



The Steeple Bell— July 2022

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Are you a history buff? Let's test your knowledge...

1. The American Revolution started when the first shots were fired on:

- a. December 31, 1774
- b. April 19, 1775
- c. July 4, 1775

2. The English king that ruled during the American Revolution was:

- a. King George III
- b. King William IV
- c. King Charles III

3. On July 4, we celebrate the Declaration of Independence. What happened on July 4, 1776?

- a. The Declaration was signed.
- b. The Declaration was written.
- c. The Declaration was adopted by the Thirteen Colonies.

4. The author(s) of the Declaration of Independence included:

- a. Thomas Jefferson
- b. John Adams
- c. Benjamin Franklin
- d. All of the above

5. The first public reading of the Declaration was in:

- a. Washington DC
- b. Philadelphia
- c. New York City

6. The first signer of the Declaration was the president of the Continental Congress.

His name was:

- a. George Washington
- b. Thomas Jefferson
- c. John Hancock

7. The first words of the Declaration are:

- a. "We hold these truths to be self-evident"
- b. "We the People of the United States"
- c. "When in the course of human events"

8. The Declaration states that men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, including life, liberty and [what]?

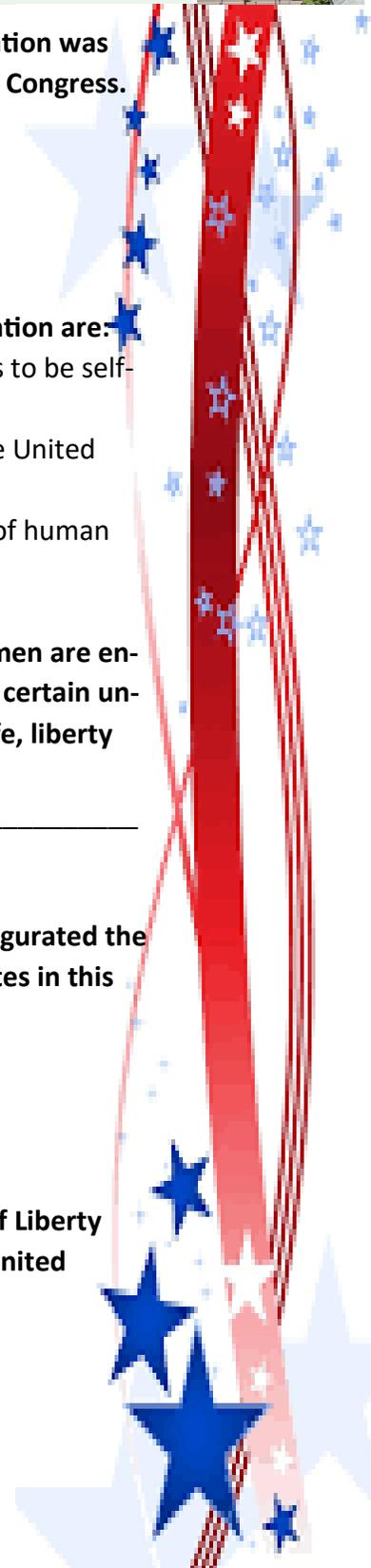
9. George Washington was inaugurated the first President of the United States in this year:

- a. 1776
- b. 1781
- c. 1789

10. On July 4, 1884 the Statue of Liberty was formally presented to the United States by this country:

- a. Spain
- b. France
- c. Italy

Answers can be found on page 3



Franklin's Wettest Parade

Main Street will be hopping on the morning of July 4th for a fun, fantastic celebration of Independence Day. The street will be lined with lots of folks sporting lawn chairs, super soakers, beach towels, sun glasses and even bathing suits. I have never been part of a community that knows how to have this much fun together.

Franklin First will be having a drawing for a free Super soaker and we will be enjoying the festivities as well. Join us. You can sit behind the sidewalk if you choose not to get wet.

Pastor Laura



National Night Out

Franklin First is planning to participate in this local event to honor our Police Department. We are going to man a booth with a drawing for a backpack full of school supplies. We will also have give-aways for the kids. If you would like to be a part of this outreach, please contact Linda Smith or Karen Anderson for more information. We need smiling faces to greet our community and let them see we care.



“Food Truck Party: On a Roll” Vacation Bible School—July 12, 13, & 14

July 12-14 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Franklin First will be hosting VBS for our church kids and community friends alike. New this year will be a class for 4 & 5 year olds (Franklin First children only) and all kids up through those entering 6th grade will be welcome. The lessons are based on Matthew

6:11: “Give us this day our daily bread”, which reminds us that everything we have comes from God. Specific lessons include God providing manna and quail for the Israelites, Daniel and his friends choosing to eat good stuff, and Jesus feeding the 5,000. In addition to these lessons, kids will enjoy music, crafts, snacks, recreation, and science experiments. The closing program will be during worship on July 17. *Don't wait to register! Grandkids, neighbor kids, all kids will have a great time.*



Worship in the Park

Crains Run Park, north on Dixie Highway toward Miamisburg, is the place to be on July 24 for an outdoor 10:45 worship service. Bring your lawn chair, a dish to pass, wear your play clothes, and throw in some games.



Our worship will be an informal camp-type service that is kid-friendly.

We have reserved the covered shelter complete with picnic tables. The area provides shade trees, playground equipment, and a porti-potty. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, table service and drinks will be provided.

In case of inclement weather, we will meet back at the church for worship and the potluck. We will not be live-streaming the service, so if you are unable to join us we invite you to view one of our prior services online.



Mission Possible!

At Franklin First, we endeavor to hold many events that are “invitation worthy” in nature.

From special worship services, to VBS, to musical celebrations, to Backpack Sunday, to Homecoming Sunday, to holiday remembrances...the list goes on for opportunities to include those who are not currently a part of our fellowship to be with us.

Don't wait for “someone else” to fill our pews for these special happenings. Do your part! Ask a friend, a lonely neighbor, your niece, a co-worker, the kids down the street. Ask, ask, ask! You need not apply pressure. Just be friendly and let them know that you consider these occasions a blessing in your life. This is easy evangelism. You are just being hospitable and welcoming by inviting others. If they decline, smile a gracious smile and say, “Maybe next time.” You are offering an open door to the fellowship of faith. Everyone is invited to God's House. The Lord expects no less

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

Independence Day Answer Key

- 1) B – April 19, 1775
- 2) A – King George III
- 3) C – Adopted by the Thirteen Colonies. It was written in June of that year and signed on August 2, 1776.
- 4) A – Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration was edited by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.
- 5) B – Philadelphia
- 6) C – John Hancock
- 7) C – “When in the course of human events”
- 8) “pursuit of happiness”
- 9) C – 1789
- 10) B—France

Backpack Sunday— August 7th

Again this year, we will be hosting Backpack Sunday during worship as we ask God's blessing on our children and school staff who will be returning to classrooms. Invite family and neighbors to share in these blessings. **Please be collecting school supplies, as we will be giving them away to kids and staff alike.**



Anthony Wayne Tutoring



Anthony Wayne Tutoring—Hopefully this Fall!

Well as you know, the COVID pandemic has curtailed some outreach activities that are very important – literacy tutoring with AW elementary students included. We have been in conversation with Principal Jim Rhoades, and he is anticipating the resumption of tutoring this fall. Yeah!

Tutors work with early elementary students who have been identified by school staff as in need of some special attention with reading skills. In the past, tutors have committed to be at Anthony Wayne from 3:00 – 4:30 on Thursday afternoons for eight-week sessions in both the fall and winter/spring. During that time, students have gym time, snack time, and lesson time. The lesson suggestions are provided by school staff.

We can use some new tutors in addition to our seasoned tutors. You will need a background check (if you haven't already had one) and you will get on the job training. This is a rewarding outreach! Tutors and their students often form a rich bond with one another. The kids love it so much and brag about it, that the other students at the school want to know if they can join in. What a way to bless a child! Talk to Linda Smith with questions or to volunteer.

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



ENTER PRAYER REQUEST HERE



Are You Rich?

“The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.” St. John Chrysostom

I appreciated the lead article in our “Stewardship” flyer from November 2021. Most of us think about Christian Stewardship as what we give to God, but the author challenged readers to think about what we receive from God daily in our lives. We can say that we work hard for what we have, but our talents and abilities – our very existence is a gift from God. We have done nothing to earn God’s favor and grace.

The Gospel of Luke shares wisdom: “Everyone to whom much is given, much will be required.” (12:48) We might think of that in terms of those who have lots of money, but instead we might think of that with regard to all that God has given us: resources, time, talents.

As we look ahead, there are many opportunities to share time and talents with our music, our outreach efforts, with caring for church folk. We also are called to share our resources with pantry and snack pack donations, tithes and offerings, and through our Permanent Endowment Fund. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)



A New Look!

If you have been checking into our website over the past six months, you will have noticed that it has evolved over that time period. If you have not been on our website recently, take a moment to check it out www.franklinfirstumc.org. Recently we upgraded our platform for two primary reasons 1) more mobile friendly and 2) SEO (search engine optimization) capabilities.

A mobile-friendly website is essential if we want to engage new people through our website. Although the statistics vary depending on the study; some common threads indicate that:

- People spend around 5 hours a day on their smartphones.
- 70% of web traffic comes from mobile phones.
- 80% of the top-ranked websites are mobile-friendly.
- 61% of users will never return to a website that is *not* mobile-friendly.
- 80% of smartphone users will buy from companies with mobile sites and apps that are easy to navigate.
- 70% of the searches made on mobile phones lead to online action.
- Mobile phone data usage is predicted to grow 46% in the next year.



Secondly, search engine optimization (SEO) is critical as well. The internet is essentially a giant library and when someone searches on google, the search engine essentially serves as librarian and returns results. The search engines use some robots called spiders or crawlers to search all the pages on the internet (the find part of the process); everything they find is then organized into an index so when your search on the internet your results show up immediately. The results are then ranked by relevancy and popularity; the answer is what actually displays when you search.

SEO is about making the Franklin First site more appealing to search engines and ranking higher in the search results. SEO helps us get the right traffic to our website (quality); as much of the right traffic to our site as possible (quantity); and without paying for it (organic). Do a search for Franklin First? Churches in Franklin, OH? See where Franklin First is in your search results.

A professional website is one of the cornerstones to building a strong online presence and helps Franklin First communicate our mission; invite others to join us; and spread God’s word beyond the church walls.

Outreach Celebration!

We are definitely a small but mighty church as our outreach numbers show. We have much for which to be grateful and to celebrate — thanks to everyone who contributed time, energy, funding, & support to the efforts!

Caring for the greater Franklin community, increasing the quality of life, and extending God's love to those in need are cornerstones to our mission at Franklin First.



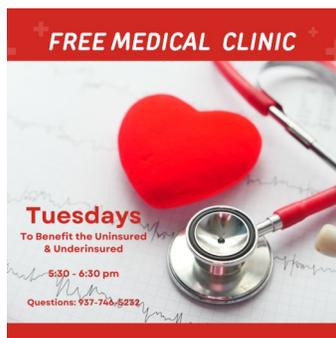
A Generous Blessing!

This week Franklin First was blessed by community friends (I'm not going to share their

names) who attend another church but sent us a note saying that they drive by our church regularly and notice all the outreaches that we have in place to benefit Franklin and surrounding areas. They sent us a check for \$1,000 to further those ministries. I am grateful for their generosity, and I am also grateful for the faith and commitment of this congregation that generates those caring endeavors. Well done friends. Our neighbors are taking notice. Pastor Laura

Free Medical Clinic

Dr. Chamberlain and staff continue to hold the Free Clinic on Tuesday evenings weekly. Registration begins at 5:30 and continues until 6:30. We have begun seeing more patients each week after a slow resumption following the COVID break. Please pass the word! Those without insurance or who are underinsured have access to a physician and free basic care. Who do you know who might need this ministry?



OUTREACH CELEBRATION

January - June 2022

Franklin First Caring about the greater Franklin Community



Angel Shop

More than **250** formal wear items were donated for local high school students

SNACK PACKS

More than **3165** snack packs provided to Anthony Wayne students during the 21-22 school year



MEDICAL CLINIC

82 people served at our medical clinic in 2022

TUESDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

Our partners Hope UMC & Red Lion UMC have served more than **501** meals in 2022



THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

Our partner St. Marys Knights of Columbus has served more than **485** meals in 2022

ANTHONY WAYNE TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION

37 teacher & staff appreciation & classroom resource bags were provided to Anthony Wayne Elementary



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION APPRECIATION DINNER

Hosted **25** students & teachers for a Cast & Production Dinner after the final performance of the Spring Musical

THE PANTRY QUARTERLY COLLECTION

Collected more than **265** personal care items such as shampoo, soap, etc to donate to The Pantry



"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

Women of the Year 2022

Each year on Mother's Day, Franklin First recognizes a woman who has gone above



and beyond for the congregation. A recipient has been recognized each year since 1976. Although the award was put on hiatus for the past a couple years due the pandemic.

We were so pleased to acknowledge Pastor Laura as our recipient this year.

The nomination letters and the award committee has this to say about Pastor Laura:

Pastor Laura is the backbone of her family giving them strength daily, provides an ear of discernment, shoulder to cry on, and a emotional supporter.

She loves watching her grandchildren and taking them shopping and baking with them.

Pastor Laura has a great personality and is down to earth. She is easy to talk to and readily shares her own personal stories of tears, joys, & challenges. Her personal faith journey shows others how God is always there for us.

The past several years were very challenging for Franklin First and she has held us together during all of challenges with COVID. She worked to keep us connected through newsletters, livestreaming, and phone calls.

When we returned to in-person worship she made a commitment to continue

livestreaming for those who could still not attend.

Pastor Laura has a heart for children's ministry and works to keep our children engaged in worship & other activities.

Under her leadership we as a church as become more engaged in the community and sharing God's love with others. Through her encouragement we have upgraded the education wing. She worked many hours securing grants for numerous ministries & projects with in the church. She provides prayer for those in need each week at the free clinic.

A few years ago her family was thrown a curve ball when her husband became a paraplegic. Through it all, she continues to nurture her family as well as her church family with her ministry.

She has never slowed down her caring and support of both her family and church family. Their wellbeing spiritually and personally has always been her top priority Her heart and door is always open to us!

We feel Pastor Laura has gone above and beyond the normal duties of pastor and are honored to recognize Pastor Laura as the 2022 Franklin First Women of the Year.

Birthdays

July 01	Jo Steinberger
July 06	Jan Truesdell
July 07	Jimmy Trout
July 10	Olivia Hinds
July 14	Beverly Etter
July 15	Mick Carpenter
July 16	Jerry Ragland
July 21	Tami Chamberlain
July 21	Chris Womack
July 22	Emily Hynes
July 25	Kathy Eich
July 25	Jackie Messmore

Anniversaries

July 28	Lisa & Mick Carpenter
July 20	Cheryl & Greg Cyphers
July 03	Deric & Jessica Lucas
July 11	Jo & Tom Steinberger

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>



End Gun Violence Now—It's Time to Pray & Act

By now, the story of gun violence and mass shootings in America are not an anomaly –it keeps happening with



alarming frequency. The list from just the past decade includes supermarkets in Buffalo, New York and in Boulder, Colorado; a train rail yard

in San Jose, California; a birthday party in Colorado Springs, Colorado; a convenience store in Springfield, Missouri; a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; churches in Sutherland Springs, Texas and in Charlestown, South Carolina; a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, a FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis, Indiana; a music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada; massage parlors in Atlanta, Georgia; a Waffle House in Nashville, Tennessee; a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida; and a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado.

Sadly, because of mass shootings, school names in America have become familiar to us, such as Sandy Hook Elementary, Stoneman Douglas High School, Santa Fe High School, Nickel Mines Elementary, and Columbine High School. According to Education Week, which tracks school shootings, there have been 26 school shootings resulting in death in the U.S. in 2022. Unbelievably, in ten years since Sandy Hook, gun laws in the U.S. haven't changed much.

- We must pray for wisdom and a strong desire to ACT. Things must change!
- We pray for the families, friends and communities of the victims. Pray for comfort. Pray for relief of the unimaginable pain they are suffering and will suffer for years to come. Pray for the Spirit to comfort the grieving and fire-up the complacent.
- We act for policy change and engage to reform systems and behaviors. Push and drive Congress to establish gun laws that protect children, our families, friends, loved ones and communities. Please act now. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and demand action to prevent gun violence and enact lifesaving gun legislation. Read below for sample letters: a pastoral letter, a letter to a state legislator, and a letter to a Congressional representative.

- We recognize that gun violence has become an all-too-frightening phenomenon. (Read more from UMCJustice.org's "Faith and Facts") Now more than ever, let's stand together as United Methodists in "Our Call to End Gun Violence." (2016 Book of Resolutions, #3428) Read, study, and discuss the ways you, your family, your small group at church, or your congregation will respond. If you would like to plan a class, lunch, or dessert with a panel of reputable local people who know the world of gun violence in Cincinnati, please contact Janice Kummer who could connect you with the four panelists that Hyde Park Community UMC included in their JUST Desserts Gun Violence workshop in May. Their panelists were: Ms. Jillian Bowman, Moms Demand Action; Officer Louis Arnold, Cincinnati Police Department; Mr. Danny Burrige, Santa Maria Community Services; Ms. Margaret Fox, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC). You may contact Janice at JaniceKummer@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry Crowe, General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, Washington, DC

Rev. David W. Meredith, Director of Urban Ministry, Ohio River Valley District



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.

KROGERS 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 Era for Church & Boy Scouts of America

Key points

- The United Methodist Church’s partnership with the Boy Scouts of America will continue after two years of great challenge, including the pandemic and the BSA’s child sex abuse-related bankruptcy.
- United Methodist leaders are speaking of a new era in the relationship with BSA, with local churches no longer serving as chartering organizations for Scouting groups but instead signing affiliation agreements.
- Supervision of adult Scouting leaders will shift to local BSA Councils, with churches offering Scouting groups space and various forms of support — including spiritual care.

“We think that Scouting is important ministry,” said Bishop John Schol, during a June 16 webinar for United Methodists interested in the denomination’s future with Scouting. “We want to do everything we can to grow Scouting through The United Methodist Church.”

But Schol and other United Methodist leaders are just as emphatic that The United Methodist Church’s partnership with the BSA is entering a new era.

Going away is the practice of local churches serving as chartering organizations for Scouting groups. Instead, churches will have the option of entering into an affiliation agreement. Essentially, they will be promising to provide space and lots of support to Scouting groups, but supervisory responsibility will rest with local BSA Councils.



In February 2020, a few weeks before the pandemic gripped the U.S., the BSA filed for bankruptcy due to the growing number of lawsuits from men alleging that they had been sexually abused while in Scouting.

Church leaders have stressed that dealing fairly and compassionately with abuse survivors has been and remains their No. 1 concern. But they also worried about liability exposure for local United Methodist churches that chartered Scouting groups where abuse was alleged to have occurred.

United Methodist leaders expressed frustration with the BSA at points during the negotiations. But late last year, as part of the BSA reorganization plan, United Methodist leaders worked it out for U.S. annual conferences of The United Methodist Church to pay \$30 million into a fund for survivors of Scouting-related abuse — with the assurance that local churches would be released from liability.

Adapted from: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/new-era-for-church-and-boy-scouts-of-america>



Franklin First United Methodist Church

2022 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



Church Council:

churchcouncil2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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
Endowment	Ken Smith
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
Care Team	Lee Saunders
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)

staffparishrelations2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

trustees2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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):

layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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.)

finance2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

endowment2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

worship2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

mission2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

technology2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

layleadership2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Chris Womack, Charlotte Summer

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

careteam2022@franklinfirstumc.onmicrosoft.com

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

Upcoming Events

Franklin First

United Methodist
Church

Pastor
Laura Saunders



Sunday Worship Service

10:45 am

Livestreaming on Facebook

July 4th

Wettest July 4th Parade

July 10

Fellowship Sunday

July 12, 13 & 14

Vacation Bible School

July 17th

Vacation Bible School Program at Worship

July 24th

Worship in the Park

August 7th

Backpack Sunday

September 11th

Grandparent's Sunday

September 25th

Homecoming Sunday

November 5th

Fall Marketplace (Fall Bazaar)

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.
Franklin, OH 45005

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E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

