



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 4, 2026

THE ILLUSION OF EASY WEALTH

There is a silent crisis in our living rooms: if you have watched any live sporting event recently, you have likely noticed the hook. Our TV screens, smartphone apps, and commercial breaks are absolutely saturated with flashy advertisements promising quick wealth, "risk-free" bets, and the thrill of the game. Gambling that used to require a trip to a casino is now neatly tucked inside our pockets. Sports betting generates in excess of \$13 billion annually and is expected to exceed \$50 billion by the end of 2026.

Recent national data reveals a sobering truth: one in three Americans now have an active online sports betting account. Alarming, among young men aged 18 to 49, that number is over 50%. What is marketed as harmless fun has quietly snowballed into a crisis—one that is fracturing families and draining bank accounts.

As followers of Christ, we're called to look past the flashy graphics and celebrity endorsements to see this trend for what it truly is: an industry engineered to exploit human vulnerability. Sports gambling fundamentally violates the core principles God laid out for our flourishing:

- It promises the illusion of wealth without work, directly opposing God's design for honest labor and faithful stewardship.
- For one person to win a bet, many others must lose. It is an industry built entirely on the pain, desperation, and financial ruin of someone else.

The numbers don't lie. A staggering 60% of online sports bettors admit to "chasing their bets"—pouring even more money into losses hoping to break even. This behavior creates a cycle of shame and secrecy. Behind closed doors, millions are suffering from isolation, broken marriages, and catastrophic debt.

Because gambling is a hidden addiction, it thrives in darkness. If you find yourself caught in this cycle, please hear this: you are not alone, and there is no shame in seeking help. If you or a loved one is struggling, reach out. Gamblers Anonymous, Smart Recovery and other programs address gambling addictions in community with others who have found themselves hooked on this destructive practice.

Let's guard our hearts, protect our families from these digital traps, and anchor our security not in the outcome of a game, but in the unshakable promises of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Laura



Faith Seekers
Bible Study meets at 9:15 am
on Sundays.



ALL ARE WELCOME!



FFUMC Weekly Calendar

A current Franklin First Calendar can also be found on our [website](#).

Sunday 6/7/2026	Monday 6/8/2026	Tuesday 6/9/2026	Wednesday 6/10/2026	Thursday 6/11/2026	Friday 6/12/2026	Saturday 6/13/2026	Sunday 6/14/2026
9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed	Office Closed Pastor Laura works from the parsonage. 937-	Office Open 9—2:30 pm 6:30 pm Mission Outreach Meeting	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9 —2:30 pm 4:00—5:00 pm St. Mary's Community Dinner	Office Closed	Office Closed	Fellowship 9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed Fellowship in Dining Room Following Service

- Are you a caregiver feeling overwhelmed by the future?
- Are you worried that an elderly relative might need more help than you can provide after a hospital stay?

When a doctor says a patient is ready for discharge but cannot return home immediately, many families face uncertainty.

Join us for a free session to help understand the critical differences between Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Long-Term Care, and answer essential questions about financing:

- How do Medicare and Medicaid fit into the discharge plan?
- Will I lose my home if my spouse needs Medicaid for long-term care?

Join us for a free educational session to clarify a path forward. Learn the differences between Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Long-Term Care, and get your questions answered. Light refreshments will be provided. Register by contacting the office; on our website; or [CLICK HERE](#).

**NAVIGATING HOSPITAL DISCHARGE:
WHEN 'GOING HOME' ISN'T AN OPTION.**

Skilled Nursing Assisted Living Long Term Care Medicare & Medicaid

Are you a caregiver feeling overwhelmed by the future?

Are you worried that an elderly relative might need more help than you can provide after a hospital stay?

How do Medicare and Medicaid fit into the discharge plan?

Will I lose my home if my spouse needs Medicaid for long-term care?

Join us for a free educational session to clarify a path forward. Learn the differences between Assisted Living, Skilled Care, and Long-Term Care, and get your questions answered.

**Tuesday, July 7th
6:30 PM
Franklin First UMC
303 S. Main St.,
Franklin, OH**

REGISTER NOW SCAN HERE FREE Light refreshments will be provided

Register at 937-746-5232 or www.franklinfirstumc.org.

Birthdays

June 02 Christian Lucas
June 02 Mary Harville
June 03 Tiffany Chilcutt
June 06 Judy Thomas
June 06 Cheryl Cyphers
June 08 Connie Bolinger
June 09 Julie Abell
June 10 Megan Duff
June 11 Stephen Rhude
June 16 Shari Tutt
June 18 Katie Trout
June 26 Tyler Smith
June 26 Lily Smith
June 30 Kathy Martin

Anniversaries

June 12 Andrew & Macie Goodpaster
June 14 Rachel & Joe Chamberlain
June 20 Jan & Jerry Truesdell
June 27 Lee & Laura Saunders
June 27 Carol & Bill Hatfield

PRAYER LIST

-Italicized green text indicates a new prayer request since last week's announcements.

Our confined members:

- JoAnn Achtermann – home (6734 Catskill Dr. Franklin 45005)
- Don Chamberlain – home (6338 Decker Rd. Franklin)
- Hiram Fullen – home (6649 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Franklin)
- Jackie Messmore – Carlisle Manor (730 Hillcrest Ave. Carlisle 45005)
- Dick Taylor – home (8096 E. Lawn Dr., Franklin, OH 45005)

Our weekly prayer list:

- War with Iran
- *For Lori Hemmelgarn – health concerns*
- *Cheryl Cyphers for husband Greg – heart testing June 5, possibly in need of stent; continued prayers for daughter Ashley's job need*
- *For Alvin Money – wrist surgery scheduled for June 5*
- *Connie Bolinger for Ray McDaniel – discontinued cancer treatments because of heart disease*
- *Jo Steinberger – starting pulmonary rehab*
- *For Nancy Massey – diagnosed & treated cause of her pain & doing much better*
- *John Lass for neighbor Dianne McDonald – hospitalized on ventilator, prayers also for husband Mike and John*
- Ogdins – unspoken request
- Mike & Vicki Jarvis – prayers needed for illness
- Regina Sams for Wyatt French – MIRACLE! out of coma, sitting up, writing messages, responding to commands. Moving from ICU to step down unit. Was presented graduation diploma in hospital.
- For Kim Chewning – recovery from knee replacement surgery
- For Jill Drake – MRI testing; for stepson Justin – on assignment for government job in CT till December
- Judy Deskins for son Jared – unspoken request
- Mary Harville for sister Sheila – metastatic cancer
- For Rocky & Rose Adams – medical concerns
- Chamberlains for Tami's Aunt Connie in WI – dementia & other health issues

Contact Theresa or Pastor Laura to make additions or changes to this list



IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE PRAYERS?

Text or call request sent to our Prayer Chain.

If you have an immediate prayer request, text Lee Saunders at 513-833-6920 & Lee will forward it to our prayer warriors.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST ANYTIME

Your church family cares for you. Whether you're carrying a burden or celebrating a joy, we are here to pray with you. Your request goes directly to Pastor Laura and will be added to our prayer list as indicated in your request.

[Click here](#) or visit our [website](#)—to share your Prayer Request.