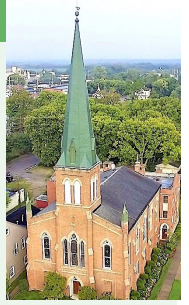




The Steeple Bell—June 2024

Franklin First United Methodist Church

"Under the Green Steeple"



United Methodist Committee On Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is 80 years old. At General Conference in May, representatives reported on the work of this connectional aid organization. In 1940, Bishop Herbert Welch (1862-1969) proposed to General Conference the formation of a new coalition to address global human suffering. The early focus was on World War II refugees and migrants, bringing hope and healing to communities devastated by the disasters of war.

Today, UMCOR is the humanitarian relief arm of the UMC, part of the General Board of Global Ministries. As part of our connectional system, the organization is primarily funded by the U.S. annual conferences and responds around the world when a local community is overwhelmed in its efforts to respond to disaster.

UMCOR has adopted the following goals:

- ◆ Disaster relief and recovery.
- ◆ Assisting migrants.
- ◆ Fostering environmental sustainability.
- ◆ Promoting sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ Global health.

You might remember some of the larger recent initiatives UMCOR championed. Mosquito nets for African communities were provided to fight the spread of malaria. The "Wings of the Morning" campaign raised funds for the purchase of an airplane to help meet medical needs in rural Africa. The beauty of our connectional United Methodist system is that we share resources to better the lives of neighbors near and far. We can do more together than we could ever do alone.

We observe UMCOR Sunday in March, and contributions on that day fund the administrative costs of the organization so that any monies given for a particular disaster can be shared at 100% with those who are suffering. Apart from specific disaster initiatives, UMCOR provides cleaning buckets, works for sustainable clean food and water, adequate shelter, basic healthcare, legal services, solar panels, and other means of blessing lives.

I am grateful for the work of UMCOR. Their reach extends far beyond what one congregation could accomplish on its own. Others around the world come to know God through the caring, real, and tangible humanitarian efforts given as a sign of God's unconditional love.

Pastor Laura





Music Sunday

May 19, our musicians gave us God's message in song and we were blessed. Franklin First is endowed with much talent, and the theme "Harmony of the Spirit: a Pentecost Music Sunday Celebration" brought uplifting and inspiring pieces. Thanks to our staff: Monica Rhude, Tami Chamberlain, Megan Duff, and Trisha Dicken. Thanks to all those who shared their skills. Thanks to

our guest musician Priscilla Acuff on organ. And last but not least, thanks to our technical crew who work behind the scenes to give us great sound and picture. What a glorious way to end the choir season!

Vacation Bible School— July 16, 17, 18

Save the date for a great time for kids kindergarten through incoming 6th graders. "Exploring God's World" is our theme this year. We are encouraging youngsters from the community to come. We will meet from 6:00 till 8:00 these three evenings. Our closing program will be Sunday, July 21.

Through lessons about the creation, Noah's ark, and farmers sowing seeds, we will discover the beauty and richness of God's creation. Our key scripture is Genesis 1:31. "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good." Children must pre-register online or through the office.

READY TO EMBARK ON AN EPIC QUEST TO EXPLORE GOD'S WORLD?

"GOD LOOKED OVER EVERYTHING HE HAD MADE. IT WAS GOOD, SO VERY GOOD." GENESIS 1:31

CALLING ALL EXPLORER KIDS

EXPLORING GOD'S WORLD
VBS MISSION: AIR, WATER, & EARTH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024
JULY 16, 17, & 18
6-8 PM

LET'S GO
ADVENTURE

Kindergarten- 6th-grade (Fall 2024)
Visit our website to register: franklinfirstumc.org
Questions? 937-746-5232

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
303 S. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, OH

Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Children's Summer Programming

Summer months are times of traveling and special commitments. We are adjusting our children's program to accommodate summer schedules. Children's Church is adjourned through the summer and will resume on August 18. Several of our summer worship services will include special involvement for our kids, and there will be age-appropriate activity bags available for kids in the worship service. The nursery will continue throughout the summer, and the top nursery age will be expanded to include six-year-olds who wish to attend. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to keep our children's ministry vibrant.



Future of School Ministries

With the reorganization of Franklin Elementary Schools, many have been wondering

how this will affect our snack pack and tutoring programs. The good news is that both will continue. Let me share what I know at this point.

Principal Jim Rhoades will be at Gerke Elementary, which will house all first-grade students. Franklin First will continue partnering with Mr. Rhoades at Gerke for both tutoring and snack packs. As far as I know, we are the only church that provides literacy tutoring.

Schenk Elementary will house the Pre-K and Kindergarten students and Hunter will house the second graders. The Kindness Snack Pack program, affiliated with Southwest Church in Springboro, will serve both schools.

Third through fifth grade students will move to the modular classrooms behind the Junior High (the old high school). I recently sent out a letter to other churches in the Franklin School System explaining the snack pack ministry and inviting other churches to become partners. At the time of this writing, two churches are in the initial stages of learning about the snack pack program. I am hopeful that by the start of school in August, we will have new ministry alliances that will pick up grades three, four, and five.

Mission coordinators Linda Smith and Karen Anderson share my excitement that these important ministries will continue. Thank you to all who donate their time and resources to bless Franklin students. Please join me in prayer that all necessary details will fall into place. Pastor Laura

2023-24 Snack Pack Success

The number of snack packs, our team prepared for Anthony Wayne significantly increased this year. We are so grateful for all of the support we received in support of our mission to help young learners.

- 7,574 Weekend Snacks Delivered
- Over 40 incredible volunteers lent their time and energy throughout the year. We extend a special shout-out to the enthusiastic National Honor Society students from Franklin High School.
- We express our heartfelt gratitude to Peoples Bank for their generous donation and collection drive.
- Franklin First individuals played a crucial role by contributing to the program. Additionally, the grants we received further strengthened our efforts.

Because of your generosity, students have access to nutritious snacks over the weekends, setting them up for success in the classroom. We're so proud to be part of such a giving and supportive community.

JUNE & JULY

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

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

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

7574 Snack Packs

Anthony Wayne Elementary
2023-2024

2024 class of

Graduation Congratulations!

Graduations are important achievements. These milestones mark the culmination of hard work and are steppingstones to new seasons in life. This year, we celebrate Mariah Hynes' graduation from Franklin High School, along with the graduations of many family members and friends. Congratulations to all!

May God be with you in your next steps.

KAYLA
Pastor Laura



Kayla, the granddaughter of Dorothy Rayburg, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree on April 27, 2024 from Bowling Green University. Kayla is working at DOmedia where she did her internship.

JOSHUA BURT

Joshua David Burt, son of David and Merrideth Burt and grandson of Michael and Linda Smith, graduated from Lakota East High School on May 17th. He played lacrosse for 6 years and plans to attend University of Cincinnati where he will major in secondary education.



COOPER J. DANIELS

Cooper Daniels, son of Danny & Holly Daniels, and grandson of Susie Mears graduated from Thomas More University with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. and received Cum Laude honors.

JAMES CAYCE DANIELS

James Daniels, son of Danny & Holly Daniels, and grandson of Susie Mears graduated from Northern Kentucky University on May 5, 2024 with Bachelor of Arts from the College of Informatics.



TEDDY FROST

Teddy Frost, son of LuAnn & Bob Frost, is graduating from Western Governor's University in August 2024 with a Master's degree in Digital Marketing.

2024 *class of*

MARIAH HYNES

Mariah Hynes, daughter of Regina & Ryan Hynes graduated from Franklin High School. She will be attending Wilmington College in the fall.



MCKENNA RAYBURG

McKenna Rayburg, the granddaughter of Dorothy Rayburg, graduated with a Bachelors in Social Work from Northern Arizona University on May 11, 2024. McKenna is pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work: Advanced Practice Leadership through Texas State University.



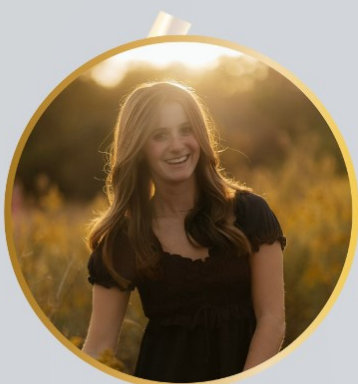
MATTHEW SCHRAMM

Matthew Schramm, the grandson of Monica Rhude, graduated from Dublin Coffman High School. He has committed to the University of Akron to the football program and will be working towards a degree in Business/Pre-Law.



MORGAN SCHRAMM

Morgan Schramm, the granddaughter of Monica Rhude, graduated from Dublin Coffman High School with honors. She will be attending the University of Cincinnati working towards a degree in Health Science/ Pre PA.



SAM TOUVANNAS

Sam Touvannas, the grandson of Judy & Bob Bowman, received his Masters of Science (MS) degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado (Boulder) on May 9, 2024. Sam will start his career position with Motorola Solutions in early June following a family trip to France, Greece, and Cyprus.



2024 at Franklin First

June

Missions Team collection baby care items

- 2 Graduation Sunday
- 4 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 9 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 11 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 16 Father's Day
- 18 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 18 Vacation Bible School, 6:30 pm
- 19 Juneteenth
- 25 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

July

Missions Team collects school supplies

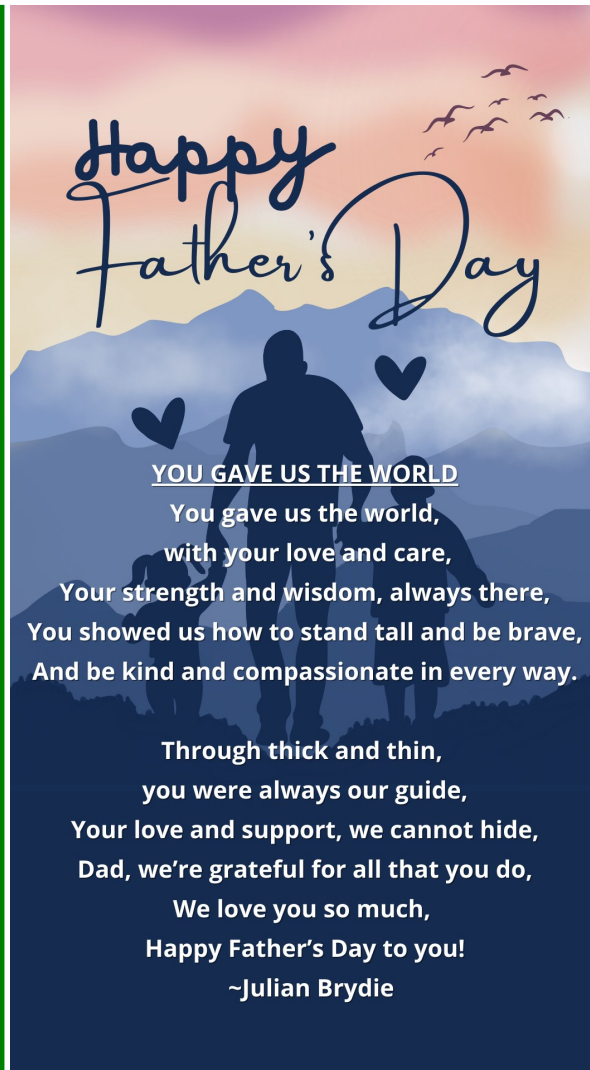
- 2 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 4 July 4th Wettest Parade
- 9 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 10 Finance Committee; 2:30 pm (if needed)
- 14 Worship in the Park
- 14 Men's Group, 7 pm
- 15 Church Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 16 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 16-18 Vacation Bible School. 6 –8 pm
- 23 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
- 30 Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

Birthdays

- June 02 Mary Harville
- June 02 Christian Lucas
- June 03 Tiffany Chilcutt
- June 06 Judy Thomas
- June 06 Cheryl Cyphers
- June 08 Connie Bolinger
- June 09 Julie Abell
- June 10 Megan Duff
- June 14 Nancy Osborne
- June 16 Shari Tutt
- June 23 Barry Daugherty
- June 25 Marty Wright
- June 26 Tyler Smith
- June 26 Lily Smith
- June 30 Kathy Martin

Anniversaries

- June 12 Macie & Andrew Goodpaster
- June 14 Joe & Rachel Chamberlain
- June 20 Jerry & Jan Truesdell
- June 27 Bill & Carol Hatfield
- June 27 Pastor Laura & Lee Saunders



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 **Sunday, June 9th.**

Boy Scouts of America to Become Scouting America



This rebranding reflects the continuing efforts to welcome everyone to experience the benefits of Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America today announced that it will rebrand to Scouting America, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to welcome every youth and family in America to experience the benefits of Scouting. The change will go into effect on February 8, 2025, the organization's 115th anniversary.

This announcement also comes as the organization celebrates the fifth anniversary of welcoming girls into Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs. Scouting America currently serves more than 176,000 girls and young women across all programs, including over 6,000 who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

"Though our name will be new, our mission remains unchanged: we are committed to teaching young people to be Prepared. For Life," said Roger A. Krone, president and chief executive officer of Scouting America. "This will be a simple but very important evolution as we seek to ensure that everyone feels welcome in Scouting."

Scouting America builds on the organization's 114 years of helping America's youth. Its ongoing goal is to provide young people with a safe environment where they can learn meaningful life skills and have fun, educational experiences, fostering their growth and future outcomes as leaders, and be prepared for life. At the same time, values instilled by the Scout Oath and Law help prepare young people for lives of purpose and impact.

More than 130 million Americans have been through Scouting programs since its founding in 1910, and currently, more than 1 million youth, including both men and women, are served by 477,000 dedicated adult volunteers in local councils throughout the country. To date, more than 2.75 million youth have earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

In addition to supporting the nation's youth, Scouting America will continue to be an important asset to strengthen our communities, having provided more than 7 million hours of volunteer services for community improvement and other projects across the country annually.

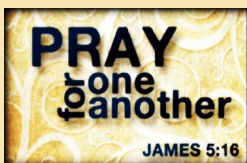
"Scouting America provides a welcoming, safe environment where youth can become the best version of themselves by learning from and respecting each other," said Krone. "I encourage everyone to join us and experience the benefits of Scouting."

Taken From: [Boy Scouts of America to Become Scouting America - Scouting Newsroom](#)

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



VBS Planning Meeting
Tuesday, June 18th
6:30pm
Dining Room

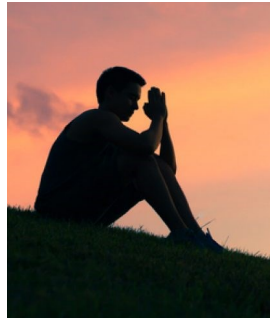


Mission & Outreach Team
Next Meeting:
Tuesday, July 9th
6:30 pm
Dining Room

PRAYERS WHEN SEEKING PEACE OF MIND

Ed-

ited by Rev. Ryan Dunn



Many of us grapple with anxiety on a near daily basis and often find ourselves longing for ways to calm our minds and interrupt the downward emotional spiral that leads towards depression and dark thoughts. Finding ways to cultivate mental peace can be crucial for our overall well-being. For those exploring the intersection of spirituality and daily life, prayer can offer a meaningful practice to address and process these anxieties.

But prayer can be intimidating. Sometimes we lack the words to communicate what we're feeling. The value of Christian is that, for thousands of years, faithful people have been facing similar issues and asking questions similar to those we wrestle with today. We can lean on the words they shared long ago to help guide or focus and center our thoughts in the here and now.

Below is a collection of prayers shared throughout Christian history. Perhaps one might stir in you a sense of perspective or provide the words you feel, but can't quite voice.

It's important to acknowledge that while prayer can be a powerful tool for many, it is not a substitute for professional mental health care. If you or someone you know is struggling with severe anxiety or other mental health issues, seeking help from a professional is both appropriate and encouraged.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit."

Ro-

mans 15:13



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. All are invited!

O God, seeing as there is in Christ Jesus an infinite fullness of all that we can want or desire, May we all receive from him, grace upon grace; grace to pardon our sins, and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons and to sanctify our souls; and to complete that holy change, that renewal of our hearts, Which will enable us to be transformed into the blessed image in which you created us. O make us all acceptable to be partakers of the inheritance of your saints in light. Amen. John Wesley

*May God the Father bless us;
may Christ take care of us;
the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life.
The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul,
both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.*
Æthelwold

O God, Who art the unsearchable abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings, and the bestower of affection, Who sendest peace to those that receive it; open to us this day the sea of Thy love, and water us with the plenteous streams from the riches of Thy grace. Make us children of quietness, and heirs of peace. Enkindle in us the fire of Thy love; sow in us Thy fear; strengthen our weakness by Thy power; bind us closely to Thee and to each other in one firm bond of unity; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Syrian Clementine Liturgy.

*Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
all things will pass away.
God never changes;
patience obtains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices. Amen.*

Teresa of Avila

(Continued on page 9)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who hast nourished me from my youth up, who gives food to all flesh. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, that we, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom to Thee be glory, honor, might, majesty, and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

—The Clementine Liturgy.

Loving Lord and heavenly Father, I offer up today all that I am, all that I have, all that I do, and all that I suffer, to be Yours today and Yours forever. Give me grace, Lord, to do all that I know of Your holy will. Purify my heart, sanctify my thinking, correct my desires. Teach me, in all of today's work and trouble and joy, to respond with honest praise, simple trust, and instant obedience, that my life may be in truth a living sacrifice, by the power of Your Holy Spirit and in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, my Master and my all. Amen. —Elisabeth Elliot (1926–2015)

O good shepherd, seek me out, and bring me home to your fold again.

*Deal favorably with me according to your good pleasure,
until I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,
and praise you for ever and ever with those who are there.*

Jerome

*Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, for ever.*

-Source unknown - early Scottish

Prayer can be a comforting and grounding practice that helps us articulate our anxieties and find a sense of peace. By integrating these prayers into your daily routine, you might discover a deeper connection to your spirituality and an enhanced sense of mental well-being. Remember, exploring spiritual practices like prayer can

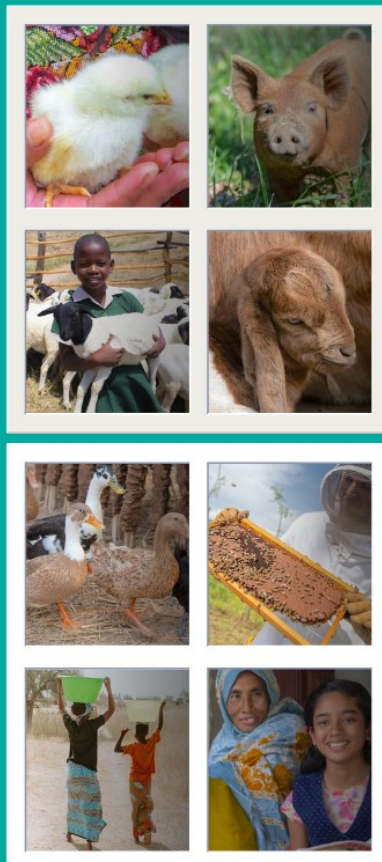
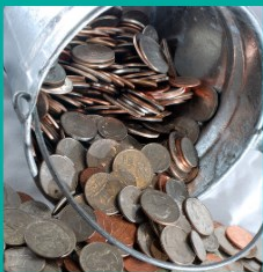
be a valuable part of your mental health journey, but it's also important to reach out to professionals for support when needed. May these prayers inspire you to seek out and engage with a faith community that resonates with your spiritual quest and offers you the comfort and peace you seek.

Rev. Ryan Dunn is a Minister of Online Engagement for United Methodist Communications and the chief editor for Rethink Church. Taken From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/prayers-when-seeking-peace-of-mind>

Sheep	\$120
Pig	\$120
Goat	\$120
2 Flocks of Chicks	\$40
Honeybees	\$30
Clean Water	\$300
Send a Girl to School	\$275
Flock of Ducks	\$20

Total \$1025

The children decided on the above purchases for Heifer International for our 2024 Noisy Bucket & 2023 VBS funds.



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)
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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

June 2	Graduation Sunday
June 16	Father's Day
July 14	Worship in the Park
July 16-18	Vacation Bible School
August 11	Backpack Sunday
September 9	Grandparents Sunday

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Franklin First United Methodist Church

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Franklin, OH 45005

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E-mail: office@franklinfirstumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

