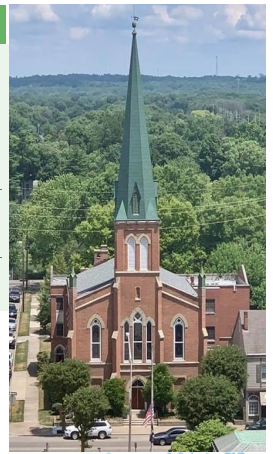




The Steeple Bell— January 2022

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



God’s Plan for 2022

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

As I write this, I’m looking at my new calendar for 2022. I have filled in a few appointments that are already scheduled and written names in squares to remember birthdays and anniversaries. At this point, the blocks on my calendar are fairly empty. They won’t stay that way long.

Every day we have choices to make about how we fill our days. Some of those decisions don’t have much room for negotiation. The doctor’s appointment is very important. The work obligation is firm. The family need is strong. We fill those squares in with fair certainty that we need to honor those commitments.

But some of our calendar has wiggle room. The world of finance talks about “discretionary income,” but we also have “discretionary time” at our disposal. Some folks more than others, but choices are there to make never-the-less. So how do we decide what to calendar?

Please understand that I’m not a scheduled person by nature (just ask Lee - because he is and I’m oftentimes a frustration to him.) But I do think that we need to be intentional about how we spend our time. My emphasis here is on the word “spend,” because once a day is gone we do not get it back.

There are four Legs of Health that we need to attend to, and we need to make sure that our used time includes deposits into each category:

Spiritual: Refers to discovering Godly purpose and meaning. Only by tuning in to God’s word, prayer, worship, and fellowship will we connect with ultimate purpose. Our time can be eaten up by trivial things, but without engaging in divine purpose, life can seem fruitless.

Emotional: Especially in this atmosphere of ongoing COVID and national unrest, we need to be taking care of our emotional health. That means engaging with people and places that offer positive energy into our emotional bank account. It may mean turning off the news or distancing ourselves from toxicity. It will also mean scheduling to give ourselves away for the benefit of others. There is little that is as emotionally charging as helping someone else.



(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Mental: Here I'm referring to our imagination and creativity, which bring nourishment to our souls. God is a Creator, and we are made in God's image. Ruts of any kind eventually drain us. Try something new, set new goals, set the bar higher with an established hobby. "All work and no play make Laura a dull girl," as Grandma would say.

Physical: We can get lazy. To keep fit, it's important to pay attention to diet and exercise, to sleep habits and addiction tendencies. We can tend to blame God for our diseases without admitting that we've contributed to them with our lifestyles.

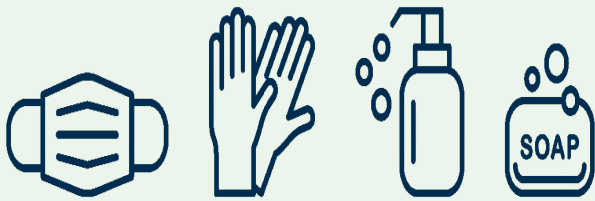
As I fill my calendar, there are some things that I need to intentionally schedule and some things I need to decline. God help all of us to make wise choices.

Happy New Year!

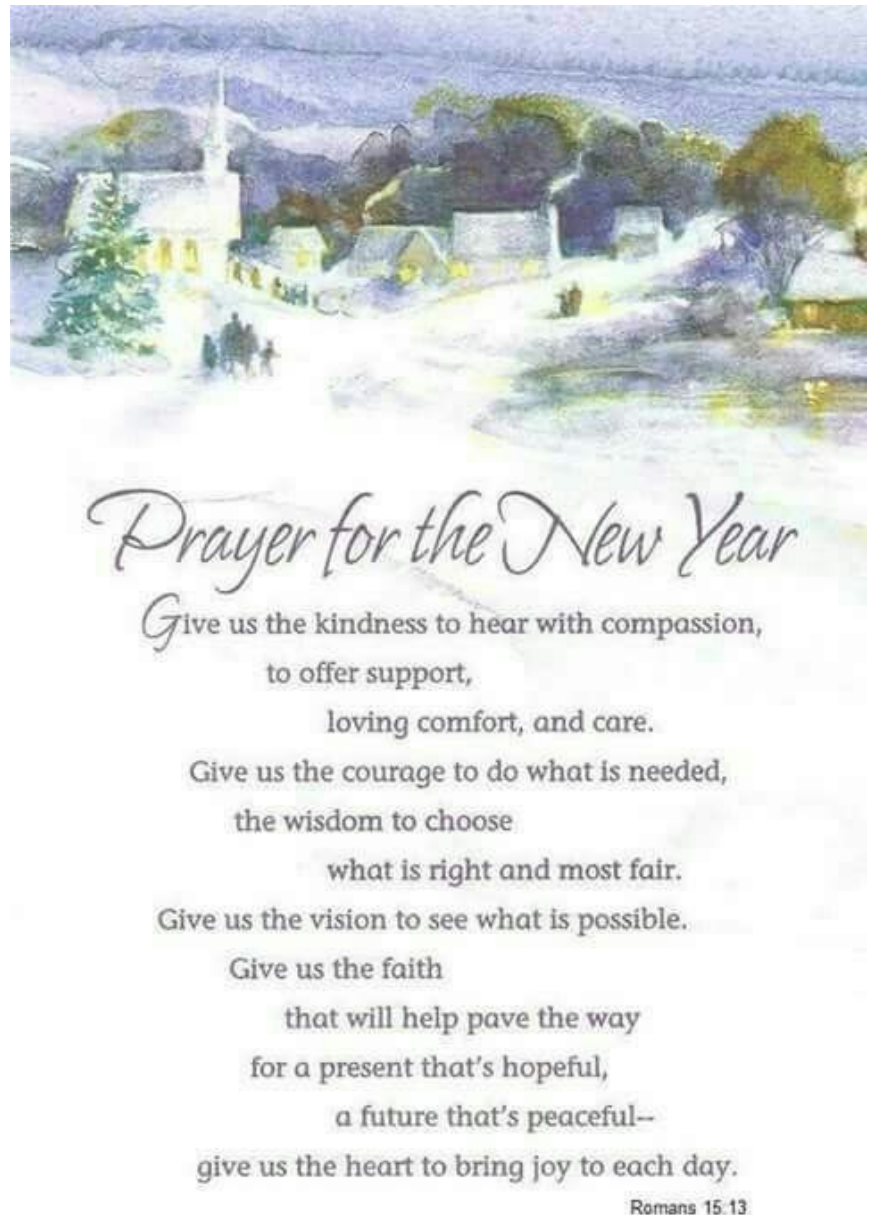
Pastor Laura



We Care About Your Safety COVID Precautions



COVID and other flu and respiratory illnesses are running rampant. We strongly recommend the wearing of masks and social distancing at all church events. We continue to provide sanitation stations and are encouraging regular hand washing. Booster vaccines are highly recommended. If you feel ill, please stay home and worship with us online. Let's work to keep one another safe.





Thank YOU!

The New Year is here, but I didn't want the old year to pass without saying thank you to the many folks who worked to keep the ministry of Franklin First vibrant. Thanks to those who...

- ◆ Supported the church financially through our general and special funds to reach out in the name of Christ.
- ◆ Continued in our pursuit and use of technology to extend the message of the Gospel.
- ◆ Shared their musical talents that made worship more meaningful.
- ◆ Worked behind the scenes, whether through cleaning and organizing, generating quality communication, preparing communion or decorating, or making repairs as needed.
- ◆ Kept in contact with church friends to decrease isolation and extend love.
- ◆ Offered many volunteer hours to enhance our Revitalization Grant work in the Education Wing. It was a huge project and you persevered!
- ◆ Worked in our mission and outreach efforts to feed the community, tend to medical concerns, and clothe the needy.
- ◆ Manned community events to bless neighbors and make Franklin First more visible in the town.
- ◆ Worked with our children; whether through nursery, Children's Church, VBS, or other initiatives to open their hearts to Jesus.
- ◆ Sought God's leading for the future of this congregation. God is never content with the status quo for very long and calls us forward. Thanks for taking next steps.
- ◆ Took out their phones to snap a ministry picture or offer material to record our ministry for the future caretakers of FFUMC.

These are broad categories of thanks, and this list does not cover everything. It is a blessing to work with fellow Jesus followers who understand that pew sitting alone does not fulfill the mission of God. It will be interesting to see what God has in store for us in 2022.

Pastor Laura



The Pantry Collection

We continue to collect items for the Franklin Food pantry. Currently, we are asking for personal care items such as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.. We specify these items because the pantry typically does not have ready access to these goods. The collection bin is in the church entrance.

Choir Postponed

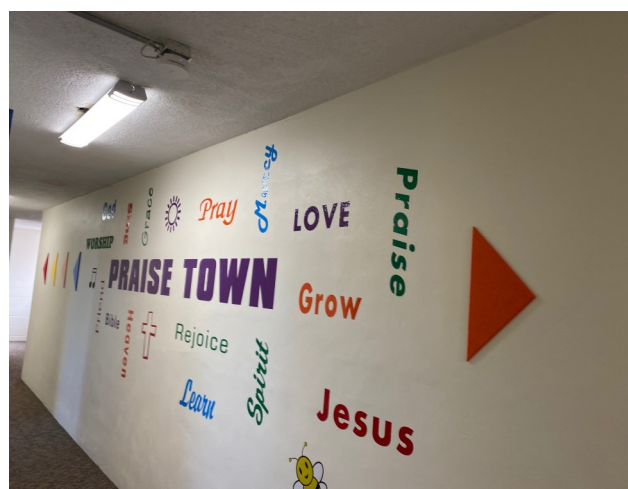


Due to increasing numbers of instances of COVID, we will suspending Choir for three weeks and re-evaluate at that time.

Revitalization Grant

In 2021, the West Ohio Conference awarded Franklin First a \$20,000 grant to revitalize our Education Wing. We are so grateful for their support. The work on that grant is now complete. There is WIFI accessibility and new technology for use downstairs and in the classrooms. The third floor areas have been completely refurbished and updated with child-friendly décor. The stairways have new flooring. Updated lighting, along with cleaning and painting have brought a new brightness. Our second floor restroom is remodeled, and we have a new welcome center right outside the nursery where adults can check their kids into children's ministry events.

Thank you to everyone who worked so tirelessly to bring this project to fruition. We logged more than \$10,000 of in-kind labor that enabled the scope of the project to expand for even better use of our grant money. A special thanks to Mike Runyan who chaired the initiative and kept us on-track.



Franklin First Giving

Online Giving/We SHARE:

This is a great choice for when you are unable to join us for Worship to continue to support the church. You can either set-up a recurring payment or give each time you visit the site.

Connect by using this link:

franklinfirstumc1.weshareonline.org

Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Franklin



First United Methodist Church. Support us every time you shop. Just follow the prompts from the link below:

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

Snack Pack Ministry

Many of our school children in Franklin rely on school meals for daily nutrition. On the weekends when these meals are not available, there are children who could go hungry. Franklin First packs shelf stable food stuffs to send home each weekend during the school year to those kids at Anthony Wayne Elementary whom the school has identified as "at risk." In 2021, more than 3600 snack packs were provided. We are grateful for the Ohio River Valley UMC grant that underwrites part of the expenses for these items.



Free Medical Clinic

As we have moved into colder weather, the number of patients utilizing Franklin First's Free Clinic has increased. Dr. Chamberlain and his volunteer staff treat a wide range of medical needs, from diabetes-related conditions, to infections, to blood pressure issues...the scope of treatment is different each time the clinic operates. Pastor Laura offers prayer for any client that wishes, and we also provide referrals to other services as needed.

Do you know someone who is uninsured or underinsured? Please let them know that they will be treated with dignity at the Free Medical Clinic. We are grateful for the Ohio River Valley UMC grant that underwrites much of the clinic expenses.

**FRANKLIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
303 SOUTH MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH**



**FREE
MEDICAL
CLINIC**

**To Benefit the
Uninsured &
Underinsured**

TUESDAYS

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5:30 PM

CLINIC OPENS AT 6:00 PM

Questions: 937-746-5232



Birthday Ministry

Birthday Donations for 2021

Franklin First started a new birthday ministry last year by inviting friends to choose a charity on their birthday to receive a \$15 donation. You made the following choices:

- ♦ United Methodist Committee on Relief – \$255
- ♦ Abilities First – \$60
- ♦ Big Brothers/Big Sister of Greater Cincinnati – \$105
- ♦ Franklin High School Senior Fees – \$135 at the end of 2021 school year (will receive another \$225 at the end of 2022 school year from 2021 donation choices)

We will continue this ministry in 2022 with the same charities as your choice options.

Community Dinners

Did you know that Franklin First is the host church for two community dinners that are served from our location? We partner with Hope and Red Lion United Methodist Churches on Tuesdays and St. Mary's Catholic Church on Thursdays to provide complimentary meals to anyone in the community. In 2021, more than 3,000 dinners were distributed. We are grateful for the Ohio River Valley UMC grant that pays for some of the food needed for the meals.

FREE MEAL

COMMUNITY DINNER

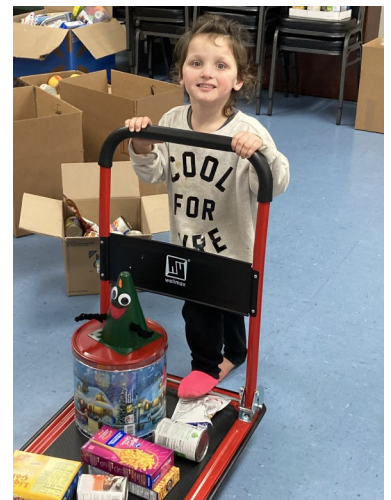


Salvation Army

Holiday Ministry

Thanks to the generosity of so many more than 70 families received food baskets and gifts for children for Christmas.

So much time and effort were given by many to ensure a Merry Christmas for all the families. A special thanks to Tami Chamberlain as the master coordinator for the all the baskets and the donations.



Franklin First Social Media

Making Gains!

Facebook keeps track of all kinds of interesting data about our Facebook and Instagram pages. It allows us to monitor and track our progress and the number of people we reach through our social media efforts.

Since June, we have increased our presence on these platforms and have reached new individuals. Between the Franklin First and Frankie pages we had a **190% increase** in the number of people reached. And a **153% increase** in the number of followers when compared with the previous six months.

The number I like to watch is the Franklin First Facebook Page likes and followers. We have added **61 new page likes and followers** in the last six months. Our message on social media is reaching 61 additional individuals on a regular basis. This number reflects your involvement and engagement on our page as well. We cannot reach additional individuals without you sharing and commenting on our posts

The content we share has several goals 1) lighthearted and fun to engage the new viewer; 2) shares God's word; 3) inform about Franklin First activities; and 4) inform about other local activities — all to encourage individuals to become regular participants online or in-person. Do you have idea for content? What type of things will share on Facebook? I am always looking for creative and interesting content — let me know if you have an idea.

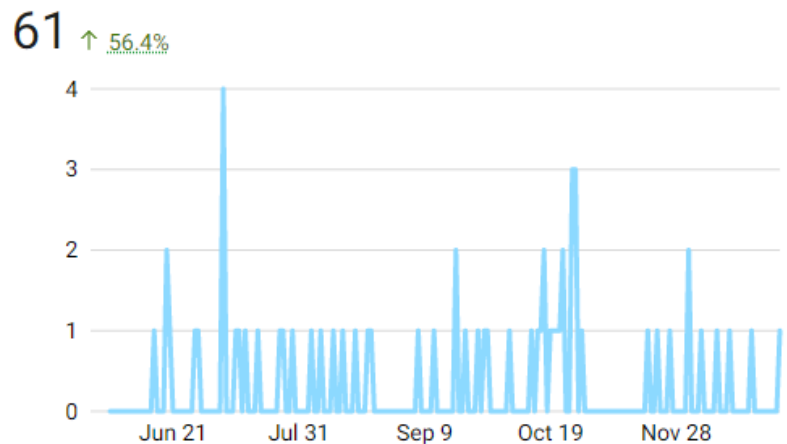
Content is only a piece of the puzzle — your involvement is what completes the puzzle. So please continue to **SHARE, SHARE, COMMENT, & SHARE some more.** We currently have 422 followers on our Franklin First page. Please help us reach 600 in the next six months!

Theresa



New likes and followers

New Facebook Page Likes ⓘ



Social Media Links Follow Franklin First



Franklin First Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
FranklinOhioFirstUMC](http://www.facebook.com/FranklinOhioFirstUMC)



Frankie's Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
FranklinFirstKids](http://www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstKids)



Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/
franklinfirstumc303](http://www.instagram.com/franklinfirstumc303)



Twitter:

twitter.com/FranklinFirstU1



Franklin First QRC Link

[https://beacons.page/
franklinfirstumc](https://beacons.page/franklinfirstumc)

New Year, New Opportunities

Message from Bishop Palmer

Dear friends in Christ Jesus:

Welcome to 2022. An all-new year, all new opportunities has unfolded. What is true about the turn of the year is quite frankly true about the gift of every new day. The reality that each year and each day places before us a fresh opportunity to become more fully who God intends for us to be does not at all signify that we are without challenges. It makes me ponder whether or not our challenges are in fact our opportunities. How we lean into our challenges can make all the difference in the quality of our lives.

Speaking of challenge our continued wrestling with the ominous presence of COVID-19 and its variants has become so defining of our lives. The last two years have called forth the meaning of perseverance in ways that we may not have known before. All of us know what it means to persevere through personal challenge or difficulty. This long season of living with multiple pandemics have called and will continue to call forth our capacity to learn to persevere together. It is ultimately in the together that the quality of our perseverance is measured.

Speaking of together, we have and will continue to be challenged on finding common ground in church and society. Consider just the stresses and tensions we live with, multiple times a day, about best practices related to COVID like vaccines and masking to name a few. We are still falling short of sufficient agreement to keep from tearing ourselves apart. Or consider the fractures and fissures in our civic life, long suspected but confirmed by the violent insurrection on January 6 at the Nation's Capitol. It occurring on the Epiphany of Our Lord is not lost on me. On the liturgical date -Epiphany- when large parts of the Christian communion were paying close attention to the revealing of our God in Jesus of Nazareth, we were given another revelation about the depth of the brokenness of our common life. There is Epiphany and there are epiphanies all along the way. They are not the same. They are not equal. The question is when light shines on a reality how we will respond?

And speaking of response, I close inviting you to join me in a grateful and joyful remembrance of God's servant, Desmond Mpilo Tutu, baptized a Methodist, confirmed an Anglican. He was teacher, friend, husband, father, grandfather, prophet, priest, pastor and bishop. Who in the face of the challenge and cruelty of Apartheid resisted its injustice but never the relationships needed to build a new society. He valued truthful speech and confrontation but eschewed violence. He actually lived as if broken humanity could be redeemed and reconciled. He embodied that "there is no future without forgiveness." This is the work all of us who know, love and call the name of Jesus, are called to do in our time and place. Let's have at it without reserve.

Faithfully,



Women's Circle Next Meeting

No meeting this month!



Community Connections Needed

Along with the physical work being done through the Revitalization Grant to upgrade our Education wing, we are constructing plans to reach out into the community in new ways. Are you involved in a local group that might appreciate interfacing with our church through use of the Education wing?

We are not just looking to share space but connect with the group in shared ministry. Please share your ideas with the office.

WEST OHIO CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Pathways Program Needs Volunteers In Dayton

In October of 2021, we celebrated with the City of Dayton the conclusion of the individual homeowner recovery process, following the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. Yet the recovery process has been ongoing for survivors whose rental units were destroyed in that same storm. Now, West Ohio work teams and congregations have the opportunity to serve these neighbors. The Pathways to Home Ownership Project assists families displaced from tornado-damaged rental housing in becoming first-time homeowners.

From January 9 to April 2, 2022, the disaster ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be hosting volunteers to finish the interiors of homes as part of this project. Below are more details on how you can help:

TEAMS

- 4-10 people
- 14 years of age or older (must have 1 adult for every 4 volunteers under 18)

WORK and SKILLS

- Teams should commit to a minimum of 3 days of work; most teams work Monday-Friday
- All skill levels are welcome! While some "handyperson" knowledge is helpful, the only necessity is a willingness to work and learn
- Volunteers will be doing a variety of interior construction tasks (installing flooring, painting, hanging doors, etc.)
- Tools will be provided

HOUSING

- A housing site is available at a local church, if needed
- Cost of housing is \$50/person/week to cover building use and utilities

COVID

To mitigate the risks of COVID-19 for our volunteers and the communities we serve, all volunteers who are eligible to receive the vaccine must do so before serving.

There will be site-specific COVID-19 protocols, subject to change according to local health guidelines.

For more information or to register, email Caroline Hamilton-Arnold at caroline@weekofcompassion.org with your preferred dates, a point of contact, and your group size (if known).



ERT Trainings To Prep Teams for Tornado Clean-Up

Two Early Response Team trainings will be held in the first two months of 2022 to prepare individuals to respond to the disasters in Kentucky and around the U.S. The first training will be held online via Zoom on January 14-15, and the second will be held in-person at Aley UMC in Beavercreek on February 12. Both trainings will be taught by UMCOR-certified West Ohio ERT trainers and will include the 8-hour Basic ERT class to train new responders in providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. The February 12 training will also offer recertification for current ERT's.

Here are more details:

- Virtual ERT Basic Class – January 14, 6:00-9:00pm, and January 15, 9:00am-2:00pm. Cost is \$30. Registration ends January 9!
- ERT Basic and Recertification Class (in-person) – February 12, 8:00am-4:00pm at Aley UMC in Beavercreek. Cost is \$40 (Basic) or \$35 (recertification). All participants must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks during the training.
- A background check is required.

For more information or to register, [click here](#). Questions may be directed to Mariellyn Grace, mgrace@wocumc.org.



Birthdays

January 08	Vicki	Jarvis
January 11	Karson	Kelly
January 12	Richard	Taylor
January 17	Bill	Kuntzman
January 24	Ian	Chamberlain
January 27	Jerry	Truesdell
January 28	Lee	Saunders

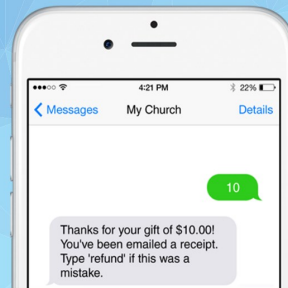
Anniversaries

January 13	Hiram & Sue	Fullen
January 19	Margaret & Richard	Taylor
January 31	John & Teresa	Lass

Franklin First UMC

Text An Amount To:
(937) 582-9009

TEXT TO GIVE



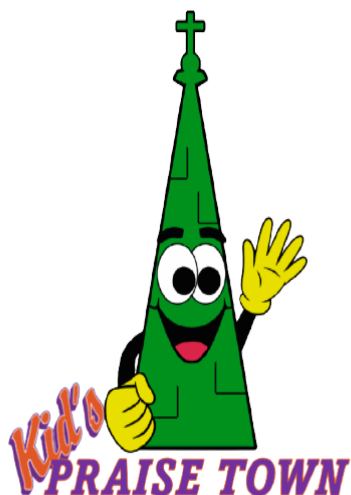
- Text the amount you would like to give.
- If it's your first time, you will receive a link to set up the account with your information.
- After the first time, you will just receive thanks for your gift reply.

Text to Give

You can now make a donation by text. Text the amount you would like to give to 937-582-9009 and you will be prompted to set up your account. Any future contributions will be acknowledged without any additional set-up from that phone number. All regular contributions will go towards your weekly offering. If you would like to make a donation to snack packs — type amount and missions (ie. 20 missions) or memorials type amount and memorials (ie. 25 memorials). Contact the office with questions.

Frankie Adventures!

Don't forget to mail your Frankie photos to: office@franklinfirstumc.org and Frankie will post them on his Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstKids Be sure to like his page so you can follow his adventures. If you still need a "Flat Frankie" to travel with you, stop by the office or pick one up the Children's Ministry Welcome desk on the second floor.



Franklin First
United Methodist Church
Children's Ministry

**Submit a
Prayer
Request
Anytime**

ENTER PRAYER
REQUEST HERE

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

Franklin First United Methodist Church

2022 Lay Leadership Ministry

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

Church Council:

Church Council Chair Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference Charlotte Summer

Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate Kim Chewning

Treasurer Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary Lee Ann Lee
Communications Coordinators Carol & Mike Runyan
Church Historian Robert Bowman
Pastor Laura Saunders

Ministry Team Representatives:

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

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer)

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

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

Terms expiring 2022: Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger

Terms expiring 2023: Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves

Terms expiring 2024: John Lass, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Charlotte Summer, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2022: Pam Bishop, Sue Fullen

Terms expiring 2023: Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson

Terms expiring 2024: Ken Smith, Shirley Berold

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair Paul Anderson
Treasurer: Tami Chamberlain

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

Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

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

Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

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

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

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 Bowman (visitation team)



Franklin First

United Methodist
Church

Pastor Laura Saun-
ders



Sunday Worship Service
10:45 am
Livestreaming on Facebook

Upcoming Events

January 17

Church Council Meeting
6:30 pm

February 13

Fellowship Sunday
After Worship

March 11 & 12

Scrapbooking Event

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

JANUARY