

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



January 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



## Epiphany Fiesta

Please make plans to join us

**Sunday, January 14th** (following worship)

For a covered dish celebration of Epiphany!

Family Life & Children's Ministry join together to host this special opportunity for fun & fellowship.

We ask that you bring a covered Mexican-styled dish to share and a gift of clothing for the Clothes Closet and/or a canned good for the Food Pantry. We will have games, fun & tons of food to be enjoyed by all.



**A HUGE Thank you to Rhonda Miller and our amazing Children's Christmas Choir. What a beautiful performance! Expecting many more in the very near future!**

**FIVE KIDS**

*family*



*Peace*

*adventure*

*Sleep*

© Can Stock Photo

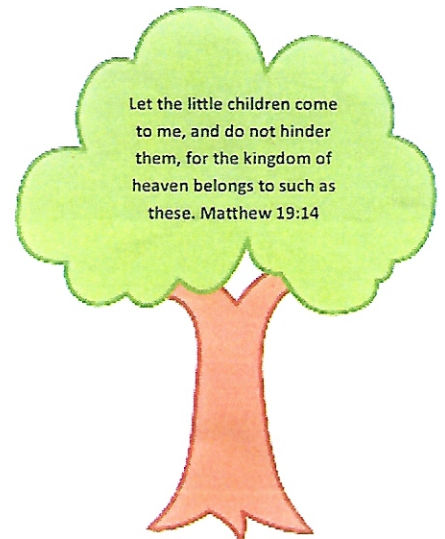
**BE BRAVE**



Are these just words or do they mean something to you? As we end 2017 and look forward to what lies in store for 2018 I encourage you to take a moment and think about what you would like your focus to be in this coming year. Maybe you have been lacking in confidence and need to embrace bravery or maybe family time has been put on the back burner and you'd like to make it a priority. Join me in praying that God will place a word on your heart that you can carry with you into new year. Then, take that word and place it on your mirror, in your backpack, on your fridge or maybe even paint it and hang it in your room and let your special word guide you. Embrace the future that God has planned especially for you!

Praise God for new beginnings and for His everlasting love and grace! Wishing you a new year filled with all the joy, love & laughter that He would want for you and your family!

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





# Polly's Pondering

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

For those of you who were unable to catch the third Sunday of Advent sermon, let me catch you up. Happiness is emotionally based on circumstances. Joy is birthed from within out of relationship with God. That is why we can hold on to joy in some of the most unbelievable circumstances. It is of God and not something we are capable of on our own. At the end of the sermon, I shared with the congregation that they would now have the opportunity to experience that truth.

So, why am I surprised by all the negative circumstances happening this week; employees out, computers crashing, frustrations mounting, never enough time, deadline looming and creative thought has all but come to a standstill. Wow! I have seen how quick I am to move in and out of happiness. (Sorry to disappoint those of you who thought I had it all together. Is there anyone else out there that can relate? Have you felt Satan moving in circumstances to rob you of your happiness and joy? And, Lord, I need Your help – cause it is only Tuesday!)

Then this morning, a sweet phone call. Natalie, my third Granddaughter, called. “Hi Grandma!” came her sweet voice. She told me she was sick; she had thrown up. Mommy had already lovingly cared for her that morning and settled her down with Daddy for the day. But, Natalie was about to teach me something about holding onto joy in the midst of difficult circumstances. She had already tried to call her cousins but they were still sleeping so she called me, and after me she called her Mimi, then she would try the cousins again. She just needed to tell someone about the circumstances of her day. Not so they could make them magically go away, but so that someone could comfort her in the midst of them. Before we ended the conversation, I asked if she wanted me to pray for her and she said yes. We prayed, she thanked me and then we hung up. In that moment, my circumstances faded into the background and I remembered, serving others in the midst of circumstances is one way to hold onto your joy.

That is when the scripture from 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 came to me. In the NIV version (above) you see that because we have been comforted by God in Jesus Christ we are able to offer comfort to others. But I want to share with you the same verse as I first saw it written in a Daily Light Devotional that had originally belonged to Eva Bashgate from Polo, Mo. She signed it April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1902. My Parents gave it to me Christmas of 1972.

*“The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

God comforts us, so that we can comfort others, and in the process God comforts us. It is a full cycle of love expressed through care, compassion, and comfort. Perhaps today you are in need of comfort. Don't be afraid to call a brother or sister in Christ and share your needs. Perhaps the circumstances are closing in and you feel like joy is elusive. Get outside of yourself and become a comforter to another in need. Remember the God who is merciful and moved with compassion, who has planted the seed of joy within you through Jesus Christ. Remember the words of Christ as he prepared for the cross, I am leaving but I will send The Holy Comforter.

And one last thought, when you blow it and the circumstances get the better of you, don't beat yourself up over it. Acknowledge your emotions, make amends where needed, and re-adjust your thinking by remembering that in the midst of our circumstances, God is with us. No matter how small or how big those circumstances.

Thank you Natalie, for reminding me that sometimes all I need to recapture joy is to reconnect with other believers through the power of prayer.

Blessings,

Rev. Polly Standing



*Committee Meetings*

*Administrative Council Sunday, January 21*

*Education Monday, January 15 (6:30)*

*Family Life Tuesday, January 9 (6pm)*

*Child care provided*

*Finance Thursday, January 11 (6Pm)*

*Preschool TBA*

*Worship Monday, January 15 (4pm)*

**L.E.A.D. INSTITUTE**

Leadership, Education & Development

With Guest Speaker Dr. Jacqui King

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018**

Christ UMC Fellowship Hall in College Station

Come by the Church office for details.

*PRAYING PIECERS NEWS*

The Praying Piecers will meet on January 8th and 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in the Kitchen of the Activity Building. Anyone is welcome to come and join us for lively conversation and sewing. "Don't sew", you say, well if you crochet, knit, or do any one of the other hand craft activities, come on and join us we'd love to have you.

Happy Stitching, Donna Otto

*Music Note:*



Happy New Year! It's a time for a little rest and a time to think about new commitments and new challenges! Last month was such a wonderful, busy time for the music program at our church. After all of the hustle and bustle, we'll start out easy with one performance this month for the Sonshine Strummers and begin working on new music specials for the Choir. The Children's Choir will not pick up again until March to get ready for the Easter season, but look for specials from our talented youth. The Grateful Nation Praise Band will continue to delight us with contemporary music for our Sunday mornings. And of course, we want to thank our wonderful pianist, Terrie Foltermann and our wonderful keyboard player, Cathy Reed. If you are thinking about joining the Sonshine Strummers or the Choir, please show up on Wednesdays and check us out. We'll always pull up a chair for you!

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda



5th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance

*Saturday, February 3rd 5:30 - 8:30*

*At The Pidgeon Center in Franklin, Texas*

Contact LeAnn Lennie if you are interested in helping or sponsoring this community

*Would you like to become better equipped to serve Jesus Christ?*

Make plans to attend:

**West District Lay Servant School**

Saturday, February 10th (8:30-4:00) &

Saturday February 17th (8:30-4:00)

Cost \$35, Class is at First UMC in Bryan

Stop by the Church office for more details.



## Monday Afternoon Bible Study 1:00pm-3:00pm

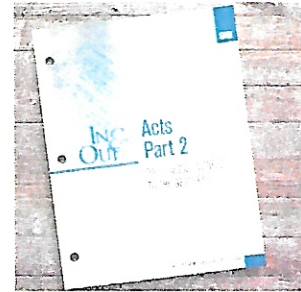
### Eight Weeks Beginning January 22nd

*Acts Part 2 - Paul,*

*Jesus' Witness to the Gentiles*

Jesus promised His disciples that they would take the gospel to the remotest parts of the earth. Observe Paul's transformation from persecutor of the church to preacher. Join him on his journeys across the Roman world to proclaim the saving message of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. Learn how to witness and how to live an authentic Christian life in all circumstances in the power of the Holy Spirit...to be like Paul, to be bold in proclaiming the name of Jesus!

Call Beth Vickers @ [979-255-1406](tel:979-255-1406) to order a workbook and join the group.



### Updates to Church Directory

P.13- Pat Medart's telephone # is (979) 828-5986

P.14- Tanja Peterson (not Tanya)

P. 20- Rachel Fachorn has moved. New address:

1100 13th Street  
Auburn, NE 68305

P. 25- Reinhardt- Ken and Robbie

Email: [robken0598@yahoo.com](mailto:robken0598@yahoo.com) (not 0698)

P. 23- Pat Medart

Residence: 4168 Owensville Cemetery Road Franklin, TX 77856

Mailing: Correct as listed

Telephone: (979) 828-5986

P. 22- Jake and Chelsea Janacek

1526 Savannah Drive Richmond TX 77406

Chelsea's Telephone # (281) 415-7203

Jake's Telephone # (409) 679-8384

Add: William "Buddy" and Toni Baxter

704 E Colorado Street Bremond, TX 76629

# MEN'S Bible STUDY

## Men's Bible Study

I have been meaning to get this announcement out for a couple of weeks but little things have kept occurring that delayed my doing so. But, with a new year coming it's time to get the ball rolling!

I wanted to get a feel for how many are interested and begin to get the logistics in place to start sometime in January. The first study will be "Not a Fan"; this study that is 6-weeks long and is centered around the calling of every Christian to truly follow Jesus Christ. After this study, the future studies will be determined by the interest of the group. I'm planning to have this in about a 90-minute format:

- Opening Prayer
- Discussion of previous week
- View DVD (approx.. 25-30 mins)
- Discuss new themes and issues
- Prayer time

I wanted to have the Study here at mine and Cyn's home so we can be in an informal setting if the group is too large – well we will adjust.

If you're interested, please provide the information below:

- Day of week and time that would work in your schedule.
- Best way to contact you (preferably by text or email)
- If there is anything I can pray for in your life. ( I've begun a prayer journal and have committed and challenged myself to pray each day for one in my name) Please do this even if you're not Interested

My contact information is:

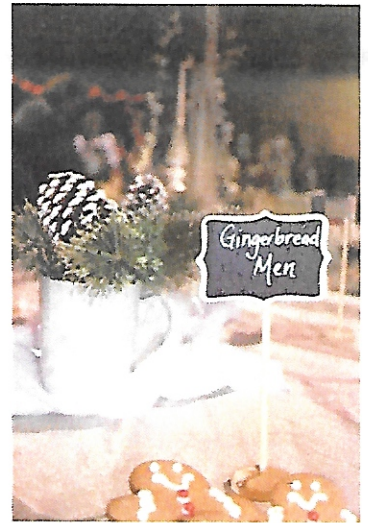
Cell – (979) 229 – 9547

Email – [jhanks@hanksengineering.com](mailto:jhanks@hanksengineering.com)



# Cookie Walk

Thank you to ALL who helped with the Cookie Walk Fundraiser... There are too many to name! We raised \$4,848.00 to help pay down the New Sanctuary Building Note and had a LOT of fun & fellowship doing it! It's never too early to start thinking about creating special items for our 2018 Christmas Market or trying out tasty new cookie recipes to bake for next year! cookie recipes to bake for next year!





# Youth News

Let's Celebrate the New Year with a Purpose: Serving!



**Fellowship:**  
We are on break until January 10th, 2018.

**Fundraiser**  
The Thanksgiving Board will continue to be displayed on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.

**Ministry and Missions**

How can we share our knowledge with others? By serving others! We will begin working on our Valentines dinner fundraiser event.



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the youth fundraiser "Thanksgiving Board". The youth are excited to share all the acts of service that they have implemented in the church and the community. The youth went Christmas caroling, made Christmas cards for the nursing home, served in the kids area for the Cookie Walk, shared their love of Christ through music during a Worship Service and so much more! We will continue to leave the "Thanksgiving Board" up for the month of January so that others may have the opportunity to support the youth as they continue to show God's love through acts of service into the New Year.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Christina Martin





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.

Ginger Mareth  
 Ray Akins  
 John Callaway  
 Jim Hanks

Joey Mickelwitz  
 Tom Fuller  
 Katherine Scasta  
 Archer Foltermann

### Lay Readers

January 7 Wayne Huggins  
 January 14 John Hinks  
 January 21 Jeff Ripley  
 January 28 Jack Hutchison

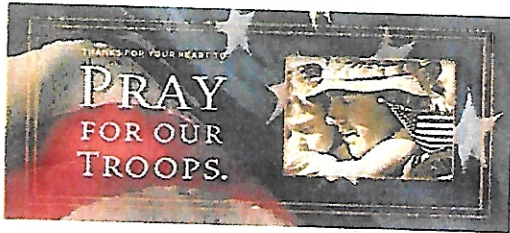


### Tithes & Offering for Last Month

Average Attendance	97.5
Offering Income for December (1-21)	\$16,518.55
Memorial Income:	\$4,681.00
New Building Fund	\$16,292.42

### Ushers

Jody Smith  
 Greg Stem



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

## January Birthdays

1st Andy Reed	28th Amy Neichoy
2nd Mary Jane Magill	31st Jim Hanks
Mickie Callaway	Samantha Harris
7th Kyle Hoegemeyer	
9th Austin Ray Corn	
10th Landon Vickers	
11th John Kamas	
15th Sebie Harris	
John Cooper Huggins	
19th Maddie Nelson	
21st Keith Zamzow	
Jan Westerman	
Raheem Green	
24th Ben Zamzow	
25th Caitlyn Martin	
26th Tabitha Cloat	



### January Anniversaries

14th Todd & Julie Neyland  
 24th John Carty & Deborah Hicks  
 30th Frank & Louise Cates

# January 2018

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> No Preschool	<b>3</b> No youth UMW 9:30AM	<b>4</b> Preschool Resumes	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Quilters MOPS	<b>9</b> Family Life Meeting 6PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Finance/SPRC 6PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Epiphany Fiesta Following Church	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed Worship Meeting 4PM Education meeting 6:30PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Admin Meeting after church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Preschool—Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-3pm Women's Emmaus—Wednesday Mornings at 7am Men's Emmaus—Thursday Mornings at 6:30am Ukulele—Wednesday Nights 5:00pm-5:45pm Choir—Wednesday Nights 5:45pm-6:30pm Youth Fellowship—Wednesday Nights 6pm-8pm		

## Reading for the Weekly Worship

January 7	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6: 12-20	John 1: 43-51
January 21	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	Psalm 62: 5-12	1 Corinthians 7: 29-31	Mark 1: 14-20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8: 1-13	Mark 1: 21-28