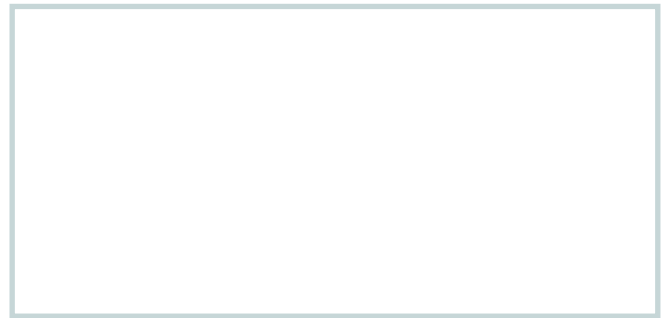


Franklin United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



April 2018



Visit us on the web  
[www.umc-franklin.org](http://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

Did you know that the last time it was Easter on April 1<sup>st</sup> was in 1956. It won't happen again after this year until 2029 and then 2040 and not again in this century.

I have been thinking of one of the first songs I ever sang in church. I do remember a few quizzical looks when I was walking around singing the chorus in the weeks before I would share it with the church. I will admit that just hearing the chorus might catch you off guard without hearing the rest of the words. Little did I know what a controversy it was causing in the world. Since Easter falls this year on April 1<sup>st</sup> "April Fool's Day," I don't think it is any surprise that I have been singing the tune. Here are the words:

God's Own Fool by Michael Card, 1989

It seems I've imagined him all of my life,  
As the wisest of all of mankind.  
But if God's holy wisdom is foolish to men,  
He must have seen out of his mind.  
For even his family said he was mad.  
And the priests said a demon's to blame.  
For God in the form of this angry young man  
Could not have seen perfectly sane.

When we in our foolishness thought we were wise,  
He played the fool and he opened our eyes.  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong,  
He became helpless to show we were wrong.  
And so we follow God's own fool,  
For only the foolish can tell.  
Believe the unbelievable,  
And come be a fool as well.

So come lose your life for a carpenter's son,  
For a madman who died for a dream.  
Then you'll have the faith his first followers had,  
And you'll feel the weight of the beam.  
So surrender the hunger to say you must know,  
Have the courage to say, "I believe!"  
For the power of paradox opens your eyes  
And blinds those who say they can see.

When we in our foolishness thought we were wise,  
He played the fool and he opened our eyes.  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong,  
He became helpless to show we were wrong.  
And so we follow God's own fool,  
For only the foolish can tell.  
Believe the unbelievable,  
And come be a fool as well.

The song itself is based off of 1 Corinthians 1:25, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

As Michael Card explained to those who questioned the Biblical accuracy of the song, the song is looking at Jesus, who is the wisdom and the power of God through the eyes of humankind, who are at once capable of temporal power and eternal foolishness. To help humanity see the folly of their thinking, Paul says, that God chose the "weak things of this world to shame the strong." "Jesus" he says elsewhere, "was crucified in weakness" (2 Cor. 13:4). Here, in Michael's own words, is the rest of his explanation.

"Looking at the gospel straight on, without comfortably wrapping it in our culture, it is foolish. An itinerant Galilean carpenter says He is God. A virgin birth. A resurrection after three days. Apart from the Spirit's enabling us to have faith in the wisdom of it (for it is, after all, Wisdom) these things are impossible to believe.

I tend to be highly suspicious of people who try to make these impossible concepts make sense. There is surely a place for intellect in the kingdom, or else God wouldn't have given us brains. Some of the greatest minds in the history of the world have embraced the gospel, but like Pascal, they were always ready to confess the inadequacy of the human mind to grasp the wisdom of God and therefore the absolute necessity of faith. That is not anti-intellectualism but rather humility. Through the Incarnation, Truth became a person. All the wisdom of God is found in Jesus.

The focus of the gospel is Jesus, of course. And if it is foolishness to the world, then He (Jesus) is seen to be the fool. The Gospels bear abundant witness to that conclusion. Why, even His (Jesus) own mother and brothers thought at one point that Jesus was mad! (Mark 3:21)...

So am I really calling Jesus a fool? Of course not! He is the Wisdom of God. But this is, after all, foolishness to men. Even as Paul played the fool with the so-called super apostles, (2 Cor. 11:13), so we are called to follow One (Jesus) who played the fool for our sake."

Look, I stand with Michael Card when he says that it is only through the Holy Spirit that we are able to see the wisdom of God and believe. Yes, Jesus is the wisdom of God. Jesus is the very Word of God spoken in syllables of flesh and bones. Sent of God, Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. And the Bible tells us, in the first chapter of John's Gospel, that there will be some that will choose the darkness over the light. I can't explain it all, but I declare to you that I believe it all. It has been the absolute single most important thing I have ever done – to chose to believe that which I can not totally explain. It has strengthened my marriage, it has directed my parenting, it has focused my work, it has purposed my life and given worth to my very being. How ever foolish it may seem to others, I choose the wisdom of God through a leap of faith and I will cling to that wisdom all the way to eternity.

## YOUTH NEWS

Wow, it's already April. Time seems to be flying by with Franklin UMC Youth. Mariela and I are very excited with where the group is at and what is coming ahead. Getting to know each youth and appreciating each one's God given abilities and uniqueness has been outstanding. We wish the church could hear what great questions are presented each and every Wednesday over what is being discussed. Wednesday nights were busy and full in March with lessons centering on Genesis 1-3. Having as a foundation a glimpse of both the immense power and overwhelming love of our Creator, the youth will continue to see on Wednesday nights how God utilized(s) both of these qualities (and many more) in relating to His people. In other areas, dates are set for our summer UMARMY mission trip (June 17-23). Just as in years past, this opportunity for the youth to go out and share God's love in a simple, yet powerful way is beholden to the support of our church and its members. Anyone interested in joining the youth for the trip can contact me. Also, anyone that can lend tools, first aid supplies, and cleaning supplies for use on the trip will be very much appreciated. Collection of these tools and supplies will be announced to the congregation before too long. Along with this, the youth will be putting on fundraisers in order to give opportunity to all of the youth with a heart for the UMARMY trip and/or Lakeview Summer Camp. Please keep your eyes open for these opportunities to support and be a part of the growth in Christ of the youth of our Church.

God bless you all,  
John Kamas

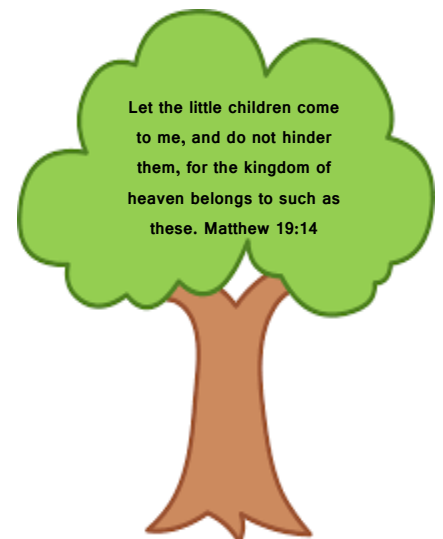


Greetings Church Family,

Can you believe that Spring is already here? What better time as we enter this season of new growth to reach out and introduce a friend to the love, joy & growth that is found in Jesus Christ! I encourage you to bring a friend with you to our **KIDMIN SOCIAL** on **Wednesday, April 25th (6:00-7:30pm)**. We

will have dinner & games and kick off our **FIGHT TO END WORLD HUNGER** rice bowl campaign. For each friend you bring, you will each be entered into a door-prize drawing for a free pass to **Altitude Trampoline Park!** Can't wait to see you all.

Jumping with Joy,  
LeAnn Lennie





FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [MCH.ORG](http://MCH.ORG)

Since our beginning in 1890, Methodist Children's Home has relied upon the prayers and gifts of faithful friends, enabling us to provide superior services for children and youth. Following are several ways you can get involved in the work of our ministry.

[CHARITABLE GIVING](#)

[MAKING A REFERRAL](#)

[SCHEDULING A TOUR OR GUEST SPEAKER](#)

[VOLUNTEERING](#)

## PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

We will be meeting April 9th and 23rd at 9:00 in the activities building. We will be working on various projects and welcome anyone interested in quilting or working on their own hand projects to join us. A potluck lunch will be served. Lunches are always delicious and visiting with each other during the morning is a blessing to me. I learn so much, not only about the different aspects of quilting and how to solve some of the bewildering stitching problems I can't figure out on my own. Come and join us, we love to see new faces.

Happy Stitching,  
Donna Otto

## Music Note:



"Let all the world sing, 'Jesus is Risen!' Let all the world sing, 'Freedom has come!' Our choir was EGG-cited to help raise the sound of praise on Easter morning. And what a glorious morning it was! We will now begin working on some beautiful pieces for future specials. We also want to combine our voices with the children's choir. Those children who want to participate will begin practices very soon. Look for emails when dates are

approved. The Sonshine Strummers are busier than ever. We are booking performances now for the spring and summer months. We take such joy in our ministry! We are truly a happy band!

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

## Pebble Creek Country Club

Will host the Still Creek Scramble on  
**Monday, June 8th**

There are numerous sponsorship and single player opportunities available.

If you are interested, you may contact them at  
[www.stillcreekbranch.org](http://www.stillcreekbranch.org)

*Still creek has been serving children since 1988.*

*When you support Still Creek,*

*You are proving long-term care and*

*Restoration for children rescued from abuse.*

*Neglect and abandonment.*



*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 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to Noon**

***There is a volunteer role for everyone:***

### **Before VBS**

**Prayer Team  
Publicity Team  
Decorating Team  
Materials Coordinator**

### **Day before and 1<sup>st</sup> day of VBS**

**Registration Team  
Name Tag Team**

### **Thursday Night, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**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**





*I was sick and you took care of me.—Matthew 25:36*

*Looking to give back? Make a difference? Please consider becoming a volunteer with Standards Hospice in Cameron. They have requested that we share their contact info with our congregation.*

*“You can leave a lasting impression on someone’s heart, said Tommy Standard, owner. Direct care volunteers will provide companionship and administrative volunteers help with general office duties and special projects. They have flexible hours to meet your needs.*

*If interested, please call Sissy Wallace at 524-284-0045 or email at [dwallace@standardshhh.com](mailto:dwallace@standardshhh.com)*



SCOTT J. JONES  
RESIDENT BISHOP

**Dear Sisters & Brothers in the Texas Annual Conference,**

My mother, Bonnie Jones Shinneman, is in her 80's. She lives in a retirement community operated by another denomination. I am deeply grateful that Christian people provide a place for her to thrive at this stage of her life. Living, as I do, more than 1,000 miles from her, I struggle with how to fulfill the commandment found in Exodus 20:12:

***Honor your father and mother that your days may be long in the land your God is giving you.***

Perhaps you ask the same question about the senior citizens among us, not only for yourself, but for your whole congregation. We are blessed that the Texas Annual Conference is already engaged in that ministry.

I am inviting you to participate in our Mother's Day Appeal to benefit the Methodist Retirement Communities (MRC) Foundation. The MRC's mission statement reads:

*Inspired by the Wesleyan tradition of Christian faith and wholeness, MRC is committed to faith-based, quality living for senior adults.*

MRC is part of our connectional ministry, serving those who once cared for us.

Your congregation's offering supports those with limited or no financial means and provides special resources for those with Alzheimer's. Over the last several years, communities in the MRC system have averaged over \$1 million annually in benevolent support of about 100 residents while helping another 300+ low-income seniors obtain over \$2 million of support through HUD programs. MRC does not have an endowment to lean on, so it must count on donations each year.

Please plan to participate in this very important service ministry. It is through such generous contributions from donors that we are able to serve so many in the Texas Annual Conference. Thank you in advance for participating in this year's appeal.



Grace and peace,

Scott J. Jones

# 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  
Ronny Hibler

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



## Lay Readers

1st Wayne Huggins  
8th Mary Kamas  
15th Jack Hutchison  
22nd Jeff Ripley  
29th Diana Hutchison

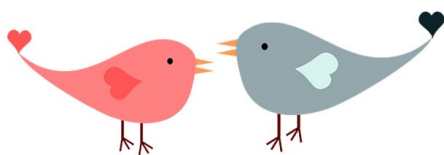


## Tithes & Offering for Last Month

Average Attendance	92
Offering Income for March	\$ 18,058.61
New Building Fund	\$ 2,690.00
Memorial Income	\$ 2,493.00
Education Building Repairs	\$ 1,965.00
Tiffany Crass Benevolent Fund	\$ 1,235.00

## Ushers

Joe Corn  
Stacy Reeves



## April Anniversaries

Keith & Terri Foltermann  
George & Becky Permann  
Kip & Kristi Kissinger  
Jack & Pamela Cloat

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Peggy Cooper	12 Michael Homann
Mariela Kamas	Haley Caubarreaux
2 Bettie Jordan	14 Reagan Corn
3 Katie Kamas	Trey Miller
Shane Huggins	18 Monica Stem
Noah Reinhardt	20 Pat Cate
4 Jack Hutchison	21 Julie Jarrell
6 Kyle Reinhardt	22 Eric Law
Laurel Lennie	25 Andy Scasta
7 Kevin Rawson	30 Debbie Harris
8 Lacey Buckner	Steve Peterson
10 Jason Bailey	
Lilly Reinhardt	

# APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 MOPS Monday Bible Study Men's Bible Study	3 Preschool	4 UMW Postponed Regular Wednesday Activities	5 Preschool	6 Sonshine Strummers Bremond Nursing 3:00pm	7
8 <i>Family Life Meeting &amp; Finance Meeting After Worship</i>	9 Praying Piecers Monday Bible Study Men's Bible Study	10 Preschool	11 Regular Wednesday Activities	12 Preschool <i>SPRC Meeting 6:30pm</i>	13	14 FUMC Food Pantry
15	16 MOPS Monday Bible Study Men's Bible Study	17 Preschool	18 Regular Wednesday Activities	19 Preschool	20	21 
22	23 Praying Piecers Monday Bible Study Men's Bible Study	24 Preschool	25 KIDMIN SOCIAL 6:00—7:30pm Regular Wednesday Activities	26 Preschool	27	28
29	30 Monday Bible Study Men's Bible Study	Choir—Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm Lenten Lunch—Wednesdays 12:00pm-1:00pm Men's Bible Study—Mondays at 6:30pm 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—Wednesday s 6:00pm-8:00pm	

## Reading for the Weekly Worship

April 1	Acts 10: 34-43	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	John 20: 1-18
April 8	Acts 4: 32-35	Psalms 133	1 John 1: 1-2	John 20:19-31
April 15	Acts 3: 12-19	Psalms 4	1 John 3: 1-7	Luke 24: 36-48
April 22	Acts 4: 5-12	Psalms 23	1 John 3: 16-24	John 10: 11-18
April 29	Acts 8: 26-40	Psalms 22: 25-31	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8