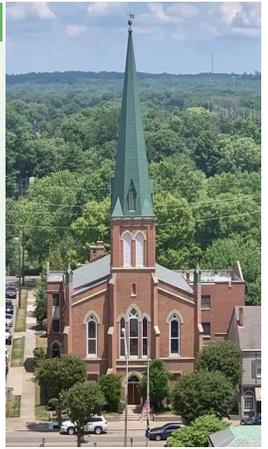




The Steeple Bell— May 2022

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



*“The Toughest Job
You’ll Ever Love”*

Do you remember this slogan? With which group did it originate? They didn’t downplay the challenges of the work, but they certainly did highlight the blessings. It was the slogan of the Peace Corps, a group that worked for the betterment of living conditions globally.

I think that it also applies to the job title “mother.” We all have one. Cartoons herald a baby’s arrival

through stork delivery, but the job of birthing a baby is no small matter. Furthermore, none of us came with an instruction book, and some of us were very challenging children (I won’t speculate on names).

The prophet Isaiah in 66:13 compares God’s care of his children to a mother’s care. “As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”

Some of us knew and cherished our biological mothers. Some of us knew non-biological mothers that were an incredible blessing in our lives. Much of our character formation happens in our youngest years, and the influence of loving adults is crucial to our development.

What characteristics come to mind when you think of your mother or another cherished woman in your life? Was she a homemaker and a homebody? Was she quiet and calm or boisterous and entertaining? Was she an active participant in your life, visiting school and sports events? Did she welcome you home with hugs and kisses? There are many stereotypes of good mothers, but I believe that quality parenting isn’t limited by these labels.

Some skills helpful for parenting include:

- ◆ Love first. Each child is different and may require your unique approach, but all are worthy of your love.
- ◆ Look to God for direction and raise your kids in God’s path. Pray for them and with them.
- ◆ Employ a sense of humor. A friend of mine kept a notebook and recorded details to laugh about later – especially if she couldn’t laugh about them now.
- ◆ Be a good listener. Remember – we were created with one mouth, two ears.
- ◆ Be positively engaged in your kids’ lives. Actions speak louder than words, and our kids are watching.
- ◆ Pick your battles. You’ll have plenty to choose from.
- ◆ Remember that today is one day in a much bigger picture. And there’s nothing that’s going to happen today that you and God can’t handle together.
- ◆ Practice self-care. That means having a support system and getting time away. You may not get paid to parent, but it is a more than full-time job. And you have many roles to fill.
- ◆ Enjoy it while it lasts, because before you know it – they’ll be flying the coop and you’ll be looking back wishing...

Happy Mother’s Day!

Pastor Laura





Graduation Sunday

Do you have a graduate in your family that you would like to honor? We will be celebrating on Sunday June 5 with a PowerPoint presentation during worship. Please provide a picture, graduation details, and future plans to Theresa in the office by May 30.

Elevator News!! Yay!!

TK Elevator technicians repaired the pump on the elevator the week of April 17th, and it is now operational! The repair has been a long time coming, as parts were on backorder. We are so pleased to offer a fully accessible sanctuary once again. Thanks to Mike Runyan for spearheading this project, and



Sharing God's Love & Peace Around the World

Special Music Sunday
Sunday, May 22nd
10:45 am

Guest soloist, violinist, & cellist performing in addition to Franklin First Choirs

Franklin First United Methodist Church
 303 South Main St.
 Franklin, OH 43005



West Ohio Conference: New Podcast Launches May 19th

The Unfinished Church is a new podcast focusing on the holy work of antiracism hosted by United Methodist Bishops

LaTrelle Easterling, Michael McKee, and Gregory Palmer. The first episode premieres Thursday May 19!

Guests include Brian McLaren, Nadia Bolz-Weber Opal Lee, Eboo Patel, Fred Shaw and Willie Jennings. Tune in every other Thursday on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Anchor, Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Visit theunfinishedchurch.org to learn more and hear the official trailer. To stay connected and up-to-date follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @unfinishedumc.

Join us as we create space to learn how to love our neighbors. God is not done with us. Our work is unfinished.

Children's Ministry Update

Starting in June, Children's Church



will be put on hold and will resume August 14th. The Nursery will continue through the summer. The ages of the children in the Nursery will be expanded through age six for the summer months. This will allow those younger school-age children the opportunity to go to the nursery if needed.

In addition, "activity bags" will be available with age-appropriate, exciting things for the kids that stay in the service if they wish to use them.

Watch for upcoming Worship services that the older children will be more involved in service such Vacation Bible School, Worship in the Park, & Backpack Sunday.

Leaving a Legacy

Which elders in your life have left the biggest impression? What was it about them that continues to influence you? For me, those that have left lingering imprints on my character were the ones who invested in me personally. It was through giving of their time, offering encouragement, helping me build talents, lifting me up when I stumbled, and helping me grow spiritually that they became a part of the legacy that has made me who I am. Many of my church family elders I count among my legacy ancestors.

Leaving a legacy is important. I once had a mortician friend tell me that no one will remember us five generations after we lived. That was a sobering thought. Yet, I believe that the life legacy we leave will outlive our name.

How many generations back do you remember among Franklin First elders? Can you go back farther than five? Yet their legacy lives on in the life of the church. Through their leadership, financial support, teaching, mission work, and planning for the future, we are here because they considered it important to invest in their faith and in their church.

Franklin First's Permanent Endowment Fund was established recently as a long-term way to invest in the future generations of Franklin First worshipers. Whether we give through an estate plan or as part of our regular giving, the Endowment Fund provides a way for future disciples to carry on the work of the Lord. Pastor Laura



Women's Circle

Next Meeting
Monday, May 2nd

6:30 pm

Meet at Doubledays

In Springboro

The Pantry Collection

Baby Care Items

this Quarter

The Mission Team is collecting baby items such as diapers, wipes, formula, etc. this quarter. Bring your items to church and deposit in the bin the front lobby.



Anthony Wayne Teacher Appreciation Week



Teacher Appreciation week is the first week in May, and Franklin First is showing our gratitude by providing gift bags to the staff at Anthony Wayne. Teachers will be getting bags of school supplies, and all the staff will get a goody bag and a note of appreciation. Be sure and tell the teachers in your life a big

thank you. Their work is of utmost importance.



MEMORIAL DAY

ON MEMORIAL DAY, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE SACRIFICE SO MANY THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY HAVE MADE. FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAD TO CARRY ON WITHOUT THEM. IT IS A SACRIFICE THAT IS EASY TO FORGET. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE IT, FREEDOM IS LIKE OXYGEN – IT'S SOMETHING WE JUST HAVE. MANY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND JUST HOW PRECIOUS IT IS UNTIL WE ARE AT RISK OF LOOSING IT.

TODAY WE REMEMBER A SACRIFICE MADE AND A DEBT WE CANNOT REPAY.

TODAY WE PRAY FOR THE GOD OF PEACE TO BLESS THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES WHILE SERVING OUR GREAT NATION.

WE PRAY AS WELL FOR GOD TO BLESS THE WALKING WOUNDED WHO ARE STILL WITH US, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

LET US REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE AND THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF FREEDOM EVERY DAY, NOT JUST ONE DAY A YEAR.

AMEN.

(PRINTED IN PREPARED CHRISTIAN)

Birthdays

May 01 Jessica Lucas
May 09 Pam Trout
May 11 Sutton Brannon
May 11 Jennifer Chilcutt
May 12 Hayden Chamberlain
May 13 Bellamy Dillon
May 15 Charlotte Summer
May 16 Hiram Fullen
May 17 Mariah Hynes
May 18 Nell Daugherty
May 20 Andy Kuntzman
May 27 Pam Bishop
May 27 Greg Cyphers
May 31 JoAnn Achtermann

Anniversaries

May 20
Karen & Paul Anderson
May 22
Rick & Tami Chamberlain
May 22
Carol & Orval Sweney

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:13

Thank You!

Noisy Bucket
Collection

We raised more
than \$645.



The Noisy Bucket Results! Heifer International

Thanks to everyone who supported our children in their Noisy Bucket Heifer International campaign during Lent. They collected more than \$645, and have decided to provide an alpaca, a goat, a sheep, a pig, a flock of chickens, garden seeds, and a portion of the cost of a heifer to needy families around the globe. This donation of animals offers a hand up rather than a hand-out, as the recipients use the products and offspring that the animals produce to improve their situation.



FHS Musical—Cast & Crew Dinner at Franklin First

We enjoyed hosting the Franklin High School Drama Club's talented group of high school students for their cast and crew dinner after the final performance of "Once Upon A Mattress". Thanks to everyone for making the event a success!



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

A Glorious Easter Sunday Worship






Franklin First United Methodist Church
 303 S Main St
 Franklin, Ohio 45005
 937.746.5232
 office@franklinfirstumc.org

[Home](#) | [I'm New](#) | [About Us](#) | [Children's Ministry](#) | [Music Ministry](#) | [Mission & Outreach](#) | [Contact Us](#)



A New Look: (franklinfirstumc.org)

Our website has a new look! We have been working on refreshing our website over the last few months. Thanks to Peggy Darragh-Jeromos for getting us started. Take a moment to check it out and give us your feedback. We have also added Music Ministry, Mission & Outreach, & Children's Ministry pages. Check back for continual improvements and updates. If you have a suggestion, please reach out to Theresa in the office.

Gratitude Journals Spotlight God's Action

By Emily Snell

With colored pencils in hand, the Rev. Nancy Turner sits down in the morning light to write her thankfulness in the spiral graph paper notebook that has become her gratitude journal.

Turner, a deacon in the West Ohio Conference, has maintained this spiritual practice for several years and said it deeply impacts her life.

Whenever Turner sits down to write in her gratitude journal, she asks herself two questions.

"It's always asking both sides of this question: For what today am I most grateful? For what today am I least grateful?"

Turner explained, adding that these questions are similar to asking about where God is moving in the world. "Where did I see God today? Where did I see the absence of God today? Both questions inform where you are."

Though Turner considers herself to be in a good season of life right now, this practice of gratitude journaling began during a time of desperation.

"It grew out of a very specific time in life," she said. "I'm a mom of two sons, and my younger son developed Type 1 diabetes when he was six years old. After that happened, for about five or six years, every year we had some big terrible thing that happened in life."

Emily Chastain, a leadership development specialist in the North Alabama Conference, began keeping a gratitude journal this

summer after returning from the Wesley Pilgrimage where the rhythm helped her recognize a need to slow down and be reflective and contemplative.

"I was letting a Google calendar plan me so much that I didn't really have time to pause and think about the day," Chastain said, explaining why she started utilizing a combination planner/journal.

In the morning, as she's planning her day, Chastain writes down three things she's grateful for, and then at the end of the day, she returns to her journal and again writes down three gratitudes.

"It's a great way to frame the day and feel like the day has a lot more purpose," she said.

"I enjoy the ability to reflect in the morning and in the evening. I feel that has lowered my anxiety levels and has really made me look for God throughout the day."

Writing her gratitudes twice each day also helps Chastain recognize what brings her joy and what leads to discouragement. This gives her an opportunity to more intentionally make healthy choices in her schedule.

Turner also noticed a pattern in her journaling that proved helpful.

"I found that generally speaking, the things I was most grateful for were very simple," she said, "and the things I was least grateful for were things that I had absolutely no



control over. That's a thing to just turn over to God.

"That experience has really informed my going forward," Turner said. "I think that experience of all those years and that continuous practice of paying attention have really helped me move forward in more positive and more optimistic ways."

Chastain encouraged others to give gratitude journaling a try and see if it helps create an awareness of God's presence.

"If you feel like God is not moving, take a week or two to really chart the things that happened, the things you're grateful for," Chastain said. "You start to realize that in every moment God is giving you great opportunities and letting you decide what you make of those. We forget that God shows up in the smallest of moments or in the kindest of emails that you weren't expecting."

Emily Snell is a freelance writer based in Nashville, Tennessee, where she is also on staff at The Upper Room. She writes frequently for Interpreter and other publications.

Taken from: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/gratitude-journals-spotlight-gods-action>

Three Ways to Practice Gratitude

Everyone can benefit from making an effort to practice gratitude every day. These 3 steps can help you start feeling more grateful, and appreciative of the good things in your life:

Notice good things, look for them, appreciate them.



Start to notice and identify the things you are grateful for. Tune in to the small everyday details of your life and notice the good things you might sometimes take for granted.

Savor, absorb, and really pay attention to those good things.

There are moments when you naturally, right then and there, feel filled with gratitude. These are moments when you say to yourself, "Oh, wow, this is amazing!" or "How great is this!"

Pause. Notice and absorb that feeling of true, genuine gratitude. Let it sink in. Soak it up. Savor your blessings in the moment they happen.

Express your gratitude to yourself, write it down, or thank someone.

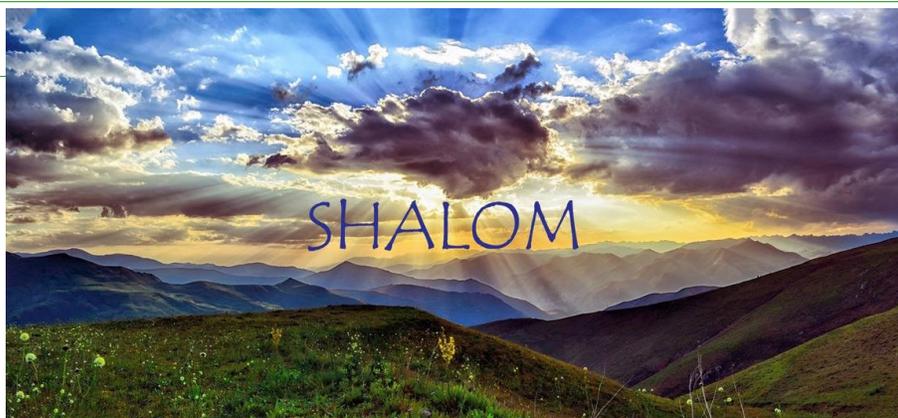
Expressing gratitude is more than courtesy, manners, or being polite. It's about showing your heartfelt appreciation. When you thank someone, you're also practicing the first two gratitude skills: you've noticed something good, and you've genuinely appreciated it.

What does the Bible Mean by “Peace”

The Hebrew word we translate as peace is “shalom.” The way “shalom” is used does not mean to feel calm nor the absence of conflict. Instead shalom, peace, is the result of right relationships with God, one another, and with creation. The concept of peace is wholeness in all of life.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops, in their 1986 statement “In Defense of Creation,” described the biblical foundation of peace:

“At the heart of the Old Testament is the testimony to shalom, that marvelous Hebrew word that means peace. But the peace that is shalom is not negative or one-dimensional. It is much more than the absence of war. Shalom is positive peace: harmony, wholeness, health, and well-being in all human relationships. It is the natural state of humanity as birthed by God. It is harmony between humanity and all of God’s good creation. All of creation is interrelated. Every creature, every element,



every force of nature participates in the whole of creation. If any person is denied shalom, all are thereby diminished.” ([Peace with Justice Sunday and Special Offering](#), 2016 Book of Resolutions)

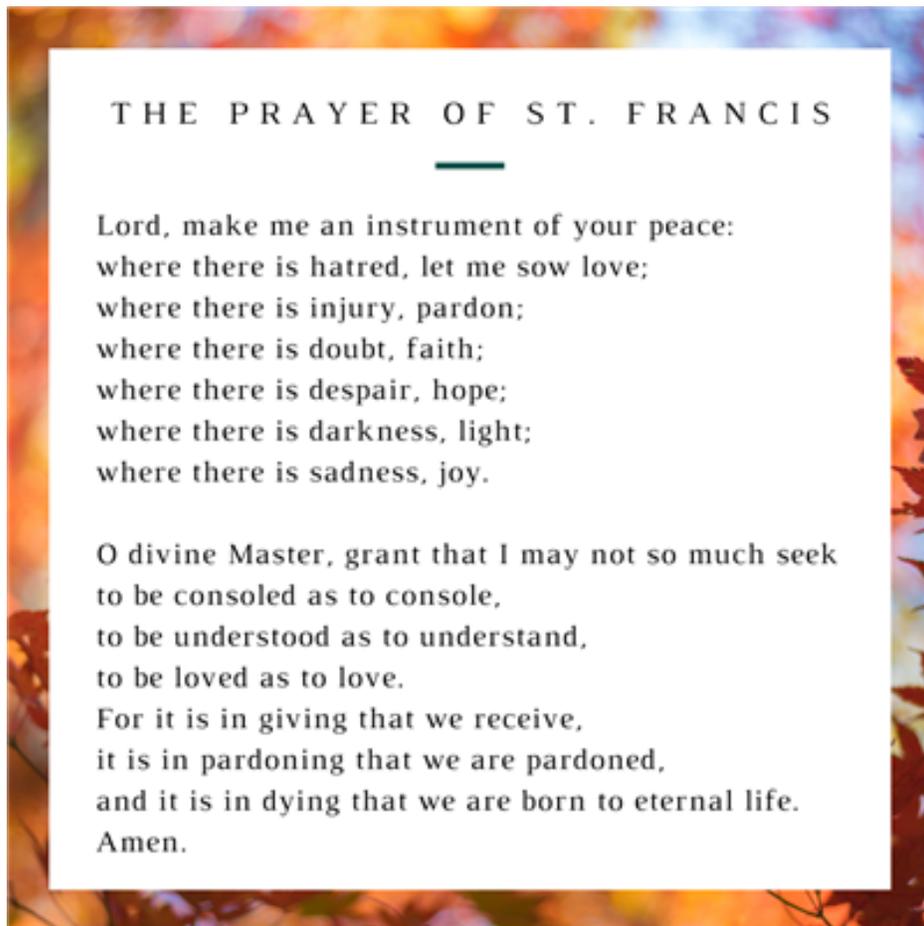
In the New Testament, Paul begins his letters, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” The bishops explained, “Paul’s letters announce that Jesus Christ is “our peace.” It is Christ who “broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us,” creating one humanity, overcoming enmity, so making peace (Ephesians 2:14-19).”

United Methodists recognize that “[God’s earth is aching for peace](#). Domestic strife, interpersonal violence and abuse, civil conflict, ethnic and racial clashes, religious schism and interfaith rivalry, terrorist attacks, wars between nations, and threatened use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons—all of these prevent us from achieving God’s shalom.”

“The Bible makes [justice the inseparable companion of peace](#) (Isaiah 32:17; James 3:18). Both point to right and sustainable relationships in human society, the vitality of our connections with the earth, the well-being and integrity of creation. To conceive peace apart from justice is to compromise the hope that justice and peace shall embrace (Psalm 85:10).”

What will peace look like? When there is peace, no one goes hungry. When there is peace, no one is abandoned to fend for themselves. When there is peace, we sup-

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

port each other's thriving. When there is peace, differences are celebrated as gifts for the good of all. When there is peace, no external threats (though there may be some) prevent us from living the fullest lives we can. When there is peace, there is also every ground for joy.

When we pray for peace and offer one another the peace of Christ, we become channels of God's never-ending peace that reorders the world toward wholeness.

When we act in the spirit of Christ, we can "sow love where there is hatred, can dispense pardon where there is injury, can cast light where there is darkness. As [instruments of peace and justice](#), we can seek to replace discord with harmony and to repair the brokenness that shatters the wholeness of shalom."

Paul's letters offer assurance that peace is not something we have to wait for in some yet to be determined future. Peace is being poured out on us by God right now. The bishops remind us, "No matter how bad things are, God's creative work continues. Christ's resurrection assures us that death and destruction do not have the last word. Paul taught that through Jesus Christ, God offers redemption to all of creation and reconciles all things, 'whether on earth or in heaven' (Colossians 1:20). [God's Spirit is always and everywhere at work](#) in the world fighting poverty, restoring health, renewing creation, and reconciling peoples."

[This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.](#)

Ohio River Valley District Events

Save these dates!



May 6: Our third annual District Wide Ice Cream Social (since we still can't gather at Lakeside) will be

held on Friday, May 6 at 7pm. This year it will be at The Main Hub (former Deerfield UMC) in Maineville. Back again will be the giant Johnny's Ice Cream Truck with all kinds of delicious treats including cones, sundaes, shaved ice and flurries!

June 7: ORV's Spring Celebration highlighting the past year in ministry. We'll recognize our retirees, ordinands, pastors coming/pastors going and more. Combined with this annual event will be a Thank You Send Off for Todd and Suzanne before they transition to co-pastors of Hyde Park Community UMC. These events will take place at Westwood UMC. We'll begin with an hors 'oeuvre reception at 6pm followed by the Spring Celebration at 7pm and ending with a time together enjoying Todd and Suzanne's favorite dessert!

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:
franklin-firstumc1.weshareonline.org

Amazon Smile

When you shop at AmazonSmile,



Amazon will donate to Franklin First Unit-

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

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



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

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)

Franklin First

United Methodist
Church

Pastor
Laura Saunders



Sunday Worship Service
10:45 am
Livestreaming on Facebook

Upcoming Events

- May 8th** **Mother's Day**
- May 22nd** **Special Music Sunday**
- June 5th** **Graduation Sunday**
- July 4th** **Wettest July 4th Parade**
- July 12, 13 & 14**
 Vacation Bible School
- July 24th** **Worship in the Park**
- August 7th** **Backpack Sunday**

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

