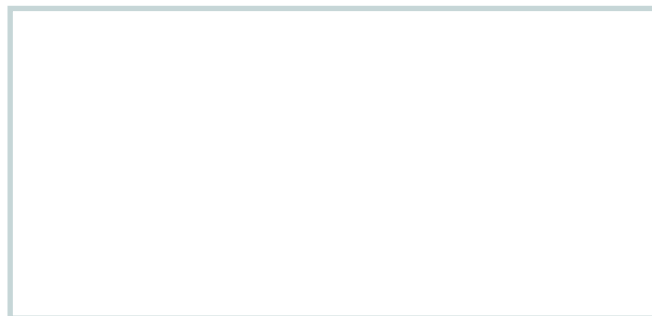


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



March 2018



Visit us on the web
www.umc-franklin.org

Purpose Statement

Franklin United Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers who have come together as a family of faith. Together we have established the following purpose, vision, and mission statement:

Purpose: “Willing and ready to follow and serve Jesus Christ.”

Vision: “Franklin UMC shares God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice, and our faith for the salvation of the world.”

Mission: “We believe in Jesus Christ whom we follow, serve, and share.”

Key Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16 & 17

POLLY'S PONDERING

What is the difference between mercy and grace?

This is the question posed last Sunday at the Lenten Supper. Maybe I should have just stopped with Rick Warren's statement in the video, "That mercy is one form of grace". But that did not seem to be enough to satisfy my interest. So here is the result of my pondering the difference between mercy and grace.

First let's look at the Greek words:

Grace is Χάρις (Charis) a feminine noun. It occurs 157 times in the NT. (The Lord's favor – freely extended to give Himself away to people). God leaning toward people. It relates to the Hebrew word Kana (grace, extension – toward).

Mercy is ἐλεος (Eleos) a masculine noun. It occurs in the NT 2 times where it is translated compassion and 25 times where it is translated mercy.

The truth is **Mercy** and **Grace** are easily and often confused. While the terms have similar meanings, **grace** and **mercy** are not the same. To summarize the **difference**: **mercy** is God not punishing us as our sins deserve, and **grace** is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it. **Mercy** is deliverance from judgment that we deserve because of our sin. (John 3:36) But it doesn't stop there. It is not just a deliverance from judgment, because that can be done with no motivation for the well-being of the one delivered from judgment. With God that deliverance is extended because of His covenant love toward His creation. It is extracted from a desire to bring relief and wellbeing. **Grace** is God freely extending Himself toward us. And that **grace** is most fully demonstrated when God sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 & 17). We don't deserve God's favor, we can't earn God's favor, and we are not in a position to demand God's favor. **Grace** is God's freewill gift to us.

As I sit here, pondering and writing, I am once again overwhelmed with the wonder at a God who would love me enough to show His favor over me and to provide the atonement for my sins, that would save me from the judgment I so rightly deserve. I most gratefully accept God's **grace** and **mercy**. But how deep is my gratitude. How does the realization of God's **grace** and **mercy** over me change my everyday life?

As Christ followers, we are asked to show favor to others by extending ourselves in grace-filled acts of blessing to those in need and to do so with a desire for their wellbeing. For God, this cannot be separated from a desire for a relationship, nor should it be without a desire for relationship between us and the ones to whom we extend grace. And we are also asked to extend mercy-filled acts of deliverance from judgments they deserve (acts of forgiveness). But we fall short if we do not also point them to the One who is willing and able to deliver them from eternal judgments.

I don't know about you, but this study leaves me excited about how much more we can do in the name of God to respond to His acts of Grace and Mercy in our lives by partnering with God in acts of mercy and grace in this mission field of Franklin Texas so that all might come to know the fullness of God's Grace and Mercy in their lives for all eternity.

YOUTH NEWS

Mariela and John have started serving with the youth and are very excited about the direction the youth group is going. On Wednesday nights we are starting a series on getting back to the basics of our faith. In the next month we will be walking through an overview of God's Word and what the Word says about the nature and character of God and therefore us, His creation. We are excited about some new developments that are being put together for our youth group. These new elements will be finalized and announced in the next month. Among them is a push for community and accountability for our youth through small groups and one on one mentorship. Mariela and John have greatly benefitted from this type of discipleship in the past and hope that it will be an instrumental part of the transformation and growth of our youth at Franklin UMC.



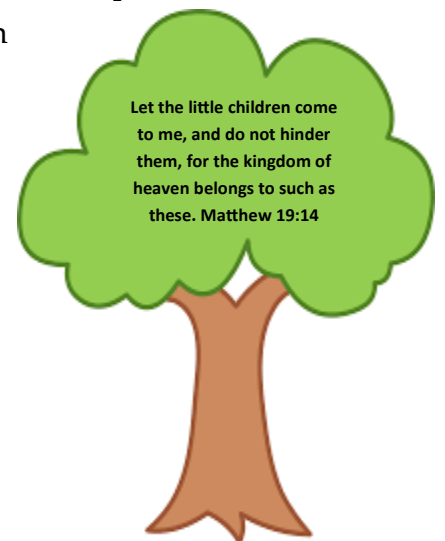
Hello Church Family,

This is a very special time of year for our church as we spend time preparing our hearts and minds for Christ's death and resurrection. If you haven't already picked up a copy of the "Living Lent" calendar, it's in the church office. It has short activities that you can do daily as we journey closer to Easter morning!

Speaking of Easter, it's just around the corner and we hope YOU will make plans to be here for all the fun we have planned to celebrate our risen Christ. Festivities will begin with breakfast at 8:30, followed by crafts, an egg hunt and a brown-bag Easter pageant.

Before we celebrate Easter, let's talk about the school holiday we are all anticipating... SPRING BREAK! This year we will host our very first Spring Break Mini Camp! Make plans to join us on Thursday, March 15th and Friday, March 16th. Our camp will conclude with a family camp out! We have so much in store for this upcoming month, so grab a friend and come be a part of FUMC.

LeAnn Lennie



Spring Break Mini Camp

Calling all Kinder - 4th Graders

Join us on

Thursday, March 15th (9am - Noon)

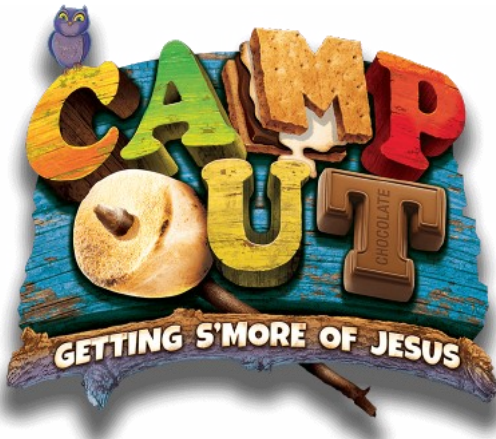
&

Friday, March 16th (9am - Noon)

For games, crafts, bible stories & snacks as we

Get S'more of Jesus this Spring Break!

We will conclude our SB Mini Camp with a Family Camp Out
On Friday, March 16th at 5pm (If we can find a host family!)



PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

The Praying Piecers will be meeting on March 12th and 26th. We will be stitching on various projects and visiting. Lunch will be pot luck and of course, followed by dessert. Anyone is welcome to come and see what we're working on and join us for lunch. Or, better yet, come with your own hand work and stay. We'd love to have you join us.

Happy Stitching,
Donna Otto

Music Note:



"The Joy of the Lord is our Strength."

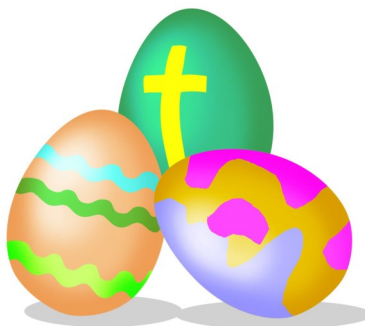
Our choir and our ukulele band practice hard to perform for the Lord. Sometimes we seem to be pulled in all directions with family, work, and sickness, etc. but we all come back together, encouraging each other in our music. The choir is glad to welcome Sissy Rawson to our soprano section! The Sonshine Strummers have two performances this month. We hope to be the light in the darkness for some as we sing and play our joyful music. If you are thinking about joining either group, we always have an extra chair.

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

Easter is just around the corner and we need YOU! Here's how YOU can help

- ◆ Help a group of 5-6 Children create bonnets and hats on Easter Morning
- ◆ Bring already stuffed Easter eggs
- ◆ Participate in our "Brown Bag" Easter Pageant

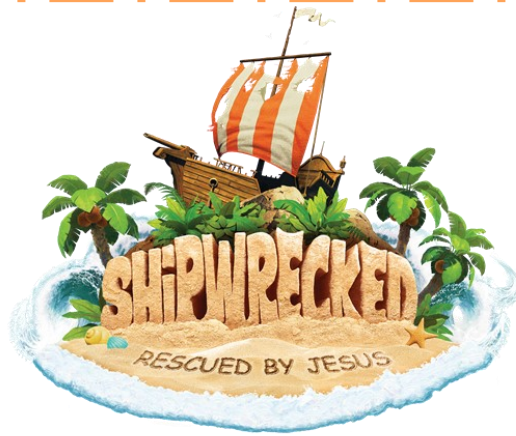
EASTER ACTIVITIES



Men's Walk April 12-15

Women's Walk April 26-29

If you are interested in deepening your walk with Christ by attending one of these special weekends, please contact Mary Kamas, Keith Kamas, Beth Vickers, Rex Vickers or any Emmaus Community member for more information!



ALL HANDS ON DECK....WE NEED YOUR HELP!

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sponsored by Franklin United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church

June 11th – 15th from 8:30am to Noon

Please join us for a combined volunteer meeting on

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH AT 3:00PM

(We will meet at First Baptist Church)

There is a volunteer role for everyone:

Before VBS

Prayer Team

Publicity Team

Decorating Team

Materials Coordinator

Day before and 1st day of VBS

Registration Team

Name Tag Team

Thursday Night, June 14th

Family Night Event Team

Grill Cooks

Game Coordinator

During VBS

Transportation Team

Drama Team

Music Team

Bible Discovery Leaders

Crew Leader Guides

Refreshment Team

Recreation Team

Mission Project Leaders

KidVid Cinema Leaders

Craft Team

Photographers

Child Care Coordinator

Prayer Team



THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

LENTEN SUNDAY SUPPER STUDY

Sunday Evenings from 5:00pm—7:00pm

Please join us for Fellowship Suppers before each group video/study time and bring a dish to share.

Below is a list of each meal theme and study topic.

March 3 rd	Mexican-Style	Mercy Helps the Hurting
March 11 th	True Pot Luck	Mercy is Patient with Difficult People
March 18 th	Italian-Style	Mercy is Kind to Enemies
March 25 th	True Pot Luck	Mercy Cares for the Lost

Dear Church Family,

The Lenten Season and Easter celebrations are underway. The first Wednesday Lenten Luncheon was a great kick-off for the Lenten Season with the Rev. Michael Gruhn reminding us that Lent is a participatory season in which we are all called to be actively involved with opportunities to search our spiritual selves. Although it was a cold and rainy day, over sixty people were in attendance.

The Lenten Lunches/Devotional schedule is as follows:

- February 28 Brother Freddy Burden, New Baden Baptist Church**
- March 7 Father Richard Dee Du, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**
- March 14 Pastor R H. Gilmore, South New Hope Baptist Church**
- March 21 Pastor Rodney Box, The Worship Center**
- March 28 Pastor Mitch Harper, First Baptist Church Franklin**

Ash Wednesday was February 14 and began with a Church-wide Soup Supper in the Activities Building at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This service included Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Palm Sunday is March 25 and will include a procession of the children waiving palm branches as they enter the Sanctuary.

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) is March 29 at 6:30 p.m. and will include Holy Communion as we focus on the death of our Lord.

Easter Sunday is April 1 and will begin with a Church-wide breakfast at 8:30 a.m. sponsored by the Worship Committee. Special worship services are being planned as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

If you wish to honor or remember a loved one during the Season, you will have the opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily as in previous years.

PRAYER requests

To keep the prayer list as up-to-date as possible, please contact the church office with any changes to the specific need for each one on the list.

Dornbush Family
 Reeves Family
 Katherine Scasta
 Tom Fuller
 Ginger Mareth
 Joey Mickelwitz

Madison Sexton & Family
 Jim Hanks
 John Callaway
 Archer Foltermann
 Rhonda Toups

Eric Michael (Air Force)
 Benjamin Standing (National Guard)
 PFC Joseph Pawley (Army, Afghanistan)



Lay Readers

4th Olivia Campbell
 11th Sara Huggins
 18th Jeff Ripley
 25th Julia Jarrell



Tithes & Offering for Last Month

Average Attendance	99
Offering Income for November	\$ 18,724.73
Memorial Income:	\$ 827.30
New Building Fund	\$ 6,145.00

Ushers

Howard Hoegemeyer
 Scott Huggins



March Anniversaries

Buddy & Toni Baxter
 James & Barbara Eller
 Andy & Jill Harris
 Grady & Debbie Harris

March Birthdays

2	Jill Harris	18	Mikayla Sexton
	Jessica Richardson	19	Howard Hoegemeyer
4	Aiden Peterson	20	Autumn Cloat
	Robbie Reinhardt		Bayley Janacek
	Hudsyn Huggins	22	Beth Vickers
8	Kaitlyn Zamzow	23	Pat Medart
9	Leah Davis	24	Keith Foltermann
11	Todd Neyland	28	Kathy Brimhall
	Caleb Chanley		Bless Cloat
12	Buddy Baxter	30	Robyn McKinney
14	Trey Miller	31	Jim Miller
15	Rex Vickers		

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Choir—Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm Lenten Lunch—Wednesdays 12:00pm-1:00pm Men's Emmaus—Thursdays at 6:30am MOPS—Select Mondays 9:00am-11:00am Monday Bible Study—1:00pm-3:00pm Praying Piecers—Select Mondays 9:00am-12:00pm		Preschool—Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am-3:00pm Ukulele—Wednesdays 5:00pm-5:45pm United Methodist Women—1st Wed at 9:30am Women's Emmaus—Wednesdays at 7:00am Youth Fellowship—Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm		1	2	3
				Men's Emmaus Preschool	World Day of Prayer	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lenten Supper Study 5pm - 7pm	MOPS Monday Bible Men's Study	Preschool	NO UMW Lenten Lunch Women's Emmaus Uke/Choir Youth	Men's Emmaus Preschool SPRC at 6:30pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Lenten Supper Study 5pm - 7pm (Trustees & Finance)	Quilters Monday Bible Men's Study Spring Break		Lenten Lunch Women's Emmaus Uke/Choir Youth	Men's Emmaus Preschool		
				SB Mini Camp		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lenten Supper Study 5pm - 7pm (ADMIN)	MOPS Monday Bible Men's Study	Preschool	Lenten Lunch Women's Emmaus Uke/Choir Youth	Men's Emmaus Preschool Sunshine Strummers Watercrest @ 6pm		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Lenten Supper Study 5pm - 7pm	MOPS Monday Bible Men's Study	Preschool	Lenten Lunch Women's Emmaus Uke/Choir Youth	Men's Emmaus Preschool HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	

Reading for the Weekly Worship

March 4	Exodus 20:1 - 17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18 - 25	John 2:13 - 22
March 11	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 18	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
March 25	Isaiah 50:4-9	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47