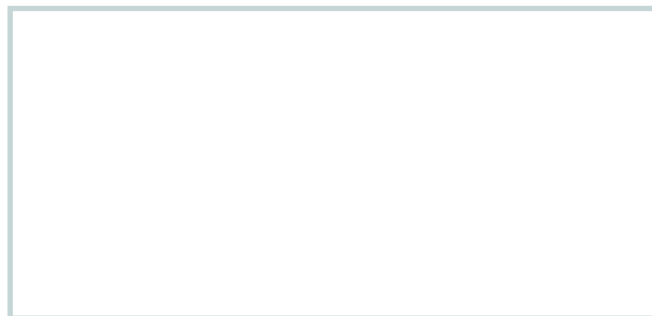


Franklin United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



March 2020

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 thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in his temple.
Psalm 27:4*

My daughter, Kim, and I were talking about how tired we are of this weather; cold one day and hot the next day. You never know what to expect. We are so ready for the warmth to return. I wonder if you are too? That conversation got me to thinking about the temperature of my soul.

When I first encountered Jesus, I was on fire. I was filled with excitement and the desire to get to know more about Jesus. I wanted to spend time fostering the relationship and I couldn't wait to hang around other friends of his. And that, of course, showed in my life. People called me a Jesus Freak. There was no denying my love of God.

Since then I have experienced both highs and lows in my relationship with God. I know He has never been far away, but my own response has not been as consistent as His. You might say I have been both hot and cold. Somedays I am totally invested and other days I am self-focused and distracted.

It was then that the irony struck me. I was complaining about how much I dislike the fluctuations in weather. No consistency. I never know what I can count on day by day. How sad, it seems then, that my faith is as inconsistent as the weather in Texas. God must get very tired of the constant up and downs of my walk. How one day He can count on me to speak truth and fight against the evil powers of this world with an enthusiasm that can't be quenched and then the next day I am more concerned about myself and some small issue that I have encountered. How He must long for the day when my focus will be totally on Him and no longer pulled here and there.

I am striving to hear the words from Joel with new purpose and clarity:

“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping; and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for He is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive.”

I pray that throughout this Lenten journey as we travel to the cross with Jesus, you too will take the opportunity to look carefully at those places where we have fallen short of the glory of God and in doing so we don't quite receive all Christ has in store for us.

The truth is that we can not control all the circumstances in which we experience Christ, but we can take seriously the scripture in which we are told to be transformed by the renewal of our mind (Romans 12:2). Perhaps this Lent you will choose to be intentional in your faith along with me. And while we are at it, let's ask the Lord to put a new and right spirit within us.

Pastor Polly

After thought: I am so glad that Jesus uses these moments of realization to convict and never condemn. As soon as I finished the article, I was reminded of a little-known fact about Mother Teresa. She experienced a wilderness time in her life when she could not hear from God as she once had. She even talked to her priest about this difficult time. It lasted several decades. Friends, spiritual giants have struggled through wilderness times before us and have remained faithful. We can too! Because all things are possible for those who love the LORD. Matthew 19:23-30.



Plans for the Lenten Season and Easter celebrations are underway. Lent is a participatory season in which we are all called to be actively involved with opportunities to search our spiritual selves. Please mark your calendars for these opportunities to worship and prepare your hearts during this Holy Season.

March 4 – April 8 (each Wednesday) **The Lenten Lunches/Devotionals**

- March 4 Freddy Burden, New Baden Baptist Church
- March 11 Rodney Box, The Worship Center
- March 18 Pastor Bronson Stewart, First Baptist Franklin
- March 25 Father Richard Du, St. Francis Catholic Church
- April 1 Pastor Moton, South New Hope Baptist Church
- April 8 Reverend Michael Gruhn, Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church

April 5 **Palm Sunday** Will include a procession of the children waiving palm branches as they enter the Sanctuary.

April 9 **Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)** Service at 6:30 p.m. and will include Holy Communion as we focus on the death of our Lord.

April 10 **Good Friday** Showing of “The Passion of Christ” at 6:00 p.m.

April 12 **Easter Sunday** Plan to join the church family for an Easter Morning Breakfast served at 8:30 in the activities building. All are welcome and vegan and gluten-free dishes will be served along with our usual breakfast fare. Following the breakfast, a special worship service is 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. Envelopes will be distributed during worship services.

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

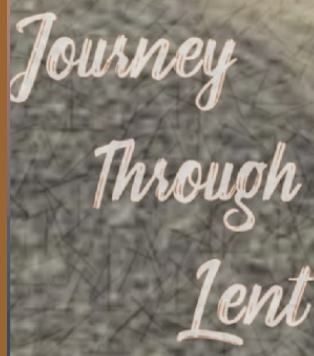
As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to participate or volunteer to help the Worship Committee with these special opportunities of worship, please contact the church office and we will be happy to have your input and participation.

March Mission of the Month~UMCOR



As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. **UMCOR** works with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency and encourage partnerships.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger.



During the 40 days of Lent be sure to visit the church's Facebook page. On Ash Wednesday our journey began. A journey of reflection, through joy, through pain, through hope, through life. Each day a Lenten devotional that is intended to deepen your spiritual

journey will be posted to our Facebook page. Lent is a season for prayer; for self-examination, confession, and repentance; for fasting; for charitable giving; and for hope – Easter hope. Use these postings daily, as you ponder the scriptures, read the reflections and think and pray about what all this means for you. If you are not on Facebook please let us know and we will get you a printout of the daily devotional.

The FUMP CORNER

PRAISE THE LORD! We have our shade for the playground and we are so excited. One of our parents, Lance Muzyka, was instrumental in getting Miller Welding and Construction, out of Bremond, to build the structure. Both Lance and David Miller were very pleasant and professional during construction.

The Daddy Daughter Dance was a huge success! Everyone seemed to love the *50's Sock Hop Theme*. The money that we raised will be used to purchase new materials/toys for the preschool.

March is such a fun month, as we have our annual Western/Rodeo day. We will celebrate on March 24th from 9:00 – 11:00. It is a fun filled day with farm animals, roping contests and all things western.

Our Bible scripture for March is taken from Psalm 127:3. It reads that children are a heritage from the Lord, a reward from Him. This is our constant reminder that He gives children, not as a penalty, nor as a burden, but as a favor. They are a token for good if men know how to receive them and educate them. The job of our staff at FUMP is to teach the children about God's love, comfort and protection.

Thank you for your love, prayers and support as we minister to the precious children and their families.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan, Director FUMP



You are invited to our Lenten Bible Study!



Sunday evenings,
March 15th, 22nd,
29th, and April
5th in the Activity
Building.

Pot luck supper at
5:00pm, followed
by group study
around 5:30pm.

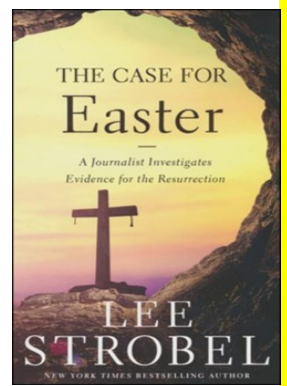
We will investigate Christ's death and resurrection through the study *The Case for Easter*, by Lee Strobel.

Child care provided during group study.

Contact Meghan Moran with questions:

MeghanLMoran@yahoo.com

979-240-4195



PRAYING PIECERS NEWS

We will be meeting on the 9th and 23rd of the month. Come join us in the Activity Building Kitchen from 9am - Noon. We enjoy working on sewing, quilting and other various projects, while we fellowship and enjoy a potluck meal together.

If you don't have your own project to work on, we'd be happy to let you help in this wonderful outreach project.

Happy stitching!
Donna Otto

Prayer Committee



Are you getting the weekly email of Prayer Request from Your Church Family? If you are not, please call the church office to confirm your email address. Also, always check the Prayer Request in this newsletter for others in need of prayer.

Be joyful always; pray continually 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Youth

James boldly stated that "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17b) In the month of March, during Wednesday night youth, we will explore this truth and others found in James' epistle (in between 4-square bouts and other fun and games). Truths we all need to practice like "true religion" and controlling the tongue. We will also plan the youth (& children) led worship service that will occur on April 19th.

Spring Break: instead of the regular youth night the Wednesday during Spring Break, we will have a movie night for those youth not traveling. More information will be communicated to parents and youth.

Lenten Sunday night study: Two options are offered to the youth during the study:

- Join the adults for the video teaching/table discussion of "The Case for Easter" by Lee Strobel
- Help with the children's programming

Continued thanks to our faithful supper providers! We appreciate all the delicious food.



Wed. March 4th, 18th, & 25th @ 6:00: FUMYF

Wed. March 11th, No regular FUMYF, movie night instead

Sun. March 15th, 22nd, 29th, and April 5th @ 5:00 pm: Lenten study

Wed., March 18th @ 5:00 pm: Youth Council will meet.

Faith + Works Opportunities:

April 24-25th our youth and their friends will participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. By raising donations and fasting together for 30 hours, they become part of the solution to alleviate the suffering of so many children around the world. If you know a youth who would be interested in joining us, please let me know.



June 6-12th a mission team of youth and adults will be sent out by our church to serve the families in Apalachicola, FL with hurricane recovery.

If you know a youth (completed 6th-12th grade) who would be interested in serving with us, please let me know.

In Christ's love,
Mary



LAKEVIEW
METHODIST
CONFERENCE CENTER

Lakeview Summer Camp 2020 will be June 28 - July 3rd

All children entering 3rd grade and older are welcome to join us!

For more information and/or to register your child(ren), go to <https://lakeviewmcc.org/summer-camp/parents/>

For the parents' guide, go to https://lakeviewmcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Parent_Guide.pdf

Be sure to mark Franklin UMC as the church your child/youth will be attending with.

The cost for summer camp this year is \$440. Payment plans through Lakeview are available, as well as scholarships; information is on their website. Scholarships were also available through our church district. More information will be available soon.

If you have specific questions that the website doesn't answer, please let me know.

In Christ's love,

Mary Kamas

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

1:00pm to 3:00pm

● Luke Part 2 ●

● Wisdom Classroom ●

Music Note:

"Praise to the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious and a song of praise is fitting."

Psalms 147:1

The Choir and the Sunshine Strummers are doing just that! We have a very busy month coming up. Terrie Foltermann and Cathy Reed will be playing for the Wednesday Lenten services and the choir will be working on Easter songs. The ukulele band is working on new medleys and hope to sing them at our next performances. We'll be playing for the residents at Watercrest in Bryan on the 12th beginning at 5:00pm and for CHI at St. Joseph on the 26th at 3:30pm. We love to hear new singers for our Sunday worship. I will gladly practice with anyone interested. Just give me a call.

Mrs. Otto is continuing to book gigs for the The Sunshine Strummers, so if you've never had the blessing of seeing them perform, make plans to do so soon!

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

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Christian Bible Study"**

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we should always remember that we
are His people.**

We Are His

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THOUSANDS of resources
available through your RightNow
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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.

Barbara and Jim Eller

Grady Harris

Tonya Boyette

Madison Sexton Wilcox

United Methodist Family of Faith

Mike Allen
(Cynthia Hanks' Brother-in-Law)

The Stacey Family

Katherine Scasta

Tom and Bessie Fuller



COMMUNITY
Lenten Luncheons

Sponsored by: The Franklin
Ministerial Alliance

SPEAKERS

March 4

Brother Freddy Burden
New Baden Baptist Church

March 11

Pastor Rodney Box
The Worship Center

March 18

Pastor Bronson Stewart
First Baptist Church Franklin

March 25

Father Richard Du
St. Francis Catholic Church

Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	16,258.00
Building Fund	\$	1,825.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	775.00



Lay Readers

1st	Kip Kissinger
8th	Jeff Ripley
15th	Julie Jarrell
22nd	Joe Corn
29th	John "Carty" Hicks



Eric Michael (Air Force)
Rachel Johnson (Army National Guard, MP)
Benjamin Standing (National Guard)
PFC Joseph Pawley (Army)

Ushers for March

Howard Hoegemeyer
&
Jim Hanks

Average Attendance
92



March Anniversaries

1st	Buddy & Toni Baxter
4th	James & Barbara Eller
19th	Andy & Jill Harris
20th	Grady & Debbie Harris

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

March 2020

7	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Regularly Scheduled Events listed below.						
 Next Sunday~ Don't be late.	2 Bible Study 1-3pm	3	4 Lenten Luncheon 12:00–1:00 Brother Freddy Burden New Baden Baptist Church	5	6	7
8 Finance/Trustees Committee After Worship Rachel Kamas Bridal Shower 2-4pm	9 Praying Piecers 9am-12pm Bible Study 1-3pm	10	11 Lenten Luncheon 12:00–1:00 Pastor Rodney Box The Worship Center	12 SonShine Strummers Watercrest at Bryan 5:00pm	13	14
15 Admin. Council After Worship  Lenten Bible Study Pot Luck Supper 5pm Bible Study 5:30	16 Bible Study 1-3pm	17	18 Lenten Luncheon 12:00–1:00 Pastor Bronson Stewart First Baptist Church of Franklin	19	20	21
22  Lenten Bible Study Pot Luck Supper 5pm Bible Study 5:30	23 Praying Piecers 9am-12pm Bible Study 1-3pm Christian Growth 6pm	24	25 Lenten Luncheon 12:00–1:00 Father Richard Du St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	26 SonShine Strummers CHI St. Joseph Bryan 3:30pm	27	28
29  Lenten Bible Study Pot Luck Supper 5pm Bible Study 5:30	30	31	April 1 Lenten Luncheon 12:00–1:00 Pastor T.J. Moton South New Hope Baptist Church			

Choir - Wednesdays 5:00pm-5:40pm
 Ukulele - Wednesdays 5:45pm-6:30pm
 Beginner Lessons - Thursdays By Appt.

Girl Scouts - Wednesdays 4:30pm-6:00pm
 Youth - Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm
 Men's Emmaus - Thursdays at 6:30am
 Women's Emmaus - Wednesdays
 7:00am & 6:00pm

Praying Piecers - Select Mondays
 Clothes Closet Volunteer
 Mondays 3:00pm-5:00pm
 Thursdays 9:00am-11:00am

Lectionary Reading for Weekly Worship

March 1	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 8	Genesis 12:1-4	Psalms 121	Romans 4:1-2; 13-17	John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9
March 15	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 95	Romans 4:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 22	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
March 29	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalms 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45