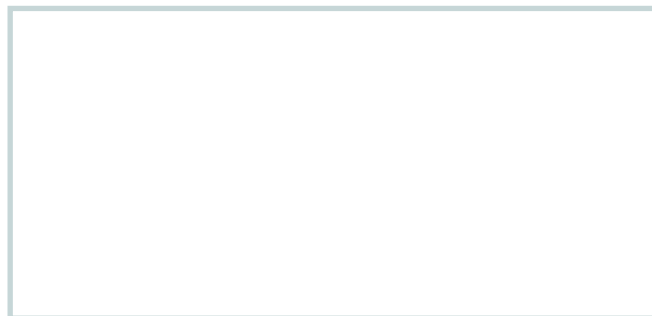


Franklin Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



**February 2023**

Visit us on the web  
[www.franklinmethodist.org](http://www.franklinmethodist.org)

### Purpose Statement

Franklin 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 Methodist Church 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



I am not one of those individuals born with a built-in sense of direction. You know the ones I am talking about; they give you directions to a location by saying stuff like – “go north at Hwy 6” or “when you get to Jones Road go east.” Instead, I place things. So, I say things like - “at the donut shop turn left...then take a right at the Pizza Hut...if you see the supermarket you have gone too far.” I don’t think I am the only one that struggles with directions. In fact, you cannot hardly purchase a car or truck these days that does not have a navigation system built into the vehicle. The truth is that finding our way and navigating our journey can be difficult. It is always good to have a little help.

So, for me, a map is important because it identifies where I am and where I want to go. The trouble is I can get sidetracked. After all there are shopping centers, friends’ homes, and food places all along the way. The new navigation systems will quickly advise you when you have gotten off track. “At the next intersection make a U turn and return to route.” When you are persistent with the detour they will eventually give in and begin to “recalculate” the route in order to still get you to the intended destination.

The same is true in our spiritual journey. We know where we are and we know where we are headed. Unfortunately, we can get sidetracked on this journey as well. We allow worry, anxiety, parenting, relationships, busyness, temptations, pride, and any other number of things to distract us from our intended destination or at the very least slow our forward progress. In Proverbs 4:23, 25-27 we are told to “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life...Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don’t get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.” Wouldn’t it be nice if there was something that acted like the magnet on a compass, pointing us in the right direction and thereby keeping us on the straight and narrow?

Then it dawned on me that we do have that pull toward faithful following of God. John 6:44 puts it this way: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 12:32 reads: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to myself.”

If we look for the ways that God is drawing us to Him we will see them, feel them, hear them because He has promised. But the magnet will not work alone. There is both the magnet and the object being drawn by that magnet. Each has a part to play one is cause and the other is effect. One is drawing the other is responding. Raymond Lull put that longing this way:

*“As the needle turns to the north when it is touched by the magnet, so it is fitting, O Lord, that I, your servant, should turn to love and praise and serve you; seeing that out of love to me you were willing to endure such grievous pangs and sufferings.”*

So, if we find ourselves loving, praising, and serving the Lord, then chances are good you are feeling and responding to His draw on your life. But if those things are not true, you just might have gotten sidetracked. It may be time to recalculate and get back on the right path.

*Pastor Polly*



The Youth will lead worship on Sunday, February 19th at 10:15am. If you would like to find out how you can participate please contact Mary Kamas.



In lieu of Youth, families of children & youth will be invited to join us at the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd held in the Activity Building at 6:00pm. There will be a soup supper.



Our Lenten Study this year will tie the words of the beloved song "Amazing Grace" to our lives today as Christian disciples. Each week we will look at a person in the Bible that has experienced the amazing grace of God and they will help us to realize that we too were once blind to God's mercy. We can now see His love at work in us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

FYI~it is the 250th anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace" by John Newton.

## The FUMP CORNER

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

It's all about Love, Hearts, and Kindness, during the month of February. In Mark 12:30 when Jesus was asked to identify God's greatest commandment, He answered, ***"Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with and with all your strength."*** What does this mean to a preschooler? How do we explain this concept to young children? That is what our teachers are great at doing. We talk about the concept, explain it, act it out, and live it out every opportunity we have. Our focus will be to tell the kids how much God loves them and we should love God as He loves us. There are so many Bible stories that we have already taught and still so many more to go. Little children are like sponges and we know we only have a small window to expose them to the Word of God.

Our Valentine's Day Party will be February 9 and we can't wait. The kids love to put cards in their friend's Valentines boxes. We love to watch the little ones open their cards.

Our largest fundraiser and community outreach is the **Daddy Daughter Dance** on February 25 this year. Fathers or that special male in children's lives are so important. Watching the dads and their girls have a special time together is an awesome experience. It is a lot of hard work with planning, decorations, and clean up, but it is so rewarding. This year's theme is ***An Enchanted Evening***. If you, or know of someone who, would like to sponsor the dance by donating a monetary gift or an item for the dad's door prizes, please contact me. Our goal is to raise enough money for playground improvements and a PA System. With our society changing and security being so vital, the PA System will enable us to make announcements for our lock down drills and other important information announcements.

Please continue to pray for the staff as we minister to these precious families.

In Christ,  
Sherry Buchanan, Director, FUMP



We will begin the Lenten season on February 22 in the Activity Building with our traditional soup supper followed immediately by our worship service. Please join us for this special evening.





## Blast

Wednesday Nights February 1st, 8th & 15th. kids K-2nd & 3rd-5th are invited to join us from 6:00-8:00pm for dinner, worship, games, & small group time. Blast will meet at the church parsonage @ 503N Glass Street.

*For more information or to volunteer to serve call the church office.*



In lieu of Blast, families of children & youth will be invited to join us at the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd held in the Activity Building at 6:00pm. There will be a soup supper.



## Sunday Small Groups at 9:00 am

**ARK**—Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten

**Kingdom Kids**—Grades 1 thru 4

**Credo Confirmation**—Grades 5 thru 8

**Home Builders**—Adult

**Wisdom**—Adult

## Katie's Korner

WATCH FOR NEWS  
FROM KATIE'S  
MISSION TRIP TO  
POLAND SOON.

## Turquoise Table Ladies Thursday, March 2 11am—Activity Building



**February cancelled due to weather~~see you in March.**

**Come share lunch and stay for fun and games!!**

Bring your own sandwich (the chips, drinks and your 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 at 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell 979-255-2966.

## rightnow MEDIA

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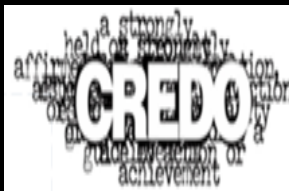


**Click below to see a short video.**

An onion's life begins in dirt. We are born into sin. This simple video illustration highlights some of the parallels between the life of an onion and the life of a Christian.

## Be an Onion

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



## Confirmation Class

Mark your calendar for the following important confirmation dates.

Retreat  
May 5-7, 2023

Confirmation  
Pentecost Sunday,  
May 28, 2023

## February Mission of the Month

### Our own "homegrown" Missionaries



#### **Katie Kamas** **Youth With A Mission (YWAM)** **Australia & Poland**

Go for God is what you first see on the Youth With A Mission website and that is just what Katie did in October 2019. She left Franklin and her FMC family to go and

work with the youth in Newcastle, Australia. Since arriving in Australia Katie has been instrumental in their Youth Street ministry, medical missions, working with campers, as well as recently becoming a member of the Disciples Training School (DTS.) She has extended her original two year commitment for another two years allowing Katie to continue to spread the Good News of God and share Jesus with the youth in Australia and this year for a month in Poland.

*Go* therefore and *Make* disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

MATTHEW 28:19



#### **Seth & Kailey Kissinger** **Asia**

Seth and Kailey have been on their mission adventure for over a year now and are making an impact with the residents of their new island home.

Working to make disciples of all those

that they encounter they are bringing God's message of love for all people to their new neighbors and the friends that the Lord has given them in their new home. Their mission will continue for the next several years. In a recent update they are expecting a new little "missionary" named Samuel Paul to arrive later this month.

*Go* therefore and *Make* disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

MATTHEW 28:19



#### **The Moran's** **Roye, Meghan, Luke,** **Caleb and Andrew** **Tennessee**

The Moran's are beginning to learn how to manage the busy, busy days in their new life at Wears Valley Ranch in Tennessee. With a household of 11

boys (ages 8 to 15) and 4 adults the days are quite full with chapel services, homeschooling the elementary and middle school boys, making sure everyone gets to their high school and elective classes on time, cooking breakfast and dinner (for 15!), dining hall duties at lunch, meetings, evening devotionals, and everything else that goes with raising kids. But they are getting to explore the beautiful area by doing some fun things too like hiking and sledding. Roye and some of the boys have even gone to a Christian music concert in Knoxville~ *Winter Jam*.



## 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*

## What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

## 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.

### **FMC Amazon Wish List**

This Wish List contains various items that might not be a priority in the church and preschool's budgets, 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 search in Amazon by the church's name or email





sign up to help serve during worship on Sunday's by delivering the Children's Sermon. All lessons and supplies are prepared for you ahead of time. The lessons are easy and short! For more information and to sign up contact Kimberly Perez at 832-754-1558. We appreciate your help and support of our Children's Ministry!



February 22 is **Ash Wednesday** this year. Services for this special day are being planned along with Lenten observances. As these plans come together, the Worship Committee will see that the congregation is informed. We are looking forward to celebrating this important season as we worship Jesus Christ our Lord and praise God for the sacrifice of His only begotten Son as atonement for our sins.

*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. Deborah Hicks*

## NEWEST ADDITION TO CHURCH PROPERTY

Some of you may recognize this as being the "old parsonage" and you are correct. It has once again become part of our campus. There will need to be a lot of renovations made in order to turn this new/old acquisition into the much needed additional meeting space. SO get you thoughts together and be thinking about how your skills can be put to use as we continue to grow. The opportunities for you to literally help build your church will start soon~~be open to answering **YES** when called upon..





# MOPS/MOMMSNext Franklin



Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

**ALL MOMS WELCOME!**

**JOIN US**

**EVERY OTHER**

**WEDS MORNING**

**10-12 @ FMC**

**BREAKFAST, COFFEE,**

**FELLOWSHIP AND**

**CHILDCARE**

**PROVIDED. COME AS**

**YOU ARE!**

February meetings: 8th & 22nd

**Will you be my  
volunteer?**

Youth Group  
BLAST Children's Ministry  
Children's Sermons on Sunday  
A.S.K. Snacks  
Vacation Bible School  
Clothes Closet

Call the church office for details.



**BE A HERO**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AND VOLUNTEER!**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 10-14**

**9 AM TO NOON**



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.

Denver Richard  
Continued Healing

Teresa Brunette Kyle  
Continued Healing

Peace in the world



5th	Andy Herring
12th	Andy Herring
19th	YOUTH LED WORSHIP
26th	Diana Hutchison

### Ushers for February

John (Carty) & Deborah Hicks



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

### Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	28,449.00
Building Fund	\$	1,025.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	3,464.00
Bus Payoff	\$	7,500.00

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6th	Darron & Marlo Davis
9th	Bryan & Jeannie Reed
26th	Kevin & Amy Marak



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Kristi Kissinger	19th	Grady Harris
5th	Anne Vickers	22nd	Anisa Zahn
	Ronald Gresham	23rd	Pat Turner
9th	Warren Kastner		Tina Ripley
12th	Wayne Huggins	25th	Lou Whatley
13th	Aubrey Harper	26th	Christopher Zahn
18th	Susan Nelson		Joe Corn