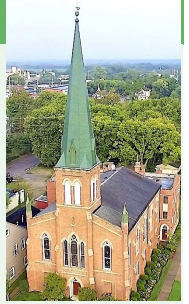




The Steeple Bell— September 2023

Franklin First United Methodist Church

“Under the Green Steeple”



SEPTEMBER
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**
AWARENESS MONTH

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and most of us know someone who has ended their life by suicide or tried to do so. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, shares the following:

- 79% of all people who die by suicide are male.
- Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are 4X more likely to die by suicide.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14, the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24, and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.
- 46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition – but research suggests that 90% may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.
- Transgender adults are nearly 9X more likely to attempt suicide at some point in their life.
- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are 4X more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.

Warning Signs:

- Increased alcohol and/or drug use.
- Aggressive, impulsive, or reckless behavior. Dramatic mood swings.
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and community.
- Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon.
- Giving away possessions.
- Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts.
- Saying goodbye to friends and family.

Support in a crisis: there are a few ways to approach a suicide-related crisis.

- Talk openly and honestly. Don't be afraid to ask questions like, "Do you have a plan for how you would kill yourself?"
- Remove means such as guns, knives, or stockpiled pills.
- Calmly ask simple and direct questions, like "Can I help you call your psychiatrist?"
- If there are multiple people around, have one person speak at a time.
- Express support and concern. Don't argue, threaten, or raise your voice.
- Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong.
- If you're nervous, try not to fidget or pace.
- Be patient.

NAMI suggests that if your friend or family member struggles with suicidal ideation day-to-day, let them know that they can talk with you about what they're going through. Make sure that you adopt an open and compassionate mindset instead of "arguing" or trying to disprove any negative statements they make ("Your life isn't that bad!"). Try active listening techniques such as reflecting their feelings and summarizing their thoughts. This can help your loved one feel heard and validated. Encourage them to connect with a mental health professional who is trained to help people improve their mental wellness and resilience. Suicide is not the answer. There is hope.

Friends, we need to help remove the stigma of mental health challenges. God values every person, and desires abundant life for all. Let's respond to those who struggle with compassion and hope.

Pastor Laura

Suicide Help Line: 800-950-6264

[nami.org/suicide prevention](https://nami.org/suicide-prevention)



Questions about Disaffiliations

A few people have been asking me lately about the congregations disaffiliating from the UMC. Let me say right up front that I believe the disaffiliating churches are not giving the legislative process of the denomination time to sort things out. The predominant issues are different understandings of scripture regarding sexual orientation and how these understandings impact ordination of clergy and whether UMC pastors can officiate same-sex weddings. Obviously, there is a wide range of thought on how to include LGBTQI+ per-

sons in the church body. This discussion has been going on for fifty years.

In 2024, the General Conference of the UMC will convene and has the legislative power to make decisions that will move the church forward. Bishop Palmer of the West Ohio Conference has asserted numerous times that there will be a place in the denomination for churches along every point of the spectrum of theological belief. He also has maintained that churches will not be forced to welcome a pastor who would be a poor theological fit for the congregation.

To date, in the overall United Methodist denomination, over 6,000 congregations have voted to disaffiliate. Many have joined the Global Methodist Church which chartered in 2022 and is very conservative in theological stance. The West Ohio Conference will hold a specially called conference on October 28 to consider the final number of churches that have requested disaffiliation this year. After that conference is held, it is estimated that West Ohio will have about two thirds of its congregations remaining in the United Methodist denomination.

Please pray for our denomination and the upcoming General Conference. Here at Franklin First, we will be holding informational meetings when we have firm knowledge of what the future holds. Until that time, let's remain focused on our mission for Christ in our community. If you have questions or would like further discussion, please come to my office and we will chat.

Pastor Laura

Save the Date! Grandparent's Sunday September 10th

We will be celebrating the blessings of intergenerational relationships on September 10, Grandparent's Sunday. The day will provide a wonderful opportunity to invite your grandparents/grandchildren to a special worship service. Plan to stay afterwards and enjoy dessert before heading out for lunch as we offer ice cream sundaes with all the fixings.

A flyer for Grandparents Sunday. It features a photo of a family walking on a path. Text includes: 'Grandparents Sunday September 10th Worship - 10:45 am', 'Celebrating the special grandparent(s) or older person in children's lives!', and 'Invite your grandparent or special older person to Worship'. The Franklin First United Methodist Church logo is at the bottom right.

Grandparents Sunday
September 10th
Worship - 10:45 am

Celebrating the special grandparent(s) or older person in children's lives!

Invite your grandparent or special older person to Worship

Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Angel Shop

August 27 was the first shopping opportunity for formal wear available at no cost from Franklin First's Angel Shop. Director Jenny Chilcutt welcomed four shoppers. We have also been receiving donations of formal wear to place with the selections. Spread the word! The Angel Shop will be open many Sundays between now and mid-October. This ministry is a blessing to students, and ecology friendly as some very gently used social attire is passed forward to another wearer.



ANGEL SHOP
DRESS TO BE YOUR BEST
 Gently Used Formal Dress & Accessories

2023 Shopping Hours
Sundays
 September 10 & 17 12:30 - 2 pm
 September 24 2 - 3:30 pm
 October 1 & 8 12:30 - 2 pm

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO SHOP WITH US FOR HOMECOMING

No Charge! Donations are accepted but optional

The "Angel Shop" has gently used formal attire and accessories (shoes, purses, jewelry, etc.) for students who are in need of formal wear.

Hosted By:
 Franklin First United Methodist Church
 303 South Main St.
 Franklin, OH 45005
 Questions? Email: office@franklinfirstumc.org
 Donations Accepted
 Limited Sizes/Quantities Available

Franklin FUMC is accepting donations of clean/pressed formal dresses, men's suits, ties, shoes, purses, jewelry, and other formal attire. Donations can be dropped off at the church Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 am - 2:30 pm, Thursday evenings between 4-5 pm.

APPOINTMENTS CAN BE SCHEDULED

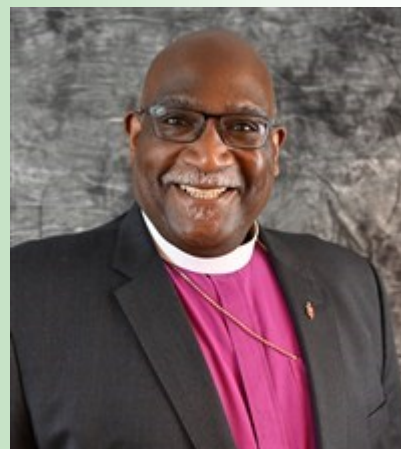


Men's Group Convenes

Ken Lang is organizing a Franklin First Men's Group that will have its first full meeting on Sunday September 10 at 7:00 pm. They will meet in the Fellowship Hall (the room with the stage). Men, come one, come all!

Free Medical Clinic—Receives Rotary Grant

Our Free Medical Clinic continues to operate on Tuesday evenings with registration from 5:30 – 6:30. Dr. Chamberlain and his volunteer staff serve clients who have no insurance or are underinsured. The Clinic was abundantly blessed this summer with a \$3,000 grant funded by our local Rotary Club and the greater Rotary organization. Again, spread the word that this wonderful health care opportunity is available.



Bishop's Fall Tour

You are invited to Faith Community UMC in West Chester on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 pm to join Bishop Gregory Palmer as he tours the West Ohio Conference. This will be a time of information sharing and fellowship with our Bishop. All are welcome.




FREE MEDICAL CLINIC
Tuesdays
5:30 - 6:30 pm

To Benefit the Uninsured or Underinsured

Franklin First United Methodist Church
 303 South Main St.
 Franklin, OH
 937-746-5232
 WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG



National Night Out 2023

Yearly on the first Tuesday in August, local Police Departments partner with local organizations for National Night Out – a time for officers to connect with their community. Franklin First participated with a booth and games. Thanks to the volunteers who made the evening a success. We so appreciate our police officers.



Sunday Worship

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

Missions & Outreach Team Update

The Mission Team is continuing to collect cleaning supplies during the month of September for The Pantry. In addition, we will re-start the collection of personal hygiene items for Franklin High school and Jr. High students.

Snack Pack packing will start on Sept. 6th at 1:30 pm. Donations of pudding cups, fruit cups, and granola bars are much needed items.

A missions meeting is scheduled for **September 12th at 6:30** in the Dining Room. We welcome everyone to our meetings.

Faith Seekers Sundays 9:15 am



Join our Faith Seekers group on Sunday mornings.

All are invited!





Anthony Wayne Tutoring Begins September 7th

Our tutoring program will begin on Thursday, September 7th with local elementary students as we help them with their literacy skills. We are grateful for this partnership with Anthony Wayne and Principal Jim Rhoades. This year, we will be working with nine second graders. One exciting addition: Jenny Chilcutt will be joining us to lead games in the first segment of the tutoring time. This allows our students to

blow off a bit of steam before settling down with their studies. Thanks Jenny, and thanks to all who participate in making this program a success.

Weekend Snack Pack Program

September 7 will bring the start of our Snack Pack program with Anthony Wayne Elementary. Families can sign up to receive a weekend supply of shelf stable items. We are grateful for the grant from our UMC district to help offset the cost of this ministry, but it does not cover all of the needs. If you would like to donate, you can designate your gift to the Snack Pack ministry or bring shelf stable food items to the church. The bags are packed on Wednesdays at 1:30, and new packers are always welcome.



School Supply Update

We collected a very large amount of school supplies again this year. The congregation was generous as always, and we also collected supplies outside from Walmart patrons on a sunny July Saturday (two shopping carts full!). All children and school staff who were present for the Blessing of the Backpacks

on August 6 were invited to take the supplies they needed. Remaining items will be distributed at various Franklin schools. Thanks for your giving spirit!



Give Franklin First a Review!

Take a moment to tell others what you like about Franklin First. Use the link below to give us a review on Google. The more positive reviews and interaction, the better placement we receive when individuals search for a church in Franklin.

<https://g.page/r/CebjXokui9PHEB0/review>



Women's Circle

Women's Circle will meet at the church on **Monday, September 11th at 6:30 pm.**

Please come and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as we make plans for our upcoming events. Dessert will be provided !



Noodles & Fall Marketplace

Mark your calendar for the Women's Circle Annual Fall Marketplace on Nov. 4th and stay tuned for details and upcoming noodle-making dates!

Rummage Sale

The Women's Circle ran a very successful rummage sale during the garage sale weekend in Franklin, raising \$2, 651 Thanks to all who donated, filling both the Dining Hall and Fellowship Hall with sale goods. Also, thanks to Judy Bowman and a large group of volunteers who gave many hours of their time.



Franklin First Online Giving

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

Connect by using this link:

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



Next Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday
September 20, 2023,
2:15 pm.



Trustee Update

1. The roof repair above the sanctuary altar is completed as the contractor returned to install the risers to support the ductwork. Now that this project is completed the trustees will repair the water damage to the plaster at the altar cove that was caused by water damage. Goal is to complete this fall prior to the holidays.

2. The new handrail has been installed on the sanctuary stairwell where the chairlift was removed by Thomas Ahrens of Ahrens Architectural Woodworking. The handrail appears to be a near perfect match to the original handrail on the other side of the stairwell. The new handrail was financed by the Women's Circle.



3. A replacement of an exterior storm window which was damaged by wind this spring on the Mears' side of the church near the elevator sidewalk will be replaced this fall. It has been measured and templates are being made for replacement.

4. The Trustees have replaced the sink, cabinet, counter top, and a new mirror in the hallway by the Pop/Water Cooler. The Women's Circle financed this project.

5. The repairs to the drywall, flooring, and painting of the parsonage basement are scheduled to begin soon as we are next on the contractor's schedule. This is the result of a drain backup in the parsonage basement this winter.

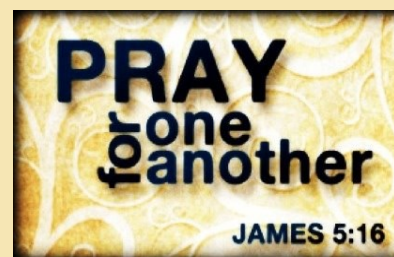


6. The entry doors from Main Street to the church are scheduled to be refinished this fall prior to the winter season. This project will be completed on site this fall by Ahrens Architectural Woodworking, the same company that completed the new handrail.

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



225th Anniversary of Methodism in Franklin – Part 9 (1998–2023)

This is the final article commemorating the 225th anniversary of forming the congregation that became the Franklin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC), the period from 1998 through August 2023. Our congregation dates our founding to Monday August 14, 1798 when the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) missionary Rev. John Kobler (1768-1843) held the first religious service in the frontier hamlet of Franklin. For than 50 years, irregular services were held by Methodist “circuit-rider” preachers. A full time minister was assigned to Franklin in 1853 and the current church building was constructed in 1860 and remains our Sanctuary until the present time.

Throughout 1998 the congregation celebrated its 175th anniversary with numerous events as described in last month’s Steeple Bell.

The arrival of the 21st century has seen a number of changes in FFUMC congregation during the first two decades of the 2000s as longtime members aged with many passing while the numbers of families with children in elementary through high school age declined significantly. Thus, the past active youth orientated activities within the Church became much fewer although Vacation Bible School still remains a July tradition through 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered worship and all activities at FFUMC during 2020 with all in-person services were first banned for several months then greatly restricted with health restrictions than only gradually ended. One impact was the ending of FFUMC serving weekly lunches to the Franklin Carlisle Rotary Club that had started in circa 1967. One Rotarians was quoted that “FFUMC was the best restaurant in Franklin.” Subsequently FFUMC initiated new internet worship services during COVID period which have now evolved into a hybrid format mix that still continues. The Facebook link to see these joint weekly services or recorded ones remains active and is

currently virtually available via Facebook livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinFirstUMCOhio>



Fig. 1. The last Rotary lunch crews in 2020.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) group was very active in the church for many years. Including making and selling homemade noodles during the church’s annual Christmas bazaars as well as hosting a spring salad luncheon every year where FFUMC’s Woman of the Year was honored. Proceeds from both events went to support the church and its various missions. With membership declining due to age and health issues, this group dissolved in 2006. A new group called Women’s Outreach Workers (WOW) assumed responsibility for the Christmas bazaars (including noodle making), the spring luncheon and some other former UMW activities. WOW sponsored several outreach ministries projects including: (1) Franklin Food Pantry, Good Works Ministry in Athens OH, Red Bird Mission in Beverly KY, and medical mission trips to Nuevo Progress, Mexico. When this group ended in early 2013, Monday

(Continued on page 10)

(One of a regular series of reports on the people and events associated with the history and ministry of the Franklin First United Method Church. Robert Bowman, Historian)

(Continued from page 9)

evening group for women called The Women’s Circle began supporting many of ongoing activities through the present as well as adding a Fall Bazaar.

A United Methodist Men (UMM) group was organized in the late 1980s, but it was completely inactive during the early 2000s. With the inspiration by the late Jack Mokry, a new FFUMC Men’s group was formed in 2009 and met on the last Saturday of the month. This new UMM revived past fund raising events such as the Chili Cook-Off contest in early Spring to support various Church needs. However, interest wain just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but a new FFUMC men’s group is having its organization meeting in September.



Fig. 2. Flyer for the 2017 UMM Chili Cook-Off.

Music has continued to have major roles at FFUMC during regular services and special event. The Sanctuary/Chancel Choir is composed of adults and sometimes older youth

remains the mainstay. Photos of this choir in 1998 and 2023 are shown in Fig. 3. A women ensemble was formed in 2010 during services and at other church events with occasional name changes such as Double Trio or One Voice depending upon the number of members. The introduction of a “Traditionary” Worship service that began at 9:00 a.m. prior to the main worship service in October 2003 had an associated mixed choral group called Hands of Praise where Fig. 4 show the group in 2010.

Monica Rhude has been the FFUMC director of music ~1986 and Nancy Osborne was the choir’s ac-

companist on both piano and organ organist from 1988 and until official retirement in 2013 although she continued to play the organ on a number of occasions for several years after that time.



Fig. 3 FFUMC Chancel Choir (upper photo in 1998) and (lower photo in 2023)



Fig. 4. Members of the FFUMC Hands of Praise ensemble in 2010.



Fig. 5. Rev. Bryan Lauzau, who remains the longest serving pastor in Franklin Methodist church, and Music director Monica Rhude at the 2013 retirement reception for Nancy Osborne for 25 years as the accompanist for the FUMC choirs.

(Continued on page 11)



Fig. 6. FFUMC Aspenleiter Handbell Choir Members in 1998 (Upper); 2010 (Middle) and 2019 (Lower).

As described in last month's Steeple Bell, the Aspenleiter Bell Choir was established in 1984 to honor the former choir director Clarence Aspenleiter and his wife. The group has continued providing their special music up to the present.

In January 2001 FFUMC welcomed its first woman pastor, Rev. Diann O'Bryant. It was under her leadership and guidance that the contemporary worship service featuring the Hands of Praise music ensemble was initiated in October 2003 that would continue for nearly ten years. Rev. Bryan Lauzau came here in 2007 and would become the longest serving past for just over 10 years. Rev. Laura Saunders became our second woman pastor and remains with us still. We are blessed with her devotion and commitment to our congregation and the local community.

In 2007, several renovations were done in the church including expanding the church office that gives the pastor additional space by adding a third room, sep-

arated parlor and chapel areas in the front entryway, and a prayer chapel on the third floor. A number of additional renovations over the past decade have been made in the Sanctuary including major upgrades to the computer, audio-visual, and security through the diligent efforts of the Board of trustees and special donations from the membership. A view of the Sanctuary in April 2023 is shown in Figure 7.



Fig. 7. Women's ensemble practicing prior to worship service April 2023.

External maintenance and repairs continued to remain challenges during the 21st century. However, a major windstorm in March 2011 blew several sheets of the steeple's covering onto Main Street as well as revealing significant structural damage. With assistance from insurance that covered most of the nearly \$175,000 cost, all of the necessary repairs were made, the exterior features repainted, and the old sheathing was replaced with galvanized steel panels with a baked-on enamel coating that will allow FUMC to remain the church "Under the Green Steeple" for many years to come.



Fig. 8 View of FFUMC in September 2012.

The repair of the steeple required that large scaffolding structure as shown in Figure 9. This construction also pro-

vided a unique panoramic photographs to be taken from circa 200 feet above street level. One example is presented in Figure 10 while several others are in the Church's archive or upon request.



Fig. 9.
Scaffolding
on Steeple
in December
2011.



Fig 10. Northwest view from the scaffolding at ~200 feet of the Great Miami River, the Lions Bridge, the Mackinaw district of west Franklin and beyond.

A major outreach program started in 2008 with the Community Dinners where free meals are cooked and served in the FFUMC dining room two or three times each week. Members from our congregation initially served the dinners every Monday and Thursday

while dinners were also prepared by volunteers from Otterbein, Hope UMC and Red Lion UMC congregations on additional days. With St. Paul Lutheran, First Church of God, and St. Mary Catholic churches prepare and serve meals on other days of the week was possible to provide these meals five days a week to all attendees. These programs continued for several years, but the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic ended the program. While FFUMC still acts as the host for several community dinners during the month, the congregation doesn't currently prepared and serve the meals.

FFUMC has expanded its community outreach and service with several new programs within the past few years. In November 2019, our member Dr. Richard Chamberlain and a group of very dedicated volunteer staff have operated a free medical clinic every Tuesday for all who come by. FFUMC also supports the Anthony Wayne Elementary school in Franklin with free weekend snack packs and after school tutoring classes for the students. Although these programs were interrupted by COVID, they have resumed completely in 2023. Another special service recently being offered is an Angel Shop which is open during the Homecoming and Prom season where students can shop for formal wear at no charge. Donations of gently-used and clean formal wear are accepted and greatly appreciated. Throughout the calendar year, FFUMC collects various items for the Franklin Community Pantry and also Franklin City Schools. We gather food items along with non-food items that their client's value such as personal care supplies, baby needs, cleaning, and paper products. We help our teachers and students by collecting supplies prior to the beginning of the school year. Other projects continue and the building is made available for weekly meetings of Narcotics anonymous and occasionally for other social and health assistance organizations in the spirit of doing God's work in the community and worldwide.





We often expect God to show up in demonstrative ways and obvious places: parted seas, miraculous healings, the disembodied voice of Morgan Freeman. The Holy Spirit often moves in our lives in much more subtle ways. And if we practice a bit of awareness and

directed attention, we'll surely witness the just-as-amazing ways that God disrupts our day-to-day lives with something meaningful—and holy.

After a day of house hunting, my family and I decided to call it a day and go get dinner. We decided to go to this fairly new all-you-can-eat sushi place near our city.

It turns out, our eyes were much bigger than our stomachs because we ordered a whole mess of rolls. So much so, our food was brought upon a wooden boat that was as large as our table.

We were hungry. So we got to eating.

I was getting full when I noticed that there were still *a lot* of rolls left on that boat. Now, this restaurant has a policy that if you have leftovers they will charge you like a dollar per left over sushi. There was no way we were going to get fined for our leftovers so we trudged on. After what felt like an eternity of force feeding myself, there were still *a lot* of rolls left.

Now, I know that I am not shining the kindest of lights on us.

The gluttony.

The excess. The waste.

I know, I know.

I heard my mom's voice in my head with every forced bite, "You know, there are children (insert any country in the world) who would love to have just what you're complaining about."

But hold your judgement... because it gets worse.

I started slowly (and stealthily) stuffing napkins full of sushi in my pockets (I told you — the story gets worse). I looked up to make sure that my wife wasn't catching on to my actions when I saw her *doing the exact same thing*. Our eyes locked and we immediately just started

laughing hard. I was laughing so hard that not only did I have a

hard time catching my breath, but I could feel the sushi rice trying to force its way back up to my mouth. My wife and I were doubled over laughing and my son just started laughing because his parents were laughing hard.

When the laughing fit subsided, I felt full. Not just physically — because in that sense, I felt *too* full. But my soul and heart were full.

As if I was having some sort of out-of-body experience, I just saw the three of us sitting at this table (we long had given up in trying to hide our gluttony) and this overwhelming sense of how blessed I was washed over me. What more could I ask for (except to go back in time and order less sushi)? I was truly and deeply blessed.

It was such an ordinary moment — but yet so profound. I couldn't shake the feeling that surely the presence of the Lord was in this moment and place.

When can we expect God's presence?

That's one of the most frustrating things about God's spirit. We always expect God to show up in demonstrative and obvious places. We look for the loud and in-your-face type of spots for God because we're expecting God to make a grand entrance to announce God's presence.

We tend to look for God in the mighty winds; the raging fires; or the thunderous earthquakes but much like Elijah (1 King 19:11-13), we have to be present and focused to hear the "thin quiet" sound of God's voice.

Yes, there are moments when, filled with the spirit, we witness miraculous and unexplainable things happen. But more often than not, the spirit-filled moments happen in the smallness, the ordinary, the daily rituals of our lives.

On that road to Emmaus, Jesus was fully revealed in the taking, blessing, breaking, and giving of the bread — over an ordinary meal.

He was present in a not-so-extraordinary walk to the next city over.

Here's the best news about this: you don't have to be



(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

extraordinary or do supernatural stuff to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

That text you send to check up on a friend;

The meal you delivered to the family whose member is recovering from surgery;

The coffee you had while catching up with a good friend;

That lunch you ate with your colleagues;

And yes, the laughter that you shared at the sheer ridiculous sight of you and your partner trying to stuff sushi into your pockets — those are all Spirit-filled and

holy moments.

The presence of the Lord is always all around us. Because when you make room for the Spirit, the Spirit comes. The real question is: are we aware? Are we paying attention? Are we present?

Joseph Yoo is the author [When the Saints Go Flying in](#). He 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.

Taken from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-amazing-ways-god-is-working>

Upcoming at Franklin First

Tuesday, September 5th

5:30 pm Free Medical Clinic

Wednesday, September 6th

1:30 pm Snack Pack Packing

2:00 pm Communications Team

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 7th

3:15 pm Anthony Wayne Tutoring

Sunday, Sept. 10th—

Grandparent's Sunday

12:30—2 pm Angel Shop

7:00 pm Men's Group

Monday, September 11th

6:30 pm Women's Circle

Tuesday, September 12th

5:30 pm Free Medical Clinic

6:30 pm Mission/Outreach Team

Wednesday, September 13th

1:30 pm Snack Pack Packing

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 14th

3:15 pm Anthony Wayne Tutoring

Sunday, September 17th

12:30—2 pm Angel Shop

Monday, September 18th

6:30 pm Church Council

Wednesday, September 20th

1:30 pm Snack Pack Packing

2:15 pm Finance Committee

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 21st

3:15 pm Anthony Wayne Tutoring

Sunday, September 24th— Homecoming Sunday

12:30—2 pm Angel Shop

Tuesday, September 26th

5:30 pm Free Medical Clinic

6:30 pm Lay Leadership Meeting

Wednesday, September 27th

1:30 pm Snack Pack Packing

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday, September 28th

3:15 pm Anthony Wayne Tutoring

For all activities at Franklin First visit:

[Franklin First Calendar](#)

Birthdays

September 15 Cindy Kuntzman

September 16 Joe Jeromos

September 16 Deric Lucas

September 17 Grayson Leffew

September 19 Irene Adams-Sherron

September 20 Ernestine Chamberlain

September 21 Paxton Aleya

September 21 Hudson Banks

September 23 Tom Steinberger

September 25 Taylor Jeromos

Anniversaries

September 07 Emily & Luke Aleya

September 22 Greg & Pam Trout

September 30 Daran & Pam Bishop

Franklin First UMC

Text An Amount To:
(937) 582-9009

TEXT TO GIVE



- 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.



Franklin First United Methodist Church

2023 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	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 Chairs	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	
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator	
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Chair: Julie Abell

(Lay Leader: Mike Smith)

Terms expiring 2023:	Julie Abell, Judy Parker, Sue Fullen
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Patti Noland
Terms expiring 2025:	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2023:	Joe Chamberlain, Brian Graves
Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders

Mike Smith, Lay Leader

Terms expiring 2023:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos

Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Julie Abell
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Co-Chairs:	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Julie Abell
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Charlotte Summer
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: 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

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:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson

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

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

Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Charlotte Summer, Chris Womack

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

Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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

Communication Team: Mike & Carol Runyan, Linda & Mike Smith, Pastor Laura Saunders, Theresa Fultz

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

September 7

Anthony Wayne Tutoring Begins

September 10

Grandparent's Sunday

September 24

Homecoming Sunday

November 4

Fall Marketplace

STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER

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

