



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 9, 2026

FAITH, FAMILY, AND A DEFLATED AIR MATTRESS

When our kids were young, Lee and I packed up the crew and regularly went tent camping. Let me share some of those highlights.

There is a moment, usually around 2:00 AM on a family camping trip, when you find yourself lying on a deflated air mattress with tree roots digging directly into your lumbar, listening to a symphony of mosquitoes buzzing outside your tent, while you struggle to remember where you are and where you put the flashlight. It is in this exact moment that you ask yourself the ultimate theological question: Why did we voluntarily pay money to live like homeless people for the weekend?

We are officially in the thick of summer, which means many of us are packing up our cars and heading into nature. For my family, the vacation within our budget was tent camping. Now, I love the great outdoors (in small doses), but let's be honest—family camping is less of a "vacation" and more of an endurance sport.

It begins with the packing process, which requires an advanced degree in structural engineering to fit a four-person tent, three coolers, four sleeping bags, and an entirely unnecessary amount of snacks into the trunk. Then comes the actual setup, an activity specifically designed by Satan to test the sanctity of Christian marriages.

Yet, despite the smoky clothes, the lack of indoor plumbing, and the inevitable rainy forecast, there is a profound joy to it. And more than that, camping is a masterclass in spiritual disciplines.

When you strip away the daily creature comforts, you are forced to practice the discipline of back to basics. In the great outdoors, you realize just how little you actually need to be content.

There's also the tyranny of busy-ness. Jesus frequently withdrew from the noise of the culture to reset his spirit in nature. "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16. Jesus understood the relentless demand of crowds, schedules, and expectations. He knew that the noise of the world has a way of drowning out the whisper of God. His remedy was simple: go where the noise can't follow you and you can regroup.

Family camping also forces us into the discipline of community. Inside a nylon tent or around the campfire with the people you love, you can't retreat to opposite sides of the house. You have to talk. You have to cooperate to keep the campfire going. You have to practice the spiritual fruit of patience when someone drops the last marshmallow into the fire. You learn to see God in the messy and beautiful faces of your family.

So, if you are heading out into the wilderness this summer—or even if your idea of "roughing it" is a hotel without room service—I challenge you to embrace the experience as a spiritual exercise.

Let nature remind you to connect with the Creator. Let the heat remind you of the blessing of a cool breeze. And when the tent stakes won't go into the ground, take a deep breath and remember that grace is found in the journey, not just the destination.

See you on Sunday—hopefully fully showered and mosquito-bite free!
Pastor Laura



Mark Your Calendar

Vacation Bible School Team Meeting

July 15th, 5:30 pm

Mission/Outreach Team Meeting

July 26th After Worship

Jul 12, 2026	Jul 19, 2026
Greeters: Barb & Gary Ogdin	Greeters: Nancy Massey Cheryl Krasnonski
Elevator Greeter: Charlotte Summer	Elevator Greeter: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Monica Rhude LeeAnn Lee Cheryl Cyphers	Ushers: Volunteer Needed LeeAnn Lee Charlotte Summer
Liturgist: Pam Trout	Liturgist: Tami Chamberlain
Opening/Closing: Chris Womack Lorton Trisha Dicken	Opening/Closing: Jason Leffew

July 19th - Usher & Elevator Greeter Needed
If you can help, please reach out to the office.



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



Galaxy Vacation Bible School

A fun, faith-filled experience for kids this summer!

Hosted together by Franklin First UMC & Hope UMC

Galaxy VBS Dates: July 29–31

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM

Kids (Preschool age 3+ through 6th grade, Fall 2026) will enjoy music, games, Bible stories, hands-on activities, and tons of fun while learning how to shine God's light in the world.

VBS Location (All 3 nights):

Franklin First United Methodist Church

303 S. Main St., Franklin, OH

Closing Celebration (Families invited):

Sunday, August 2 at 10:30 AM – Held at Hope United Methodist Church
Franklin First UMC Worship service will be held at Hope UMC on Aug. 2nd.

After service everyone is invited to stay for a picnic lunch (Optional: Bring a dish to share.)

Register by **July 20** at Noon at www.franklinfirstumc.org or **CLICK HERE**

We'd love for you to join us—and invite your friends and family! Explore the stars. Grow in faith. Share God's love.

Joint Worship Will be Held at HOPE UMC
on **Sunday, August 2nd at 10:30 am** at 3642 Shaker Rd, Franklin, OH 45005 for the VBS Closing Celebration with a picnic afterwards.

GRAB YOUR PORCH HAT & JOIN US FOR SWEET TEA SUNDAY

JULY 19TH | 10:45 AM



Discover what Scripture really says about "God helps those who help themselves"—and join us for uplifting music, sweet fellowship, baked goods, and refreshing sweet tea!

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

THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

SUMMER SERMON SERIES
JULY 5 - AUGUST 30TH

- Follow Your Heart
- Live Your Truth
- Believe in Yourself
- God Just Wants You to be Happy

SUNDAYS, 10:45 AM
IN-PERSON OR LIVE ON FACEBOOK

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
303 S. MAIN ST., FRANKLIN, OH 45005
WWW.FRANKLINFIRSTUMC.ORG

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7/12/2026	7/13/2026	7/14/2026	7/15/2026	7/16/2026	7/17/2026	7/18/2026	7/19/2026
9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed	Office Closed	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9—2:30 pm	Office Open 9 —2:30 pm	Office Closed	Office Closed	Sweet Tea Sunday & Fellowship 9:15 am Faith Seekers 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary Livestreamed
			5:30 pm Vacation Bible School Team Meeting	4:00—5:00 pm St. Mary's Community Dinner			



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

Birthdays

- July 01 Jo Steinberger
- July 05 Devyn Johnson
- July 06 Jan Truesdell
- July 07 Jimmy Trout
- July 21 Chris Womack Lorton
- July 21 Tami Chamberlain
- July 22 Emily Hynes
- July 25 Kathy Eich
- July 25 Jackie Messmore

Anniversaries

- July 03 Jessica & Deric Lucas
- July 11 Tom & Jo Steinberger
- July 16 Barbara & Gary Ogdin
- July 20 Cheryl & Greg Cyphers



Look who's **90**★

Jackie!

Lets celebrate with a
party!!

2PM* | July 25th
Carlisle Manor

Please **NO** Gifts!
come celebrate with
cake and ice cream!



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
- *Jo Steinberger – pulmonary health issues*
- *Ogdins – for Barb – kidney stones – tests to determine underlying causes; unspoken request*
- *Dave Setser – recovery from surgery of July 6, 2026*
- *Tom Profitt – recovery from emergency surgery for severe bleeding ulcer*
- *Travel mercies for Andersons & Runyans*
- Shirley Berold – health challenges
- Mary Harville – undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, sister Sheila under Hospice Care
- Gib Woody for sister-in-law Nancy Woody – undetermined health issues
- Regina Sams for Wyatt French – HOME and follow up physical therapy. Miracle!
- Linda Rose & family – in Hospice
- For Lori Hemmelgarn – recovery from neck surgery
- Mike Runyan for cousin Peggy Roasch – metastasized lung cancer
- Mike Smith for Eddie & Michelle Wallace – Eddie on quality of life care
- Sherri Tutt - multiple family members in health crisis
- Connie Bolinger for Ray McDaniel – discontinued cancer treatments because of heart disease
- 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.