christians experience doubts and questions go unanswered, what good is faith? That is a valid question in our broken world where there is so much suffering and evil often seems to prevail. The answer is Easter.

We have just come through Holy Week culminating in the Easter celebration. Good Friday ends on a dark note with the crucifixion of Jesus, but Good Friday is not the end of the story. God's full redeeming work was completed with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The risen Jesus had victory over suffering and death. What's more...through faith in Jesus' death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, we are also recipients of God's promises. Death does not have the final say - for Jesus or for us.

Hope is the difference that faith makes. Faith tells us that God is Perfect Love, that God is for us, and that God is with us. God is not some terrible avenger waiting to smite us down. Read Romans 8:28. This verse of scripture tells us that God is always working for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. God's work is not always immediately evident, but we can trust that God's will for us is perfect.

With that level of trust, every day is a little Easter. God redeems our lives, gives us victory in the face of hardships, and loves us unconditionally. What are you facing today, friend? Breath deeply and breath in God's love and grace. Breath out anxiety and fear. For God is surely with you.

Pastor Laura



“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 subtypes. Each person has a distinct set of strengths and challenges.

Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status. The Autism Spectrum refers to a range of characteristics. Autistic individuals are mainly characterized by unique social interactions, non-standard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, an inclination for routines, challenges in typical communications, and particular ways of processing sensory information.

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. Consistency is important.
- ◆ Make time for fun.
- ◆ Support not just the autistic person, but their loved ones as well.



Baby Care Item Drive

Help Stock The Panty's Shelves This Spring! Our Mission Team is hosting a baby item drive for The Pantry throughout April and May. They need diapers, wipes, baby shampoo & lotions to care for the littlest members of our community. Your donations can make a big difference!



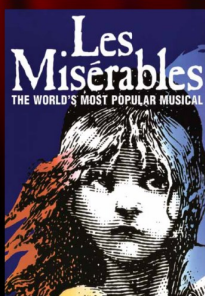
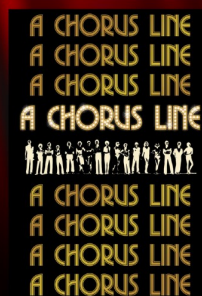
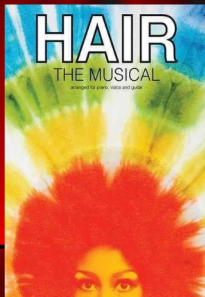
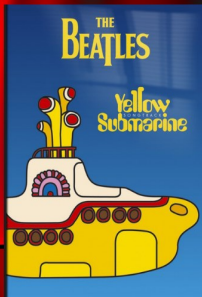
Angel Shop

Since January, the Angel Shop formal attire boutique has been open on Sundays for students wanting to dress their best for Prom. Director Jenny Chilcutt continues to receive donations of women's and men's attire, along with many pairs of shoes and jewelry. The Angel Shop remains set up on the south side of the entryway and is festive and inviting. Word is continuing to spread about this ministry, and each week new teens have come to select their party clothes.



FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BROADWAY HITS CONCERT



FEATURING
**ASPENLEITER
HANDBELL CHOIR**

ALSO PERFORMING:
**CHANCEL CHOIR &
WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 28, 2024**

3:00 PM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING CONCERT

UNDER THE
GREEN STEEPLE AT
303 S. MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH

WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG



DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO BENEFIT THE FHS MUSIC & DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Celebration of Music: Broadway Hits Concert

Calling all music lovers! Mark your calendars for an afternoon of unforgettable melodies at the Broadway Hits Concert on **Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 PM.**

This special event features the enchanting sounds of the Aspenleiter Handbell Choir, the harmonious voices of our chancel choir and women's ensemble, along with special guest performances. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken up to benefit the Franklin High School Arts program. Refreshments will follow the concert.

Be a Part of the Excitement!

Help us spread the word! Pick up flyers to display in your community or workplace, and share our event on social media.

This is more than just a concert; it's a celebration of music that will touch your heart and leave you wanting more.

Spread the word, bring a friend, and let's fill the house with music!



Anthony Wayne Tutoring

March 21 was our final tutoring session with Anthony Wayne second graders. Ten 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 party, games organized by Jenny Chilcutt, 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. These second graders will age out of our tutoring program for the coming school year. It has been wonderful to work with these kids the last two years.





School Ministries for the Next School Year

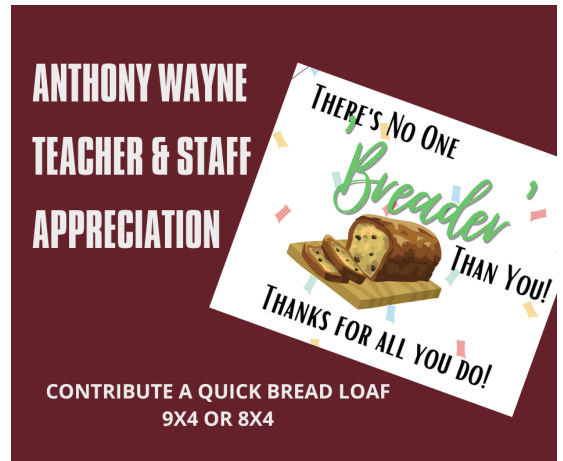
Franklin First has worked with Anthony Wayne in our elementary outreach programs for the past decade. Anthony Wayne is expected to close after the completion of this school year, and current thought is that students will be redistributed throughout the district for the next school year.

Our church will continue to work with Franklin schools; but the when, where, and what of these ministries is up in the air at this time as the school system decides its course of action for the upcoming year. We will be patient and work with school administrators to determine our best fit for the future.

Ministry volunteers, we appreciate your intent to keep blessing our students and their families. We also appreciate your flexibility as we wait for details to be worked out. Franklin First loves our community, and we will be a force for good however needed.

Anthony Wayne Teacher & Staff Appreciation

May is a time for showing appreciation, and Franklin First UMC wants to let our Anthony Wayne teachers and staff know how much we value them. Those in the education field work tirelessly to educate and equip our children. **Our church will again be baking full size quick breads to share with staff. Please bring your contributions in between May 13 – 15.** Let's give our educators and support staff a bit of love.



Join Our VBS Adventure: Volunteer!

It is time to plan for our summer VBS program once again. This year's director is Rhonda Roberson, and she is seeking volunteers to help run "Exploring God's World," a curriculum that encourages our kids to appreciate the beauty of God's creation. **VBS dates are July 16-18, and we will hold an introductory meeting on Tuesday April 9 at 6:30 pm.** Franklin First has had dedicated VBS staff throughout the years, and we are looking forward to Rhonda's leadership and your participation once again. If you intend to help but cannot make this meeting, please let Rhonda or Pastor Laura know of your intent and your preferred position. *Invite your young family and friends, asking them to reserve these VBS days on their family calendars.*



New Franklin High School Presents Mamma Mia!

Franklin High School Drama Club presents Mamma Mia! Show dates: April 19 & 20 (7 p.m.) and 21 (2 p.m.). All performances will be in the McDade Auditorium, 750 E. 4th St. Tickets are available now at <https://fhsdrama.booktix.net/> They'll also be available at the door (but expect long lines.)

Several adult members of our church family are involved with the production, and the church will be serving a meal for the cast, stage crew, and orchestra on opening night.

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make Mamma Mia! a guaranteed smash hit for any theatre. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget! MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BENNY ANDERSSON, BJÖRN ULVAEUS, AND SOME SONGS WITH STIG ANDERSON

MAMMA MIA! Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com.



men



Upcoming FHS Dinner for Mamma Mia Cast & Crew

April 19-21, Franklin High School students will be putting on the spring musical with Jeff Sams directing and others from Franklin First providing support. A possible 100 guests are expected. Franklin First UMC will be hosting a dinner at

3:00 on April 19 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 dishwashing, food donation, 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!



Men's Group

All men are invited to the monthly meeting of Franklin's Men's Group on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm. Grow in faith and in service to others with Christian brothers. The next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 14th**

April 2024 at Franklin First

Missions Team begins to collect baby care items
Hanging Flower Basket Sale

- 2 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 3 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 3 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 4 Women's Circle Meeting; 6:30 pm

- 8 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 8 Vacation Bible School, 6:30 pm
- 10 Finance Committee; 2:30 pm (if needed)
- 10 Snack Pack Packing; 3:00 pm
- 10 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 10 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm

- 14 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 16 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

- 17 Hanging Basket Orders Due
- 17 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 17 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 17 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 19 FHS Drama Student Dinner, 3 pm
- 19 Wedding Rehearsal
- 19 Wedding

- 23 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 24 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 24 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 24 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm

- 28 Broadway Hits Concert, 3 pm
- 30 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

March 29—April 5 Franklin Community Schools
Break

How many Methodists are needed to assemble a file cabinet?

It seems this duo is being tested by the task! 😊

And how many members does it take to make Franklin First extraordinary?

Every single one! We're genuinely grateful for each person who steps up to assist, no matter the complexity of the issue.

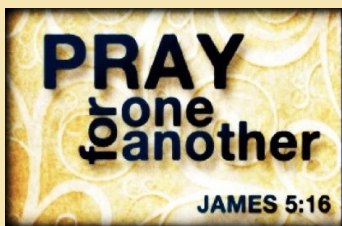
It's the individuals who embody their faith and emulate Jesus that truly make Franklin First remarkable.

Birthdays

- April 4 Kim Chewning
- April 04 Trisha Dicken
- April 12 Greg Trout
- April 17 Margaret Taylor
- April 17 Kailey Chilcutt
- April 20 Patti Noland

Anniversaries

- April 07 Joe & Marty Wright
- April 13 Lisa & Rick Dillon
- April 15 Kaylee & Nathan Glossip
- April 29 Jennifer & Matt 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

Love Offering to Celebrate the Palmers' Lifetime of Ministry

The West Ohio Conference invites friends, colleagues, and church members to contribute to a personal monetary gift for Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer in celebration of their service to our conference and The United Methodist Church.

“Bishop and Mrs. Palmer have faithfully served the West Ohio Conference for the last 12 years, but their ministry extends far beyond their time in Ohio to previous Episcopal appointments in the Iowa and Illinois Great Rivers Conferences, as well as local churches in East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, and North Carolina,” said Rev. Linda Middelberg, Assistant to Bishop Palmer. “As they begin their retirement in Charlotte, NC, to be near their children, we want to send them with a token of appreciation, our love, and thanks from those whose lives they have touched.”



Bishop Palmer is the longest-tenured active Bishop currently serving The United Methodist Church. The Palmers will be presented with the gift at the West Ohio Annual Conference in June 2024. Financial contributions may be made online at the link below or by sending a check made payable to West Ohio Conference c/o the Foundation (UMFWO), 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 with "Palmers Gift Fund" in the memo line. [Click here to give online](#)

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.



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.

KROGER

COMMUNITY REWARDS:

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 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>

Looking Ahead:

Volunteer Recognition Sunday

The church could not function without faithful volunteers, and we will be honoring those who give their time and talents in service to God on Sunday, May 5 during our regular worship service at 10:45. **We also want to include volunteers from outside our church fellowship. So, if you worked with someone in any of our ministries who gives of their time but are not Franklin First attendees, please invite them to join us on May 5.** Please let Pastor Laura know to expect these guests.



Trial of Jesus — Thank You!

During Lent and culminating on Easter Sunday, Jeff Sams and I presented the “Trial of Jesus” series in drama format. I want to thank Jeff for offering his drama arts skills to make these messages meaningful. I also appreciate Brian Graves’ willingness to portray Pontius Pilate in Jeff’s absence. You gentlemen are awesome! Pastor Laura

General Conference

General Conference is the top ruling body in the structure of the United Methodist Church. All major changes must be passed through legislation coming through this group. Our next General Conference will take place from April 23 – May 3 in Charlotte, NC. Delegates for this conference were chosen by vote by each Annual Conference.

The top issue before the Annual Conference is the denomination’s stance regarding human sexuality. All legislation has been submitted by this date and will come before various committees for consideration. Any changes in wording to The United Methodist Book of Discipline or other governing documents must be approved during this time.

Please join me in praying that God’s will is done for the United Methodist Church. Let us not forget that our primary mission is “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” You will be able to live-stream and/or receive updates on the conference. I will share information on how to do this as it is released for publication.

Pastor Laura



Hanging Basket Sale

The Women's Circle is once again selling Hanging Flower Baskets for \$25. Orders are Due by Monday, April 17th. Pick Up Times to TBD but sometime on May 12th and/or May 13th. Order forms available at the office or order online at: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/aa0a8c14> Contact the office or Monica Rhude with questions.



Women's Circle

Next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 4th at 6:30 pm** Bring a sandwich and join us for some fellowship.

How to instill faith in children



Every day presents teachable moments.



Engage all five senses.

Allow kids to have their own experiences.



Take time to wonder.

Being present is a spiritual act.



Authenticity rules!



Be a faith storyteller.



 COMMUNICATIONS
United Methodist Communications
umc.org

How to Instill Faith In Children

Helping kids learn about God may seem daunting. The good news is that a theology degree isn't required and it has less to do with words than with actions. Check out these tips from United Methodist children ministry leaders for how to make faith real in the lives of the kids we love.

Every day presents teachable moments

"Every moment of every day is a teachable moment and that doesn't stop with your faith," says Aimee Cox, director of children's ministry at [Christ United Methodist Church](#).

Sitting around the table at mealtime, taking a walk, snuggling at bedtime are ideal holy moments, says Melinda Shunk, the Arkansas Conference's children's ministry coordinator. "Adults can take these routine opportunities to tell children that you thank God for them or for the time you're spending together.

"It's a blessing to that child to hear those words washed over them," Shunk points out.

Engage all five senses

Asking children what they see, what they smell, what they hear in the world helps them experience God's creation in a variety of ways, Cox says.

Employing this tip isn't just for nature walks or outside settings, Cox clari-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

fies, suggesting the same questions can be asked following all activities, including church.

Allow kids to have their own experiences

Sometimes, parents fear how their child may react to a Bible story. Leaders suggest we share the story anyway without editing and introducing personal biases.

“Children take it in and they understand what they understand for their age,” explains Cox. “Let them ask questions.”

Read the stories together, followed by a discussion.

“You don’t have to be an expert in understanding the Bible,” Cox points out. “Ask questions, such as ‘What do you hear? What words spoke to you?’”

Take time to wonder

“I think the greatest gift our kids give to us is the curiosity they bring to the table,” McRay shares. “The wondering about how God works in our world creates more biblically literate children and creates lifelong lovers of Jesus.”

Build a spiritual library as a way to nurture wonder and create a space for discovery, McRay says, offering that books by the likes of Matthew Paul Turner, Fred Rogers and music by Rain for Roots are good starting places. The Deep Blue Bible Storybook, which McRay wrote as senior editor of children’s resources at The United Methodist Publishing House, was developed specifically to engage conversations.

Being present is a spiritual act

“Showing up, being there and listening to your child is the cornerstone of faith,” McRay says. She explains that numerous studies indicate the understanding of God, ourselves and the world comes down to five foundational relationships in a child’s life.

“Particularly the adults who love you when you are really small set you up for who God is,” she tells us.

Authenticity rules!

Admitting you don’t know the answer or that you messed up is OK too. “Being authentic is really key, because our kids see through the (façade),” McRay explains. “I want to model what it means to be a believer, but we have to remind ourselves that life is hard and we are going to struggle.”

Be a faith storyteller

Children love a good story, particularly when someone they love is the main character.

“Tell stories about when you were a child, what you thought about God, how you first came to your faith,” Shunk suggests. Grandparents, especially, make excellent faith storytellers because they have the time and experiences to share those stories.

“Just like the Bible teaches us about God’s people from long ago, our faith stories from long ago are valuable to children,” Shunk suggests. “Being a faith storyteller makes faith come alive and weaves into your family’s faith story.”

Pro tip: “Save the stories about their parents as children for tweens,” Shunk says. “Those stories are going to be so valuable and so fun.”

Crystal Caviness works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Adapted from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/tips-for-instilling-faith-in-children>



**FREE
MEDICAL CLINIC
Tuesdays
5:30 - 6:30 pm**

To Benefit the Uninsured or Underinsured

Franklin First United Methodist Church
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WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG



No One is Immune to Doubt, Not Even Jesus

by Joseph Yoo

We Christians in the United States can be obsessed with finding and providing answers to any and all questions about faith and God and life.

Maybe it's a reflection of our education system that uses standardized and aptitude testing to gauge how much one has learned. At times, school just taught me how to cram for an exam and regurgitate the right answer for the next text. I can't really tell you what I learned in seminary, just that I kept my GPA requirements for the scholarship.

I think — I *feel* — that we lost the art of living with the questions; living with tension of the unknown, uncertain, and unanswerable.

We're quick to provide an answer even if the answer may be wrong or harmful. Consider a grieving parent asking, "Why would God take my child?" And someone, with good intentions, responds with, "Don't worry. Your child's death was all part of God's plan" or "You know, God couldn't wait to be with your child in heaven, that's why God took him through this trage-

dy." These are answers that are dismissive of the question.

I grew up in this type of church context where questions weren't welcome. Because questions can be dangerous. Questions can lead you to doubt. And doubt was the enemy — the antithesis — of faith.



Is doubt the antithesis of belief? Or is it a path towards belief?

The importance of questioning

Looking back, I wish the Sunday school teachers and the youth pastors of my life were more willing to struggle and wrestle with scripture, doubt and faith along with me. I wish someone would've said, "You know, that's a

good question. Let's walk with it together." Instead, I felt shamed for the (quite often, legitimate) questions I had.

"You always have these dangerous and unnecessary questions." Or, "You're not praying enough, that's why you have doubt." Or, "Just read the Bible more." Or. "Have more faith."

(Side note: I never understood that. Do I clench my fist and wish with all my might that my faith will just *poof* get bigger? Is there an incantation to recite? How does one have more faith when they feel they are lacking it? Mind over matter?)

Praying harder or praying more doesn't help the questions or the doubt go away. The questions only get louder. And so does the sense of shame and the

(Continued on page 13)



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. All are invited!

(Continued from page 12)

thought of being unfaithful, ungrateful, and just generally a bad Christian.

It wasn't until fairly late in my twenties when I learned that doubt isn't the enemy of faith. Nor is it the antithesis of faith. Doubt doesn't always lead one away from faith.

Did the disciples' numerous accounts of doubt lead them away from faith? Ultimately, no. Did Thomas's doubt of Jesus' resurrection led him away from faith? Did Jesus' doubt of God's plan lead him away from his calling?

We need to stop thinking (and teaching) that doubt is the enemy of faith. The true enemy of faith; the true antithesis of faith isn't doubt. It's fear.

Fear is the bigger thing that gets in the way of faith and of love. It's often fear that leads us to be obsessed with having answers to all of life's difficult questions. And because of the fear of the unknown; the uncertain; the unanswerable I feel that American Christians have lost the art of asking questions. We're more prone to regurgitate answers than ask questions.

Answering through questions

A rabbi friend once told me that rabbis gauge how much their students know not by the answers they give, but by the questions that they ask. He said that in the early days, a rabbi would ask a question and the student, instead of giving an answer like we are taught to do, would ask a question to that question. And the rabbi would respond with a question.

We see this reflected in Jesus' ministry. Someone would ask him, "What is the greatest commandment?" And Jesus would respond, "What do you say is the greatest commandment?"

That's why I always encourage people to ask questions

about everything--*especially* when it comes to faith and the Bible. But also learn to live in the tension of not knowing the answer and being okay with maybe not ever knowing the answer. Living in the mystery is part of faith.

If one had *all* the answers, why would one need faith? I frequently have questions and still wrestle with doubt about faith and life.

Don't be fooled. No one is immune to doubt.

If *Jesus* wasn't immune to doubt, how could we possible be? I'd sure like meet the person who claims their faith is stronger than Jesus'.

Remember. Doubt is not the opposite of faith.

I do believe I have come to a point where I no longer doubt God's existence and presence nor do I doubt my calling (how that calling is expressed in my life, I still wrestle with on a too frequent of a basis). But I question and I doubt in love; in knowing that I am loved.

That my questions won't scare away God nor scare my loved ones away. That my doubting won't lead people to shame me for the perception of a 'lack of faith.' The trust I have in knowing that I am loved helps me to not be afraid, which helps me to feel grounded and safe to wrestle with the questions.

So ask questions. Wrestle with doubt. Know that God is with you. Know that you are loved.

And be okay with admitting that you don't have all the answers.

Joseph Yoo is a West Coaster at heart contently living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mo-saic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at josephyoo.com.

Taken from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/no-one-is-immune-to-doubt-not-even-jesus>

Franklin First United Methodist Church 2024 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	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	To Be Determined
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	TBD
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: Mike Smith
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland
Terms expiring 2025	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2026	Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2026:	Gary Ogden, Joe Chamberlain, Joe Wright

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Mike Smith, Lay Leader
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2026:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson

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:	Mike Smith
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
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Member at Large (Term: 2023-24)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Ken Smith
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, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
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: Joe Wright (Adult) Rhonda Roberson (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Joe Wright, 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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 28 | Broadway Hits Concert |
| May 5 | Volunteer Recognition Sunday |
| May 12 | Mother's Day |
| May 19 | Music Sunday |
| May 27 | Memorial Day |
| June 2 | Graduation Sunday |
| June 16 | Father's Day |

Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, OH 45005

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E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

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