

FRANKLIN FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEEPLE BELL

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

A FINAL GIFT OF LOVE: WHY MAKING A WILL MATTERS

August is “Make a Will” month. The topic of death is often uncomfortable, yet preparing for it is one of the most responsible and loving acts you can undertake for your loved ones. Among the various aspects of end-of-life planning, creating a personal will stands out as a cornerstone, offering invaluable peace of mind for you and clarity for your family after you're gone.

A will is a legally binding document that outlines how you wish for your assets to be distributed, who will care for your minor children, and who will manage your estate upon your passing. While it may seem like a formality, its absence can lead to significant complications, stress, and even financial hardship for those you leave behind.

One of the primary benefits of a will is ensuring your wishes are honored. Without a will, your estate becomes subject to the laws of your state. This means a court, not you, will decide how your assets are divided, potentially leading to outcomes that don't align with your intentions. Do you have specific heirlooms you want to go to particular individuals? Do you want to leave a portion of your estate to a charity? A will is the only way to guarantee these wishes are legally recognized and followed.

Furthermore, a will provides clarity and minimizes conflict among your beneficiaries. The grieving process is already difficult, and disputes over inheritances can exacerbate emotional pain and tear families apart. A clear, legally sound will acts as a definitive guide, leaving no room for speculation or arguments about your intentions.

For parents of minor children, a will is absolutely crucial for designating guardianship. Without a will, the court will appoint a guardian for your children, which may not be the person you would have chosen or who is best suited to raise them. A will allows you to name guardians, ensuring your children are cared for by individuals you trust and who share your values.

Finally, having a will can streamline the probate process and potentially save your estate time and money. While some level of probate is often unavoidable, a well-drafted will can simplify the administration of your estate. In essence, a personal will is an act of love and responsibility. It's a powerful tool that allows you to control your legacy, protect your loved ones, and provide them with a clear roadmap during a challenging period.

Don't postpone this vital step. Consulting with an estate planning attorney today can provide you with the guidance and assurance that your final wishes will be respected and your family's future secured. The Foundation of West Ohio UMC also has a link on their website to create a free and legally compliant will. You can find this information at:

- [UMFWESTOHIO.ORG](https://umfwestohio.org)
- [PLAN YOUR PHILANTHROPY](#)
- [LEARN ABOUT WILLS](#)
- [CREATE YOUR WILL](#)

Sweet Tea Sunday

Worship doesn't have to be formal and stuffy. It can be as welcoming as sitting on the favorite neighborhood porch, satisfying your thirst with a glass of ice cold beverage, sharing fellowship and faith. The family of God is a gathering of folks who care about one another and encourage each other in their faith journeys. We grow as we go through life together.

August 3, Sweet Tea Sunday invites us to reflect on the sweetness of God's blessings and the joy of Christian fellowship. A unique worship atmosphere followed by an old fashioned ice cream social. Ahhhh, summertime joys!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

AUGUST 5, 2025

5:30 - 8:30 PM

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY PARK
301 E. 6TH ST
FRANKLIN, OH.

National Night Out—August 5th

NNO is on Tuesday August 5 at Franklin Community Park. Franklin First will have a booth at this event and needs community-minded smiling volunteers to man shifts throughout the evening. Again this year we will be collecting names for drawings for school supply filled backpacks. We will also have some games on site, including toilet seat horseshoes. Talk to Linda Smith or Karen Anderson to work the event or call the office.

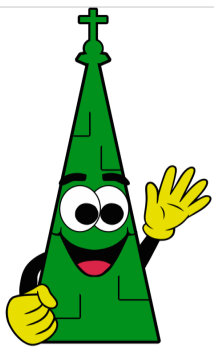
Walking in His Sandals

When we read the Bible, we are sitting in comfortable air-regulated houses with indoor plumbing and refrigerated food. We can call anyone with the push of a button, wash our clothes while we watch television, and sleep on comfortable mattresses with plush pillows. It changes our perspective on God's sacred Word.

Everyday life in Jesus' day was much different. Life expectancy was shorter, days were challenging with fewer creature comforts, and society was structured in unfamiliar ways. Pastor Laura will share a two-week series on what it was like to live in Jesus' times on **August 17 and 24**.

These interesting messages will broaden our understanding of Scripture for those who received it two thousand years ago.





Children's Ministry

On August 4 at 5:30, Kaylee Glossip will be holding a Children's Ministry meeting to discuss the resumption of Children's Church and other upcoming Children's activities. We will be focusing on what went well and what improvements need to be implemented. Thanks to everyone who volunteers in this important ministry. Our children need our very best in Christian education.

THIS IS IMPORTANT!! SAFE SANCTUARY

The safety of our children is of utmost concern, and our Safe Sanctuary policy provides guidelines for their protection. Pastor Laura will be holding two opportunities for Safe Sanctuary training, and if you work with our children in any capacity, you will be expected to sign up for one of these options. Please register by Sunday August 17 for one of these sessions so that we can prepare adequate materials and food.

Meeting options are **Thursday August 21 at 11:30 and Thursday September 11 at 6:30.** A meal will be served at each session, and we will be done in one hour. Most of our volunteers are due for the every three years background check, so we will ask you to fill out a release at the meeting. Thank you for supporting the church's safety measures for our children!



Choose from two sessions:

- August 21st at 11:30 AM
- September 11th at 6:30 PM

Training will last less than an hour and a meal will be served.

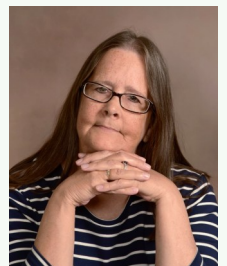


Backpack Sunday

Invite students and school personnel to join us in worship on **August 10** for blessings and prayers as they prepare to return to school. After worship, school supplies will be available for all students and staff. Let's wrap these folks in prayer and well as equip them with needed supplies.

Remembering Our Friend

Sunday August 17 at noon, we will hold a Memorial Service to remember our friend Tracy Easter who passed away unexpectedly on July 10. Please pass the word into the community and let's celebrate the very special person that Tracy was.





2025-2025 Tutoring

Principal Jim Rhoades at Gerke Elementary is seeking tutoring help for Franklin first graders. Franklin First has committed to tutoring in partnership with Mr. Rhoades. We are again recruiting tutors to work on reading skills with students identified by the school as in need of assistance. School staff provides the curriculum.

We will be tutoring during the fall from September 18 through November 13, excluding October 9 and 23. The winter session will run from January 8 through March 19, excluding February 12 and March 5. You can tutor

for both sessions, choose the session that fits your schedule, or serve as a substitute.

The program meets weekly on Thursdays from 3:15 until approximately 4:30 (or when your assigned student has been picked up). If you are not available for every week, a sub can fill in. All tutors must have had a background check, and we will provide that as needed.

The schedule for tutoring operates as follows:

3:15-3:30	Recreation time
3:30-3:45	Snack time
3:45-4:30	Tutoring time
4:30	Pickup time

Tutoring is a great way to bless a child, helping them to achieve their very best. Students and tutors often form a great bond of friendship. Talk to Linda Smith or Pastor Laura to sign up or with questions.



Weekend Snack Packs

Franklin First will be partnering with Principal Jim Rhoades at Gerke Elementary to provide snack packs for first grade students. Many of our local families struggle with food insecurity and rely on school meals to help with their children's nutrition. The snack pack program provides shelf-stable snacks to help families through those days without school meals. The bags are packed on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 1:30 in the Mission Room on the third floor. They are then transported to the school for student distribution on Friday. You are welcome to help pack the bags, and donations to the mission program are always

appreciated. Please talk to Linda Smith or Karen Anderson if you are interested in helping. We will let you know as soon as we can when this ministry will start for the fall. It will operate throughout the school year.

Noisy Bucket Project: Small Change, Big Impact!

Thanks to your incredible generosity during Advent and Lent, our kids turned spare change into life-changing gifts through the Noisy Bucket Project—raising an amazing \$1,800 for Heifer International!

With thoughtful choices and joyful hearts, they helped transform lives around the world. Here's how your donations made a difference:

- Gift of Clean Water – \$300
- Send 2 Girls to School – \$550
- Family Solar Kit – \$250
- Heifer (Cow) – \$500
- Sheep – \$120
- Flock of Chicks – \$20
- Garden Seeds – \$60

From education to sustainable farming, clean energy to nourishment, these gifts are empowering families and communities across the globe. Thank you for supporting our kids as they learn the joy of giving—and for being part of a mission that brings hope, one coin at a time



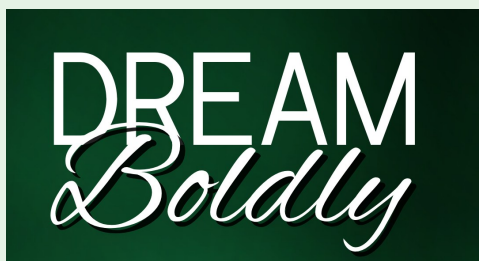
Angel Shop Opening Soon

You will want to check out Jenny Chilcutt's Angel Shop Boutique. As before, the shop provides free formal wear and accessories for high school aged girls and boys. If you find great deals on items to donate, inventory to fit larger sized girls

(dresses size 14 and up)

or smaller young men (shirts size 14 or 15 and/or 28-32 sized pants) would be helpful. Donations from the community are appreciated.

Jenny and her crew helped about 100 students in 2024, and 36 during prom season in 2025. The shop will be opening soon on Sundays — stay tuned for the official opening date.



Dream Boldly

All church ministry leaders, you are invited to a special Council meeting on **August 18 at 6:30** as we dream about the future of Franklin First and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into igniting our ministries. Calendar year 2026 will be here before we know it, and we want to plan wisely for an inspired use of our time, talents, and resources. What do we need in the way of volunteers, materials, and funds to accomplish our goals?

Your attendance is crucial, so please confirm with Pastor Laura or Mike Smith that you will be present.

Vacation Bible School—July 2025





VBS Wrap-Up

July 19, the church was hoppin' with activity! "Go for the Gold" Olympics encouraged our kids to run the race of faith in God. Kaylee Glossip led the charge and a small but mighty group of Olympic youngsters enjoyed a lesson, crafts, music, games, concessions, and fellowship. Franklin First is blessed with children who love church! I suspect this is because the folks in the congregation love and value them and create a welcoming atmosphere for them to learn to love God. Thanks volunteers, you are the best!

Lift Every Voice: Choir Rehearsal to Resume

There's something special about voices raised together in praise—an energy that fills the sanctuary and stirs the soul. We are looking forward to Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir returning this fall, and we invite *you* to be part of the joyful noise!

Save the Dates!

- * · **Chancel Choir** rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 PM**
- * · **Handbell Choir** rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30 PM**

Whether you're a seasoned singer, a curious beginner, or someone who just loves to make a joyful noise, there's a place for you in one—or both—of our choirs. No auditions, no pressure—just a heart ready to praise and a willingness to grow in community.

Joining a choir is more than just music. It's fellowship. It's worship. It's a way to serve and uplift others through the gift of song. As we prepare to welcome the choirs back into our worship services this September, we look forward to the inspiration they bring to our congregation.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please reach out to the church office or show up at rehearsal. We can't wait to see—and hear—you there!



Mission Team: Cleaning Product Drive

This August and September, our Mission & Outreach Team is collecting cleaning products to support The Pantry, our local food pantry serving families in need.

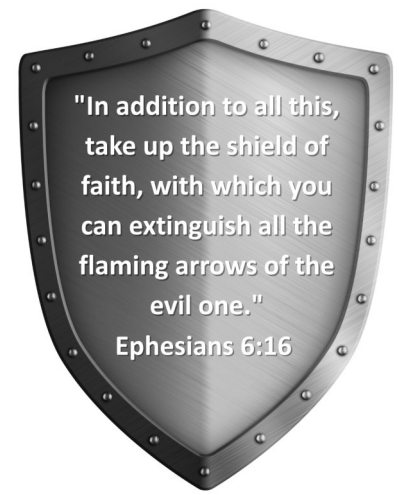
Items like dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, and all-purpose cleaners are greatly appreciated and help provide dignity and comfort to those facing tough times.

Drop off donations at the church anytime during office hours or bring them to Sunday worship.

Let's come together to make a difference—one bottle at a time!

Faith as a Shield Against Bullying

School can be a challenging environment, and for many children, bullying is a harsh reality. While schools strive to create safe spaces, and parents equip their children with coping mechanisms, there's an often-underestimated source of resilience that can make a profound difference: a faith community. For children facing the taunts and aggression of bullies, a vibrant faith community offers far more than just comfort; it provides a unique blend of spiritual, emotional, and social support that can transform their experience.



One of the most immediate benefits is the **sense of belonging and unconditional acceptance**. Bullying thrives on isolation and making a child feel like an outcast. Within a faith community, however, children are typically embraced for who they are, regardless of their popularity at school or any perceived "differences" that bullies might target. This deep sense of belonging acts as a powerful antidote to the loneliness bullying can engender, reminding children that they are valued and loved.

Beyond acceptance, faith communities often instill **core values and moral frameworks** that empower children to navigate difficult situations. Teachings on compassion, forgiveness, justice, and the inherent worth of every individual can provide a strong internal compass. When faced with unkindness, a child grounded in these values may be better equipped to understand that the bully's actions reflect their own issues, rather than a true assessment of the victim's worth. This perspective can help mitigate the emotional sting of bullying and prevent it from eroding self-esteem.

Furthermore, faith communities offer **access to a supportive network of adults and peers**. These trusted adults can provide practical advice on how to respond to bullying, help children process their feelings, and even advocate on their behalf if necessary. Similarly, connections with peers who share similar values can foster strong friendships, creating a "safe haven" where children can feel understood and supported, reducing the power of the bully's influence.

Finally, for many, faith itself provides a profound source of **inner strength and hope**. Prayer, meditation, or simply reflecting on spiritual teachings can offer a sense of peace and resilience during times of distress.

In essence, a faith community doesn't just act as a shield against the pain of bullying; it cultivates inner resources and external support systems that help children not just survive, but thrive. It reminds them that they are part of something larger than themselves, deserving of respect and love, and equipped with the strength to face adversity with courage and grace.

"IN ALL THINGS I HAVE SHOWN YOU THAT BY WORKING HARD IN THIS WAY WE MUST HELP THE WEAK AND REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, HOW HE HIMSELF SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'" Act 20:35



A Call for Peace in the Midst of Conflict in Mideast

June 24, 2025

As Bishops of The United Methodist Church, we stand united in our pursuit of peace and our commitment to the sacredness of human life, guided by the Scriptures and our Social Principles. The scriptures and the Social Principles affirm the sacred worth and dignity of every person, emphasizing the importance of resolving disputes peacefully and promoting justice, equality, and compassion.

In light of the recent escalation of tensions in the Middle East, we echo the timeless wisdom of the prophet Micah, who implored us to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly” (Micah 6:8). Our Social Principles remind us that war is incompatible with the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ (§ 163.F). and we urge all parties involved to prioritize diplomacy and dialogue over violence and aggression.

The Bible reminds us that “blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). We are called to be peacemakers, seeking solutions that promote understanding and reconciliation. A continued conflict in the Middle East would have devastating consequences, causing irreparable harm to innocent lives and destabilizing the region and affecting communities throughout the world.

In this critical moment, we call on all United Methodists to join our efforts in advocating for peace. May God guide us toward a hopeful future, where nations and peoples can live in harmony and mutual respect. Together, let’s join in this prayer:

*God of justice and compassion,
we lift our voices in prayer for peace in the Middle East,
that all hearts may turn from violence to understanding and from fear to hope.
Guide your leaders with wisdom and courage to pursue the path of peace,
rooted in the dignity and sacred worth of every person.
May our prayers rise as a witness to your hope and healing for all nations.*

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. “ Micah 6:8

Women's Circle

Looking for connection, purpose, and fun?

The Women's Circle is a vibrant group of faith-filled women who gather monthly for service, fellowship, and friendship.

Mark your calendar!

Our first gathering of the year is a picnic on Monday, August 11 at 6 PM at Monica's home:

4556 Shaker Rd, Franklin, OH

Bring a covered dish to share—meat and drinks provided.

Rain plan: we'll meet at the church.

Regular meetings resume every second Monday at 6:30 PM, starting in September—with Noodle Making returning in September too!!

Want to get involved? Contact a member or the church office—we'd love to welcome you!



Birthdays

August 01	Cheryl Krasnonski
August 01	Callie Trout
August 02	Marisa Humphries
August 02	Dorothy Rayburg
August 03	Linda Smith
August 03	Marna Rogers
August 05	Jim Martin
August 06	Nancy Massey
August 08	Mike Jarvis
August 09	Brian Graves
August 19	Teresa Lass
August 19	Carol Sweney
August 22	Paul Anderson
August 22	Mallory Chilcutt
August 24	Donnie Rogers
August 24	Jennifer Schramm
August 27	Bella Humphries
August 28	Lilly Moore
August 30	John Goodpaster

Anniversaries

August 10	Bill & Cindy Kuntzman
August 27	Regina & Ryan Hynes
August 31	Jim & Kathy Martin

Save the Date

Grandparent's Sunday will be **September 7**, and we will be having a special service honoring the value of intergenerational relationships. It will be a wonderful day.



Join the Sunday Team

We're seeking friendly and welcoming individuals to serve as ushers or greeters once or twice a month for Sunday Worship.

As an usher or greeter, you'll play a vital role in creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for our congregation and visitors. It's a wonderful way to share your smile!

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

Mark Your Calendar! What's Happening at Franklin First

August

Missions Team begins to collect cleaning products for The Pantry

Angel Shop Opens for Homecoming

Week of August 3rd

3-Aug	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
3-Aug	Sweet Tea Sunday	10:45 AM
3-Aug	Ice Cream Social	following service
4-Aug	Children's Ministry	5:30 PM
5-Aug	National Night Out	5:30 - 8:30 pm
7-Aug	Worship Team Meeting	2:00 PM

Week of August 10th

10-Aug	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
10-Aug	Backpack Sunday	10:45 AM
12-Aug	Mission/Outreach Team	5:30 PM

Week of August 17th

17-Aug	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
17-Aug	T. Easter Memorial Service	Noon
18-Aug	Church Council	6:30 PM
21-Aug	Safe Sanctuary	11:30 AM

Week of August 24th

24-Aug	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
--------	---------------------	---------

Week of August 31st

31-Aug	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
3-Sep	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM

September

Week of Sept. 7th

7-Sep	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
7-Sep	Grandparent's Sunday	10:45 AM
7-Sep	Angel Shop Open	12:30 - 2 PM
8-Sep	Women's Circle Meeting	6:30 PM
10-Sep	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
10-Sep	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM
11-Sep	Safe Sanctuary	6:30 PM

Week of Sept. 14th

14-Sep	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
14-Sep	Angel Shop Open	12:30 - 2 PM
15-Sep	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM
17-Sep	Snack Pack Packing	1:30 PM
17-Sep	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
17-Sep	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM
18-Sep	Tutoring Starts	3:15 PM
19-Sep	A Croppin' Good Time	6 pm -- 11 pm
20-Sep	A Croppin' Good Time	9 am - 8 pm

Week of Sept. 21st

21-Sep	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
21-Sep	Angel Shop Open	12:30 - 2 PM
24-Sep	Snack Pack Packing	1:30 PM
24-Sep	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
24-Sep	Bells Rehearsal	7:30 PM

Week of Sept. 28th

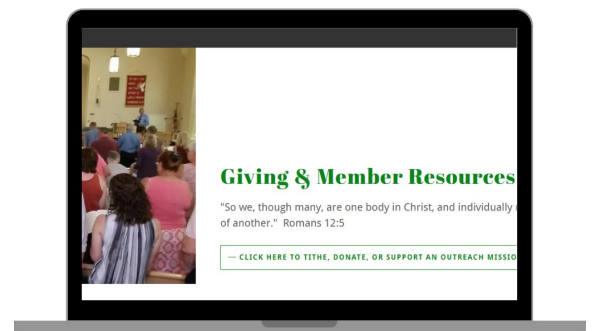
28-Sep	Faith Seekers Group	9:15 AM
28-Sep	Angel Shop Open	12:30 - 2 PM

Franklin First Online Giving: Convenient, Consistent, Faithful

Can't make it to worship in person? You can still support the mission and ministries of Franklin First through Online Giving—a simple, secure, and flexible way to give.

Whether you choose to set up a recurring gift or make a one-time donation, online giving ensures your support continues—even when life gets busy.

- Give anytime, from anywhere
- Set it and forget it with recurring gifts
- Support the church's work consistently and faithfully
- Click here to get started: franklinfirstumc.org/giving-%26-member-resources



WAS JESUS REALLY NICE? DISCOVERING THE UNPLEASANT TRUTH

By Joseph Yoo

What if I told you “Jesus wasn’t nice”? Would you agree or disagree? Would it change the way you see Jesus?

One of the first things I learned about Jesus on my own (rather than having Sunday school teachers, youth group pastors and leaders, and pastors tell me things about Jesus) was that Jesus wasn’t nice.

Read the 23rd chapter of Matthew and tell me if that’s something a “nice” person would say. Let me give you some highlights:

You blind guides! You filter out an ant but swallow a camel.

How terrible it will be for you legal experts and Pharisees! Hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs. They look beautiful on the outside. But inside they are full of dead bones and all kinds of filth. 28 In the same way you look righteous to people. But inside you are full of pretense and rebellion.

You snakes! You children of snakes! How will you be able to escape the judgment of hell?

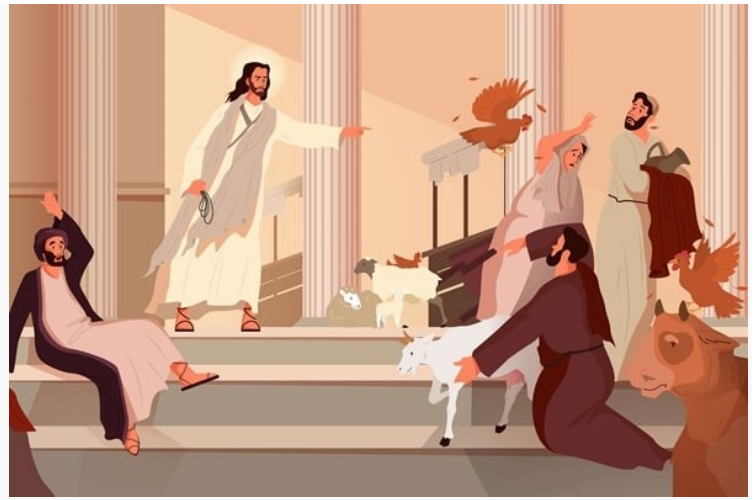
Not very nice things to say to the religious leaders of his day.

I think we create all sorts of problems when we think Jesus was a “nice” person and that our calling is to be “nice.”

Now, don’t get me twisted. I’m not saying that Jesus was bad nor am I telling you to forgo being nice and flat out be a jerk. There’s a difference between being *nice* and being *good*.

Jesus was *good*, not *nice*. Therefore we should focus on being *good*, not *nice*.

It’s worthwhile to note the difference between the two. Because, *nice* people don’t get crucified.



Being nice verse being good
Being nice can be a deterrent from being good.

“Nice” people don’t really confront evil. They’re too concerned with being polite and proper. They don’t want to be a disturbance.

Good people confront injustice and evil — often making “nice” people uncomfortable.

“Nice” people don’t challenge the status quo. They’d rather maintain it, because to challenge the status quo -- to cause a disturbance -- wouldn’t be very polite or *nice*.

Good people will challenge the status quo so that the (quoting Isaiah 43) *uneven ground will become level*.

The famous preacher Tony Campolo called this discrepancy out once in a sermon *at a church gathering* (and I paraphrase):

There are millions of people dying of hunger right now.

None of you in this church give a f%\$# about them.

And right now you’re more concerned about what I said than the people dying of hunger.

Jesus was generous with love and grace which resulted him being rejected by the authorities. Jesus was inclusive, and in doing so, pushed the boundaries that led him to be persecuted by the powers that be.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

If Jesus was “nice” he wouldn’t have challenged the system that was oppressive and marginalized the vulnerable. Again, if Jesus was “nice” he wouldn’t have been killed.

Jesus was good. His mission was to share the goodness of God’s kingdom, not to be “nice.” The goodness of God’s kingdom very often conflicts with the values of the world.

Jesus was unflinching in proclaiming the Gospel — even at the risk of offending the powerful people. Jesus spoke truth to power and opened the gates to include those who were excluded from the religious system. And it cost him his life.

I know I’ve said this twice already but it’s worth mentioning again: if Jesus was “nice”, he wouldn’t have been killed.

So what does this mean for us?

A focus on being good

Well. Let’s not focus so much on being *nice*, *proper*, and *prim*. Don’t get me wrong — being those things do have a time and a place. I’m also not saying go out there and be a complete jerk. However, when we put all of our focus on being nice, it will get in the way of being good.

So may we focus on being good.

Good pushes us to be inclusive; to challenge the status quo; to do the work on making the ground level for everyone, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized.

Being good gives us the courage to speak truth to power; to name injustices; to work towards wholeness.

Being good allows us to partner with God in ushering God’s kingdom closer and closer.

I mean, when we ask ourselves “WWJD” (what would Jesus do?), an option is to flip tables out of holy anger and bringing light to injustice for the sake of goodness.

However, we should note that being good may often require a sacrifice, as Jesus has shown us. But the Kingdom of God will not be ushered on the back of being nice.

We have too many *nice* Christians. We need more *good* Christians.

Joseph Yoo is a West Coaster at heart contently living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mo-saic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at josephyoo.com.

Taken from: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/was-jesus-really-nice>

Free Community Meal

**4th Tuesdays
5 – 6 pm**

Hosted by:
The Coffee Collab

NEW TIME!

**Thursdays
4 – 5 pm**

Hosted by:
St. Mary’s Knights of
Columbus

If a free meal
would be a
blessing for you or
your family, we’d
love to have you
join us.

**EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME!**



Franklin First UMC
303 South Main St.
Franklin, OH
www.franklinfirstumc.org

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

Go to: www.krogers.com

New account users:

go to “Register”

Create Account

Or Sign-in

Go to: Community –

Community Rewards

Click: Enroll now

Church #: RK151



**kroger community
rewards**



Franklin First United Methodist Church

2025 Lay Leadership Ministry

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



Church Council:

Church Council Chair	Mike Smith
Church Council Secretary	
Lay Leader	Connie Bolinger
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	Mike Smith, Rhonda Roberson
Missions & Outreach	Linda Smith, Karen Anderson
Care Team	Lee Saunders
Hospitality & Events	Carol Runyan
Welcoming Ministry	Dorothy Rayburg
Women's Circle	Monica Rhude
Member At Large	Kaylee Glossip
Member At Large	Amanda Leffew

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Chair: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos	Lay Leader: Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2025	Cheryl Cyphers, Mishelle Dicken
Terms expiring 2026	Sue Fullen, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Pam Trout
Terms expiring 2027:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson, Cindy Kuntzman

Trustees: Co-Chairs: Jim Martin, Mike Runyan

Terms expiring 2025:	Cody Chilcutt, Mike Runyan, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2026:	Gary Ogden, Joe Chamberlain, Joe Wright
Terms expiring 2027:	Jan Abell, Jim Martin, Trisha Dicken

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations):

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders	Lay Leader: Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2025:	Kathy Martin, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2026:	Sally Fitzgerald, Karen Anderson
Terms expiring 2027:	Barb Ogden, Charlotte Summer, Brian Graves

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:	Connie Bolinger
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, Mike Runyan
Chair of Church Council	Mike Smith
Lay Leader	Connie Bolinger
Member at Large (Term: 2024-25)	Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Member at Large (Term: 2025-26)	Jerry Truesdell
Pastor (non-voting member)	Laura Saunders

Worship Ministry Team: Chair: Monica Rhude

Choir Director:	Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director:	Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design:	Pam Bishop, Shari Tutt, Carol Runyan
Technology:	Joe Chamberlain
Lay Leader:	Connie Bolinger
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: Mike Smith (Adult) Kaylee Glosiip (Children)
Jan Truesdell, Rachel Chamberlain, Madelyn Lang, Carol Runyan, Mike Smith, 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

AUGUST 3

SWEET TEA SUNDAY

AUGUST 5

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

AUGUST 10

BACKPACK SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7

GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 19-20

CROPPIN' GOOD TIME

NOVEMBER 1

FALL MARKETPLACE

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

