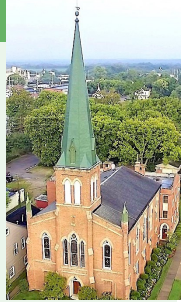




# The Steeple Bell—September 2024

Franklin First United Methodist Church

*"Under the Green Steeple"*



*"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for [God] is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your [Abba, God] is merciful."*

Luke 6: 31-32, 35-36

Our world seems to be consumed with division. We see it in the colors red and blue, especially during election season. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the "other side" politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The "purple space" is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

This fall, Franklin First is joining many other United Methodist Churches across the United States in a series called, "Do Unto Others." The goal of this movement is to learn to interact and communicate with others to find the common ground we share and lessen the polarization that is so prevalent in our country. The lessons we learn in this series will serve us well in many walks of life, not just the political arena.

September 29	"Blue and Red Make Purple: Kindness"
October 6	"The Polarization Within: Compassion"
October 13	"Listen More, Speak Less: Humility"
October 20	"Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect"
October 27	"Malice Toward None: Love"

Luke 6:31-36
Isaiah 11:6-9
Ephesians 4:1-6
1 Corinthians 12:1-26
Matthew 22:34-40

The Lord Jesus lived in turbulent times as well. His teachings help us to know what matters most. He invited us to focus on what a world would be like if we treated others in incredibly generous ways.

**kindness.  
compassion.  
humility.  
respect.  
love.**

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

During this “Do Unto Others” campaign, we will unpack the instructions given by Jesus and apply them in pragmatic ways in our homes, families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and wherever we find ourselves engaged in a challenging exchange of ideas. We will have yard signs promoting kindness to display in our yards, “Love Your Neighbor” kits that challenge us to 52 weeks of action steps, a “Discovery Plan” that showcases a new way of reading Bible stories to enhance understanding, and a “Love Your Neighbor Map” that suggests tangible ways of connecting with those who are yet to become friends.

I am excited about this series. Our country is in dire need of Christians who will choose a different approach focused on building relationships rather than name-calling and divisive actions.

Pastor Laura



## Homecoming

Franklin First UMC will be celebrating our Homecoming Sunday on September 22<sup>th</sup>. The worship time will bring music from each of our groups and a special commemorative service. You are invited to a complimentary luncheon following worship.

The Coffee Collab food truck will be hosting our lunch and will be offering pizza and pulled pork sandwiches. We need a count for lunch by Sept. 15th. Please contact the office to RSVP for lunch or [click here](#). Save the date and invite someone to join us.



## Committee on Lay Leadership

This is the ministry team that prayerfully seeks the leadership for our church in the next calendar year. We are looking for ministry heads, as well as those to serve on ministry teams. What spiritual gifts do you have to share with this family of faith? The committee will meet for the first time on **Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 pm**. If you have an area of ministry that you'd like to explore, talk to Pastor Laura before that date. It takes all members of the Body of Christ to fulfill the mission of the church.





## Confirmation Class

Pastor Laura is organizing a Confirmation Class for sixth graders through high school students. The classes will run immediately after church on the **third Sunday of each month**, beginning in September and going through March. Easter 2025 falls on April 20, and the Confirmation service will take place on Sunday April 27. We will need some adult volunteers to help with the class and a light luncheon each month. Would you be able to help? Talk to Laura

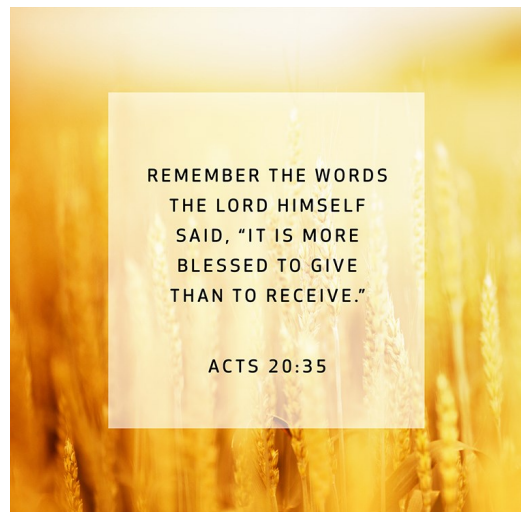


## Grandparent's Sunday

We will be celebrating the blessings of intergenerational relationships on September 8, Grandparent's Sunday. The day will provide a wonderful opportunity to invite your grandparents/grandchildren to a special worship service. Our Chancel Choir will be back with us, and we always look forward to their return. Plan to stay afterwards and enjoy fellowship and goodies.

## Giving Options

Friends, as you are aware, we collect for a smorgasbord of different outreach ministries throughout the year. Snack Packs, the Franklin Pantry, school supplies, the Christmas distribution, etc. are all examples. We want you to rest assured that you are not expected to donate to each and every drive. Pray about which options you believe that God is asking you to contribute toward and feel the blessing of being a cheerful giver. All of these giving choices are above and beyond our regular tithes and offerings. Franklin First is such a community-minded group of folks. Praise God that we can provide these assets to our community.





**August 6, 2024**



**Franklin Community Park**  
**127 Minnick St, Franklin, OH 45005**

## National Night Out

Yearly on the first Tuesday in August, Police and Fire Departments partner with local organizations for National Night Out – a time for First Responders to connect with their community. August 6 at Franklin Community Park, a sizeable crowd braved the record-breaking temperatures to support our local heroes. Franklin First participated with a booth and games. Thanks to the volunteers who made the evening a success – you were heroes in your own right to battle the heat. We so appreciate our brave and committed officers and fire fighters.





## Congratulations to Peggy Darragh-Jeromos

Peggy was inducted into Franklin High School's Hall of Fame on Saturday, August 24. She was one of a small group of inductees, and the group was recognized during the football game as well on the evening before the induction ceremony. Her daughter Taylor was her presenter. Peggy is involved in many activities that promote the Franklin community. She prefers to work behind the scenes, but her efforts do not go unnoticed.



## Fall Marketplace — Save the Date

On November 2, Franklin First will once again host the Women's Circle Fall Marketplace. The event features homemade noodles and many other homemade goodies, including a delicious luncheon. Outside vendors share their wares just in time to begin your Christmas shopping. This is a major fundraiser, as last year the Marketplace netted \$4,440. These monies are used for mission endeavors and for



## Noodles — The Tradition Continues!

Franklin First's Women Circle (and friends) will be making homemade noodles once again for the Fall Marketplace. It takes a lot of volunteers and dough supplies to accomplish this amazing ministry. The noodles will be rolled out on **Tuesday mornings this year beginning September**

**24th** and continuing weekly through October. They will be bagged on Thursday mornings. Donations of Gold Medal flour and eggs are needed. Invite friends to learn the process and help roll the dough. Orders will be taken in advance online. Last year, 604 batches of noodles were made. Incredible!



## Next Women's Circle Meeting

Monday September 9th

6:30 pm

Please join us as we make plans for our upcoming events!

## Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Update

Some updates from the Staff Parish Relations team's recent committee activities:



- ◆ Annual Parsonage Inspection: Representatives from the SPRC and the Trustees have successfully completed the annual inspection of the parsonage. This ensures that our facilities remain in excellent condition and meet all necessary standards.
- ◆ Safe Sanctuary Policy Update: This fall, the SPRC is focusing on updating the Safe Sanctuary policy along with the accompanying forms. These updates are crucial to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- ◆ Employee Handbook Revision: The committee is also working to update the employee handbook. The current edition, dating back to approximately 1998, has served us well, but it is time for a refresh. While most sections remain broadly applicable, they will be revised to reflect current practices and policies.



## Safe Sanctuary Rescheduled

Pastor Laura has rescheduled the second session of Safe Sanctuary training for Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 pm. (She had to cancel the August 22 session because of illness.) The training will last about one hour, and dessert will be served. Please register in advance using this link: <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/Obf68991>

## Trustee Committee Update

The installation of the two roof top heating and cooling units have been completed. Have you noticed the comfort in the church on Sunday's? The cost to replace the two units was \$22,500.00. As you can imagine this was a significant hit to the financials of the church. If you feel compelled to make a donation to help offset this expense, the church would be more than grateful. You can donate online here or make checks payable to Franklin First UMC with "AC Units" in the memo line. Checks can also be mailed to the church or placed in the sanctuary offering plates. Or give online on our website: <https://franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources>.

SCAN TO GIVE  
ON LINE OR  
CLICK HERE!



Thank you for your continued support.

A new window air conditioner was installed in the Angel shop, to make shopping for those in need more comfortable. We also anchored the shoe displays to the wall, to avoid an issue with top heavy displays. Both were accomplished with grant monies to boost interest in this great ministry.





## Angel Shop News

August 18 was the first shopping opportunity for formal wear available at no cost from Franklin First's Angel Shop. Director Jenny Chilcutt and her mom Tami Chamberlain worked over the summer to update the shop to give it more of a boutique feel with equipment purchased with grant funds. We have also been receiving donations over the summer, so students have an impressive inventory from which to make their selections.

Spread the word! The Angel Shop will be open from 12:30 – 2:00 Sundays between now and the end of September. This ministry is a blessing to students, and ecology friendly as some very gently used formal attire is passed forward to another wearer.



## Welcome to Debra Lindholm & the Collab Food Truck

It appeared for a while that the Tuesday evening Community Dinners served from Franklin First were going to discontinue completely, as the crew from Hope and Red Lion UM Churches were ceasing this ministry. Then Debra Lindholm contacted us with an offer to serve the Community Dinner on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Although her food truck is called the "Coffee Collab," she serves pizza and other delicious meals. Franklin First is able to provide Debra will a small amount of funding, a blessing from the Great Miami River District grant we receive. St. Paul's Lutheran Church will still be serving Community Dinners on the second and third Tuesdays monthly.

## Girl Scout Bronze Award

On Sunday August 25, Gracie Lucas and two of her Scouting friends Katie and Elizabeth presented their "blessing bags" work to the congregation to achieve their Bronze Award, the first tier of awards in the highest level of Girl Scouts. The girls explained that the bags contain personal care items to enrich the lives of recipients. They brought their first installment of 20 bags, and plan to supply up to 200 bags by the end of December. The bags will be available to guests who visit our community meals, medical clinic, Angel Shop, other outreach services, and those who just stop by the church in need of assistance. The ever-generous Franklin First congregation collected \$205 to give the girls seed money for their project. We love supporting our kids in their endeavors! *If you have small personal care items (like toothpaste and toothbrush or hair care, etc.) that you think would be appropriate additions to their bags, the girls are accepting donations. Drop them by the church office.*





## Gerke Elementary Tutoring

Our tutoring program will happen again this fall with first grade students as we help them with their literacy skills. Franklin Schools have reorganized their system, and we are grateful for this partnership with Gerke and Principal Jim Rhoades. We do not know an exact start date, as the reorganization has shuffled things up and Mr. Rhoades is putting details together on his end. We do expect to tutor again on Thursdays after school. We will update you with details ASAP. If you plan to tutor again this year

or would like to come on board as a new tutor, please talk to Linda Smith, Karen Anderson, or Pastor Laura immediately. Background checks and Safe Sanctuary training are mandatory for new tutors.



## Weekend Snack Pack Program

Our Snack Pack program will provide blessings for first grade students at Gerke Elementary. Pastor Laura attended the Gerke open house to invite signups and share about the program. Families can sign up to receive a weekend supply of shelf stable items. Our start date is to be determined, as signups are still in process. We are grateful for the grant from our UMC district to help offset the cost of this ministry, but it does not cover all 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.



## Free Medical Clinic

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 again this year with another grant funded by our local Rotary Club and the greater Rotary organization. Again, spread the word that this wonderful health care opportunity is available.



## Choir Rehearsals

We are looking forward to our Choir and

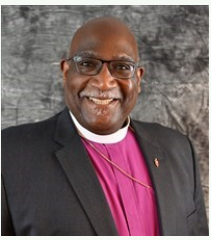
Handbell Choir rehearsals starting on **September 4th**. If you have a passion for praising God through music, we invite you to join one of our music programs!

•**Choir Rehearsal:** 6:30 PM

•**Handbell Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 PM

Come and be a part of our musical family. Let's lift our voices and ring our bells in joyful praise together!





## Bishop Palmer Announces “New Era of Church Planting”

Greetings, dear friends in Christ Jesus.

One of the great joys I have had serving you in this role is dreaming about, collaborating on and saying *YES* to launching new congregations and faith communities. All of this is done to help us fulfill the mission of ***making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world***. I am delighted to have one more opportunity to this end.

The Mason United Methodist Church reached its end with singular faith and dignity several months ago. The church building and property were just too strategically located to not think and pray about whether or not we were being called to launch something new in that area. Thoughtful use of resources from the Closed Church Fund created space to be able to think and strategize about the best way to respond to a missional opportunity. After a lot of conversation, prayer, data mining, and collaboration, I am delighted to announce to you that we will begin to lay the groundwork this Fall to launch a new United Methodist congregation in Mason, Ohio, making use of the facility and property that was home to the Mason United Methodist Church.

This new church launch in Mason will be done in collaboration with Resurrection, A United Methodist Church with multiple locations in greater Kansas City. This innovative approach between the West Ohio Conference, Great Plains Conference, and Resurrection will enable the new church in Mason to offer the Resurrection experience and access to Resurrection’s fruitful track record of intentional disciple-making and missional impact. This marks a significant step in maximizing the strength and resources between conferences, ushering us into a *new era of church planting*.

Effective January 1, 2025, the Reverend Jenn Lucas will be appointed to organize and lead this new work. She will of course have the support of the Bishop and Cabinet as well as the Office of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings. Not later than August 31, I will announce who will be appointed as the next superintendent of the Great Miami River District. Please start now to *pray* for this new ministry and watch for more details as they unfold.

Your servant in Christ,

+Gregory V. Palmer

## 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/giving-%26-member-resources>





## Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Assigned to the Ohio Episcopal Area

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area, including the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment will begin September 1, 2024. The announcement was made at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on July 13.

Bishop Jung is the resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and has served in this role since September 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, raising over \$1 million. He visited every congregation in the annual conference and provided oversight to the planting of over 30 congregations. Under his commitment to increase racial justice and radical inclusion, the Wisconsin Conference has reached 49% of its appointments being served by cross-racial leadership.

Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area). He was instrumental in inspiring the Harvest 2020 movement in Northern Illinois, which resulted in many new faith communities. He was committed to immigration justice and the sanctuary movement, and initiated Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

Previously, Bishop Jung served as an elder in the Wisconsin Conference, where he was a pastor and a district superintendent. Bishop Jung taught and chaired the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Kangnam University in South Korea. He also served as pastor of congregations in California, Texas, and South Korea.

He has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, chair of the UM Korean National Plan, and a member of the Board of Directors for Bread for the World. Bishop Jung serves as a member of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea at Geneva, Switzerland, and is actively involved in Korea peace and reconciliation efforts. He has served as faculty for the Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation since 2005 and has taught in various Five-Day Academy sessions in the U.S. and abroad. Previously, Bishop Jung served as president of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and as a member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Discipleship, the UM National Hispanic Plan, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on United Methodist Men and JustPeace.

Bishop Jung is currently Adjunct Professor at Yonsei University in South Korea, and Claremont School of Theology.

Bishop Jung earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also holds an M.A. from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA; an M.A. from the Dongguk University Graduate School in Seoul, South Korea; and a B.Th. from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea.

Im-Hyon, Bishop Jung's spouse, is an elder in the Wisconsin Conference and currently serves as the director of International Relations, Asia & Global Programs, for the Upper Room/Discipleship Ministries. The Jung's are the parents of two adult sons, Jae-Hugh and Jae-Joon, who is married to Brittney. They are also the proud grandparents of Sydney Grace.



**Plant seeds of**  
*kindness*  
**and see**  
**what grows.**





Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen named Great Miami River District Superintendent



Bishop Gregory V. Palmer has announced the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen as Great Miami River District Superintendent effective January 1, 2025. This appointment coincides with the appointment of the current superintendent, Rev. Jenn Lucas to Resurrection Mason.

“I could not be more pleased that Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen has accepted my invitation to become a conference superintendent assigned to the Great Miami River District,” Palmer said. “Suzanne’s love for Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church is obvious through her excellent preaching and her outstanding leadership in the churches she has served and as the Chair of West Ohio’s Board of Ordained Ministry. She is one of the most thoughtful people I know.”

As one of the Senior Pastors of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, she is both humbled and excited. “I am looking forward to this new opportunity as we move into the next chapter of what it means to be United Methodist in West Ohio. In each of my appointments I have experienced the Holy Spirit working through the Bishop and cabinet as I have stepped into a new role, whether in a local church or extension ministry position,” she said.

Suzanne has served churches in the West Ohio Conference since 1998. Her previous appointments include Defiance St. Paul’s, Milford Trinity, Springboro First, and the Ohio River Valley District, West Ohio Conference, as an Assistant to the District Superintendent & Regional Missional Specialist.

Although this appointment announcement is being made at the end of Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer’s assignment in West Ohio, incoming Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is fully aware and supports both of these appointments.

Birthday

September 15	Cindy Kuntzman
September 16	Deric Lucas
September 16	Joe Jeromos
September 17	Grayson Leffew
September 19	Irene Adams-Sherron
September 20	Ernestine Chamberlain
September 21	Paxton Alyea
September 23	Tom Steinberger
September 25	Taylor Jeromos

Anniversary

September 07	Emily & Luke Alyea
September 22	Greg & Pam Trout
September 30	Pam & Daran Bishop

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://q.page/r/CebjXokui9PHEB0/review>

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

## 2024 at Franklin First

### September

2	Labor Day
3	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
8	Grandparents Sunday
8	Angel Shop, 12:30—2pm
9	Women's Circle Meeting; 6:30 pm
10	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
11	Finance Committee, 2:30 pm
12	Safe Sanctuary Training, 6:30 pm
15	First Confirmation Class, 11:45 am
15	Angel Shop, 12:30—2pm
16	Church Council Meeting; 6:30 pm
17	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
22	Homecoming Sunday
22	Angel Shop, 12:30—2pm
24	First Noodle Making Extravaganza
24	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
24	Lay Leadership Meeting, 6:30 pm
24	Noodle Packing, 10 am
29	Angel Shop, 12:30—2pm

### October

♦	Missions Team begins to collect paper products for The Pantry
1	Noodle Making, 9 am
1	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
3	Noodle Packing, 10 am
6	World Communion Sunday
8	Noodle Making, 9 am
8	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
9	Finance Committee, 2:30 pm
13	Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday
13	Men's Group, 7 pm
14	Women's Circle Meeting/6:30 pm
15	Noodle Making, 9 am
15	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm
19	Franklin's Trunk or Treat
20	Laity Sunday
20	2nd Confirmation Class, 11:45 am
22	Noodle Making, 9 am
22	Free Medical Clinic,
29	Free Medical Clinic, 5:30 pm

### School Supply Update

We collected an impressive amount of school supplies again this year. The congregation was generous as always. All children and school staff who were present for the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 11 were invited to take the supplies they needed. The remaining items were distributed at various Franklin schools. Thank you for your giving spirit!



### Leave a Lasting Legacy

Want to make a lasting impact on our church community? By contributing to our Permanent Endowment Fund, you can ensure that your generosity continues to bless future generations. Your gift will be invested wisely to support our mission and offer hope to those in need. Join us in this meaningful endeavor and create a lasting legacy. Contact Pastor Laura if you want to learn more.

### Living Legacy





## MOVING FROM CONSUMERISM TO COMMITMENT IN FAITH

BY: Rev. Joseph Yoo

Rev. Mike Slaughter, the now-retired pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Ohio, once said “churches have lowered the bar of discipleship for membership.” He indicated that church leaders were more eager to fill the pews (and pad our attendance numbers) than cultivate committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Harsh? Maybe. But maybe not harsh enough. Because over the course of the past few decades (maybe), we’ve been turning our churches into service providers.

### WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN CHURCH

People come into church with a consumerist mentality and churches, afraid of losing people (and the metrics of attendance and giving they bring), try to meet the demands of these consumers.

“I want a church with great preaching.”

“I want a church with an active singles ministry.”

“I want a church with a strong children’s program.”

“I want a church with good worship and great music.”

Do you see what all that has in common? The self.

Please, don’t get me wrong. It’s not altogether bad to look for things like that when looking for a faith community or church. The thing is, too many of us don’t grow out of consuming church.

Ask any pastor and they’ll tell you how so many people want something but nobody wants to be part of the team to make it happen.

Once, someone asked me why our church didn’t have a particular ministry. I offered that we could start it together, and that I would help this person recruit to get it going. The ministry seemed like a

passion of theirs.

They simply responded, “But then why am I giving offering for y’all’s salary if I need to get this rolling?”

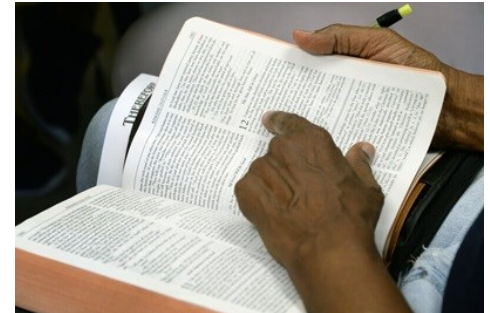
I think commitment

to church in this decade begins with de-centering ourselves. We really need to embody the opening sentence from Rick Warren’s Purpose Driven Life: It’s not about you. Because it’s really not.

We gather with the purpose of loving Jesus and serving others. In order to do those both effectively, we have to be sacrificial; we have to embody sacrificial love, the kind that Jesus modeled and practiced.

### CONSUMER OR COMMITTED?

At some point, our commitment to church (and more importantly, commitment to follow Jesus) requires us to let go of being a consumer of church and transition into being a servant of Christ. You can’t be both a consumer and a disciple.



*The Christian mission isn't to get what we want, it's to give ourselves and serve.*

This requires us to let go of our preferences for the sake of the gospel; for the sake of the mission of the church you’re part of; for the sake of the person who hasn’t stepped foot into your church yet.

I think another thing we need to do in our commitment to local church is to invest in the local community. Now, any time a pastors talk about “investing” in a community, you may (instinctively) start rolling your eyes thinking, “Here they go, talking about money. Again.” I totally understand the distrust that many have when it comes to money and religion. Too many pastors have violated that trust and have taken advantage of people to line their pockets.

At the same time, Jesus knew the importance of money and talked about money more than anything else in his ministry, outside of the Kingdom of God.

But today, when I talk about investing( yes money is included) it goes beyond investing your hard-earned

*(Continued on page 14)*



Join our  
Faith  
Seekers  
group on  
Sunday

mornings at 9:15 am.  
All are invited!

(Continued from page 13)

income. We need to invest ourselves in our churches. We need to plant deep roots in the church that we have chosen so that we can weather all the storms that come from being in community together.

There will be seasons on our faith journeys when we can't do anything but receive. But like all seasons, that's not a permanent state.

When we're in a position to give ourselves for the sake of the church's mission (which hopefully is aligned with the message of Jesus' Gospel), we need to give ourselves to serve and love our neighbors. That looks different for different people.

If you are already part of a church community, what are ways that you can serve? How can you be more involved than just showing up to worship? What steps can you take move away from being a consumer of Christianity to a disciple of Christ?

If you are in a season, where you need all the help you can get — I hope your community is there to help you; nurse you; strengthen you; bring you hope and peace and joy. If you find yourself in a position to serve and give, I hope that you love and serve in the best to your capacity.

*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.*



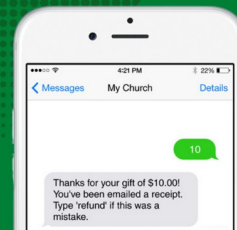
Taken From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/moving-from-consumerism-to-commitment-in-faith>

## Sunday Worship

We are always looking for individuals to assist with Sunday Worship. If you are interested in helping as an usher or greeter, please contact the [office](#).



FRANKLIN FIRST UMC  
**TEXT TO GIVE**  
(844)952-2063



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

[www.franklinfirstumc.org](http://www.franklinfirstumc.org)



**kroger community rewards**



*Please note our new church number! You do not need to change your current account; this is for new sign-ups.*

## Kroger Community Rewards

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!

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

## 2024 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



### Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Tami Chamberlain
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate	Kim Chewning
Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary	Cheryl Cyphers
Financial Secretary	Theresa Fultz
Church Historian	Robert Bowman
Pastor	Laura Saunders

### Ministry Team Representatives:

Staff-Parish	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Finance	Paul Anderson
Endowment	Paul Anderson
Trustee Chairs	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Worship	Monica Rhude
Technology	Joe Chamberlain
Committee on Lay Leadership	Laura Saunders
Christian Education	Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	TBD
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amber Ramsey

### Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: Mike Smith
Terms expiring 2024:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2025	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2026	Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout

### Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2024:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken
Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2026:	Gary Ogden, Joe Chamberlain, Joe Wright

### Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Mike Smith, Lay Leader
Terms expiring 2024:	Ken Smith, Shirley Berold
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2026:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson

### Finance Committee: (By virtue of office.)

Chair	Paul Anderson
Treasurer:	Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary:	Theresa Fultz
Church Council Chair:	Mike Smith
Trustees Co-Chairs:	Jim Martin, Mike Runyan
Staff Parish Chair:	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Tami Chamberlain
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

Chair of Finance Committee	Paul Anderson
Church Treasurer	Tami Chamberlain
Chair of Board of Trustees	Jim Martin
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Mike Smith
Member at Large (Term: 2023-24)	Monica Rhude
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Ken Smith
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

### Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Kay Marksberry, Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Mike Smith
Pastor:	Laura Saunders

### Mission & Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs: Linda Smith, Karen Anderson  
Madelyn Lang, Karen Anderson, Tami Chamberlain, Marna Rogers, Sally Fitzgerald,

### Technology Team: Chair: Joe Chamberlain

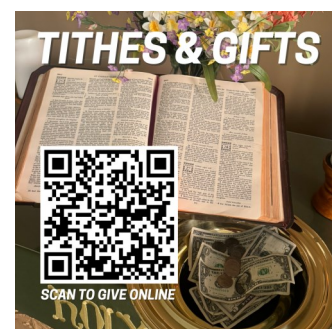
Joe Chamberlain, Trisha Dicken, Andy Kuntzman, Tami Chamberlain, LeeAnn Lee, Paul Anderson, Rick Chamberlain

### Christian Education Team:

Co-Chairs: Joe Wright (Adult) Rhonda Roberson (Children)  
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Joe Wright, Rhonda Roberson

### Care Team: Chair: Lee Saunders

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



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 2	LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 8	GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 22	HOMECOMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 29—OCTOBER 27 "DO UNTO OTHERS" SERMON SERIES	
OCTOBER 13	BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2	FALL MARKETPLACE
NOVEMBER 3	ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

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)

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