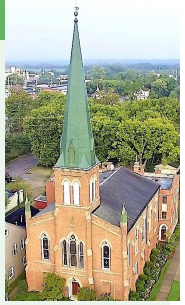




The Steeple Bell— February 2023

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



February is heart health month. Do you or someone you know have heart disease? Statistics are staggering: one person dies every 34 seconds from cardiovascular disease. CVD accounts for one in every seven deaths, and the annual cost in the United States is \$229 billion per year.

On Sunday, February 12 our Women’s Circle will be hosting a bake sale after church as a fundraiser. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the American Heart Association. The remaining amount will support the Women’s Circle projects. This is also Super Bowl Sunday, so you can purchase goodies for your football party.

Another consideration for heart health month is our spiritual heart health. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, “...Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

The prophet Samuel was charged by God to anoint the next king of Israel. He was in the house of Jesse from Bethlehem meeting Jesse’s seven sons. None of them met with God’s approval until the youngest was called in from shepherding the sheep. God directed Samuel to anoint him. We remember him as the greatest of the Israelite kings: King David. He was the same young man who slew the giant warrior Goliath. He was also the one who wrote Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd...”

David has an interesting biography. He was far from perfect. As a matter of fact, he committed adultery and murder. But scripture also tells us that David was a “man after God’s heart.” (Acts 13:22) Through David’s family tree, Jesus was born.

Appearances can be deceiving. Outward appearances do not reveal what a person is really like. Jesus called the Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders) “white-washed tombs.” Their righteousness was all outward show.

The heart in scripture is a person’s inner moral and spiritual life, the essence of who we are. Humans may be fooled by an individual’s outward presentation, but God never is. “Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit...it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.

For those who are faithful, “The eyes of the Lord range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to Him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9. We will never achieve perfection this side of heaven, but God works for those whose heart is turned toward Him. God sees our faithfulness, our true character, and our servant’s heart.

Pastor Laura

Bake Sale
Sponsored by Women's Circle

February 12th
(after Worship)

A portion of the proceeds to support the American Heart Association

Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

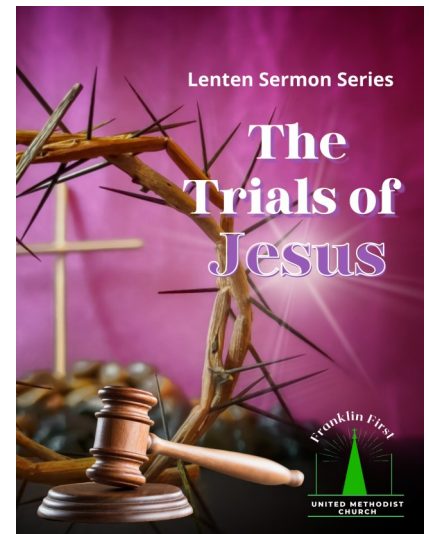
February
American Heart Month

The Trials of Jesus

You won't want to miss the Lenten/Easter sermon series starting Sunday February 26. Each week, a character from the story of Jesus' passion will be put on trial to share their story of the events leading up to and following Jesus' crucifixion. Jeff Sams and Pastor Laura will be presenting the dramas. Learn details of Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection from these perspectives:

February 26	Judas Iscariot	Jesus' betrayer
March 5	Annas	First person Jesus was taken to for trial, a Jewish ex-High Priest
March 12	Caiaphas	Jewish High Priest at time of Jesus' arrest
March 19	Peter	One of Jesus' closest disciples
March 26	Herod	Ruler of Galilee
April 2	Child	A Witness from the crowd (Palm Sunday)
April 6	Claudia Procula	Wife of Pontius Pilate (Maundy Thursday)
April 7	Satan	The Deceiver (Good Friday)
April 9	Mary Magdalene	First person at the empty tomb (Easter)

This drama series plays out like a courtroom scene as this group of witnesses come forward to give testimony. It is based on the writings of Don Neidigk and is a mesmerizing review of God's plan for salvation. Join us!



Lenten Practices

There are traditionally three main practices in the Christian faith for a proper observance of Lent. They include prayer, fasting, and giving alms. Let's explore them a bit.

Prayer – In Wayne Muller's book "Learning to Pray," he pictures prayer as "a doorway into heaven on earth" in which our minds, hearts, and senses are attuned to God's presence all around us. Prayer is not a one and done daily activity, but a focus on how God is present and communicating with us throughout the day. Lent is an especially appropriate time for reconciliation: getting our hearts right with God and with one another.

Fasting – Many of us grew up giving up a food item during Lent: sweets, soda, meat, etc. Fasting is a giving up OR taking up something as a form of self-discipline. We can

fast as well from busyness, negativity, verbal insults, emotional stuffing of feelings, and electronics. We can take up practices such as kindness, Bible reading, outreach activities, etc. as a way of growing spiritually.

Alms-giving – God's command to give to others is a lifestyle that takes on special significance during Lent. We can share our resources, our time, and our talents with those who are in need. We can work in areas of social justice, compassion care, and providing basic needs. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Deep Dive Discipleship

One of my spiritual mentors, Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter, recently commented on “spiritual epiphanies.” According to our

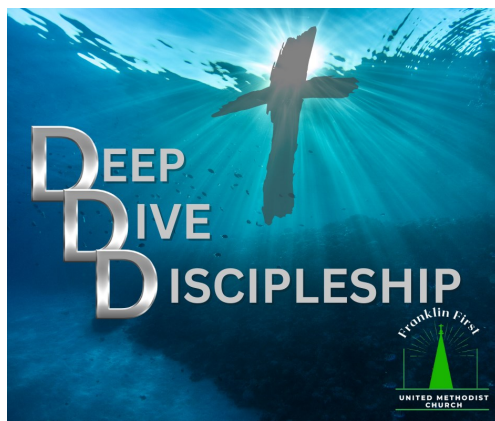
church calendar, the season of Epiphany is associated with the visit of the Wise Men to baby Jesus. But epiphany has another meaning: sudden insight or awakening. For Christians, this type of epiphany is tied to spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of our true identity as a child of God.

Whether we’ve been a person of faith for decades or days, there is always more to fathom in our relationship with God. Our faith journey can get lackadaisical unless we intentionally seek to expand not only our head knowledge, but also our heart knowledge about the mercy, grace, and love of our Lord.

With that in mind you are invited to join **Deep Dive Discipleship**, a study led by Pastor Laura beginning in March on Sundays from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. A light meal will be provided. The course will meet mostly bi-weekly according to the schedule below:

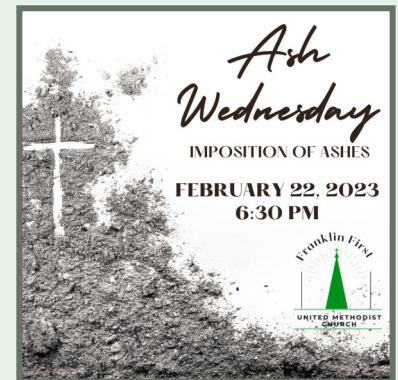
- March 19** Living faith & the meaning of my baptism
- April 2** Making a daily connection with God
- April 16** Developing deeper spiritual relationships
- April 30** Vibrant worship
- May 21** Having a servant’s heart
- June 4** Deep discipleship insights
- June 11** What does hospitality look like in the Body of Christ?

All adults are invited to participate, and pre-registration will be helpful to provide necessary materials. Please call the church office or register online [here](#) by March 12. It will be a great way to take next steps in your faith. Pastor Laura will be glad to address any questions you may have.



Ash Wednesday

February 22 is the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday. We will have a short Imposition of Ashes service at 6:30 that evening to serve as a time of repentance and remembrance. Lent continues through Holy Saturday



April 8, a time of preparation and spiritual retrospection as we bear in mind Christ’s sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Noisy Bucket

During Lent (beginning February 26), our children will once again be collecting change in the Noisy Bucket to benefit Heifer International. This program provides animals to impoverished families around the world to give them a hand up to supplement their income and better their community. Friends, you are invited to start hoarding your change.

Our smiling children will be asking you to contribute later this month.



Anthony Wayne Tutoring

First grade tutoring got off to a great start on January 19 at Anthony Wayne Elementary. We have nine awesome students who got to meet their tutors and begin their literacy program. At 3:15 after school lets out, the kids join Pastor Laura in the gym for a short time of recreation to blow off some energy. They then head to the tutoring room for Sally's Fitzgerald's tasty snacks, followed by about 40 minutes of time with their tutors. The program has been gifted a number of books, so the children got to take a few publications home with them to keep. Thanks to all the volunteers who are working to bless these students!



ANGEL SHOP

DRESS TO BE YOUR BEST

Gently Used Formal
Dress & Accessories



2023 Shopping Hours

February 11 4 - 7 pm

February 12 1 - 3 pm

February 25 4 - 7 pm

March 25 4 - 7 pm

March 26 1 - 3 pm

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO
SHOP WITH US FOR PROM

Angel Shop

It is the time of year when young ladies and gentlemen begin to think of prom and the formal wear that they will need for the festivities. Last year, Jenny Chilcutt and crew collected more than 200 dresses along with accessories and men's wear to offer free of charge to any interested student. The Angel Shop will again be open for shopping each month through April on specific dates. Do you know someone who might enjoy shopping or might have formal wear to donate? Please make them aware of this opportunity.

Correct Address?

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

Confirm with the office if you are unsure.



Fellowship Sunday

FEBRUARY 26TH

After Worship in the Dining Room



Women's Circle Next Meeting February 13th

Women's Circle will meet on Monday, February 13th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sandwich and join us for us for some fellowship.

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 need of personal hygiene products for their students. Products such as tampons, pads, deodorant, etc. for students not able to afford such products.



*Have you been on our updated website?
Check it out: www.franklinfirstumc.org.
Let us know what you think!*

Thank You

Dear FUMC Congregation,
Thank you for your generous donation of hygiene projects for our TAP



project. We rely solely on donations to keep this project going. Our students benefit greatly being able to access these products without barriers. Thanks again!



Warmly,
Jocelyn Bialk

Dear Friends,
Your generous donation to the Franklin Area Community Services (FACS) on



Dec. 21st of 300 pounds of food is greatly appreciated. It will help us to continue providing assistance to our clients with their basic human needs.

We serve needy families & individuals who live in the Franklin, Carlisle, & Springboro areas. Our work can continue only with the support of generous people and groups who respond to the needs of others by providing FACS with food, funds, time, & goods. As well as providing interim assistance we guide the needy to agencies, which can provide longer-term solutions.

We are an organization of volunteers attempting to ease some of the constant worry of our neighbors. For more information visit our website: www.facswarren.org

Sincerely,
Anne S. Langsdale, volunteer

Trustee Team Update

The trustee's have found a resolution to

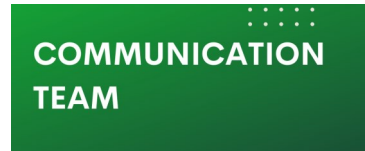


replace the handrails on the main stairway to the Sanctuary. We will be installing a handrail that meets current building codes and are safer for everyone to grip. The existing handrails over the decorative spindles won't be touched. The new rails should be in place by the end of March.

The last windstorm caused some roof damage at the Parsonage, so a claim with insurance has been filed, for replacement. Several missing and broken shingles were found when inspected by a trustee.

Communications Team Update

We have been working with the City of Franklin, so Franklin First can be a part of as many com-



munity outreach activities as we choose. We were able to obtain an account with the city, so we are automatically notified of upcoming events in advance, so there is time for the Missions Team to plan for the event properly.

We are signed up to have a booth for Franklin's Grand reopening of the Food Truck Park in April of this year. To help promote interest in Franklin First, and to draw people to the booth, we will hold a toilet seat horse shoe event. Of course we will be handing out information on the church, and promoting Franklin First Vacation Bible School to the community.

February Calendar of Events

- 1 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 2 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 8 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 9 Worship Team Meeting; 1:30 pm
- 9 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 11 Angel Shop; 4 -7 pm
- 12 Heart Health Sunday
- 12 Bake Sale (a portion of proceeds to AHA)
- 12 Angel Shop 1—3 pm
- 13 Women's Circle Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 15 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 16 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 22 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 pm/Lent Begins
- 23 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 25 Angel Shop; 4 -7 pm
- 26 Noisy Bucket Campaign Begins

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**

FHS to present Blithe Spirit

Franklin High School will present Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* on Feb.17 and 18 at 7 p.m. and Feb 19, 2 p.m.

The show's focus is fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, who is remarried but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium," Madame Arcati.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$5 for students.

They're available for purchase online at fhsdrama.booktix.com or at the door.

NOTE: A special senior-citizens performance will be offered on Thurs., Feb. 16, at 11:30. Breakfast and coffee will be served at 10:30 a.m. Folks who plan to attend this performance need to RSVP by calling the FHS main office, at 937.743.8610.

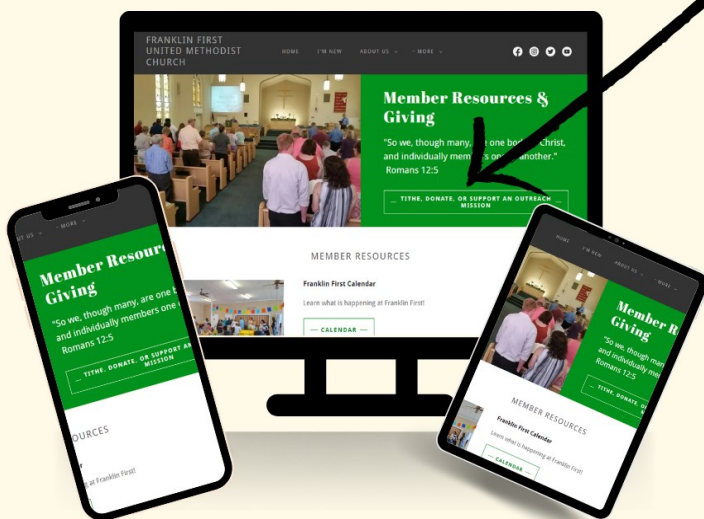
Several adult members of our church family are on the production staff.



FEBRUARY 17 & 18 - 7 PM
FEBRUARY 19 - 2 PM
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
MCDADE AUDITORIUM

tickets are available
at the door or online at
www.fhsdrama.booktix.com

ONLINE GIVING



Franklin First New Online Giving Platform

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.

You may received an email from Vision2 to try the new online giving platform or switch your recurring a gift. Please take a moment to review and see if online giving is for you or switch to our new provider.

Connect by using this link:

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

Children's Church to Restart



Our Children's Ministry is important for the children of Franklin First. We hope to restart Children's Church in March but are in need of teachers. Please pray and consider how you can help with this ministry. Lessons and resources are provided for all teachers. Please reach out to Chris Womack or the office for more information.

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://q.page/r/CebjXokui9PHEB0/review>

Franklin First UMC Social Media Links



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/FranklinOhioFirstUMC



Instagram:
www.instagram.com/franklinfirstumc303



Twitter:
twitter.com/FranklinFirstU1



Website:
franklinfirstumc.org



YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@franklinfirstumc3362

Submit your prayer request.



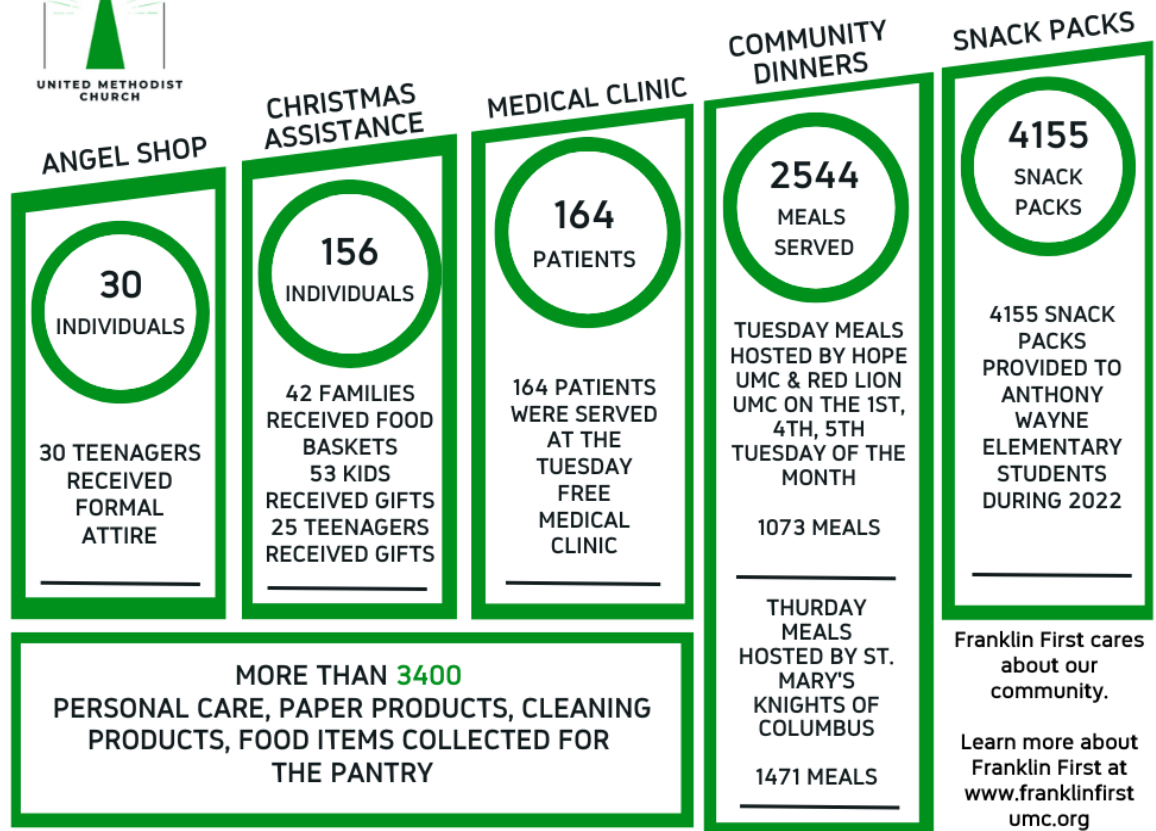
Submit a Prayer Request Anytime

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.

franklin-firstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54



Franklin First 2022 Outreach



Franklin First cares about our community.

Learn more about Franklin First at www.franklinfirstumc.org

225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin – Part 2 (1823—1848)

As the second 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 1823 through 1848 will be briefly described. The founding of our congregation is dated to Monday August 14, 1798 when the Methodist Episcopal (ME) missionary Rev. John Kobler (1768-1843) held the first religious service in the frontier hamlet of Franklin, which had been settled in 1796, at the log cabin of Captain Robert Ross. Over the next 20 plus years, itinerant Methodist “circuit-rider” preachers would hold irregular services that were initially held in private home and later in a small shared community church building that had been erected circa 1808 at the corner of Center (Main) and Fourth Streets. In between visits by the circuit riders, a local Methodist “class” had been formed to hold informal worship services.

The circuit riders traveled on horseback, with their large saddlebags under them; but these seldom contained manuscript sermons; a sermon written out and read to a congregation would have been received with little favor. These itinerant clergy lodged in their cabins and conversed with their families. They often held two-day meetings, and kept up a system of quarterly meetings, which, by this time, were attended by large numbers. Men and women would walk twenty and sometimes thirty miles to attend them. At night, the men would be quartered in barns and outhouses and the women in the cabins.

The Franklin Society of Methodists was formed around 1825. Early members included James E. Thirkield, John Rossman, Fletcher Emley, Stephen Wood, Thomas Emerson, and their wives. A few years later Uriah Clutch and Daniel Harper and their wives who had migrated from New Jersey were added to the membership. Meetings were still mostly held in the homes of members for about seven years and occasionally in the shared community church building.

As the population in Ohio grew, more circuit dis-

tricts were formed from the original Miami Circuit that had been founded by Rev. Kobler in 1798. Franklin was initially part of the Union Circuit and then became part of the Lebanon Circuit. In 1836 Lebanon became a station (i.e., it had a permanent pastor at its church) and the following churches became part of the Franklin Circuit: Franklin, Middletown, Spring Meeting House, Monroe, Pisgah Meeting House, Deerfield, Mill Grove, Salem Meeting House, Dykes, Sellers, Ridgeville, Springboro, and Miamisburg. At first preaching occurred but once in four weeks, and later, once every two weeks. Every year on the Franklin Circuit camp meetings were held in the woods at which great crowds of people from miles around came to hear the Gospel message and many conversions were recorded. The people would have listened to some of the most renowned Christian speakers of their day. Among these early ministers were James B. Findley, John Brook, Thomas A. Morris, John F. Wright, A. W. Elliott, W. B. Christie, William H. Raper, Joseph Hill, Granville Moody and others of similar fame.

With the construction of the Miami-Erie canal that had started in 1825 and became operational in 1828, the population of Franklin increased rapidly over the following decades. While the 1810 U.S. census listed 202 inhabitants of his second in the village, the numbers grew to 584 and 707 in the 1830 and 1840 censuses, respectively. Starting in January 1846, Henry Howe (1816–1893) had spent over a year traveling across the state of Ohio making sketches, interviewing people, and collecting information for his book *“Historical Collections of Ohio”* that he published in 1847. The front page of his second version from 1891 is subtitled “An Encyclopedia of the State: history both general and local, geography with descriptions of its counties, cities and villages, its agricultural, manufacturing, mining, and business development, sketches of eminent and interesting characters, etc.” Howe recorded in 1846 that Franklin has 3 churches, a high school, 4 dry goods

(Continued on page 10)

(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 9)

and 2 grocery stores, two forwarding and commission houses on the canal.

In 1832 a dedicated Methodist Episcopal church was built east of the alley between Front (River) and Center (Main) Streets on the south side of Second Street.

In 1833, the first Sunday School classes were organized with Daniel Harper as the Superintendent.

A brick church of larger dimensions replaced the frame structure in 1836, just east of the original church, and now fronting on Center (Main) Street, which the site of the present church. This was a more pretentious building, having class-rooms and Sunday-school room in the basement and the audience room above, reached by steps in front and at the sides. A good bell was in the steeple. The church trustees had voted in 1841 to buy a new bell to weight not less than 400 pounds. The bell was purchased from David Altick of Miamisburg; it weighed 408 pounds, at a cost of \$0.40 per pound, less \$21 allowance for the old broken bell for a net price of \$141.80.

The engraving shown in Figure 1 may be the only known surviving image of this first brick Methodist church in Franklin, which clearly shows twin front entrances as well as a separate staircase located at the back of the north side. This image was drawn by Henry Howe in 1846 when he visited Franklin for his book. The building was demolished in 1859 and replaced with the current Sanctuary that was constructed and dedicated in 1860. While we cannot conclude from the drawing whether the front windows are stained glass or not, the image is suggestive that they were and were possibly installed into the 1860 church. The stained glass windows in the north and south stairwells have very different coloration and much less elaborate patterns than the Memorial windows installed in the Sanctuary during 1893. However, no documents have been found to date in the church records to verify this supposition. These windows are shown in Figure 2.

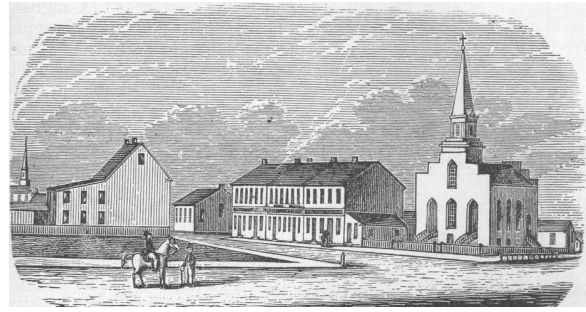
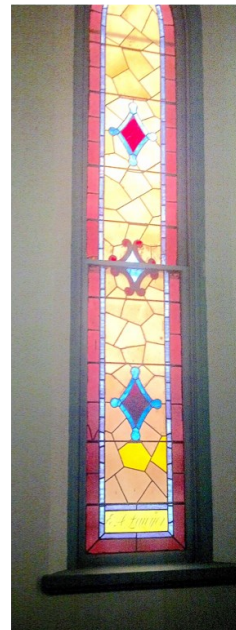


Fig. 1. A view of Franklin, Ohio as drawn by Henry Howe in 1846 showing the second Methodist Episcopal church building with its bell tower/steeple (built in 1836) on the right side, next to it on Center (Main) street is a commercial block, beyond is the single-story Baptist church (which is located on the site of a community church building built in about 1808 and shared by various local congregations including the Methodists, On the extreme left is the spire of the Presbyterian church. The small building on the extreme right is the original Franklin Methodist church built in 1832 that was subsequently converted into a 2-family private residence.

North Side Stairwell



South Side Stairwell

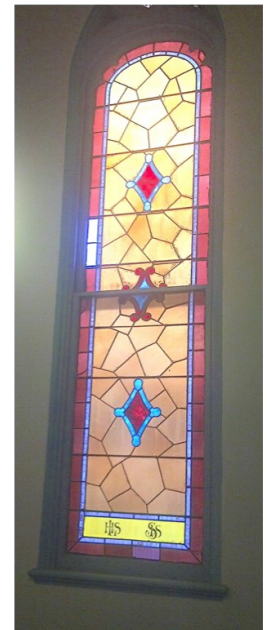


Fig. 2. Photographs of stained glass windows in main staircase in current building that are attributed to 2nd Methodist church in Franklin.

**2023 Homecoming & 225th
Celebration—Mark Your Calendar
Sunday, September 24th**

*Attention
croppers
and
crafters!*

***Franklin First United Methodist
Church invites you to***

A Croppin' Good Time

Friday, March 3, 2023- 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Saturday, March 4, 2023- 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Franklin First UMC, 303 South Main Street, Franklin, OH 45005

Registration cost: \$50

Sixteen Hours of Scrapbooking Fun!

Tax deductible donations will benefit the Church.

You will get your own 5-foot round or rectangular table.

Saturday brunch and salad & potato bar dinner will be provided.

Electrical outlets and Wi-Fi available; please bring your own extension cord.

- For more information contact Pam Trout, 937-746-0644, or e-mail: pktmango@yahoo.com
- Registration is non-refundable, but it is transferable to another person.
- Sorry, no childcare available!

Make your registration check payable to: Franklin First UMC and mail to: A Croppin' Good Time, 303 South Main St., Franklin, OH 45005

For more information about Franklin FUMC, go to <https://franklinfirstumc.org/>

Cut Along Line

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Best Phone #: _____

Friend(s) you'd like to sit with: _____

Or Sign up online!



*Scan
Me!*

Scan the code with your phone to be taken to the form or go to:

<https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/4d380b>

Get Them Talking: Growing

Let's talk about growing: When is a time when you noticed that you had grown? In what areas do you still hope to grow?

Scripture

"Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, since you have tasted that the Lord is good." [1 Peter 2:2-3, Common English Bible](#)

Reflection

Some children have a place in their house where their height is marked, showing their growth. Other times, a child will find they've outgrown their favorite outfit. Because it happens so slowly, we don't always notice the growth until we see this year's mark is a little bit higher than last year's, or our favorite pants are too short.

Our Bible passage tells us this is true of our spiritual lives too. It too may happen slowly, but as we are attentive to God's presence in our lives, we grow. Our homes and churches are wonderful places to grow as followers of Jesus.

Get them talking

- Watch a time-lapse video of plants growing or plant some seeds of your own. Talk about how the plants are always growing, even when we don't notice.
- When is a time you noticed that you had grown? What is something you can do today that you couldn't do last year?
- How have you grown in your faith?

In what areas do you still hope to grow?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for all the ways we grow. Amen.

Activity

Look at old photos together as a family—vacations, birthdays, everyday fun—and make special note of how each person has changed since the picture. It may be something you see, or it may be something unseen.

Taken from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/get-them-talking-growing>



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>

Sunday Worship

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

Birthdays

February 02	Regina Hynes
February 09	Kaylee Bishop
February 13	Monica Rhude
February 15	Emelia Glossip
February 17	Eden Osborne
February 23	Samantha Womack
February 25	Tracy Easter
February 25	Lori Hemmelgarn
February 26	Brad Lorton
February 27	Kaylee Womack
February 29	Madelyn Lang

Anniversaries

February 26	Mike and Vicki Jarvis
-------------	-----------------------

No recording devices tapped the cadences and power of “Black Harry” Hosier’s preaching. But we may conjecture that given his African American heritage, his words poured out rhythmically and with a range of volume. This rhetoric, combined with a keen mind and outstanding communication skills, enabled the biblical truths he proclaimed to pulverize the stony hearts of his listeners.

“I really believe he is one of the best preachers in the world,” was the opinion of Thomas Coke, who, along with Francis Asbury, was one of American Methodism’s first two bishops. “There is such an amazing power attends his preaching, though he cannot read; and he is one of the humblest creatures I ever saw.”

In spite of such accolades, even the bare facts of Hosier’s life elude historians, who must therefore sprinkle probabilities throughout their narratives. Born about 1750, perhaps as a plantation slave, maybe in North Carolina, he experienced Christian conversion at some point and became Asbury’s traveling companion. Soon he began to exhort after the sermon, urging the listeners to apply the preacher’s words to their lives. Later, he was the principal speaker at services.

He and Richard Allen were the two non-voting African American representatives at the 1784 Christmas Conference, which officially organized American Methodism. He died, one authority says, “happy in the Lord” about 1806. Another specifies that his funeral was May 18, 1806, with burial in Philadelphia.

What transcends the biographical probabilities is the impression “Black Harry” made on the minds and hearts of those who heard him. Henry Boehm and Freeborn Garrettson, both ordained Methodist ministers, provide eyewitness accounts.

Boehm writes: “Harry was very black, an African of the Africans. He was so illiterate he could not read a word. He would repeat the hymn as if reading it, and quote his text with great accuracy. His voice was musical, and his tongue as the pen of a ready writer. He was unboundedly popular, and many would rather hear him than the bishops.”

Garrettson’s narrative helps us place Hosier within America’s race-conscious culture. Garrettson, following his conversion, found himself dejected. Then one

Sunday as he led family prayers, a thought penetrated his melancholy gloom: “It is not right for you to keep your fellow creatures in bondage.” Whereupon he told his slaves they were free. Later, Hosier, a former slave, and Garrettson, a former owner of slaves, ministered together.

Traveling around the Delmarva Peninsula, Garrettson reports: Sunday, March 7, 1784-“Harry met me, and preached after I ended;” the next day-“as there was a degree of persecution against Harry I thought it expedient to leave him behind.” Six years later, 1790, on his way to Boston, Garrettson records: “The people of this circuit are amazingly fond of hearing Harry.”

Harry Hosier transcended the racial consciousness of his day. His famous sermon, “Barren Fig Tree,” (Adams Chapel, Fairfax County, Virginia), was the first sermon preached by a Negro in America. Likewise his sermon in Chapelton, Delaware, 1784, was the first sermon preached by a Negro to a white congregation.

Garrettson writes that in Providence, Rhode Island, “Harry preached in the meeting house to more than one thousand people;” on another occasion, “Harry preached after me with much applause.”

Hosier illustrates the point made by a late twentieth-century scholar, who declares that American Methodism “relied much less on the written word than on that which was spoken Methodist preachers...were remembered first of all for their preaching and for the spontaneous verbal responses of their congregations-the shouts, the groans, the sobs of persons brought together to express their most interior and private thoughts.”



Taken From: <https://www.westhioumc.org/conference/news/celebrating-black-history>

Do You Know These Black United Methodist History-Makers?

Ask your parents or Sunday school teacher to use your/their cellphone or tablet.

Look up these history-makers from our church and unscramble their names below.

A



In 1904, this Methodist laywoman took less than \$1.50 and five students to start a school for Black girls in Florida. Today, that school has become Bethune-Cookman College, in Daytona, Fla.

□□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□□
Y A R M L M E O D C N E T H U B E

B



In 1984, this pastor and former teacher was the first Black woman elected a bishop in the United Methodist Church or in any mainstream Christian church in the world.

□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□
T I L E O N N E Y E L K L

C



Born into slavery in North Carolina around 1750, he was praised as "one of the best preachers in the world" by Thomas Coke, who, with Francis Asbury became one of the first bishops in what would later become the United Methodist Church.

□□□□□ □□□□□□□
Y A R H R S O H I R E

D



Founded in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1796, this is the oldest historically Black United Methodist Church in the United States.

□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□
T H E M O R C A F R A N I R A Z O

E



A giant in the U.S. Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, this United Methodist pastor (along with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957.

□□□□□□ □□□□□□
J S E P H O W E R L Y O

Answers: A) Mary McLeod Bethune • B) Leontine Kelly • C) Harry Hosier • D) Mother African Zoar • E) Joseph Lowery

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, 9:30 am

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| February 11 | Angel Shop Open | 4 –7 pm |
| February 12 | Heart Health Sunday & Bake Sale | 10:45 am |
| February 22 | Lent Begins | |
| | Ash Wednesday | 6:30 pm |
| February 25 | Angel Shop Open | 4—7 pm |
| March 19 | Deep Dive Discipleship First Session | 5-6:30 pm |
| | Living faith & the meaning of my baptism | |
| April 2 | Holy Week Begins | |
| | Palm Sunday | 10:45 am |
| April 6 | Maundy Thursday | 6:30 pm |
| April 7 | Good Friday | 6:30 pm |
| April 9 | Easter 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

A decorative banner for the month of February, featuring a background of various shades of pink and red hearts of different sizes. The word "February" is written in a large, elegant, pink serif font across the bottom of the banner.

February