



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 20, 2026

WHEN THE WATERS RISE

There is profound heartbreak in watching floodwaters rise. Water—the very source of life, dynamic and cleansing—can become overwhelming in a matter of hours, washing away homes, livelihoods, and the quiet security of everyday life.

In the United Methodist tradition, we do not believe that God causes natural disasters or sends storms to punish us. God does not stand on the dry shore watching us struggle in the deep end. Instead, we believe in a God of prevenient and sustaining grace—a God whose presence is already there in the deep waters, holding us close, weeping with those who weep, and strengthening those who step in to rescue.

When the ground beneath us gives way, scripture grounds us in a truth older than any storm:

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the
mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and
foam..."* — Psalm 46:1–3

John Wesley often reminded early Methodists that real faith is expressed through "social holiness"—that we cannot truly love God without actively loving our neighbors, especially when they are vulnerable. Prayer is our vital first step, but Wesleyan grace always moves our hands and feet into action.

A Prayer for the Flood Victims

Gracious and Loving God,
Creator of the heavens and the earth, we come to You with heavy hearts for our neighbors facing the devastation of recent floods.

We pray for those who have lost homes, possessions, and precious memories. Comfort those who are grieving, relieve the anxiety of those who are displaced, and grant peace to minds overwhelmed by what comes next.

Strengthen the first responders, emergency personnel, and local volunteers who wade into danger to bring others to safety. Give them physical endurance and mental clarity. Be with pastors, churches, and community leaders as they open their doors to become sanctuaries of shelter, warmth, and hope.

Remind us that even when the waters roar, Your love remains unshakeable. Help us to be Your hands and feet in the long days of cleanup and rebuilding that lie ahead.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who speaks peace to the storm, we pray.
Amen.

Aug 23, 2026	Aug 30, 2026
Greeters: Paul & Karen Anderson	Greeters: Mike and Carol Runyan
Elevator Greeter: Mike Runyan	Elevator Greeter: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Nancy Massey Dorothy Rayburg Gracie Lucas Volunteer Needed	Ushers: Dorothy Rayburg Cheryl Cyphers Paul Anderson Karen Anderson
Liturgist: LeeAnn Lee	Liturgist: LeeAnn Lee
Opening/Closing: Jim Martin	Opening/Closing: Jim Martin



Tutors Needed!
Gerke Elementary Tutoring Starts September 17!

We're looking for volunteers to serve as tutors at Gerke Elementary. Tutors are matched with first-grade students who could use a little extra support and meet with them weekly on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. for 10 weeks each semester using literacy activities prepared by Gerke staff.

It's a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life and support students in our community.

Interested? Contact Pam Bishop or the church office for more information.



Youth Fishing Club

We had a great first meeting, and we're excited to announce that our first Kids' Fishing Club event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 10th at noon**. The Club will welcome kids ages **5 -12 years**. We can't wait to get started!

A couple of important reminders:

- Any adults planning to volunteer must complete a **Permission to Obtain a Background Check Form** so the church office can process the required background check before October 10th.
- Also, please help us spread the word and invite families to participate. A sign-up link for children is included below. Paper copies available in Fellowship Hall. <https://franklinfirstumc.breezechms.com/form/73053d17478682354>

Pastor Laura Update

Pastor Laura and Lee moved into their new apartment last week and are slowly settling into their new home. We're grateful to share that Lee is showing signs of improvement, and the benefits of the recent IV antibiotic treatments are becoming evident.

Pastor Laura and Lee appreciate the prayers, support, and kind thoughts they have received during this time. Please continue to keep them in your prayers for Lee's health to continue to improve and for their transition to a new home.

**Elevator Greeter
Needed on Sunday,
August 30th.
Reach out to the office
if you can help!**



Kickoff Dinner & Meeting

We are getting together for a special organizing dinner and meeting to kick off our upcoming season, and we would love for you to join us:

Date: Monday, August 24th

Time: 6:30 PM

Where: Church Dining Room

Details: Meat and drinks are provided—just bring a dish to share!

Come on out for a relaxed evening of good food and conversation as we plan out a fun and purposeful season ahead.

We can't wait to see you there!



Children's Ministry - New Vision

We're excited to welcome a new season of ministry with CCEP (Children's Christian Education Program), the new name and vision for Children's Ministry at Franklin First.

Raising children in faith takes a village, and our church family is an important part of that journey. Parents play a vital role, but every member of our congregation can help make a difference. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, youth, or someone who cares about kids, your gifts are needed. From helping behind the scenes to offering encouragement and support, there are many ways to serve.

ALL are encouraged to stay after worship in the sanctuary on **Sunday, August 30**, for a brief CCEP introductory meeting to share our new vision. We especially encourage parents to attend as we share our vision, answer questions, and look ahead to an exciting year of helping children grow in God's love.

ANGEL SHOP

FREE GENTLY USED FORMAL WEAR FOR TEENS



ANGEL SHOP HOURS SUNDAYS 12:30 - 2 pm

OPEN AUGUST 16TH - OCTOBER 11TH FOR HOMECOMING SHOPPING

FRANKLIN FIRST UMC
303 S. MAIN ST.
FRANKLIN, OH 45005
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

The Angel Shop

Help Spread the Word.

Sundays, through October 11
(Closed Labor Day Weekend)

12:30–2:00 PM

Most Needed Donations

Khaki pants (all sizes)

Men's dress shoes

Men's socks

Men's belts

From UMC Communications: Take the Survey: Help Shape How We

Tell Our Story

The United Methodist Church is entering a pivotal season of renewal, and your voice matters. As part of a multi-phase brand messaging initiative, United Methodist Communications is listening to leaders, clergy, and members across the connection to shape a message that reflects who we are and who we're becoming.

Share your perspectives on faith, community, and what makes The UMC unique. This anonymous survey takes about 15 minutes and is open through September 4. Please don't share this link on social media, to ensure the appropriate audiences are responding.

[Take the survey. Click Here](#)

A CROPPIN' GOOD TIME

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 - 6 - 11 PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - 9 AM - 8 PM

SIXTEEN HOURS OF SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTING, FUN WITH FRIENDS!

SATURDAY BRUNCH & DINNER INCLUDED

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG



SCAN ME

Fall Marketplace: Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and help spread the word! Women's Circle is hosting Franklin First UMC's Fall Marketplace is coming on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Join us "Under the Green Steeple" at 303 S. Main Street, Franklin, for a day of shopping, fellowship, and supporting local crafters & small businesses.

Vendor applications are now being accepted! If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit our website for details and registration information.

Learn more and apply online at: www.franklinfirstumc.org

Spread the word and save the date! 🍁

FALL Marketplace

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
November 7, 2026
9 am - 2 pm

"UNDER THE GREEN STEEPLE"
AT 303 S. MAIN ST.,
FRANKLIN, OH
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG



Franklin First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FFUMC Weekly Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8/23/2026	8/24/2026	8/25/2026	8/26/2026	8/27/2026	8/28/2026	8/29/2026	8/30/2026
9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Service Livestreamed 12:30 - 2 pm Angel Shop	Office Closed 6:30 pm Women's Circle Kick Off Dinner & Meeting	Office Open 9—2:30 pm 5:00 - 6:00 pm Coffee Collab Community Dinner	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 	9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Service Livestreamed 12:30 - 2 pm Angel Shop



DONATE PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS
FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Help Us Support Our Students!

Your donations will make a big difference, helping young people in our community feel confident and ready to succeed.

What We Need:

- Small or Travel-size toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, etc.
- Menstrual care products: pads, tampons, menstrual cups, and liners.

Together, we can ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive. Thank you for your generosity and support!



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Franklin First is collecting school supplies for our local teachers and students. All supplies will be donated to a student, teacher, or school. Purchase any of the below items and drop off to 303 S. Main St, Franklin.

- Headphones
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils,
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pens - blue, black, red
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- Spiral notebook 1 & 5 -subject
- Folders - with pockets
- Binder - 1.5", 2"
- Composition notebook
- Backpack - no wheels
- Glue sticks 4
- Pencil Box/Pouch
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Binder Tab Dividers

Birthdays

August 18 Arya Bell

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 25 Amanda Leffew

August 30 John Goodpaster

Anniversaries

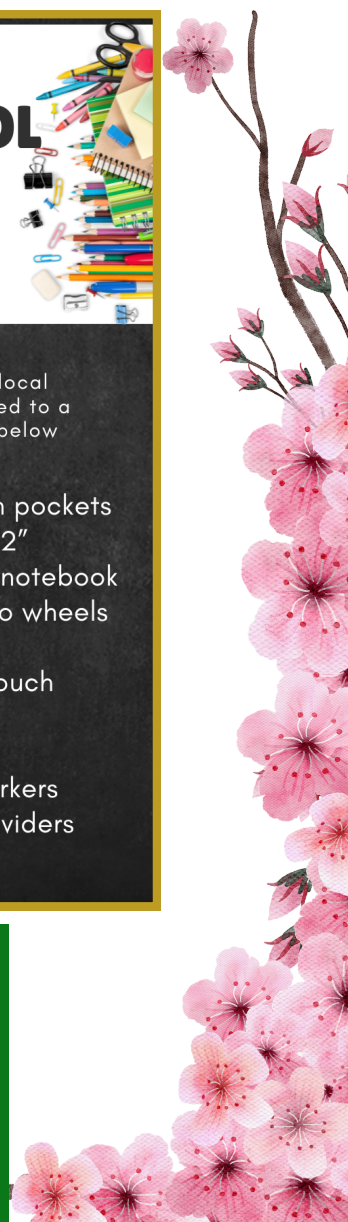
August 10 Bill & Cindy Kuntzman

August 27 Ryan & Regina Hynes

August 31 Jim & Kathy Martin



Faith Seekers
Sunday Bible Study
9:15 am
Fellowship Hall
All Are Welcome!



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
- *Flood victims of the last few weeks across the country*
- *Lori Hemmelgarn for her sister Nina, diagnosed with cancer*
- *Steve & Ann Price for friend Carol & her family as she in hospice*
- *Pastor Laura & Lee during her leave and the transition to a new home.*
- *Rhonda Duff for neighbor Hope's mom, who is in the ICU with heart problems and pneumonia.*
- *Kathy Martin - Praise for a successful knee surgery and recovery*
- *Karen Anderson for her niece Glenda Cramer; recovering from surgery for a kink in her bowel.*
- Ogdins for Dakota- infection in her stent.
- Lang's for Judy & Bill Lofty – Bill is moving to a nursing home, and recently they were scammed out of their retirement and savings; for Tim Lampy - brain cancer
- Lisa Dillion recovery from cataract surgery
- Jo Steinberger – 2 specific lung infections, *started pulmonary rehab again*
- For Charlotte Summer – healing for broken ribs, rehabbing at daughter's house
- Judy Bowman for husband Bob – *knee surgery recovery is going well*
- Monica Rhude for son Steve's fiancé Brooke Franks – hospitalized/dialysis
- For Lisa Dillon – cataract surgery scheduled for August 3, Rick's healing for toe injury
- Cindy Kuntzman for husband Bill – vertigo
- Julie Abell – PRAISE that Marshall is doing good after being hit by car on his scooter
- Jan Truesdell for sister Judy Deal – radiation treatments – going well
- Cheryl Cypher for daughter Ashley's job search & depression
- Nancy Massey for friend Bill Myers – broke ankle; granddaughter Samantha – surgery recovery
- Shirley Berold – health challenges & black mold issues at condo
- Mary Harville – undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma,
- Gib Woody for sister-in-law Nancy Woody – undetermined health issues
- Linda Rose & family – in Hospice
- Mike Smith for Eddie & Michelle Wallace – Eddie on quality of life care
- Mike & Vicki Jarvis – prayers needed for illness
- Judy Deskins for son Jared – unspoken request

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.