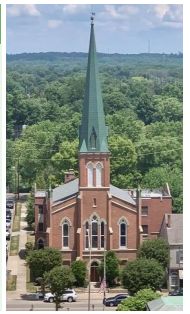




# The Steeple Bell— October 2022

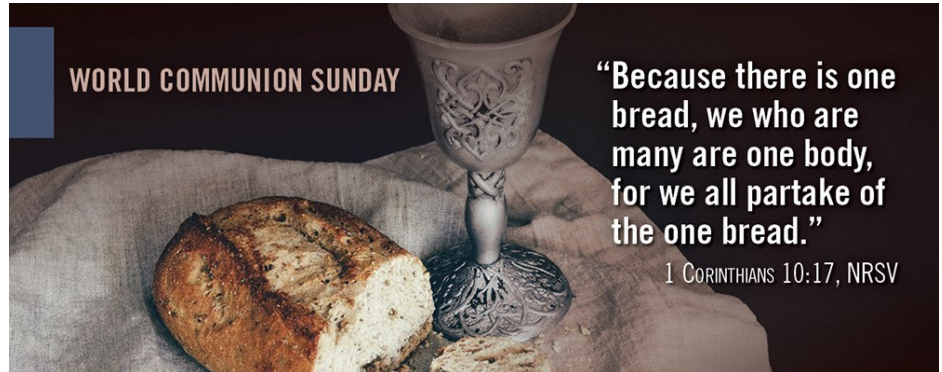
Franklin First United Methodist Church

*“Under the Green Steeple”*



## World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is always designated as World Communion Sunday. Christians around the world take Holy Communion at their places of worship, a celebration of the sacrament that reminds us that we are all sinners saved by God’s grace, and that forgiveness of our sins is a gift God gives to all without favoritism. God invites everyone to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, believing that his death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin and brings to us the hope of salvation.



When we profess faith and are baptized, we become part of Christ’s universal church – the

Communion of Saints. There are many different ways to take the Sacrament of Holy Communion, but when we come to the table of forgiveness we are all remembering that God’s love is greater than our sin. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17

World Communion Sunday reminds us that we are part of a big family. One of my clergy colleagues is from Korea. He celebrates communion in Ohio as his biological family is taking communion on the other side of the world. We all worship the same God and do our small part to witness to our faith in the Body of Christ.

As we share communion on World Communion Sunday, you are invited to envision all believers in the world joining hands in one common band of fellowship. You are part of that worldwide community of faith.

Pastor Laura

## Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and Franklin First will be observing Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday on October 23 during worship. If you have pink clothing, you are encouraged to wear it. Pastor Laura invites those in our congregation who have battled breast cancer to share their name with her or Theresa by October 16. You will be recognized as a survivor in worship. We will also be remembering those who have passed who had breast cancer (that does not need to have been their cause of death). Please submit those names to Laura or Theresa by October 16 as well. The Women’s Circle will hold a bake sale that day as a fundraiser for breast cancer research. [Click here to submit names.](#)



## Music Program

Franklin First is blessed with many talented musicians, as was evident during the Sundays of September. Our Chancel Choir resumed their ministry on Grandparent's Sunday, and the Aspenleiter Bell Choir rang for Homecoming Sunday. The Women's Ensemble graces us with their music on a regular basis. Megan is a joy at the piano, and others share their instrumental talents as well...flute, violin, cello, organ. Connie whistles beautiful pieces. Thanks to everyone who shares their musical skills. You do not have to have perform solos to be a part of our music program. Talk to our directors, Monica and Tami, and see where you can plug in.



## Laity Sunday

Franklin First will observe Laity Sunday on **October 9** during worship. We will celebrate the importance of Laity in the overall ministry of Christ's church. Various members of our congregation will be leading the worship service. You won't want to miss their important messages!



## Community Trunk Or Treat

Franklin First has signed up to participate in the City of Franklin's downtown Fall Festival on **Saturday October 15**. Registrations to have a decorated vehicle along Main Street are due **October 7th** to the City Building or can be completed [online here](#). Our church will also have a booth with information to share about our ministries, a photo opportunity, and smiling hosts. **We need hosts to take shifts for the booth, as the booths stay active for the entire event.** We encourage you to provide wrapped store-bought candy donations for those who will be handing out treats, as we expect large numbers of Trick or Treaters for this event. Other events will be going on throughout the afternoon. It promises to fun.



## Nominations

Our Committee on Lay Leadership is currently working to establish our roster of leadership for 2023, along with our ministry teams. It takes the gifts and effort of the full Body of Christ to maintain a quality level of ministry. For each position, we prayerfully seek an individual who feels called to the ministry and is motivated to fulfill their commitment. If you are contacted, please pray about it. You are being called because you are a good candidate for a particular ministry. Thank you for offering your gifts and graces to our church's efforts.

*Have you been on our updated website? Check it out: [www.franklinfirstumc.org](http://www.franklinfirstumc.org). Let us know what you think!*

## Children's Sabbath

Children's Sabbath is an ecumenically celebrated weekend committed to educating ourselves about the needs of today's children and families in America. Franklin First children will help by providing some leadership in our service. Join us in worship on October 16 as we celebrate the children among us and around us.



## Children's Education

Our Nursery and Children's Church are going strong as we move through the Fall. During the summer, many of our kids are with their families at various activities and then re-engage as school starts. Please take your turn in the Christian education of our children. This is a primary ministry of the church. You do not have to be a Bible scholar to lead the kids. My experience tells me that I learn as I teach. Talk to Chris Womack with questions or to volunteer. She will accommodate your schedule.

## Franklin Food Pantry

The local food pantry remains a strong asset to those struggling financially. Consequently, our Mission Team has made the decision to support the pantry year around with quarterly suggestions for your donations. The pantry has ready access to food staples but struggles to maintain non-food items for their clients. This is one optional choice for your extended giving. We will keep a container in the entryway to collect supplies.

- ◆ October-November-December: Paper products like toilet paper & paper towels, etc.
- ◆ January-February-March: Personal Care items like deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.
- ◆ April-May-June: Baby care items like diapers, wipes, formula, etc.
- ◆ July-August-September: Cleaning products like floor cleaners, dusting spray, window wash solution, etc.



## All Saints Sunday

Looking ahead, all Saints Sunday will be observed **November 6**. We will be remembering those who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints Day last year. You are welcome to submit a picture of your loved on by October 30 for use in the worship service.



## Save The Date

Franklin First's Church Conference will be held on Monday, **November 7 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. At a church conference, all members have a voice and vote and everyone is welcome to attend. This is the official yearly business meeting of the church.



## Back to School Supplies— Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who contributed school supplies for the new year. We were able to collect enough supplies to provide for our after Worship give-away on Backpack Sunday and provide five elementary schools, the junior high, and high school each received box of supplies as well!

### Thanks from Pennyroyal Elementary

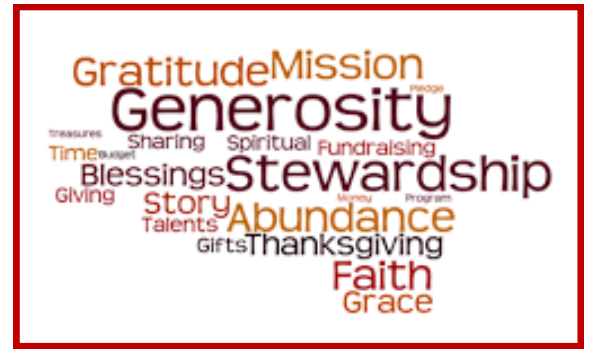
Thanks for the generous donations we received at Pennyroyal Elementary. We have many students in need and the donations will be put to good use! Thank you for your partnership and helping to meet the needs of our students.

## Giving Options

The level of stewardship at Franklin First is impressive. Our long history as a congregation would not have been possible without the generosity of our forebearers, and our financial support and offerings of time and talent are needed to take our ministry forward to future generations.

That said, please know that we offer multiple options to fund ministries beyond your tithes and gifts. You have choices before you like the snack pack ministry, tutoring, Franklin pantry needs, and other initiatives throughout the year. We are not asking that you give to all of these. We are inviting you to pick and choose as you feel God's leading.

It is important that we maintain support for our yearly budget, which is put together with much prayer and careful planning. The church needs our regular financial support to continue our ministry. We respond to community requests as the needs become known, and we seek to discern God's will before we say yes to a proposed project. Again, thank you for your faithful stewardship.



**Women's Circle**  
Next Meeting  
Monday,  
Oct. 10th  
6:30 pm



## Become a Member of Franklin First

Have you ever thought about joining Franklin First as a member? Pastor Laura will be holding a Membership Class on Sunday, October 16 at 5:00 p.m. A light meal will be provided. We will be receiving new members in worship on Sunday, October 30. Please talk to Laura if interested.

FRANKLIN FIRSTS UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

NEW MEMBER CLASS



Sunday, October 16th  
5:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall

**PRAY**  
for one  
for another

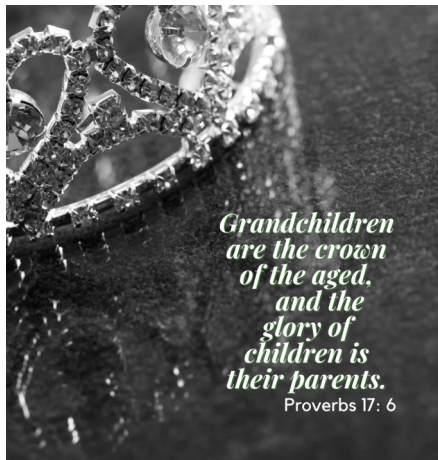
JAMES 5:16

Submit  
your  
prayer request.

### 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](http://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/862a54)



## Grandparent's Sunday

Grandparent's Sunday was celebrated on September 11 with a recognition of the importance of intergenerational relationships. During service, we honored our grandparents with red jewels and the colored marbles honored our grandchildren. Each individual at service was invited to add to the center bowl honoring grand-

parents and grandchildren. Our ice cream social after worship was well attended and the menu of sloppy joes, walking tacos, and ice cream sundaes was tasty. At Franklin First, we honor the elders among us and are proud of the contribution they make to the stability and faith growth of future generations.



## Homecoming Celebration

We celebrated our annual Homecoming with Franklin First's 224 years of ministry as our highlight. Each of our choirs shared their message in music and they did a wonderful job. Jake Eyink was our guest cellist, and Priscilla Acuff our guest organist. We re-consecrated our recently repaired elevator and thanked those who had contributed financially to the project. Many commented that it was a meaningful service.

Following worship, folks enjoyed a complimentary boxed luncheon from Dorothy Lane Market. The weather was beautiful, and smiles were in place all around. Thanks to everyone who helped make Homecoming such a memorable time.





# FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FALL MARKETPLACE

NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9 AM - 2 PM

"UNDER THE GREEN STEEPLE"

AT 303 S. MAIN ST.,  
FRANKLIN, OH

LUNCH IS SERVED FROM  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



SOME OF THE VENDORS INCLUDE THIRTY-ONE, APPAREL & JEWELRY, CROCHETED ITEMS, HANDMADE HOLIDAY ITEMS, AND HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS.



CHICKEN & NOODLES,  
BEAN SOUP, AND  
BARBEQUE

PRE-ORDER FOR  
ADVANCE SALES BY  
PINT OR QUART AND  
POUND BAGS OF OUR  
HOMEMADE NOODLES  
AT OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.FRANKLINFIRST  
UMC.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG)

### Marketplace Highlights

- ◆ Place your pre-order for dry homemade noodles, chicken & noodles, bean soup, & barbeque. Call the office or order online [click here](#)
- ◆ Join us for lunch from **11:30 am—1: pm** — individual orders of chicken & noodles, bean soup, barbeque, and baked goods will be available to purchase.
- ◆ Help make noodles on Mondays at 9 am or package them on Wednesday at 9 am.
- ◆ Donate eggs or flour for noodle making.
- ◆ Invite your friends to join us on Nov. 5th from 9 am—2 pm.

### Fall Marketplace (Bazaar) News

The Women's Circle and friends have started producing noodles for the Marketplace on Saturday November 5 running from 9:00 – 2:00 pm. Lisa Dillon is lining up vendors, and plans are developing for take-out orders and the luncheon. Noodles can be pre-ordered. **Donations of Gold Medal or Pillsbury all-purpose flour and large eggs are needed ASAP.** This is a well organized and well attended event. Thank you to all who work to make it happen. If you have any questions, please see Monica Rhude.

## Angel Shop

Franklin First's Angel Shop has wrapped up the Homecoming season for this year. Jenny Chilcutt has done a great job heading this ministry as young people from the area have enjoyed shopping for their formal attire for Homecoming celebrations. Beautiful dresses, shoes, jewelry, and men's wear have been donated from supporters in the community. They are then made available for free. Jenny was able to give interviews to reporters from two different newspapers, and as the word about the shop got out the number of shoppers increased. This valuable service will be made available again next year at prom time. Thanks Jenny and crew!



## The Gift of Hope

Do you know the benefits of giving financially through a Permanent Endowment Fund? This type of special giving vehicle perpetuates a church's good works through future generations. Donations to endowments survive beyond the lives of their givers, creating true legacies. Through perpetual investment, the benefit to the church is magnified beyond what the donor might be able to do in his or her lifetime. And

you are giving the gift of HOPE:

- ◆ That future generations will know the joy of a saving relationship with God.
- ◆ That this church fellowship will continue to be a source of love and encouragement.
- ◆ That each generation of children will know that God loves them, as does their church family.
- ◆ That lives can be celebrated through weddings, funerals, and special celebrations.
- ◆ That our congregation will continue to bless our neighbors in the name of Christ and be a place of peace and stability in a broken world.

Franklin First offers a Permanent Endowment Fund as a way to extend your financial support. You can give a one-time gift (especially through estate planning) or make scheduled contributions. Your legacy will live on as a blessing of hope.

Franklin First UMC

Text An Amount To:  
**(937) 582-9009**

# TEXT TO GIVE

4:21 PM 22%  
Messages My Church Details  
10  
Thanks for your gift of \$10.00!  
You've been emailed a receipt.  
Type 'refund' if this was a mistake.

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



**Faith Seekers Sundays**  
**9:30 am**



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings. They are currently studying James. All are invited!

## 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](http://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>



## Upcoming October Meetings

### Women's Circle

Monday, Oct. 10th,  
6:30pm

### Finance Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 12th,  
2:15 pm

### Church Council Meeting

Monday, Oct. 17th 6:30 pm

Warren County Community Services INC.

## Friendly Visitors Volunteer Opportunity



### VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION

- 01 Provide companion support for socially isolated seniors in the community.
- 02 Meet with your match at least once a month, either in the older adults' home or through phone calls.
- 03 Develop a supportive relationship with the older adult, to find common activities to participate in together (I.E. Playing cards, reading, etc.)
- 04 Flexible schedule; Dependent on YOUR schedule and the older adults'.

### VISIT US AT

645 Oak Street  
Lebanon Ohio, 45036

Contact Person:  
Katy Evans:  
513-575-8535  
katherine@wccsinc.org

### ABOUT US

Warren County Community Services is s opening up a NEW and EXCITING volunteer program for anyone who wants to make a difference in the lives of older adults in Warren County. Friendly Visitors Provides companion care for socially isolated individuals, in need of a listening ear and a friendly supporter.



### More Information:

Please call or email for any questions regarding the friendly visitor program



## Snack Packs

We are have started delivering snack packs to Anthony Wayne Elementary. We are packing more than 135 snack bags each week. Donation of individual granola bars, applesauce, crackers or financial contributions are appreciated.

Join us on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm to pack snack packs.



## Birthdays

October 02	Sally Fitzgerald
October 04	Bill Hatfield
October 10	Robert Bowman
October 15	Sue Fullen
October 15	Cosette Sams
October 19	Emily Alyea
October 19	Maverick Line
October 21	Brady Chamberlain
October 30	Tyler Dillon

## Anniversaries

October 11	Carol & Mike	Runyan
October 12	Linda & Mike	Smith
October 19	Kay & Rick	Marksberry
October 23	Cody & Jennifer	Chilcutt
October 23	Chelsea & Jimmy	Trout
October 26	Don & Tine	Chamberlain
October 27	Ken & Madelyn	Lang

## Sunday Worship

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

### Greeter Responsibility Include:

- Arrive 10:15 am
- A name badge will be provided for you by the entrance
- Greet everyone with a smile
- Introduce yourself to members you do not know
- Handout a Welcome Packet to new members

## FHS to Present "Can't Stop the WROK"

It's Homecoming week of 1984 and the students of Rockdale High's popular school radio station, WROK, are busy promoting their "Purple Rain" themed dance and dealing with high school drama. See what happens when a corporation threatens to buy their station and shut it down.

Franklin High School Drama Club will present *Can't Stop the WROK* on Oct. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. All performances will be in the FHS McDade Auditorium.

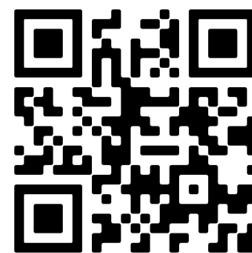
Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors; and \$5 for students. They're available for purchase online at [fhsdrama.booktix.com](http://fhsdrama.booktix.com) or at the door.

These performances are the world premier of this comedy written by Yellow Springs playwright Robb Willoughby. Several adult members of our church family are on the production staff.

- Offer directions to guests/new members or escort them to their desired location
- Offer a newsletter or Daily Bread Devotional at the beginning of the month
- **Elevator Door** – Assist with opening and closing of elevator

### Usher Responsibilities Include:

- Arrive 10:15 am
- Greet everyone as they enter the sanctuary
- Take the offertory.
- Assist with the elevator doors
- Be sure everyone follows social distancing as they are seated
- Help at the elevator in the sanctuary and on the main floor.



# Franklin First Team Updates

## TRUSTEES

### Trustee Report:

- ◆ The hedge along the alley has been cleaned out and trimmed.
- ◆ Third street door frame and the transit have been painted and finish trim added to complete the install. Still no word on the balance of the install yet to be billed.
- ◆ We are looking into a possible service contract for all heating/cooling units hopefully to prevent unexpected expenses.
- ◆ Front doors of the church were sanded and scraped, and two coats of marine poly applied to protect them until they can be professionally refinished.
- ◆ The old chairlift was removed from the front steps Sept 12, 2022, Jim Martin will get a standard hand-rail put up temporarily. When I return in October, I will research duplicating the original style handrail. I'm hoping a historical re-store, the Wooden Nickel, in Cincinnati May offer some insight. They handle architectural artifacts, trims, and moldings.

Submitted by Mike Runyan



### Care Team:

Care Team Report for Church Council of 9/19/22

Members: Lee Saunders, Charlotte Summer, Dorothy Rayburg, Jan Truesdell, Judy Bowman

Since last Council meeting:

- Letters and cards have been sent to "shut-in" members and those on the prayer list.
  - √ 7 illness encouragement cards
  - √ 2 sympathy cards
  - √ 11 cards sent
- Calls have been made to home-bound members for the month of August & part of September
- Some visits have been made
  - √ 1 visit & lunch

Next steps:

- A recruit has been identified but not contacted for more visits & postal correspondence
- Visitations must increase
- Plans are to increase correspondence efforts

Respectfully submitted by Lee Saunders 9/13/22



## Worship Team

**Worship Team:** Worship committee met on August 17th. Discussed upcoming special events, grandparent's Sunday September 11th and Homecoming Sunday September 25th. Sunday October 25th will be Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday. Discussed theme for Advent. Hanging of the greens will be on Sunday November 20th following service. All the choirs have resumed practicing. Chancel choir will start on Sunday September 11th. Submitted by Monica Rhude

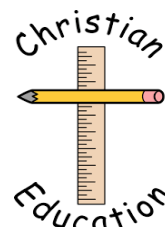


**Membership Report:** From July through September 11, worship attendance averaged 63. The highest attendance has been 79 during this timeframe, on September 11.

A list of members with milestone anniversaries has been compiled for Homecoming Sunday. Milestone anniversaries are 25 and 50 years, as well as 5-year increments after 50. Submitted by Lee Ann Lee



**Women's Circle:** Women's Circle held their first meeting on September 12th at 6:30...We have scheduled the FALL MARKETPLACE for November 5, 2022 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Noodle making will begin on Monday September 26th at 9:00am. We will have a bake sale on October 23rd following the service with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Our next meeting will be held on October 10th at 6:30 at the church. Submitted by Monica Rhude



**Christian Education:** VBS 2022 was successful with the addition of the PreK class. We think they had a great time. Next year we may look at moving VBS back a week as we seemed to have landed on the week when most summer sports were wrapping up.

We have a new curriculum for Children's Church for this school year that is based on several series of teachings so that one week better connects with the next. We are currently studying the Parables of Jesus.

We continue to struggle getting volunteers for Nursery.

Submitted by Chrissie Womack

(Continued on page 11)





## Mission & Outreach:

Mission Minutes  
9/13/2022

- ◆ Devotion by Linda Smith
- ◆ Attendees: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson,

Sally Fitzgerald, Madelyn Lang, Amber Ramsey, Tami Chamberlain

- ◆ National Night Out recap: Happy with our exposure to the community. Next year:
  - (1) All booth participants should have FFUMC shirts to make us more visible,
  - (2) need to dress up the booth with additional banner and green tablecloths,
  - (3) have a give-away like pencils or clips with our name on them,
  - (4) have a participation game like a fishing pond to draw in the community.
- ◆ Backpack Sunday/school supply donations: We collected enough supplies to provide for our after church give-away AND provide a box of supplies for all 5 elementary schools, the junior high and the high school. We attached FFUMC labels to many of the items and each box had a full page flyer attached. All the schools were grateful for the donations and we received Thank you notes from some of them.
- ◆ Pantry donations: Continue to collect donations on a quarterly basis. Oct/Nov/Dec will be paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.). Can also encompass personal care items like Tampax and pads.
- ◆ Great Pumpkin Roll/Trunk or Treat: Apply for a booth for FFUMC, will decorate the booth, have photo op, Pencil giveaway (with name), green bags with FFUMC sticker, ask for candy donations. Individuals can apply for spaces, if we collect applications and turn them in together we may be able to all park in front of the church. We will not decorate the outside of the church this year.
- ◆ Snack packs: Waiting on student list from Mr. Rhoades. Start out with just the basics until we know what the cost per student will be. Include new cards in the bags. Possibly start with green bags in the future. We can apply for the grant for the 2022/2023 school year. Possibility of a credit card for snack pack purchases. Tami to check on starting balance for this year.
- ◆ Tutoring: Waiting for a start date from Mr. Rhoades and we need to finalize a list of possible tutors available.
- ◆ Franklin Lights: November 26th. No booth participation as this is Thanksgiving weekend. Maybe decorate outside of church early for Christmas.

## Reports:

- ◆ Salvation Army sign up for gifts: would be 10/3 and 10/10 if it happens. Tami will contact Food Pantry and Salvation Army to see if funding will be available.
- ◆ Free Medical Clinic: Serving 4 to 10 patients a week. Need medical staff volunteers, ie. nurses, medical assistant, etc.
- ◆ Angel Shop: Doing much better, had 9 customers waiting one day. Have helped about 15 customers so far this season.

Submitted by Karen Anderson



## Finance Team:

### Finance Committee Notes for Church Council Monday, September 19, 2022

- 1) To facilitate Snack Pack purchases, Finance Committee approved a motion to issue two credit cards issued to the CO-Mission leaders.
- 2) Treasurer, Tami Chamberlain, will review Vision 2, another giving platform like WeShare. This new service might have more options and could be cheaper.
- 3) Finance Committee approved a motion for Theresa, administration assistant to update the Church's copier lease to increase the number of color copies allowed monthly.
- 4) Finance Committee discussed filing for grant to install various handicapped aids such as wheel chair lifts etc. There is not enough time to file for 2022, however, looking for potential items if the grant is offered again in 2023.
- 5) Finance Committee discussed removing John Lass as a Line of Credit signer, as he has moved to Orange Beach Alabama. Also, since two signers are required to be present if funds are withdrawn from the Line of Credit, we are planning on adding two additional Line of Credit signers who will not be traveling during the month of February each year.
- 6) The 2023 Church Financial budget starts this month and we will be handing out some financial reports to aid in reviewing expenses incurred January thru August 2023. Please contact Tami Chamberlain or myself if you need some additional information. We would like to complete this 2023 Budget in November.

Submitted by Paul Anderson

## Correct Contact Information?

Please be sure the office has the correct cell phone number, home phone number, address, email, etc. for your family.

Certainly, I cannot be the only Christian who looks at some words of Jesus and sighs, “My faith journey would be so much easier if Jesus never said this!” Right?

I suspect, though, if I started making a list of Things I Wish Jesus Never Said, it would consist of most of the Gospels.



**We might pass judgement on others to hide something in ourselves.**

(s”) was engrained in me. The phrase is a “nice” way to pass on your judgment: “Bless her heart, but she’s not the sharpest tool in the shed.”

“Bless his heart, but not even a mother could love that face.”

“Bless their hearts. At least they tried.”

The desire to judge my fellow human beings always lurks within my heart and conscience. And sometimes, it can feel good to pass judgment (albeit silently). That tendency is a defect in the factory settings of humanity and not just me, right?

### Why do we judge?

Perhaps it stems for our very own insecurity and the things we fear we may lack so it helps us to establish ourselves over others — to secure “a spot” in this world.

Jesus tells us (in Luke 18:10-14) that a Pharisee and a tax collector went to pray at the temple and the Pharisee stood up and prayed: “God, I thank you that I’m not like everyone else—crooks, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I receive.”

It’s easy to say, “well he’s a pompous, self-righteous jerk... bless his heart.”

However...

If we’re honest with ourselves — while maybe we don’t pray like that — there are times we’ve had such sentiments lurking in our hearts.

I don’t think Jesus slams the door completely on judgment by saying that we shouldn’t have high standards for ourselves and those others. After all, he leaves an

opening for us to help our neighbor with the splinter in their eye after we remove the log in ours.

### Withholding judgment

Jesus tells us to not judge because judging may make us feel morally superior and cause us to elevate ourselves higher and higher via our moral Tower of Babel, unseating God and placing ourselves on God’s chair. Jesus also tells us not to judge because of what we do to people after we deem they don’t measure up: We cast them aside. We belittle them. We dehumanize them. We burden them with things to do/accomplish/achieve to meet our standards so that they can be “accepted.”

It’d be one thing if that’s what God did. But God doesn’t do that.

God looks at humanity and instead of demanding that we meet up to God’s standards, God looks upon us with mercy, grace, compassion and love.

“For God so loved you that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn you but to save you through him.” [John 3:16-17]

I am looked upon with mercy, compassion, grace, and love. God asks me to do the same for my fellow humans.

I’m invited to remember that, though we may not be in the same boat, we’re all experiencing the same storm. And we’re all just trying to get through it together and should help one another when we can. Just because you’re in a yacht and I’m in a canoe does not mean that I am less than you. And just because I’m in a canoe and you’re holding on to life floating on a door that clearly has enough room for two people (ahem Rose Bukater) does not give me permission to think you are less than.

The call to not judge, for me, is less of a reprimand and more of a call to be compassionate, gracious and loving— particularly to those we feel the desire to say, “bless your heart.”

The more loving I am, the less time I have to be judgmental. The more I seek beauty in the people I meet, the less I’m inclined to pick them apart.

The more I intentionally look for the image of Christ in everyone, the less I am tempted to dehumanize. Which, admittedly, is difficult.

But like I said earlier, following Jesus is simple but it’s not easy. That path Jesus invites us to follow, however, is the path that is filled with an abundance of grace, hope, joy and love.

Joseph Yoo is a West Coaster at heart contently living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mosaic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at [josephyoo.com](http://josephyoo.com).





## PUERTO RICO NEEDS OUR HELP

Since Hurricane Maria in 2017, the people of Puerto Rico have been

preparing for the next big storm. Each year on June 1 – the start of the Atlantic hurricane season – stores begin selling out of generators, gas-powered appliances, canned food, and bottled water. Across the island, the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has not only repaired the damage from Maria, but has also helped churches and communities become more resilient to climate change.

Now, five years later, the next big storm has come.

Hurricane Fiona, while less powerful than Maria, dumped as much as 31 inches of rain on towns and villages across Puerto Rico. Widespread flooding swept away bridges, damaged homes, stripped pavement off roads, and left millions without drinking water. The electric grid, which took almost a year to fully repair after Maria, is still down for more than half of the island.

Already, the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico – under the leadership of newly elected Bishop Lizzette Gabriel Montalvo – has begun to assess the damage and assist those in need. But follow-



ing a hurricane that caused an estimated \$10 billion of damage to Puerto Rico alone, they need our help.

Consider what you can do...

**PRAY** - Pray for the people of Puerto Rico as they suffer yet another collective trauma. Pray for the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico as they help survivors and communities rebuild.

**GIVE** - Give to UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery fund, 100% of which goes to providing aid on the ground, including immediate relief and long-term recovery.

U.S. Disaster Response Advance #901670

Write a check made out to 'West Ohio Conference' with the Advance # in the memo line. Mail to West Ohio Conference, Attn. Dee Stickley-Miner, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085.

Give online through the West Ohio Conference website ([click here](#)).

**CHANGE** – Our warming atmosphere is contributing to slower, wetter hurricanes like Fiona. Challenge yourself to make one of the changes listed in our Sustainability Guide ([Sustainability Booklet \(westohioumc.org\)](#)) and do your part to reduce the impact of our climate crisis.



Are you following us on Facebook? Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstUMCOhio>

and follow us.



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Faith Seekers Bible Study**

Sundays, 9:30 am

## Upcoming Events

October 16th	New Member Class
October 23rd	Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday
November 5th	Fall Marketplace (Fall Bazaar)
November 6th	All Saints' Sunday
November 20th	Thanksgiving Sunday
November 27th	First Sunday of Advent
December 11th	Children's Christmas Program
December 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 South Main St.  
Franklin, OH 45005

Phone: 937-746-5232

E-mail: [office@franklinfirstumc.org](mailto:office@franklinfirstumc.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

