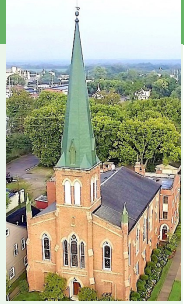




The Steeple Bell— August 2023

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"



MELTDOWN

We were in the grocery store and my toddler was having a meltdown. He did not want to sit in the cart but instead wanted to run the aisles. In fact, he did not want to be in the store at all! He was throwing a fit, his face was red, and he had tears running down his cheeks. He would not be calmed down by any means known to parenthood. I was frustrated, embarrassed, and ready to leave the store and forget the whole trip. Ever been there?

Meltdowns! They are not limited to toddlers, are they? Have you ever found yourself in the red-faced, tantrum mode of being? Perhaps with a family member, maybe at work, or even with a total stranger? The situation is unbearable, out of the question, over the top unforgivable.

I was sitting in a crowded holiday parking lot waiting for a car to pull out of a parking spot. Before I could pull into the vacated slot, another car whipped into the space. I saw red and responded out of a road-rage attitude. Not one of my better moments.

Ever had a meltdown with God? We are going to spend the Sundays in August during the dogdays of summer looking at Bible characters who had meltdowns. Each in their own way was resisting God in some fashion and they were challenged for their behavior.

- God asked Moses to return to Egypt and confront Pharaoh, but Moses didn't want to go.
- Balaam was summoned by King Balak, but God told him not to go. He went anyway.
- The Prophet Elijah had successfully defeated the priests of Baal, yet he cowered when his life was threatened by Queen Jezebel.
- King Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of Babylon and contemporary of the Prophet Daniel, took personal credit for the rise of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was stricken with insanity in accordance with a dream that he had had, and Daniel had interpreted.

It is common to find ourselves struggling when we are resisting God in some way because we are operating outside of God's will. God uses some extraordinary means to empower us to align with his plan. Working with God is always better than working against God.

Pastor Laura



National Night Out—August 1st

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday August 1 at the Franklin Community Park on 6th Street from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Franklin First will have a booth and will be greeting neighbors, sharing information, and will hold a drawing for free backpacks loaded with school supplies. By all means, stop by and say hello if you are attending the event. Let’s support our Police Department! They work steadily to ensure our safety.



POLICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Grandparents Sunday September 10th Worship - 10:45 am



Celebrating the special grandparent(s) or older person in children's lives!



Invite your grandparent or special older person to Worship

Save the Date! Grandparent’s Sunday— September 10th

We will be offering a special worship service to honor the grandparents among us and remember those grandparents who are part of our heritage. Grandparents, invite your grandchildren. Grandchildren, bring your grandparents or honorary grands. The service will be kid-friendly, and our children will remain in the sanctuary.

Worship in the Park Re-Cap

July 16th worship at Franklin Community Park was a good day. The shelter house was shaded and comfortably handled our group. The weather was pleasant. Mishelle Dicken and Chrissie Womack led our singing, and the message was about God’s invitation to everyone to his “Big Banquet.” Connie Bolinger and Andy Anderson were our grill masters and of course we had enough delicious food for an army. Everyone appreciated the fresh air and shade. The kids loved the brand-new playground equipment. Worship need not be tied to a set of church walls.



Stewardship Thank You!

Friends, we are coming through the summer months continuing our ministries in the community. As always, we so appreciate your generosity in supporting the church. Your consistent financial giving is so needed during these times of vacations and warm weather activities. This is just a reminder that you can give online, through the mail, or in person. This is a generous congregation, and we thank you.



Backpack Sunday — August 6th

Backpack Sunday is coming on August 6 during our 10:45 worship service. We will pray blessings for school staff and students as they prepare to return to classrooms. We will also be giving away the school supplies that we have collected. As we've learned in

recent years, the return to school brings not only educational challenges, but health and safety concerns as well. Invite school staff and students to join us August 6 for their time of recognition.



Free Medical Clinic

Franklin First's Free Medical Clinic operates weekly on Tuesday evenings. Registration runs from 5:30-6:30, and patients are seen on a first come, first served basis. We are targeting the uninsured and underinsured; and have treated infections, diabetes, and those in need of medical equipment – among other things. The clinic is manned by Dr. Chamberlain and volunteer nurses and support staff. Please continue to spread the word that this resource is available. We like to see new patients connect with us.



Save the Date! Homecoming Sunday September 24th

This year's Homecoming Sunday will be a special celebration of 225 years of ministry in the Franklin Community. Our service will include wonderful music and a message from Rev. Jenn Lucas, our District Superintendent. There will be a complimentary catered meal following the service. Watch for more details to come.



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

To Benefit the Uninsured or Underinsured

Franklin First United Methodist Church
 303 South Main St.
 Franklin, OH
 937-746-5232
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG





Anthony Wayne Tutoring— To Begin September 7th

Principal Jim Rhoades has created the schedule for Franklin First's Tutoring Program with Anthony Wayne Elementary students. The fall session will run from September 7 through November 16 (no tutoring on November 2). The winter session will run from January 11 through March 17 (no tutoring on February 15). We are again recruiting tutors to work on reading skills with early elementary students identified by the school as in need of help. The reading teacher from Anthony Wayne provides the curriculum.

The program meets weekly on Thursdays from 3:15 until approximately 4:30 (or when your assigned student has been picked up). If you are not available for every week, we have subs who can fill in – or you can volunteer as a substitute. You can also sign up for just one of the semesters. Tutors are especially needed for the winter months. All tutors must have had a background check, and we will provide that if you need one.

The schedule during tutoring operates as follows:

3:10-3:30	Gym time with Pastor Laura
3:30-3:45	Snack time with Sally Fitzgerald
3:45-4:30	Tutoring time
4:30	Pickup time

Tutoring is a great way to bless a child, helping them to achieve their very best. Students and tutors often form a great bond of friendship. Talk to Linda Smith, Karen Anderson, or Pastor Laura to sign up or with questions.



Weekend Snack Pack Program

Many of our local families struggle with food insecurity and rely on school meals to help with their children's nutrition. The snack pack program provides shelf-stable snacks to help families through those days without school meals. The

bags are packed on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 1:30 in the Mission Room on the third floor. The school picks them up on Thursday for student distribution on Friday. You are welcome to help pack the bags, and donations to the program are always appreciated.

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.

<https://g.page/r/CejiXokui9PHEB0/review>



Congratulations Peggy!

Peggy Darragh-Jeromos was awarded Franklin’s Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony on July 19. She recently retired as Executive Director of the Chamber and has worked in many community causes throughout the years. Peggy stated that she intends to continue to volunteer in many community-benefitting roles, and that she is walking in the footsteps of her mother -

also a dedicated Franklin advocate. Thanks Peggy for all of your work.



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/member-resources-%26-giving>

Chamber Recognizes Franklin First

The Ron Diver Friend of Education Award was presented to Franklin First UMC at the year-end Franklin Chamber of Commerce meeting on July 19. The church was chosen for this accolade for the work that we do in the Franklin City Schools. We were recognized for our weekend Snack Pack Program, literacy tutoring with Anthony Wayne Elementary students, paying for school lunches for graduating Seniors who had not been able to settle their bill before graduation, and for the support that we offer to the staff at Anthony Wayne. We are grateful for the acknowledgement of our outreach ministries.



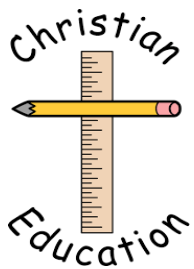

2023 Ron Diver Friend of Education Award
Franklin First United Methodist Church

The Ron Diver Friend of Education Award was instituted in 2022 and recognizes an organization or individual who actively supports public education in the Franklin/Carlisle/Township area. This award is not intended for someone employed by the public schools. Franklin First United Methodist Church Volunteers are being recognized because they have initiated and dedicated a partnership of service to Franklin City Schools. FFUMC Volunteers tutor during school hours, organize and deliver snack packs to help students get through the weekend, cover lunch fees to allow students to walk with their graduating class, and they feed and pamper teachers once a year. This partnership has been a vital part of FCS for both students and teachers. These volunteers help teachers take care of those students who need a little extra TLC to be successful.

Vacation Bible School - Twist & Turns Fun!

What a fun week we had! Children ages 4 through 6th grade participated in a Christ-centered program that brought lessons focusing on Jesus' relationship with the Apostle Peter. We learned that Jesus is with us through the twists and turns of life. The kids enjoyed music, crafts, recreation, snacks, and Bible stories. We wrapped up with a VBS program at worship on July 23. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this VBS so special.





Children's Ministry Update

First I want to thank everyone for all your help, time, talent, and resources in our VBS program this year. It was a really fun program and I believe that both kids and adults really enjoyed themselves.

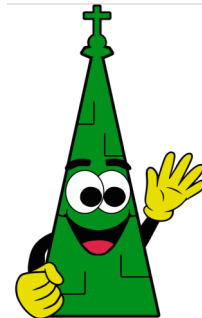
We raised just over \$88 for Heifer International. That donation will be combined with the money raised from the Noisy Bucket that we did around Lent and will be sent over to the organization. We had about 14 kids that attended our program this year and I was pleased to see that a couple were from community services we help with, including tutoring at Anthony Wayne and the Tuesday Medical Clinic.

Second, on Sunday August 6, we will have the blessing of the backpacks. Please have your kids or grandkids bring their backpacks for prayer for a successful school year and an opportunity to get some school supplies.

Starting Sunday August 13, we will be back to our regular schedule for nursery and Children's Church. As always we are looking for volunteers. The curriculum is not difficult to teach. The lessons are laid out so there is minimal prep time. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this opportunity. Ideally we are looking for volunteers to sign up for a couple of Sundays in a row to help with continuity of lessons, but if that is not possible, that is ok. We would just love to have your support in this ministry.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and service.

Chrissie Womack



Children's Ministry Kick Off

We will be resuming full Children's Ministry programming on Sunday August 13 as Children's Church begins again. Kids will be dismissed after the Children's Moment during worship.

We applaud those who have signed up for Nursery or Children's Church ministry, and encourage others to take turns in this crucial training of our precious children. Talk to Chrissie Womack or Pastor Laura.

Missions & Outreach Team Update

Missions/outreach has been busy preparing for National night out on August 1st. at Franklin Community Park. We will have a booth giving out information about FFUMC to the community. We will have a drawing to give away several backpacks filled with school supplies and have games for children and adults.

We are currently collecting school supplies in preparation of Backpack Sunday on August 6th.

We are looking forward to the upcoming school year, and stocking the mission room shelves with items for snack packs.

Look for our Walking Taco table on August 11th the church rummage sale. We will serve from 11:00 to 1:00, all proceeds from the Taco sale will go to support Mission/outreach.

School Supply Collection for Franklin Area Schools

Franklin First is collecting school supplies for our local teachers and students. All supplies will be donated to a student, teacher, or school. Purchase any of the below items and drop off to 303 S. Main St, Franklin.

- Headphones
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils,
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pens - blue, black, red
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- Spiral notebook 1 & 5 - subject
- Folders - with pockets
- Binder - 1.5", 2"
- Composition notebook
- Backpack - no wheels
- Glue sticks 4
- Pencil Box/Pouch
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Binder Tab Dividers

Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

303 South Main St.,
Franklin, OH 45005
www.franklinfirstumc.org

Getting Ready for our Choirs to Return



Rehearsals for our choirs will starting soon on Wednesdays . If you are interested in joining, reach out to Monica, our Music Director or to the office. Mark your calendar for the below rehearsals.

- * Handbell Choir 1st Rehearsal: August 30th, 6:30pm
- * On September 6th and after, the Handbell Choir will meet at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays.
- * Choir 1st Rehearsal: Sept. 6th, 6:30 pm

Birthdays

August 01	Cheryl Krasnonski
August 02	Marisa Humphries
August 02	Dorothy Rayburg
August 03	Marna Rogers
August 03	Linda Smith
August 05	Jim Martin
August 08	Mike Jarvis
August 09	Brian Graves
August 19	Teresa Lass
August 19	Carol Sweney
August 22	Paul Anderson
August 22	Mallory Chilcutt
August 24	Donnie Rogers
August 24	Jennifer Schramm
August 27	Bella Humphries
August 28	Lilly Moore
August 30	Cole Goodpaster

Anniversaries

August 10	Bill & Cindy Kuntzman
August 27	Regina & Ryan Hynes
August 31	Jim & Kathy Martin

Franklin First UMC
GARAGE SALE

August 9 - 12th
9 am - 3pm

303 South Main St.,
 Franklin OH 45005
franklinfirstumc.org

Upcoming Rummage Sale!

The Women's Circle team is busy sorting, pricing, and collection donations for the upcoming sale. Drop off your donation now! Help is needed to work the sale as well as price and sort donations. If you can help, please reach out to Judy or the office. Be sure to stop by to shop as well!

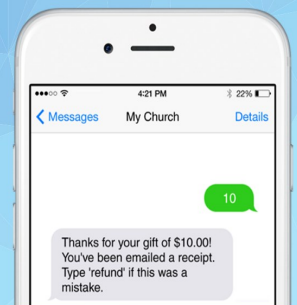
Sunday Worship

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

Franklin First UMC

Text An Amount To:
(937) 582-9009

TEXT TO GIVE



- Text the amount you would like to give.
- If it's your first time, you will receive a link to set up the account with your information.
- After the first time, you will just receive thanks for your gift reply.





The Gift of Endowment

Franklin First will be celebrating 225 years of ministry in the Franklin area in September. Do you imagine that those early Methodist Christian were thinking 225 years ahead when they, through faith, used their time and resources to start our church? The world has changed a lot since then. Friends, we have the opportunity to endow future generations of ministry through gifts to our Permanent Endowment Fund. Whether through estate planning or regular giving, money given to our endowment fund is kept in reserve and the interest generated can be used at the discretion of the Church Council. This type of giving is a wise way to minister to future generations. If you have questions, please contact Ken Smith or Pastor Laura.

The United Methodist Connectional System

Franklin First is part of the connectional United Methodist denomination. What benefit does that bring? A connectional system means that congregations do not stand alone in their ministry but work together to help one another execute their best in their ministry setting. Apportionment dollars fund grants, and our congregation has benefited from a number of grants that have come from United Methodist resources. We are grateful to be part of this connectional system.



Fellowship Sunday
AUGUST 20TH

After Worship in the Dining Room

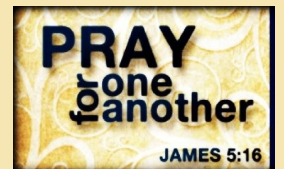
United Methodists: *A Connected Church*



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



A Daughter's Memories:

Facebook Reconnected Us with Rev. Cooper's Daughter

Did you read the last month's edition of the "225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin" in the July Steeple Bell?

Joan Cooper Ashman follows Franklin First on Facebook. As Joan was browsing through the last month's Steeple Bell edition a familiar name caught her eye in the "225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin" article. It was her father, Rev. H. Allen Cooper, who had served as the pastor of Franklin First from June 1953 to June 1957. It was under Rev. Cooper's leadership that the Education Building was constructed, a place that held many fond memories for Joan. She decided to contact the church and share some of her stories.



Rev. Cooper, Joan, & her mother



Joan playing ping-pong

Joan expressed her delight and surprise at seeing her father's name in the article. She recalled how the new building was a magnet for kids of all faiths, who came to play ping pong and shuffleboard after school. She was in the 7th grade then, and she enjoyed joining them in the fun. She also remembered attending dances in the multi-purpose room. She said that she still loved playing ping pong and shuffleboard to this day.

Joan also reminisced about living in the old parsonage, a block away from the church. She described it as a beautiful house, and wondered how it looked like now. She had seen some pictures of it online, and thought it looked even more stunning.

She also shared a sad news: her father had passed away in February of 1958, just eight months after they left Franklin. She said that made her memories of Franklin even more special to her. She wondered if there were any people in the congregation who still remembered her or her parents. She wished she could visit Franklin First, but said that it was unlikely at the moment. She currently lives in Delaware with her husband, but had spent most of her adult life in Maryland.

She ended her letter by thanking us for keeping her father's legacy alive, and for letting her relive some of her happy moments in Franklin. She also shared the photos included in this article. She said she would continue to follow the church on Facebook. Do you remember Joan or her father, Rev. Cooper? If so, reach out to us and share your memories.



Shuffleboard in the room now named the Fellowship Hall

225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin – Part 8 (1973-1998)

This is the eight article commemorating the 225th anniversary of forming the congregation that became the Franklin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC), the period from 1973 through 1998 is described today. 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, irregular services were held by Methodist “circuit-rider” preachers. A full time minister was assigned to Franklin in 1853 and the current church building was constructed in 1860 and remains our Sanctuary until the present time.

During May 1973 the congregation celebrated its 175th anniversary with a week of events and special services as described in last month’s Steeple Bell.

The elevator connecting the basement, second floor rooms, sanctuary, and the upper floor was installed during 1975. Also in that year a new parsonage was purchased on Morgan Court to replace the one built in 1881 with a more modern home. It still remains the residence for Franklin’s UMC pastors and their families.

In the early 1970s, United Methodist Women (UMW) group started making from scratch large batches of noodles to sell at the church’s annual Christmas bazaars. They also held a spring salad luncheon every year. Proceeds from both events went to support the church and its various missions. In 1989 a new Monday evening group for women called The Women’s Circle was started to support various activities that included an Annual Mother-Child banquet each May. Since 1976, FUMC has presented the “Woman of the Year” at the Mother-Child banquet. The first honoree that year was Martha Newcomb.

In 1984 the Aspenleiter Bell Choir was established in honor of Clarence and Dorothy Aspenleiter, the former choir director from 1953 to mid-70s and his wife. This group was formed under the direction of Monica Rhude, who since circa 1986 became the Church’s Di-

rector of Music and choir director. In 1988, Mrs. Wilhelmina McLane Vinnell retired following serving as the church organist after 42 years. Mrs. Nancy Osborne started as the organist in 1988 served faithfully until she retired in 2013. Also in 1988 The United Methodist Men’s group was organized within our church and was active for a number of years until this group disbanded in the mid-2000s.



Fig. 1. Area businessmen enjoying their chicken and noodle lunch during the FUMC Fall Bazaar in October 1984.



Fig. 2. Mary Lucas, Joyce Gabbard, Agnes Etter preparing the noodle dough for the 1987 Fall bazaar.

(Continued on page 12)

(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)

(Continued from page 11)

Starting in 1992 some activities and groups were restarted that had passed by the wayside. From 1992 to 1997 a Vision 2000 group was active and several Shepherding Groups were formed in 1995.



Fig. 3. The Aspenleiter Bell Choir on Easter Sunday 1987.



Fig. 4. Sanctuary decorated for Easter Service in 1987.



Fig. 5. Sanctuary decorated the Christmas services during the 1991 season.

The 200th anniversary of Methodism in Franklin was celebrated with fifteen events starting from a “Bicentennial Rally Day” on September 7, 1997 through the “Bicentennial Service and Dinner” held in September 1998. Holiday events included a Messiah sing-along in December and a New Year’s celebration based on John Wesley’s original covenant service. One notable event was on March 8th when an “Old-Fashioned Dress-Up Day” featuring a Wesley Hymn Fest celebrating Methodism/s Saint Day that was followed by a “traditional” Methodist Carry-in dinner.



Fig. 6. Photograph published in the Franklin Chronicle after the Dress-Up service in March 1998.



Fig. 7. FFUMC award winning Float in the 1998 July 4th Parade. Riders are Rev. Dale Lykens, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Beth Lykins, and Karen Bertels.

FFUMC’s Bicentennial Float entry being given Franklin’s Chairman’s Choice Award at 1998 July 4th Parade was a special highlight.

Franklin First Team Updates

Trustee Update



The following is a list of real expenses, and some possible expenses.

1. Roof over sanctuary . Job completed, except for a couple risers to support ductwork under snow load. \$5000.00 plus cost of risers. Not yet billed.
2. Replacing and fixing storm windows that fell out or were about to fall. Work has started, templates being made for replacement. Balance to be billed upon competition \$1400.00
3. Repair of the plaster walls above the alter. Currently giving the wall time to dry out, will check with a moisture meter before repair. No cost estimate available yet.
4. Parsonage received a check from insurance for \$14,373.00, with a possible bill back of \$3700.00 additional upon competition of the job. We paid \$5000.00 for the cleanup, leaving approximate \$9,373.00 cash on hand. Right now we will get a contract to repair all, of approx \$6000.00, less any flooring. Flooring for the entire area could run between 4-5000.00. That includes moving some furniture, tear out and haul away of remaining carpet, installing new tac strip where needed. In order to bill back insurance, and to receive any of the \$3700.00, we must submit all bills paid in full.
5. We have received a quote to refinish the front doors of the church. They would be finished in place, no removal. The quote is \$1900.00, a savings of approximately \$800.00 over a quote from last year. The higher quote required removal of the doors, boarding up the entry, and we had to deliver and pick up the doors. The person doing the work, suggested this be done sooner than later due somewhat to weathering

of the wood. We plan to take this quote through the approval process, starting with trustees, and ending with church council. Those front entry doors put our best foot forward to the public passing by. Women's Circle has committed some funds toward the front doors. I'm unsure of that figure.

6. The handrail replacement is in the works. Cost of that is being covered totally by Women's Circle. \$1800.00. The sink in the hallway by the pop/ Water cooler is being replaced. New cabinet, counter top, stainless steel sink, high ark faucet, again being covered by Women's Circle. Approximate cost \$550.00

7. lastly, we have never received a final bill from Dayton Door for the 3rd street door replacement. Approximate balance \$2600.00. It has been well over a year since completion , Jim has contacted them with no response. I doubt we will ever be billed, but an accounting review of their books, could generate a bill. I believe Tami still has the funds.

Of course, a building the age we are dealing with, can surprise us with about any unforeseen issue at any time that would require immediate attention.
Mike Runyan

Care Team Update



July 2023 Care Team Report
Cards sent:

Mother's Day cards to shut-ins and widows	11	
Thinking of you and Get well		14
Sympathy		1
Visits made:		4

Note: Judy Deskins has joined the Visitation team. All shut-ins and appropriate prayer concern recipients have been called.
Respectfully submitted,
Lee Saunders, Chairperson

In Luke 17, Jesus lays out some heavy teaching and he ends the lesson with, “Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and return to you seven times and says, ‘I am changing my ways,’ you must forgive that person.”



Flabbergasted at this teaching, the disciples pleaded with Jesus, “Increase our faith!”

Has there been a time where you wished you simply

had *more* faith? Or a time when someone simply told you, “Have more faith?”

It’s a very, well, *American* response. Seemingly, the solution to many of our problems is *more*. More money. More fame. More clout. More time. More faith.

But what does *more faith* even look like?

I really disliked it when people told me all I needed was more faith. How do I muster “more” faith? Do I just squeeze my eyes, hands, and everything else tighter and just... and press out more faith? Sure, I prayed more, but it never helped me feel like I had more faith.

Then those same people would quote the next part of Luke’s story, “If you had the faith the size of a mustard seed...” sort of implying that I never even had *that* to begin with.

Don’t you find it funny that as the disciples asked Jesus for more faith, Jesus basically denied their request?

ASKING FOR MORE FAITH

Why do you think Jesus denied their request?

I guess we have to ask what it means when we ask for more faith (or when we tell someone to have more faith).

I think a lot of times, my request for more faith was just to relieve existential and theological anxiety: “Geez God, just throw me a bone. Prove to me you’re real so that it becomes *impossible* to doubt you. Just once. It’ll only take one undeniable proof to have me never doubt you again!”

The rest of the time, my request comes out of a deep desire for some kind of supernatural ability. Or, really... if I’m completely honest, the ability to control God and get God to do what *I* want God to do.

Years ago, the United Methodist Church launched a media campaign called Rethink Church, essentially asking “What if church wasn’t a noun but a verb?” Maybe we should launch a Rethink Faith campaign and ask, “what if faith isn’t a noun but a verb?” Basically, what if faith isn’t

I feel that when Jesus said, *if you had faith the size of a mustard seed* he implied that we already have all the faith that we need.

There’s no one-size-fits-all when it comes to faith. There’s no specific prayer to obtain more faith. There’s no formula to make you a more faithful Christian. Because faith isn’t quantifiable.

You already have Jesus, what more do you need?

ABRAHAM AND MORE FAITH

What made Abraham the example of faith? For me, it comes in two words from Genesis 12:4: *Abram left*. In the story, God told Abram to leave *everything* he had known behind and trust in God. And *Abram left*.

He didn’t sit and pray about it; he didn’t ask to double his portion of faith; he didn’t seek out some Bible verse to ponder God’s words — he trusted God and *left*.

So, for me what faithfulness looks like today is inspired by Abram/Abraham: to *do* faith.

To do the loving I’m called to do.

To do the forgiving that Jesus invited us to do.

To do the small things that may seem inconsequential, or even beneath me, with great love.

Because, that’s what I’m essentially called to do.

Knowing all the Bible verses and saying all the prayers are good things. We really should continue to practice reading the Bible and praying. But that’s not the be all end all of faith. The command to “love God” is accompanied by one to love neighbors. We pray *and* we act.

Faith isn’t always meant to shock and awe others. Faith is simply being aware and acknowledge God’s presence around us at all times and understanding that we’re invited to partner with God in the work of ushering God’s kingdom closer and closer.

So be faithful by stepping out. Trust that God’s spirit is with you and “go and do”:

Do the loving.

Do the helping.

Do the caring.

Do the forgiving.

Treat faith more like a verb than a noun.

Joseph Yoo is the author [When the Saints Go Flying in](#). He is a West Coaster at heart contently living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mosaic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at [josephyoo.com](#).

Taken from: [What happens when we make "faith" a verb? \(umc.org\)](#)

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, Judy Deskens (visitation team)

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

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

August 1

National Night Out

August 6

Backpack Sunday

September 7

Anthony Wayne Tutoring Begins

September 10

Grandparent's Sunday

September 24

Homecoming Sunday



STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER

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

