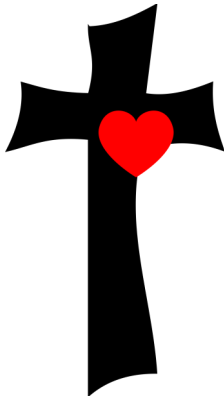


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



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

KENYA DAY

Children and Youth of the Church are invited to travel around the world to KENYA on Sunday, February 18th!

In Sunday School, our young people continue to learn about God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We provide opportunities to serve as disciples in the classroom, the local community and the world. Each quarter the children and youth visit a particular location around the world to learn about the culture, the people, and how to be a part of God's blessings in that area. This quarter we visit Kenya. The mission emphasis is ZOE, a three-year program for orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya and Rwanda. ZOE seeks to teach the children that God loves them and offers them help in overcoming poverty by organizing them into supportive working groups, helping them become educated and to learn skills to care for themselves and each other.

Kenya Day will have fun food, games, and arts & crafts. So mark your calendars now for Sunday, February 18th, beginning at 9:00am in the Education Building and plan to bring some friends! A collection will be taken all month during Sunday School to benefit the ZOE mission.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

NOT A FAN

Is 6 week series beginning

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Meets in the Activity Building

Contact Jim Hanks

At 979-229-9547 or

jhanks@hanksengineering.com

To get plugged in.

Music Notes:

*Make a Joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into
His presence with singing.
-- Psalm 100:1-2*

Our practices are always joyful, but we had a difficult time in January getting together with so many people sick and the cold weather. Hopefully this month will be better. The Sonshine Strummers have two performances on the calendar and the choir is working on some great new songs. The choir is thrilled to welcome our newest member--Mariela Kamas. She has a beautiful voice and she's a natural with harmony.

We have choir music and ukulele music ready for anyone else who decides join.

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda Miller



YOUTH NEWS



Love is in the Air!

Can you believe it is February already! The weather might be chilly outside but our hearts are warm as we enter into this season of love. Most of us think as Valentine's as a day to celebrate relationships with those who are near and dear to hearts. We spend our money buying the finest Swiss chocolates and the biggest stuffed teddy bear we can find. Flowers are purchased and dinner reservations are made. We spend a lot of time choosing the perfect gift, deciding what to wear, and choosing the right words to express our love for that one special someone. I wonder what would happen if we devoted that same amount of time towards showing God how much we love Him. What would that look like? How could that change us? I think it is easy to express our love to people here on Earth because we understand each other. When someone spends time on gifts and dinner we feel special and loved. We feel appreciated and thought of. God doesn't want chocolate or a dinner date...so what can we do? We can take time out of our day to thank Him for all He has done. We can show kindness to others and show His love through our actions. We can volunteer at a community help center. We can take time out of our day to sit and just be with God, reading His word and opening our mind and our heart to His Voice and His way. I encourage you all to spend this Valentine's Day with the truest and purest love known, the love our Father shares with us every day. May we continue to fall deeper in love with our Lord.

Christina Martin

Announcement:

It has been a joy to share these past few month's with each of our youth. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn about each youth and learn from them as well. God is working in our community and the youth at Franklin United Methodist Church are proof of that.

I am pleased to announce that John Kamas and his new bride Mariella Kamas will be stepping in to take on the important task of guiding our youth on their faith journey. I know John and Mariella have some exciting things planned for the youth. They are both jumping in to take on the UM Army Mission Trip and Camp Lakeview.

Fellowship:

Youth Group is every Wednesday from 6-8pm.

Ministry/Missions:

How can we share our knowledge with others? By serving others! The youth continue to seek new ways to share God's love throughout the community. The youth recently helped fold clothes at the Clothes Closet.



We are working closely with the Education & Family Life Committees to bring you something NEW & EXCITING.... We are hoping to host our first ever

Spring Break Mini Camp! In order for this to happen, we need LOTS of volunteers. If you are interested in helping in ANY capacity, please make plans to attend our planning meeting on **Monday February 12th at 5:45PM.**

We will not have a Social this month, due to other church activities, but stay tuned for our next fellowship opportunity!



Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

Something special is in the works!

Franklin United Methodist Church is joining with First Baptist Church to present an awesome combined VBS. We will be utilizing both of our campuses and all of the varied gifts and talents of our congregations to offer the children in our community a week of experiencing God's Word in a new and exciting adventure. Uniting together as a picture of the body of Christ, we will share the reality of His love and how it is relevant to their everyday lives. It's "all hands on deck", so please mark your calendars and be in prayer as to how you can share your gifts and talents with the VBS team and children.

MOPS GARAGE SALE

Please make plans to join us on
Saturday, February 24th (8:00am—1:00pm)
In the Activity Building

All funds benefit our MOPS group and help cover operating and childcare expenses!



Volunteer Opportunities at our Community Clothes Closet

These are days you can join others to help sort and organize clothing:

Mondays	3:00pm to 6:00pm
Wednesdays	5:00pm to 8:00pm
Thursdays	9:00am to 12:00pm

The Clothes Closet is open for business on Fridays from 10am to 2pm and on Saturdays from 9am to noon. To volunteer those days, please call/email Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406/ rexandbeth@gmail.com

All proceeds from the sale of clothes at the Community Clothes Closet go to The Society of St. Stephen Ministry of the church. This fund is dedicated to helping local people in need of financial aid with food, medicine, or other basic expenses. (In addition, ten percent of the proceeds is given to the Franklin Food Pantry)

The Community Clothes Closet is an ecumenical outreach ministry, with volunteers from several different churches participating. Bring a friend and volunteer!



THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

Come join us this Lenten season each Sunday evening for fellowship and a deepening of our faith as we study our great God of mercy.

Let's take these forty days to see what mercy really looks like.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

- Matthew 5:7

Beginning Sunday, February 18th at 5:00pm

We will share a meal together, watch a video by Rick Warren, and participate in table discussions. Learning activities are planned for our Pre-K through Elementary children, and childcare is available for infants and toddlers. (Please notify church office of childcare needs ahead of study)

The Miracle of Mercy Study Guide is highly recommended and includes study guides for all 6 Sundays and a daily devotional for each day of Lent (40 days). It will cost about \$14 each if ordered by February 4th. (After the 4th the shipping costs will increase). Scholarships will be available, so please do not let the cost keep you from participating.

Please Contact Mary Kamas 979-777-1038, kmkamas@valornet.com,
to order a book or to reserve childcare.

LENTEN SUNDAY SUPPER STUDY

Beginning Sunday, February 18th at 5:00pm

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.

February 18 th	Soup and Salad	The Five Marks of Mercy
February 25 th	True Pot Luck	Mercy Forgives the Fallen
March 3 rd	Mexican-Style	Mercy Helps the Hurting
March 11 th	True Pot Luck	Mercy is Patient with Difficult People

Worship Committee News

Plans for the Lenten Season and Easter celebrations are underway. Area pastors are committing to the Lenten Lunches/Devotionals and those events will be February 21st through March 28th.

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

Ash Wednesday is February 14 and will begin 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. to include 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 events leading to 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.

Further details will be forthcoming as plans for the Lenten and Easter Season are confirmed.

God bless each of you as you prepare your hearts and minds upon entering this most Holy Season.

Polly's Pondering

This week my friend, Denise Hildreth Jones, has me pondering the truth about God's gift to us in the Old Testament. This gift is spoken in the first chapter of Genesis. There we are told that God spoke and created the world and all that is in it. God spoke and there was light. It is God that brings light to darkness in the world. A little later it states that God said "Let us create Man in our Image". And then God did create man and woman in the image of God. Later, at just the right time God would speak again and this time His word would be wrapped in syllables of flesh and bone. And the light would enter into our world again. And the light, Jesus Christ, would shine in a darkened world.

Can you believe it; we are created in God's image? We too, therefore have the ability to bring light into a darkened world with a word. The light in us shining out through utterance of our mouth.

What does that look like in the real world? Can it really make a difference? This morning I saw one of God's beloved daughters bring light into a world full of darkness and despair. But before I paint the picture of her bringing forth light with her words I must first reveal the darkness.

For 7 days 156 girls and women came forward to give their victim impact statement in a court room where Larry Nassar stood trial for unimaginable sexual abuse that has occurred over several decades and occurring to children as young as six years old. More unimaginable is the fact that he inflicted these abuses under the cover of a medical healer. Their pain and suffering were made real and brought into the light out of the darkness of shame, fear, silence, disbelief, denial and apathy. You could feel the evil and darkness on display for all to see. In fact, some of you may have felt it so strongly you had to turn away. Others of you might have been drawn closer because the words those victims spoke were, sadly, a familiar truth to you as well.

As the last victim, Rachael Denhollander, finished describing the chaos and darkness Nassar brought into her life. Like all the girls affected, she told of the moments of disbelief, confusion, disgust, pain, fear, despair, shame, anger, and desperation as she recalled the abuse and then the unresponsiveness of those around to her story, her plight. But something was growing in Rachael, a light was still shining, there was still hope that someday the darkness would be revealed.

There in the courtroom Denhollander carefully and systematically spoke of the relevance of the sacrificial love of God. She spoke of God's mercy and grace. Her words revealed the powerful way God's word spoken in syllabus of flesh and blood in Jesus Christ bring light to a darken world. Denhollander claimed the creative power of her words to call forth light.

As she turned to her abuser, to the very darkness filled soul that had victimized her, she courageously declared the truth of God's forgiving love, that if Nassar would ever admit what he had done, see the darkness in it, repent and seek God's Word, then the sacrificial love of God would also be available to him!

Let me take a moment to share Rachael Denhollander's words spoken directly to Larry Nassar as I wrote them down:

"In our early hearing you (Nassar) brought your Bible into the courtroom and you have spoken about praying for forgiveness. So it is on that basis that I appeal to you. If you have read the Bible you carry then you know that the definition of sacrificial love portrayed is our God, Himself, loving so sacrificially that He gave up everything to pay a penalty for the sins He did not commit. By His grace I, too, choose to love this way."

“You spoke of praying for forgiveness but, Larry, if you have read the Bible you carry you know forgiveness does not come from doing good things, as if good deeds could erase what you have done. It comes from repentance; which comes from facing and acknowledging what you have done in all of its depravity and horror, without mitigation, without excuse, without acting as if good deeds could erase what you have seen in this courtroom today. The Bible you carry, says it is better for a milestone to be placed around your neck and thrown into the lake than for you to make even one child stumble. And you have damaged hundreds.”

“The Bible you speak of carries a final judgment where all its eternal terror is poured out on men like you. Should you ever reach the point of truly embracing all that you have done, the guilt will be crushing. And that is what makes the Gospel of Christ so sweet, because it extends grace and hope and mercy where none should be found. And it will be there for you. I pray you experience the soul crushing weight of guilt so that you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness of God; which you need far more than forgiveness from me, through I extend that to you as well.”

Do you hear it; the command for light to emerge out of the darkness? Do you see it; the light that has come into the world being revealed in the power of the spoken word? Do you feel it, hope rising, shame being cast aside as a way out of the darkness is uncovered? I pray all his victims did. I even pray that the victimizer does. And I hope we do too.

The gospel writer John put it this way. [The Gospel of John, the first chapter, verses 1-14.]

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness to that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, now of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Yes, we too, have the power to bring light into a darkened world through the power of our spoken word. The question that remains; Will we?

Honoring the Special Needs Community in Robertson County. Please come to enjoy music, dancing, food and more! Most importantly, come to meet and connect with others on the special needs journey!

When
02.09.2018
RSVP by 01.28.18

Time
6:30 - 9:00

Where
Fire Station 2
129 Redden Lane
Franklin, TX 77856

Come out and
Dance
DestinationChurch

Valentines Dance

Contact for information and RSVP: Jana Palcer | 512.300.3514 | jpaige1021@gmail.com



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!

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.

Madison Sexton
Reeves Family
Katherine Scasta
Archer Foltermann
Ginger Mareth

Rev. Scott Dornbush
Jim Hanks
John Callaway
Tom Fuller
Joey Mickelwitz

Lay Readers

February 4 Julie Jarrell
February 11 Wayne Huggins
February 18 Jeff Ripley
February 25 Grady Harris



Tithes & Offering for last Month

Average Attendance	85.5
Offering Income for January	\$16,798.00
Memorial Income:	\$56.00
Building Fund	\$6,470.00

Ushers

Jack Hutchison
Rex Vickers



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

Anniversaries



BIRTHDAY'S

2nd Kristi Kissinger
5th Anne Vickers
6th Ruth Schultz
9th Warren Kastner
10th Serenity Michael
12th Wayne Huggins
14th Ervin Homann
16th John Callaway
18th Susan Nelson
19th Grady Harris
22nd Anisa Zahn
23rd Tina Ripley
25th Lou Whatley
26th Christopher Zahn
Joe Corn

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Men's Emmaus FUMP	2 Sonshine Strummers Lampstand @ 3:30pm	3 Daddy Daughter Dance 5:30 - 8:30 Pridgeon Center
4	5 Women's Study Men's Bible Study	6 FUMP	7 Women's Emmaus UMW Ukulele/Choir Youth	8 Men's Emmaus FUMP Finance/SPRC	9	10
11 Trustees Meeting Following Worship	12 Men's Bible Study Spring Break Mini Camp Meeting Education Meeting	13 FUMP	14 Women's Emmaus <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Supper-6pm & Service-7pm</i>	15 Men's Emmaus FUMP	16	17
18 Sunday School Kenya Day <i>Lent Supper Study</i> <i>5pm</i>	19 Men's Bible Study OFFICE CLOSED	20 FUMP	21 <i>Lenten Lunch</i> Women's Emmaus UMW Ukulele/Choir Youth	22 Men's Emmaus FUMP	23 Sonshine Strummers Isle of Watercrest @ 2:00pm	24 MOPS Garage Sale 8am - 1pm In Activity Bldg.
25 <i>Lent Supper Study</i> <i>5pm</i>	26 Men's Bible Study	27 FUMP	28 <i>Lenten Lunch</i> Women's Emmaus UMW Ukulele/Choir Youth			

Reading for the Weekly Worship

February 4	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 11	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Genesis 17:1-7	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38