

**Franklin United Methodist Church**  
*December 27, 2020*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Wednesday, December 30	No Youth Group	
Thursday, December 31	Men's Emmaus	6:30am - 7:30am
	<b>Youth New Year's Eve Party</b>	8:00pm—12:30am
<p><i>Please remember that the Church office will still be getting work done, but the hours and availability will be limited during the Holidays. Should you need assistance, you may always call or text us:</i></p> <p><i>Rev. Polly D. Standing 281-733-0978</i>  <i>Frances Boyette 972-268-3558</i></p> <p><i>You can also email the church at franklinumc@gmail.com. Emails are constantly monitored.</i></p>		

**ELECTRONIC GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!!**  
**PAYPAL** **VENMO**

<http://paypal.me/Franklinumc> <http://www.venmo.com/FranklinTXMethodist-Church>

**Remember those who serve in our Military**

Eric Michael ~ Air Force Benjamin Standing ~ National Guard PFC Joseph Pawley ~ Army All Others, known by God

**Many are also watching the Sunday Worship Live as well as watching the videos on the church's website, Facebook page or YouTube.**

**Wishing you a Blessed New Year.**

Pastor	Rev. Polly D. Standing
PT Director of Family Ministry	Destiny Havard
Administrative Assistant	Frances Boyette
Treasurer	Keith Kamas
Custodian	Maria Cottrell
Director of Nursery	Debbie Harris
Nursery Staff	Destiny Havard, Karlie Kissinger
Director of Choir	Rhonda Miller
Pianist	Terrie Foltermann
Keyboardist	Cathy Reed
Guitarists	Andy Harris & Andy Reed
Sound Technician	John Standing
Visual Media	Laura Corn, Christina Martin, Caitlyn Martin
Communion Helpers	Servant Leaders of the Congregation
Acolytes	Children of the Church
Lay Reader	Jeff Ripley
Greeters & Ushers	Ken Reinhardt and Noah Reinhardt
Ministers of the Gospel Message	All Church Members

**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

116 W. Decherd Street - P.O. Box 556 - Franklin, Texas 77856 - [www.umc-franklin.org](http://www.umc-franklin.org) - Office: 979-828-3355



**Franklin United Methodist Church**  
*December 27, 2020*

*Sunday Small Groups at 9:00am & Worship at 10:15am*

*Sunday Morning Worship LIVE online at~<http://umc-franklin.org/sunday-morning-worship>*



**Prelude Greeting**

**Leader: The Lord has been our dwelling place in all generations. He is the one true God who reigns forever.**

**Call To Worship & Entrance of Acolytes**

*"While We Are Waiting, Come"*

With power and glory, come;  
 With power and glory, come;  
 Jesus, our Lord, Emanuel,  
 While we are waiting, come.

**Praise Songs**

*"Joy to the World"*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her King;  
 Let every heart prepare him room,  
 And heaven and nature sing  
 And heaven and nature sing  
 And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
 Let all their songs employ;  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as, Far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders of his love  
 And wonders, wonders, of his love.

**"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Give ye heed to what we say;  
 News, news!  
 Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Ox and ass before him bow,  
 And he is in the manger now.  
 Christ is born today,  
 Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Now ye hear of endless bliss;  
 News, news!  
 Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 He hath opened heaven's door,  
 And ye are blest forever more.  
 Christ was born for this,  
 Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Now ye need not fear the grave;  
 News, news!  
 Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one and calls you all  
 To gain his everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save,  
 Christ was born to save!

**Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**  
**Jeff Ripley**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be Thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
 On earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 But deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power  
 And the glory for ever. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** **2 Kings 23:1-3**

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets - all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord - to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

## Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## Children’s Sermon

*Simeon Blesses Jesus*

*Full story found in Luke 2:22-40*

## The Proclamation Pastor Polly Standing

Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with his own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

## Time of Prayer

Leaders: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

**People: Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We confess that we have been slow to learn of Jesus and have been reluctant to follow him wholeheartedly. You have spoken and called to us but we have not always listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader One: We now confess to You our sins.  
Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...  
for the selfishness of our prayers...  
for our inconsistency and unbelief...  
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...  
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ...  
for the ways we deceive others...

**People: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts You have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**

Leader Two: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for other to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

**People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader One: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to You now.

## Words of Assurance and Pardon

Leader Two: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ’s image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

## Special Music

**Kimberly Perez**

## The Invitation

Pastor: Gathered together here in Christ’s presence, let us commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to him so that we may fully belong to him. Jesus Christ has left us with many ways to serve. Some of these tasks are easy and make us look good, but some difficult and unpleasant. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we can not please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Let us begin by offering Christ this prayer:

**People: Let me be your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leaders: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

**People: I am not my own. I am yours alone. Make me into what you will, O Christ. Rank me with those you will. Put me to use for you. Put me to suffering for you. Let me be employed for you. Let me be laid aside for you. Let me be lifted high for you. Let me be brought low for you. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to your pleasure and disposal.**

Pastor: We are called now to confirm this truth in holy covenant. You can make this covenant a reality through the following ways  
First, set apart time in your day...  
Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence...  
Third, claim God’s covenant and trust in His power...  
Fourth, be determined to be faithful...  
Lastly, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall on your knees. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

## The Covenant Prayer

Leader One: Let us pray together:

**People: My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I come before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done Your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

Leader Two: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

**People: From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.**

Leader One: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

**People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Leader Two: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

**People: Jesus, I here and now accept you as the only new and living way. I join myself in covenant with you. I come to you hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. With all my power, I accept you as my Lord . I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take your will as my law.**

Leader One: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with you and accept whatever comes in life. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from you.**

Leader Two: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**People: I here and now willingly take on the yoke and burden of Christ. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

Pastor: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

**People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon you as my Savior and**

**Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

## Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## Invitational Hymn

***“Go Tell it on the Mountain”***

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere,  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching  
O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.  
**Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! Above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior’s birth.  
**Refrain**

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
**Refrain**

## Dismissal with Blessing

Pastor: May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and forever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

**People: Amen**

***“May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You”***

May the good Lord bless and keep you  
Whether near or far away  
May you find that long awaited golden day today  
May your troubles all be small ones  
And your fortunes ten times ten  
May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again.