

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



December 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

One of my favorite verses in the old testament is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and it reads: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on our foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Now I know that the scripture was not talking about Christian symbols because of course Christ had not yet been born. But, I love the instruction to take the things of God and talk about them with your children and to mark the importance of our faith traditions with symbols. So you might see how this week when the Worship Committee was decorating the church for Advent and Christmas I saw this scripture come to life. And I saw a great opportunity to talk about our faith with our kids through the symbols of our faith, as they are beautifully presented on the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary.

I must confess I did not always understand the significance of the Chrismon tree, that is until one year I wrote a play for the youth to perform on Christmas Eve. In the play a family was gathering together at Grandma and Grandpa's house. After each family arrived with their children in tow, they were gathered around Grandma who sat in her rocker, distributed each Chrismon. As its meaning was shared, it was placed on the tree. Perhaps, like I, you are not familiar with the story behind the tradition.

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is tradition that Christian groups make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols on them. Still today this tradition is celebrated in many churches. The Chrismons are still traditionally white and gold, the liturgical colors of Christmas. White symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory.

Below are some symbols that are common Chrismons and what they represent to Christians.



The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross.



The Irish or Celtic Cross is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolize eternity.



The Triumphant Cross represents the earth with the cross on top and it symbolizes that Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letter, from the Greek word for fish (Ichthys), stand for Jesus, Christ, God, Son, Savior. Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they symbolize the Christian belief that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.



The Chi Rho looks like a "P" with an "X" on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King, who rules over heaven and earth.



The Triquetra (three loops that form a triangle) and The Trefoil (three equal circles intertwined) represent the three parts of the Trinity (God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit).



The Shepherd's Crook or Staff remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd, as well as reminding us that the shepherds were the first people to be told about the birth of Jesus. While **The Lamb** reminds us that Jesus is call the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed on the cross to forgive our sins.

It is my hope that you will take some time this Christmas season to stop by our Chrismon Tree and help your children learn from the symbols hanging there and in some small way you will be honoring the spirit of the verse from Deuteronomy. We may even have a few kits available for those families that wish to make one. You can check with the church office.

Sunday Small Groups

Begin at 9:00 am

Small groups are also traditionally known as "Sunday School Classes". We want everyone to feel welcome to come try a small group and find what works for you & your family!

ARK - Nursery, Pre-K & Kinder

Kingdom Kids - 1st thru 4th

Encounter - 5th thru 7th

Fusion - 8th thru 12th

Journey - Any Adult

Home Builders - Any Adult

Wisdom - Any Adult

All Adult Small Groups will meet in the Activity Building for a video Advent series during the month of December!

If you've never done one of Max Lucado's studies, you are sure to be in for a real treat!

Come join us!

Youth

We have an awesome group of Youth. Serving as the Interim Director of Youth has been a blessing and a tremendous opportunity for me to get to know them better. We have fun, we talk and share, we eat, we laugh, and we deal with the struggles of life together. We are also very committed to our Purpose Statement "Willing & Ready to Follow & Serve Jesus Christ" This last month we participated in fundraising for the Feast of Sharing. Here are a couple of pictures of our efforts. We are also actively preparing for the Cookie Walk by making cookies and crafts for the children, who come to be with Mrs. Claus. December 12th we will take a field trip and do a little Christmas Caroling. We might even have a few instrumentals from our awesome band folks. We will take off on December 26th and January 2nd.

Pastor Polly



KIDS

We are still searching for the person that God has called to lead our Children's Ministry, but in the meantime, we continue to learn & love! Take a look at what we've been up to and make plans to get plugged in...



We hope you make plans to join us in Worship on Sunday, December 16th, when our Children's Christmas Choir is scheduled to perform!

You're also invited to join us on Monday, December 17th to carol around the Courthouse at 4pm!

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

Children's Ministry serves ages 3 - 6th

Franklin UMC is now host to Girl Scout Troop 9401! Girl Scouts is a 106 year old organization devoted to one mission — building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. The Girl Scout leadership experience focuses on four key components:

STEM — Girl Scouts has lead the way in developing a curriculum to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Girl Scouts helps girls grow the confidence to pursue careers in STEM.

Outdoors Skills — Girl Scouts gives girls the training and courage to explore the wilderness. Scuba diving, camping, environmental stewardship, and sailing are just a few of the opportunities offered.

Life Skills — Girl Scouts learn about all things practical including first aid, cooking a meal, and how to vote.

Entrepreneurship — In January when cute little girls start knocking on your door to sell cookies, don't be fooled. The Girl Scout Financial Literacy curriculum has been praised by some of the most successful companies in the U.S. The cookie sale is a practical tool for teaching girls how to run a small business.

If you would like to be a part of Franklin Girl Scouts, our troop is open to girls in grades K thru 12 and can always use more adult volunteers. Contact Wenona Taylor (wtaylor2003@att.net) or visit www.gsctx.org for more information.



GIRL SCOUTS

PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

We will be meeting once in the month of December. Grab a project and come join our lively group of women on Monday, December 10th at 9am in the Activity Building. You will be glad you did!



Happy stitching!

Music Note:



"Silent Night, Holy Night; Still, Still, Still; O Holy Night; Mary Did You Know?"

These are just some of the most beautiful songs that I love to hear during the Christmas season. Not only are the tunes lyrical and emotional but the words are reminders of God's gift of grace to us through His Son. The choir will be anticipating the coming of the Lord with a special on Dec. 9th and they will sing one of the songs with the Children's Choir on the 16th. The children have been working hard learning three new songs and some fun songs for caroling on Monday, the 17th. The Sunshine Strummers are enjoying practicing our Christmas songs and will be busy with two performances during the first two weeks of December.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

COMPASSION EXPLORER—DID YOU KNOW?

After Jesus was born, a group of wise men set out to find Him. The wise men were also called Magi — people who studied stars and dreams. They believed that when they saw a certain star rise in the sky, it would lead them to the savior. So after spotting the star one night, they left their homes to follow it.

It probably took a lot of courage to begin the journey. In those days, most people rode on camels and donkeys, or they walked. Many experts who study the Bible think the journey might have taken up to two years. The Bible doesn't say, but there might have been times when the Magi wondered if they would ever find the baby. Maybe they wondered whether following a star was crazy.

But the Magi had so much hope that the star would lead them to their savior that they kept following it "until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed" (Matthew 2:9-10). They gave Jesus three gifts and worshiped Him.

READ

Matthew 2:1-12

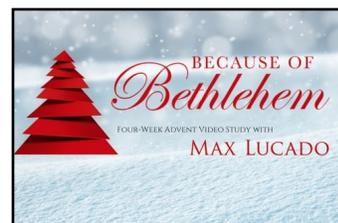
ACT

Draw a picture of things you hope for.

PRAY

Thank God for His son and ask that He gives hope to all.

Shared from Compassion International Website. www.explorer.compassion.com



Advent is a season of preparation & anticipation— a glorious gift is coming soon and we want to be ready to receive it!

Join us as we discover the enduring promises of Christmas and a lifetime of hope because of one baby born in Bethlehem.

Beginning **Sunday, December 2nd**, please plan to join us for our Churchwide Advent Video Study and Fellowship!

All adults will meet during the Sunday Morning Small Group Time at 9:00am in the Activities Building.

Coffee and Small Bites will be provided.
(No study book is necessary!)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

9AM TO NOON

Cookie Walk

It's that time of year again...time to decide on which Cookies you will be baking for our 4th Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser! All proceeds go to pay off the Building Note!

If you are new to FUMC you may be asking "What is a Cookie Walk?" Tables and tables of **HOMEMADE COOKIES!** Sold by the pound. Each customer is provided with a bakery box to walk around the tables choosing the cookies they wish to purchase. We weigh their box on the way out...it's that simple.

What do we need from YOU?

****COOKIES AND MORE COOKIES!!****

We need many varieties of fresh-baked delicious cookies; good old-fashioned ones as well as fun new creations.

Details: All must be Homemade Goodies. (Fudge and Candies are also welcome) Each family is asked to commit to making a MINIMUM of 5 pounds (which should be about equivalent to a double or triple batch, maybe 4-5 dozen). They should be fresh baked that week. Cookies can be made by people individually or some work in teams at the church. We really need medium or smaller size, attractive cookies that have a little weight to them. Larger ones are fine if they are specialty...we often bag those individually or in small batches. Festive Christmas cookies are a big hit. We don't need too many of the ordinary cookies (Plain Chocolate chip, etc), no matter how delicious, they don't sell as well at these type of events, so although we still need them, we will limit the number of basic cookies. Please call the church or Beth Vickers (255-1406) to sign up and let us know what variety of cookies you are bringing (that way we don't have too many of the same kind!). If you need help, we have a list of suggested recipes available. (there are many wonderful Christmas cookie ideas on Pinterest under "Cookie Walk") We will need the cookies delivered to the church by Friday, December 7th.

****CHRISTMAS STORE ITEMS****

We will once again have a fun Christmas Store. We need unique "select" items that can be bought for Christmas presents or used as decorations. Suggestions: Decorative gift baskets filled with goodies, homemade jams, specialty breads, fun or beautifully crafted items ...please call church office or Beth Vickers to let us know what you are planning to provide for our Christmas Store.

Also, if you would like to help as a hostess on the day of the event, please let Beth Vickers know!

The FUMP Corner

During this season of Thanksgiving, we all have so much of which to be thankful. Are we truly thankful no matter what? It has been years since I have thought about real-life pilgrims at Thanksgiving, but they must have had a lot to be unthankful for. When they arrived in America, they had to search for food and shelter. I feel certain that they lost friends and family members during the trip and trying to settle in a new land; however, they gathered with the Native Americans and gave thanks to God for the blessings given them. Thanksgiving is recognition of debts that we cannot pay.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

This has been our memory verse and scripture focus during the month of November. The teachers have taught the children what it means to be thankful and listening to their sweet prayers will warm your heart.

The annual Thanksgiving Feast was a definite success, as we served over 200 adults and children. The FUMP staff is so very thankful to all the parents who contributed food, purchased auction items and helped clean-up after the meal. We were blessed by the Januse family for smoking the turkeys at Frank's Country Store in Bryan. In addition, Mike Autrey at Chicken Express, donated 200 rolls for the day. What a great community! What an awesome God we serve.

As we move into the season of Christmas, the children will learn about the birth of Jesus and celebrate Him by having a Happy Birthday, Jesus party. I am so very thankful to be given the privilege of leading the Franklin United Methodist Preschool.

We invite you to join us for our Annual Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 18th at 6pm in the Sanctuary. We look forward to sharing details of our upcoming Daddy Daughter Dance with you very soon!

In Christ,

Sherry Buchanan,
FUMP Director



Christmas Angels

Every year the churches and businesses in the Franklin Community join together to provide Christmas Gifts for children in need in the Franklin ISD area. We consolidate our lists and divide them up...our church family will be providing presents for 25 children this year. If you have "adopted" a child, please remember that wrapped presents are due back by:

Sunday, December 16th.

Suggested value of presents per child is \$50-\$75 and items purchased on *Black Friday* or on sale should be counted at their normal retail price.

**Christmas
PARADE**



We are so excited to share the "Sweet" name of Jesus during the Franklin Parade. Remember, we will decorate at the Sanctuary at 1pm, Sat. Dec. 1st and participants need to be at the city park by 5:15pm and parade begins at 6pm.

Committed to Prayer

As a praying church, we would like to form a group of people committed to praying for the concerns of the church and each other. This committee would be "where two or more" gather to intercede for the needs of others in addition to prayers already offered up by each of you in your daily prayer life - not instead of. Prayer should be our first priority in moving forward as a church and a resource for it's people. What does a committee like that look like? That will be up to it's members to decide once we meet. If you feel called to intercessory prayer, this is your place! Contact Cathy Reed to get connected.

Cathy Reed
979-255-7281
979-828-1776

reed44@juno.com

John 5:14-15: This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.



If you have news to share, contact the Church office!

Emmaus Reunion Groups

Men's Day Breakers Reunion Group
Thursdays @ 6:30am in Kitchen



Women's Rekindled Reunion Group
Wednesdays @ 7:00am in Kitchen

Women's Awaken Reunion Group
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm in Church Conference Room

Feast of Sharing

The Community **Holiday Feast of Sharing** is this **Saturday, December 1st**. The Franklin Community has a 20-year tradition of providing delicious Holiday meals for families and individuals that may not receive that meal any other way or that need a reminder that our community cares for them. Many churches in the community join together to make this event a reality and there are numerous ways for you as a member of our church family to participate in this event.

If you haven't already found a way to participate, call Beth Vickers ASAP to see how you can help!

Thank you All for sharing God's love with our neighbors!

Lending Library

Don't forget... we have motivational & Christian resources available to borrow! Take a minute or two to browse our new lending library located near the Narthex and find something that speaks to you! Have a book or DVD that you have found helpful or encouraging, we'd love your help to grow our library!

We also have greeting cards available!
Pick some up today for a small donation to our Missions!



Worship Committee

The Season of Advent is upon us. What a joyful time for our Church family as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child. The Worship Committee has already been busy making plans for the Season.

December 2 - First Sunday of Advent. The sanctuary will be decorated for the season.

November 25 & December 2 - Envelopes will be distributed to those who might wish to purchase poinsettias in honor of or in remembrance of a friend or loved one. Twenty poinsettias will be available for purchase.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to participate or volunteer to help the Worship Committee with these special opportunities of worship, please contact the church office and we will be happy to have your input and participation.



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.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sanders Family | Harry Gilland | Marie Kellum | Ronny Hibbler |
| Archer Folterman | John Callaway | Jim Hanks | Madison Wilcox |
| Ginger Mareth | Katherine Scasta | Tom Fuller | Joey Mickelwitz |
| Mike Allen | Reeves Family | Dornbush Family | Akins Family |

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



Lay Readers

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 2nd | Joe Corn |
| 9th | Jack Hutchison |
| 16th | Julie Jarrell |
| 23rd | Wayne Huggins |
| 30th | Julie Neyland |



Giving for Last Month

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering | \$22,934.50 |
| Building Fund | \$5,225.00 |
| Memorial/ Designated | \$2,325.00 |

Ushers

Greg Stem
 Roye Moran

Average Attendance

98



**December
 Anniversaries**

3rd - Barry & Jenny Cate
17th - Robert & Laura Hailey
20th - Earnest & Mary Kay Smith
21st - Frank & Anne Perry
29th - Billy & Sara Davis

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|----------------|
| 1st | Scott Hailey | 15th | Isaac Kamas |
| | Casey Chanley | 16th | Cathy Reed |
| | Shane Broadus | | Mary Kay Smith |
| 2nd | Erabella Cloat | 17th | Steve Conrad |
| 3rd | Scotty Huggins | 18th | Lauren Comer |
| | K.C. Kamas | 19th | Rachel Kamas |
| 4th | Sandra Hoegemeyer | 22nd | Alex Huggins |
| | Kip Kissinger | 24th | Wayne Cloat |
| | Charles Ellison | 26th | Barbara Graham |
| | Lilly Harris | 27th | Earnest Smith |
| 5th | Madison Sexton-Wilcox | 28th | Lauren Ripley |
| 9th | Ariel Kissinger | | Birgitte Bly |
| 10th | Jeff Ripley | 29th | Caleb Moran |
| | Isaac Michael | | |
| 11th | Rhonda Miller | | |
| 13th | Luke Kamas | | |

DECEMBER 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <p>Please see yellow box below for a full list of regular weekly meetings!</p> | | | | | | <p>¹ <i>Feast of Sharing</i> <i>Christmas Parade</i></p> |
| <p>2 Advent Study Begins</p> <p><i>HOPE</i></p> | <p>3</p> <p>Activity Building will be unavailable all week in preparation for Cookie Walk</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Sonshine Strummers at Broadmore - 4pm</p> | <p>8</p> <p> <i>9am—Noon</i></p> |
| <p>9</p> <p><i>PEACE</i></p> | <p>10</p> <p>Praying Piecers</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p><i>MOPS</i> Sonshine Strummers at Crestview - 6:30</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p><i>Children's Choir Performance</i> <i>JOY</i></p> | <p>17</p> <p><i>Children's Choir Caroling at the Courthouse 4pm</i></p> | <p>18</p> <p><i>Preschool Christmas Program at 6pm</i></p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>22</p> <p>FUMC Food Pantry Volunteer Day</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p><i>LOVE</i></p> | <p>24</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve Candlelight at 6pm</i> <i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>25</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>26</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>27</p> <p><i>Limited Office Hours</i></p> | <p>28</p> <p><i>Limited Office Hours</i></p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p>1</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p> | <p><i>Limited Office Hours</i></p> | <p><i>Limited Office Hours</i></p> | <p><i>Limited Office Hours</i></p> | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Choir - Wednesdays 5:00pm-5:40pm | Girl Scouts - Wednesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm | Praying Piecers - Select Mondays | Women's Emmaus - Wednesdays 7:00am & 6:00pm |
| Clothes Closet Volunteer - Mondays 3:00pm-5:00pm | Men's Bible Study - TBA | Preschool - Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm | Youth - Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm |
| Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am | Men's Emmaus - Thursdays at 6:30am | Ukulele - Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm | *Children's Christmas Choir - Mondays at 3:30pm-4:00pm |
| | MOPS - Select Fridays 9:00am-11:00am | United Methodist Women - 1st Mondays at 9:30am | * or as scheduled with Rhonda Miller |

Lectionary Reading for the Weekly Worship

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| December 2 | Jeremiah 33:14-16 | Psalm 25:1-10 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 | Luke 21:25-36 |
| December 9 | Malachi 3:1-4 | Luke 1:68-79 | Philippians 1:3-11 | Luke 3:1-6 |
| December 16 | Zephaniah 3:14-20 | Isaiah 12:2-6 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:7-18 |
| December 23 | Micah 5:2-5 | Luke 1:47-55 | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Luke 1:39-45 |
| December 30 | 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 | Psalm 148 | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:41-52 |