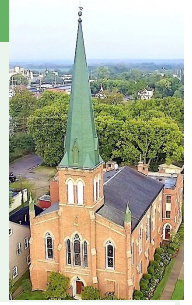




The Steeple Bell— January 2024

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



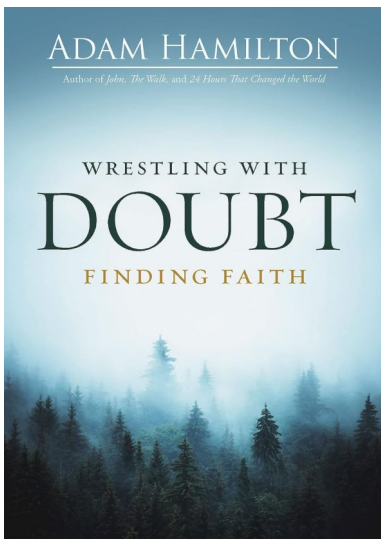
Happy New Year, friends! 2024 is here! January is the time of year when many of us do some self-assessment to evaluate our health and well-being. That’s not a bad exercise for us as a congregation as well. I recently came across an article written by Dr. Lewis A. Parks, pastor and professor, and author of “Preaching in the Small Membership Church.” He shared some interesting assessment markers as indicators of church health:

1. **The congregation maintains vital worship of God.** Season after season, the People of God gather to honor God with their praise and prayers, to attend to the Word, to share in the sacraments. Vital worship provides openings for the Holy Spirit to do new things and is also a place where hospitality is actively practiced.
2. **The congregation is a surrogate family.** In this sacred fellowship, peoples’ names and stories are known, talents are shared, and shelter and affirmations are offered. The faith family allows for diversity of persons and beliefs.
3. **The congregation is a blessing to the community where it finds itself.** The fellowship of believers practices *local extroversion*. “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7. The church that is in touch with the community narrative and incorporates well-targeted ministries to reach their community has a future.
4. **The congregation maintains its building for holy space and mission.** The church attends to its properties. It addresses obstacles to hospitality, diversity, the creeping issues of safety, aesthetics, and accomplishes upgrades that would improve ministry and mission.
5. **The congregation passes the faith to the coming generations.** The Bible clearly favors intergenerational faith. “One generation shall laud your works to another.” Psalm 145:4. *Dr. Parks places this element slightly above the others.* We must attend to the children present, call them by name, teach them the faith, and encourage their active participation in worship. Children must know through congregational interaction that they matter and are cherished, and that each of them is created in the image of God.

I typically describe Franklin First to others as “modest but mighty.” Using these five thoughts, how would you assess our congregational health? Where do you see us as strong? Where do we need to seek God’s help and improve?

In the years I’ve spent with you here in Franklin, I’ve been so proud of the ministry that we have accomplished together. I look forward to seeing what God has in store in the coming years. My prayer for 2024 is that all that we do, we do to the glory of God. May we be God’s light and Jesus’ hands and feet. And may God add his blessing.

Pastor Laura



Lenten Bible Study: Wrestling with Doubt

Do you ever wrestle with doubt in your daily life? Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Even as people of faith, it is normal to have doubts. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. Join Pastor Laura as we explore Rev. Adam Hamilton's new book, "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith." Save the dates, beginning at 5:30 these Sunday evenings: February 18 & 25; March 3, 17 & 24.

If you would like to purchase the book, it is available on Amazon. We will be using handouts for the class. We will begin with a light meal and brief fellowship and then transition to study. Class will be over by 7:30 pm. Please register online or by calling the office by February 4 so that we know how much material to prepare.

Free Medical Clinic

Thanks to Dr. Rick Chamberlain and his volunteer staff, Franklin First continues to offer a free medical clinic weekly on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Patients are welcomed with dignity and respect and are offered basic medical care. For more extensive issues, Dr. Chamberlain will refer as necessary. This ministry seeks to meet the needs of those who are uninsured or underinsured, and in 2023 more than 130 people were served. Each person is invited to a time of prayer with Pastor Laura. We are grateful for the Great Miami River District UMC and a Rotary International grants that funds a portion of the clinic expenses.



Community Dinner Partnerships

Franklin First is the host church for two complimentary community dinners offered to our neighbors. We partner with Hope and Red Lion UM Churches on the first, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays each month; along with St. Mary's Catholic Church every Thursday to provide nutritious meals to all who choose to join us. In 2023, more than 4,000 dinners were distributed. We are grateful for the Great Miami River District UMC grant that funds a portion of the meal expenses.



Snack Pack Ministry

Many of the students at Anthony Wayne Elementary rely on school meals for daily nutrition. Obviously, they do not have these resources on the weekend, so Franklin First supplies weekly snack packs that provide shelf-stable food items. Our current need is 250 packs per week, so this is a substantial investment. In 2023, more than 6700 snack packs were provided. We are grateful for the Great Miami River District UMC grant that pays for part of the expenses for these provisions.

Join the Fun &
Help Pack the Snack Packs

January 2024
Wednesdays, 1:30 pm

February 2024
Wednesdays, 3:00 pm

Third Floor, Missions Room



Tutoring Resumes Soon! Can You Help?

Franklin First was excited to tutor again with Anthony Wayne Elementary students beginning in September 2023. School staff selected second grade students in need of basic literacy instruction. Tutoring takes place at Anthony Wayne School on Thursdays from 3:15 – ap-

proximately 4:30 (or whenever your student is picked up by their adult). The school staff provides a simple lesson. For the winter session, the tutoring runs from January 11 through March 21 (none on February 15). *We will be short on tutors during the month of February, as some of our regular tutors go south for the month. Can you help? Talk to Pastor Laura. What a great way to bless a child!*



Women's Circle

Next meeting will be on January 8th at 6:30 pm. Bring a sandwich and join us for some fellowship.

Mark your calendar: Crop-pin' Good Time is scheduled for March 1 & 2.



Men's Group

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



Angel Shop Opens Soon!

Jenny Chilcutt and her crew will be opening the Angel Shop on January 21 in preparation for the Prom season. Formal wear donations are accepted and then provided cost-free to high school students for their special events. We were notified that the West Ohio Conference awarded this ministry a \$2,000 grant to purchase some display equipment and advertising, and we are grateful for their support. This vital ministry is growing as the word spreads.



ANGEL SHOP
DRESS TO BE YOUR BEST
Gently Used Formal Dress & Accessories
Starting January 21st
Open Sundays
12:30 - 2 pm
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO SHOP WITH US FOR PROM
APPOINTMENTS CAN BE SCHEDULED

No Charged Donations are accepted but optional

Hosted by Franklin First United Methodist Church
300 South Main St.
Franklin, OH 43005
Questions? Email: info@franklinfirstumc.org
Donations Accepted
Lentils/Spanish/Quintessence Available

Legacy Living

We lost some dear folks at Franklin First this year. They are now part of the Church Triumphant, that great cloud of witnesses that we celebrate each All Saints Sunday. Each of these people has left their mark in their own unique way.

Wouldn't we all like to believe that our life has left a lasting blessing after we are no longer here physically? We all have gifts and graces to offer in the name of God. What will be your legacy? It might be in the work world, through the church, or by volunteering. We all have something to share.

One way to leave a legacy in the life of the church is through financial contributions to our Permanent Endowment Fund. Endowments enable our ministries to continue beyond our limited life span. Franklin First is a very community-minded church, and whether we are blessing kids in the schools, providing nourishing meals or life-giving healthcare, and thus sharing salvation in Christ, we are living as the hands and feet of Jesus. Our acts of love and kindness bring peace to a strife-ridden world.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) These words of Jesus remind us that giving to a cause that champions the same beliefs and values that we hold can help us understand that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We are part of bringing "good news of great joy" to the world.

If you would like to contribute to the Permanent Endowment Fund, make sure that your donation is labeled for this fund. We will make sure that it is invested accordingly.



It is **MORE**
Blessed
to **give**
THAN
to **receive**
(Acts 20:35)

Franklin High School Presents: Murder on the Orient Express

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it has one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

Franklin High School Drama Club will present *Murder on the Orient Express* on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.; and Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. All performances will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$5 for students. They're available for purchase online at fhsdrama.boottix.com or at the door.

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



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
FRIDAY, FEB 9TH - 7PM
SATURDAY, FEB 10TH - 5PM
SUNDAY, FEB 11TH - 2PM
FRANKLIN MCDADE AUDITORIUM

Adapted for the stage by KEN LUDWIG
Presented by arrangement with CONCORD THEATRIC
on behalf of SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
www.concordtheatrics.com

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

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 vigorous. Thanks to those who...

- Supported the church financially through our general and special funds to reach out in the name of Christ.
- Worked through the Women's Circle for funeral dinners, rummage sale, noodle making and the Fall Marketplace, the Scrap-booking event, Heart Health and Breast Cancer Awareness Sundays, and the myriad of activities they do throughout the year. Thanks Monica & crew!
- Shared their musical talents which made worship more meaningful.
- Provided for Fellowship Sundays so that we could gather after worship and enjoy one another's company.
- 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.
- Worked in our mission and outreach efforts to feed the community, tend to medical concerns, and clothe the needy.
- Volunteered in the Angel Shop to bless high school students for their special events.
- Worked on church flower beds and landscaping.
- Helped the Kelly family after their house fire.
- Blessed the Anthony Wayne students and staff through measures that showed our care and concern.
- Manned community events to connect with neighbors and make Franklin First more visible in the area.
- Worked with our children, whether through nursery, Children's Church, VBS, or other initiatives to open their hearts to Jesus.
- Helped with technology to extend the message of the Gospel.
- Sought God's leading for the future of this congregation. It takes faith and courage to try new things. Thanks for taking next steps.
- Took out their phones to snap a ministry picture or offer material to record our ministry for the future generations 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 Sunday attendance alone does not fulfill the mission of God. It will be interesting to see what God has in store for us in 2024.

Pastor Laura



**Faith Seekers
Sundays
9:15 am**

Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

All are invited!

Christmas Basket Ministry

On December 18, Franklin's Christmas Gift and Food Basket Distribution blessed 55 families (214 individuals), funded by private donations for each basket. Children (74) and teens (42) received wrapped gifts. We want to thank Tami Chamberlain and her willing crew for all their great work. Sister church St. Mary's Catholic also contributed. A special thank you to Franklin City Schools for collecting food items and to Franklin City Workers for transporting those items to Franklin First UMC. This is certainly a community effort!



Next Mission & Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 9th
6:30 pm

Attention croppers and crafters!

Franklin First United Methodist Church invites you to

A Croppin' Good Time

Scrapbooking Weekend Coming Soon!

Mark Your Calendar for a weekend of scrapbooking fun! The Women's Circle is once again sponsoring "A Croppin' Good Time" on Friday, March 1st (6 pm—9 pm) and Saturday, March 2nd (9 am—8 pm). It is sixteen hours of scrapbooking fun! You will get your table, Saturday brunch and a salad & potato bar for dinner

Sunday Worship

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



Kroger Community Rewards

Have you checked the bottom of your Kroger's Receipt? If it does not list our church as your designated Community Rewards Beneficiary, follow the instructions on the back and get signed up now! Please note our new church number! You do not need to change your current account; this is for new sign-ups.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS:

Go to: www.krogers.com

New account users:

go to "Register"

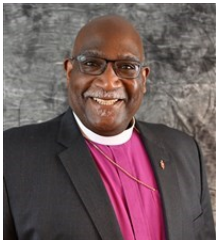
Create Account

Or Sign-in

Go to: Community – Community Rewards

Click: Enroll now

Church #: RK151



New Year Message from Bishop Palmer

Dear friends in Christ Jesus:

Happy New Year one and all. For a variety of reasons, it is almost unbelievable to me that 2024 is here. The start of a New Year is acknowledged by many people as a time of reflection, gratitude, relief, disavowals, and resolutions. All of these have their place in the living of a meaningful life. Some of us engage in more than one of these simultaneously. For example, reflection about our health and wellness might well be accompanied by disavowal of junk food and the resolve to engage in more physical activity.

In a similar matter people of Christian faith often commit to more regular practice of disciplines that shape us for a God-full life. These might include greater frequency of prayer, more reading of scripture, and increased service to and for our neighbors.

When I seek guidance and mentoring in deepening my prayer life I turn to The Reverend Howard Thurman. To that end I have been praying one of his prayers: **“Through the Coming Year...”**. I commend it to you. Let’s breathe it together.

***“Grant that I may pass through
the coming year with a faithful heart.
There will be much to test me and
make weak my strength before the year ends.
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and
do the thing of which I am ashamed.
There will be errors in the mind
and great inaccuracies of judgment...
In seeking the light,
I shall again and again find myself
walking in the darkness.
I shall mistake my light for Your light
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make.
Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year
with a faithful heart.
May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to false-
ness, to vanity, to sin.
Though my days be marked
with failures, stumblings, fallings,
let my spirit be free
so that You may take it
and redeem my moments
in all the ways my needs reveal.
Give me the quiet assurance
of Your Love and Presence.
Grant that I may pass through
the coming year with a faithful heart.”***

Praying with you and for you I am,
Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Gregory V. Palmer



Birthdays

January 05 Rhonda Roberson
January 06 Vicki Jarvis
January 11 Karson Kelly
January 12 Richard Taylor
January 17 Bill Kuntzman
January 27 Jerry Truesdell
January 28 Lee Saunders

Anniversaries

January 13
Hiram & Sue Fullen
January 19
Margie & Dick Taylor
January 31
John & Teresa Lass

In Case of Cancelled Worship Services Or For Church-wide Announcements

We will inform about cancelled services through the following methods:

- Email to all currently active individuals
- Text to all currently active individuals
- Posted on our Website & Social Media platforms

If you not do have access to any of the above listed forms of communication and would like a phone call, please contact Theresa in the office to be added to the contact list to receive a personal phone call.

Also, please be sure the office has your current mobile phone number to receive a text.

January & February 2024 at Franklin First

January

Missions Team begins to collect personal care items for The Pantry

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

- 8 Women's Circle Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 9 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 9 Mission/Outreach Team, 6:30 pm
- 10 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 10 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 10 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 11 Anthony Wayne Tutoring Begins; 3:15 pm

- 14 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 15 Church Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 16 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

- 17 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 17 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 17 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 18 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 21 Angel Shop Opens; 12:30—2 pm
- 23 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 24 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 24 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 24 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 25 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 28 Angel Shop; 12:30—2 pm
- 29 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 31 Snack Pack Packing; 1:30 pm
- 31 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 31 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm

February

- 1 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm
- 4 Angel Shop; 12:30—2 pm
- 6 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30
- 7 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 7 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 7 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 8 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 11 Heart Wellness Awareness Sunday
- 11 Angel Shop; 12:30—2 pm
- 11 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 12 Women's Circle, 6:30 pm
- 13 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

- 14 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 14 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 14 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday Service; 6:30 pm

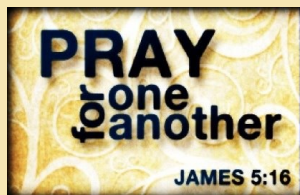
- 18 Noisy Bucket Campaign Begins
- 18 Angel Shop; 12:30—2 pm
- 18 Lenten Bible Study, 5:30pm
- 20 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 21 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 21 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm
- 22 Anthony Wayne Tutoring; 3:15 pm

- 25 Angel Shop; 12:30—2 pm
- 25 Lenten Bible Study, 5:30 pm
- 28 Snack Pack Packing; 3 pm
- 28 Choir Rehearsal; 6: 30 pm
- 28 Bells Rehearsal; 7:30 pm

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



Franklin First Online Giving

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

Connect by using this link:

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

The Myth of Self-Discipline by Jack Shitama

"We first make our habits. Then our habits make us."
— John Dryden

I am undisciplined. I've known this all my life but have tried to ignore it. When I compare myself to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, I feel like the slacker that I am. Wesley typically arose at 4:00 a.m., began every day with prayer, and accomplished more in one day than most of us achieve in a week.

According to one account, Wesley traveled 5,000 miles per year by horseback and preached not less than 15 sermons per week. He journaled daily and kept a diary that marked his activities by the hour. He fasted twice a week. In between his daily routines, his travel, and his preaching, Wesley managed to write prodigiously, visit from house to house, oversee the establishment of schools and chapels, and raise funds to care for those in need.

Wesley was methodical. That's actually where the term "Methodist" came from. It was not meant originally to be a compliment. But Wesley's methodical ways were powerful.

Maybe you also believe you are undisciplined. You tell yourself that if you tried harder or had more willpower, you would grow spiritually, eat better, exercise, and accomplish more.

Here's the problem: Self-discipline is not about trying harder. The truth is, self-discipline or, more correctly, willpower, is an exhaustible resource.

A now famous experiment in 1996 by Roy Baumeister and his Case Western Reserve University colleagues demonstrates this. They subjected participants to the aroma and presence of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Some of the participants were allowed to eat the cookies. Others were told they could not and were told to eat radishes instead (these participants were not happy).



Both sets of participants were then asked to go to another room for what seemed to be an unrelated challenge. There they were asked to solve a puzzle. What they didn't know was that the puzzle was unsolvable.

The result?

The radish-eaters made fewer attempts and spent less than half the time attempting to solve the puzzle compared to the cookie-eaters or to the control group, who had faced neither cookies nor radishes.

The conclusion of this experiment is that self-discipline, self-control and willpower are exhaustible resources. The more you use them, the less you have available. The students who had used their willpower to abstain from chocolate chip cookies had less avail-

able to apply toward solving the puzzle.

In their book "The ONE Thing: The Surprisingly Simple Truth Behind Extraordinary Results," Gary Keller and Jay Papasan list the factors that can deplete your willpower :

- Implementing new behaviors
- Filtering distractions
- Resisting temptation
- Suppressing impulses
- Taking tests
- Trying to impress others
- Coping with fear
- Doing something you don't enjoy
- Selecting long over short-term rewards

This explains why you can't resist that quart of ice cream or bag of chips after you've had a taxing day.

The authors go further and contend that self-discipline is not something that is available at our beck and call. So if you think you are not self-disciplined, you're not alone. Sometimes we have self-discipline—when our willpower hasn't been depleted. Other times we don't.

Here's the key: People who get the results they want aren't more self-disciplined than others. What they are able to do is concentrate their efforts long enough to develop a positive habit. Once that habit is developed, they are able to do it without thinking and without depleting their willpower. Then they do it again to add another positive habit.

If you apply this process to your life, you will be doing amazing things without depleting your willpower much at all. This leaves that willpower available to deal with the many challenges that each day brings.

We can apply this process to our spiritual lives. Prayer, meditation, reading scripture, and journaling are habits that, when developed, keep us focused on what really matters. That's a must for effective leaders.

We can apply this process to our professional lives, too. Reading, writing, research, sermon preparation, planning, and learning new skills are habits that can boost our productivity tremendously.



The Rev. Jack Shitama serves as executive director of Pecometh Camp and Retreat ministries in Maryland

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

We also can apply this process to our physical lives. Eating right, exercising, flossing, and drinking plenty of water are habits that will help us feel better, live longer, and work more effectively.

Keller and Papasan maintain that research supports the idea that it takes an average of 66 days to develop a new habit. They also caution against trying to develop more than one habit at a time. Focus on just one until it really becomes a habit, and it will no longer require any willpower. You'll just do it! (That would make a great slogan.) Then you can focus on a new habit.

Just imagine if you developed one new habit every 66 days. That would be five new habits a year. What if you did that for five years? That would be 25 new habits. Do you think your life would be different?

The good news is, you can do it! I'm proof.

The thing is, I didn't even know that I was doing this at the time. It just happened. My prayer life improved. I started exercising. And then I realized that there was a common process

I dug into the learning behind this process and began to apply it to other areas of my life. I started several new initiatives in the ministry I serve. I started a blog. I wrote a book.

In my book, I share what I learned. What you do with it is up to you.

Summary:

- Willpower is an exhaustible resource. Much of what you face during a day will deplete your willpower. Learn to live with this and give yourself a break.
- Self-disciplined people do not have more willpower. They just use the willpower they have to develop positive habits.
- Habits are powerful because they enable you to achieve meaningful things without using up your willpower.

Taken from: <https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/practicing-faith/the-myth-of-self-discipline-1/>

**From the
District:
Super Serve
Saturday!**



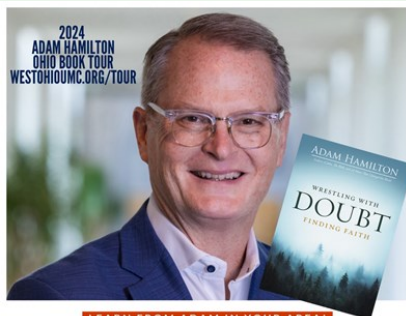
Introducing Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serving opportunity!

In the new year we are partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September-May. We are hoping to see families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds put their faith into action by serving in the community.

Currently we have 4 organizations and 6 projects to choose from in January. All of the opportunities are in Hamilton county but our goal is to expand to all 7 counties in the Great Miami River District very quickly.

Super Serve Saturdays (S3) will take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month - January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20 and May 18. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

[Click here](#) to see the opportunities and/or sign up for the first S3 day in January.



Adam Hamilton is Coming to the District!

January 16 at 6:30 PM- [Register Here](#)

Rev. Adam Hamilton is touring Ohio with the release of his upcoming book, "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith." This is an incredible opportunity to learn from a successful author of church resources and pastor of one of the most influential churches in America, The United Methodist Church of

the Resurrection in Kansas City. Each stop will be 90 minutes with a short presentation followed by a Q & A about the book. The event is free, but registration is required. Books will be available to purchase on site. [Register here.](#)

Franklin First United Methodist Church 2024 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tami Chamberlain
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Cheryl Cyphers
Financial Secretary	Theresa Fultz
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

Ministry Team Representatives:

Staff-Parish	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Finance	Paul Anderson
Endowment	To Be Determined
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	TBD
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

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

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

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

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

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

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Theresa Fultz
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Co-Chairs:	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Tami Chamberlain
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

Chair of Finance Committee	Paul Anderson
Church Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Chair of Board of Trustees	Jim Martin
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Member at Large (Term: 2023-24)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Ken Smith
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Kay Marksberry, Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Madelyn Lang, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain, Marna Rogers, Sally Fitzgerald,

Technology Team: Chair: Joe Chamberlain

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

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Joe Wright (Adult) Rhonda Roberson (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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

Franklin First United
Methodist Church

Pastor
Laura Saunders



**Sunday Worship
Service**

10:45 am

Livestreaming on Facebook

Faith Seekers Bible Study

Sundays, 9:15 am

Upcoming Events

February 14

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Lenten Bible Study Begins

March 1 & 2

Croppin' Good Time

March 24

Palm Sunday/Holy Week Begins

March 28

Holy Thursday

March 29

Good Friday

March 31

Easter Sunday

STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER

Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, OH 45005

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E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE

January
2024