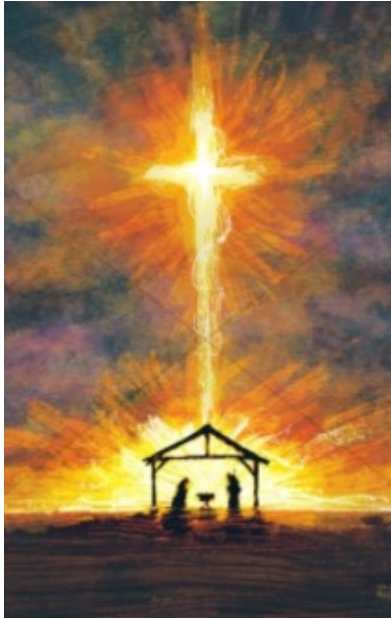


Franklin United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



**December 2021**

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

Things started out great. I had attended the Veterans' Day program at the High School and intended to make the pep rally, but I went at the regular time, not play off – drive a long way – time. You get the picture. I missed the pep rally. I caught up with the girls and at least got to say hello and wish them well before they headed off for the game. While there I discovered that Caitlyn had a mishap with her tights. I headed out to the game. On the drive I decided I could do Caitlyn a favor and pick up a new pair of tights. Easier said than done. After the fifth store I got the idea that this good deed might not come to pass. After the seventh store I knew it wouldn't. My search had gone cold and so had the temperature.

I checked in with Caitlyn and asked if she had something other than her uniform and coverup sweats. She said no and I thought well not a total failure, after all I had a Franklin Lion Sweatshirt/hoodie in my car (of course it was quite old and totally not the right shade of green, but it would keep her warm). I could still be helpful by giving her something warm to wear.

I arrived at the game and discovered they had not yet arrived. Not knowing where they would be, I sat at the 50-yard line. It wasn't long before I saw them filling up the stands at the 20 and realized they would not be down on the field except for half time. If I wanted to watch her twirl, I would need to move closer to the band. So, I did. That's when she told me that the band had stopped somewhere and she saw a black hoodie and since it was black out day, and she loved the hoodie and needed one, she picked it up on her way in. She would not need my hoodie after all. Anyone who knows me, knows I like to be helpful – Oh well. At half time I found a different way to keep her warm as I purchased hot chocolate for her and me and Evelyn.

The new seat ended up behind an older couple. She was wrapped up in her shawl. He was sitting beside her with his hands wrapped in the edge of the shawl. Clearly, they had not been expecting this drop in temp. As the temps continued downward, eventually settling at 56 degrees. I noticed the man shivering. I offered my hoodie for him to wrap his hands in. But it wasn't long before even that was insufficient. By this time, we had struck up quite a bit of conversation. So, feeling a bit more familiar, I suggested that he put the hoodie on and place his hands in the pockets. That way both he and his hands would be warm. It fit him perfectly.

We discovered that they were there cheering for a relative who attends FISC. They, however, lived near my daughter Jenn's house. I totally enjoyed the conversation. When I went to leave, I told the man that I would like him to keep the hoodie and thanked God when they agreed to keep it. When I got to my car, I thanked God for the opportunity to help someone. And I was struck by the irony that while the help I had intended to offer was not needed, there was another opportunity to serve.

When the time of harvesting had come Jesus looked out at the field ripe and ready for picking and spoke these words. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* Matthew 9:35-38.

There is a lot of good to be done, a lot of need, and a lot of people with whom to share the Good News. Small acts of kindness are an expression of love and when done for the right reason, they can be an expression of the Goodness of God. I hope you will look around and see what kind of things you could do to be a doer of the Word. Because as it says in James Chapter 2 *"But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was."* The truth is that being a helper is how I live out being a doer of the Word. Sometimes, the person involves turns down the help, some might even be startled by the help, and I dare say my kids might use the word "annoyed" by the help. But by and large, people are grateful – thankful. Look, being a helper is how I live out being a doer of the Word. How do you do it?

Better yet, when was the last time you were a doer of the Word? It's a great way to be reminded of who you are, and to whom you belong.

*Pastor Polly*

# Youth Ministry NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Youth Christmas Party on  
Wednesday,  
December 15th at  
6:00pm

the Christmas experience

# HOPE REVEALED

Youth and their families are invited to experience Christmas as the hope of Jesus is revealed through the Bible story come to life. Sunday, December 19th at 6:00pm in the Activity Building.

No Youth Group  
December 22nd & 29th

*Merry Christmas*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Salsa for Sale

(Love Title's recipe)



Enhance a holiday party or just enjoy a tasty treat as you support local and international mission projects.

All proceeds support the Franklin UMC Youth mission projects and World Vision.

32 oz container—\$12

Email orders to:  
kmkamas@gmail.com  
debbieblack@lovetitle.com  
or  
tchanley@lovetitle.com

Orders must be placed by Tues. Dec. 7th @ 5 pm. They will be available on Mon. Dec. 13th

For more information text Mary Kamas @ 979-777-1038



November 28 marked the beginning of our Advent Theme **HOPE REVEALED**. What a wonderful time of year and we look forward to enjoying all the exciting worship opportunities throughout the season. Instead of poinsettias this year, the congregation will have another Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary. Members are asked to bring a special family ornament to decorate the tree. These ornaments will honor or remember someone special in their lives. Each Sunday, Pastor Polly will highlight facets of **HOPE** in her sermon.

**HOPE REVEALED "A Christmas Experience"—December 19, 6:00pm in the Activity Building**

Bring the family to begin Christmas week experiencing Christmas in a new way as the hope of Jesus is revealed through the Christmas story coming to life.

**Christmas Eve** – The service of scripture and music (no sermon) will celebrate the coming of the Christ Child and will include Communion.

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 would be happy to have your input and participation. --Deborah Hicks

## Special Called Charge Conference

A special Charge Conference has been called for Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00pm which will be virtual and presided over by Bishop Scott Jones. The meeting will be viewed in the sanctuary. At this meeting we will elect a recording secretary, participate in the webinar led by Rev. Carol Bruse and Bishop Scott Jones, consider and vote upon the resolution that will be presented that night. All those holding a leadership position are strongly encouraged to attend, but all members are invited to attend. That vote will instruct our Trustee Chair, Barry Cate, how to complete the official Boy Scouts of America ballot.



## The FUMP CORNER

*"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Our November curriculum was filled with giving thanks in all circumstances. We are very grateful to our FUMP families, staff, and community for making our ***Little Turkeys Thanksgiving Feast & Auction*** such a success. It was such a blessing to have several members of our preschool board attend this year. Our staff was able to prepare and serve close to 150 meals to our families without difficulty. The auction has been one of our fundraising events for a number of years. The money we raised, combined with what we take in from the Daddy/Daughter Dance, will be used to purchase new outdoor items to help develop gross motor and play skills. Psalm 107:1 says *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.* We are truly blessed at the preschool.

Christmas: 🎵 *It's the most wonderful time of the year!* 🎵

During this glorious season, our staff will focus on Jesus' birth and the love God has for us. Our prayer is the children learn that God loves us so much, that He gave us the gift of His son. The children have been preparing for our Annual Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 14. There is nothing more precious than listening to little children sing songs about the Savior of the world. The preschool will end the month with a celebration Happy Birthday Jesus Party. FUMP will be closed for the holidays from December 17-January 5. All children and staff will return January 6.

My prayer for each of you this Christmas is that you experience the Prince of Peace, the Messiah, the Holy One-Jesus Christ. Let us carve out some time in our busy schedules to worship the King. Merry Christmas to all.

In Christ,  
Sherry Buchanan  
Director FUMP



## Bible Study

Tuesday 10:00am  
Gospel of Mark

Bring your Bible and a notebook and come join us in the activity building.

For more information contact John "Carty" Hicks or the church office.

## Mission of the Month



### Christmas Angels

*Again this year we are looking to bless several children with Christmas gifts through the Christmas Angels ministry.*

*Angel tags are available in the sanctuary or call the office to have one selected for you. Gifts are due back to the church by Monday, December 13. For more information contact the church office at 979-828-3355 or Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406.*

## Honor/Memory Tree

Greetings Church Family from the Worship Committee! We have decided to make a change this year. Instead of poinsettias we will have an Honor/Memory Tree in the back of the sanctuary. Each family is asked to bring a special ornament to place on the tree in honor or in memory of your special person/persons. You can either leave your ornament to be packed away for the next year or take it home. We believe this will be a special change everyone will enjoy.

If you want to purchase a poinsettia on your own you are welcome to do so, but be sure to arrange to care for it while it is at the church. We will be getting 2 large white poinsettias for the altar for December 19 through Christmas.

Any questions contact the church office or Deborah Hicks at 979-255-8333.





**Children's MINISTRY**

**December**

**Upcoming EVENTS**

Children and their families are invited to experience Christmas as the hope of Jesus is revealed through the Bible story come to life. Sunday, December 19th at 6:00pm in the Activity Building.

*the Christmas experience*

**HOPE REVEALED**

## Our Amazon Wish List

has been updated with some new items that the Church and PreSchool can use, please check it out at this link.

## FUMC Amazon Wish List

This Wish List contains items that might not be a priority in the church's budget, but that are needed. You can purchase items and they will be delivered right to the church. Of course, we want to acknowledge all the gifts, so be sure to fill out the gift receipt. You can access the wish list by following the link above or searching in Amazon by the church's name or email address.



### 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." Psalm 147:1*

Choir practice will be every Wednesday during December in order to prepare for the Holiday season. Please join us Wednesday at 5:00pm.

**WANTED: CHOIR MEMBERS!**  
**No previous experience required!!**

The choir is growing, BUT there are still plenty of seats available. So...Come join with us as we "sing to the Lord a joyful song."

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda



## Advent Study



The Christmas story, or Advent, is more than a sentimental myth or a quiet manger scene we use to decorate our living rooms. The Christmas story is the good news of God entering into our darkness. Join us at 9:00am each Sunday morning during

Advent in the Activity Building as we take a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the great I Am. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story—the arrival of Jesus changes everything.

The video study is led by J.D. Greear. Below is the link to view the videos in case you are unable to join us on Sunday mornings.

[The Christmas Story](#)





## Katie's Korner

G'day from Down Under!

It has been an exciting and, at times, surprising year serving with YWAM Newcastle here in Australia. In the past year I served on a couple of local outreaches, while partnering with churches and youth groups, hosted community barbecues and did street evangelism. As part of our Youth Street Ministry I led a team whose purpose was to connect weekly with young people at one of the parks in our city while playing sports and sharing bible skits. At a few public schools we have assisted with scripture classes and a lunchtime group called 'Hot Chips and Jesus.' Connecting with Christian high schools, I spoke at a school chapel about relationship with Jesus as well as mentored middle school students on their school camp at YWAM Tahlee, our 'sister' campus. While quarantine restrictions shifted some of the ways we did ministry from July to October, God opened up many doors and ways for us to share His love and truth with others. In order to aid international students, I organized our partnership with Food Bank Australia's campaign to give out free food boxes. Moving our Youth Street Ministry online, we were able to connect with our youth via weekly Zoom hangouts with games, chats and short teachings about identity. We also began to pioneer a homework club to support some of our high school students who are Arab refugees. Our team began with regular 'FaceTimes' to work on homework with four girls. In all, I have seen God move and guide our steps to share our faith and disciple others.

As we head into 2022, I extend my gratitude for you all at Franklin UMC and look forward to experiencing how God will continue to lead us in His mission. Through encouragement, prayers and finances, you have partnered in the ministry I have here in Newcastle. Thank you!

Would you continue to pray with me moving forward in the following areas:

- Youth Street and our other youth ministries in Newcastle
- School camp ministry growth
- Ever-deepening intimacy with God for our YWAM staff
- Perseverance and joy

Much love to you all and warm wishes from AUS,  
Katie

*Watch this space for monthly updates on Katie Kamas' mission experiences with the youth in Australia.*



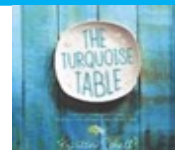
**Click below to see a short video.**

This inspiring illustration uses the simple beauty of holiday decorations to reveal God's miraculous love in His plan to redeem mankind through His son.

### **The True Miracle of Christmas**

**This is just one of the THOUSANDS of resources available through your **FREE** RightNow Media account.**

### **Turquoise Table Ladies Meets 1st Thursday every month 11am—Activity Building**



Come share lunch and stay for fun and games!! Bring your own sandwich (the chips, drinks and dessert are provided.) After lunch we will break out the games and you can have your choice from several fun activities. For more information contact Deborah Hicks 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell 979-255-2966.

**See you on December 2 at 11am!!**



### **Sunday Small Groups at 9:00 am**

**ARK-Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten**  
**Kingdom Kids** - 1st thru 4th grades  
**Encounter** - 5th thru 8th grades  
**Fusion** - 9th thru 12th grades  
**Home Builders** - Adult  
**Wisdom** - Adult

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 9AM TO NOON**

# Cookie Walk

It's that time of year again...time to decide on which Cookies you will be baking for our 7th Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser! If you are new to FUMC you may be asking **"What is a Cookie Walk?"** Tables and tables of **HOMEMADE COOKIES!** Sold by the pound.

**What do we need from YOU?**

**\*\*COOKIES, COOKIES AND MORE COOKIES!!\*\***

We need many varieties of fresh-baked delicious cookies; good old-fashioned ones as well as fun new creations.

**Details:** All must be Homemade Goodies. (Fudge and Candies are also welcome) Each family is asked to commit to making a MINIMUM of 5 pounds (which should be about equivalent to a double or triple batch, maybe 4-5 dozen). They should be fresh baked that week. Cookies can be made by people individually or some work in teams at the church. We really need medium or smaller size, attractive cookies that have a little weight to them. Larger ones are fine if they are specialty...we often bag those individually or in small batches. Festive Christmas cookies are a big hit. We don't need too many of the ordinary cookies (plain chocolate chip, etc) no matter how delicious, they don't sell quite as well at these type of events, so although we still need them, we will limit the number of basic cookies. Please call the church or Beth Vickers (979-255-1406) to sign up and let us know what variety of cookies you are bringing (that way we don't have too many of the same kind!). We will need the cookies delivered to the church by Friday, December 10.

## **\*\*CHRISTMAS STORE ITEMS\*\***

We will once again have a fun Christmas Store. We need unique "select" items that can be bought for Christmas presents or used as decorations. Suggestions: Decorative gift baskets filled with goodies, homemade jams, specialty breads, fun or beautifully crafted items ...please call church office or Beth Vickers to let us know what you are planning to provide for our Christmas Store.

Also, if you would like to help as a hostess on the day of the event, please let us know!

## Are you a mom who:



MOPS & MOMSNEXT

- Would love some community and encouragement
- Enjoys eating a warm breakfast
- Could use a little break

Then we have a place for you to come, share, listen, relax, enjoy a meal, be served, meet new mom friends with similar stories and build a community of moms for Christ!

MOPS/MOMSNext meets every other Wednesday at the First United Methodist in the Activity Building from 9am to 11am.

We do provide childcare for a limited number of children so please be sure to call and register prior to dropping off

Please come as you are, we would love to have you!

Go to [mops.org/join](https://mops.org/join) and enter code: DED9 for membership

If you are interested in joining, please call:

Brittany Gresham @ (979) 412-1467

## MOPS FRANKLIN

**Wednesday 9:00am-11:00am**

### Meeting dates

September  
8th & 22nd

December  
1st

March  
9th & 23rd

October  
6th & 20th

January  
12th & 26th

April  
6th & 20th

November  
3rd & 17th

February  
9th & 23rd

May  
4th

ALL FOR  
LOVE

2021-2022

# 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.

Furman Richard  
Hospitalized COVID patients  
Pat Turner

All those suffering during the pandemic  
Teachers and Students as they struggle with COVID  
Sherry Smith

Tonya Boyette  
Audrey Miller  
Pat Cate



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



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Scott Hailey	15th	Issac Kamas
	Casey Chanley	16th	Cathy Reed
2nd	Erabella Cloat		Mary Kay Smith
3rd	Scott Huggins	17th	Steve Conrad
	K.C. Kamas	18th	Lauren Comer
4th	Sandra Hoegemeyer	19th	Rachel Kamas Kwon
	Kip Kissinger	22nd	Alex Huggins
	Charles Ellison	24th	Wayne Cloat
	Lilly Harris	26th	Lara Thibodeaux
5th	Madison Sexton		Bobby Graham
7th	Wynona Taylor	27th	Earnest Smith
9th	Ariel Kissinger	28th	Lauren Ripley Todd
10th	Jeff Ripley		Birgitte Bly
11th	Rhonda Miller	29th	Caleb Moran
13th	Luke Kamas		



5th	Andy Reed
12th	Mary Kamas
19th	Reese Rawson
24th	Wayne Huggins
26th	Bill Wygle

### Ushers for December

Jody Smith & Greg Stem

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Barry & Jenny Cate
17th	Robert & Laura Hailey
20th	Earnest & Mary Kay Smith
21st	Frank & Anne Perry
29th	Billy & Sara Davis



### Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	22,967.86
Building Fund	\$	2,185.00
Memorial-Designated	\$	540.00
Bus Donations	\$	16,000.00

**We appreciate and need your  
continued faithful giving.**