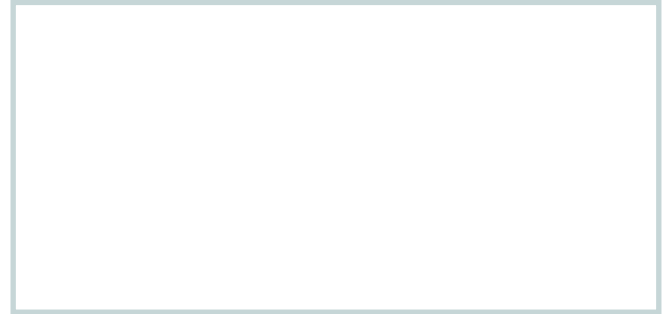


Franklin Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



**December 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

*But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. 1 Peter 3:15*

I was sharing with one of my friends the way I was creating trees for the Cookie Walk Craft Store. I love to create things that have a theological meaning behind them. So, my tree is made of old pages from a Bible that someone else had thrown away. It is true that the Bible had a broken spine and pages were falling out. But I was certain if I put my thinking cap on, I could come up with something meaningful that could be done with those pages. Here is the picture I sent to my friend. Notice that the word of God is hung on a tree. It reminds me that Jesus is the Word of God that was sent into the world destined to hang on the wooden cross where he would atone for the sins of the world.



My friend Martha is also a ponderer of theological thought. And she shared with me the tree she was making to honor God. Let me share with you her words shared with me.

As I see more and more advent calendars that focus on everything from herbal teas to gems to gourmet cat food it's obvious the world's focus isn't on the coming of our Savior. This year I'm making the decision to refocus on the 25 names of Jesus during Advent. I want my main tree to be a witness to my faith for those who visit our home. The red of the poinsettias shows Christ's shed blood sacrifice. The white baby's breath flowers the cleansing of sin. The green tree... new life in Christ and the gold balls heaven. The lights are a reminder of our witness in the world. Each day a different name of Jesus will be added. My prayer is that God will use the advent period to grow us as more loving more caring servants of the living God.

*"You are My witnesses declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me." Isaiah 43:10*

*Pastor Polly*



6th-12th Graders!  
Join us Wednesday for

Food  
**Faith**  
Fun

6-8 p.m. in the  
Activity Building



Join us for caroling on Wednesday night, December 13, as we bring Christmas Joy to the our neighbors.



NO Youth Group on December 20 or 27 or on January 3, 2024  
BUT get ready for lots of activities beginning January 10, 2024.



Christmas Eve  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 · 6:00 P.M.

Please join us at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, as we welcome the birth of the Christ child with a special worship service. Come celebrate with Christmas music, hearing the Christmas story, receiving communion and then we will leave bathed in the Light of Christ.



Worship  
Committee

The Advent Season is here and the Worship Committee has decorated the church in preparation of this special time of worship for our congregation, as we begin the new year for the church and prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to those that came to help with the decorating. A special thanks to Kristie Kissinger for taking the lead role in this year's beautiful decorations.

The Worship Committee asks for your support of the Cookie Walk on December 9. You may either bake cookies, offer your help on the day or show up to purchase cookies. This activity is not a Worship Committee project, but the committee fully supports it and encourages all church members to do the same.

**December 3** – First Sunday of Advent – Theme: Yet In the Dark Street Shineth~~Jerusalem

**December 10** – Second Sunday of Advent – Theme: Yet In the Dark Street Shineth~~Nazareth

**December 17** – Third Sunday of Advent – Theme: Yet In the Dark Street Shineth~~Bethlehem

**December 24** – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**There will be no morning service on Christmas Eve and no service on Christmas Day.**

**December 31** – Watch Night. Hymn singing

*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*

## The FUMP CORNER

*"When they heard the king, they departed; and the behold the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was." Matthew 2:9 NKJV*

December is the time that we teach our little ones about the true Christmas story. Yes, we will talk about Santa Claus, Christmas trees, presents and all that goes with Christmas. Our main focus will be the birth of Christ and the real meaning of Christmas. The story of Jesus has many parts that children can relate. Christmas is the birthday of Jesus which means a birthday party to our little ones. I don't know many little children, or adults for that matter, who do not enjoy a birthday party. The preschool will have a program December 14 at 10:00am followed by our Happy Birthday Jesus Party. We should all celebrate Jesus the way preschoolers do—pizza, cookies, balloons, songs, and more. We would like to invite you to the program, as they sing Christmas songs they have been practicing for many weeks.

As we teach the Christmas story we learn about the special star that God placed in the sky to tell people that Jesus had been born. This is a great time to re-introduce our lessons on creation—God's creation.

Another part of the Christmas story is about giving and receiving gifts. The three kings brought gifts to Jesus. Giving gifts is all about love. We give gifts to those we love, just as God gave us the best gift—His only begotten Son Jesus.

There is so much more to the story that we emphasize, such as the long trip to Bethlehem, the stable, the smells from the animals, and the shepherd boy.

FUMP will be closed for the holidays starting December 15. The staff will return January 8 for a Staff Development Day, while the children will return January 9.

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



## Honor/Memory Tree

Greetings Church Family from the Worship Committee! The Honor/Memory Tree will be back again this year. This tree in the back of the sanctuary. Each family is asked to bring a special ornament to place on the tree in honor of, 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 is a special way for honoring our loved ones.

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 17 through Christmas.

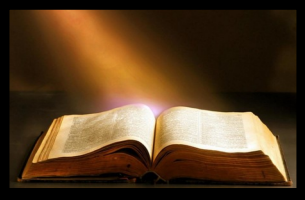
Any questions contact the church office or Deborah Hicks at 979-255-8333.



There will not be a Christmas Day Worship Service at the Church. Please take this time to be with your family in worship. **Be watching for a special Christmas Reflection that you can share with your family at home.**



THANKS TO SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS the Activity Building Kitchen Closets are getting cleaned and organized. In the process there have been MANY items that have been located that You may have left behind~~so check the kitchen in the Activity Building for your missing dishes, caps, serving ware, etc. If you have any questions reach out to Jenny Cate and she can help you look for your items.



# Bible Study

is taking the month of December off.

On Tuesday, January 2, 2024 Bible Study will return and begin to study the book of Job.

Job, is the first of the poetic books in the Old Testament. Scholars generally agree that it was written between the 7th and 4th centuries BCE. It addresses why God permits evil in the world through the experiences of the protagonist Job, who is a wealthy and God-fearing man with a comfortable life and a large family.

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

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

## Two Great Volunteer Opportunities on Sunday, December 3



**Come to the Wesley House following Worship and help assemble the Christmas Cheer Baskets.**

**Then stay for a Soup & Salad lunch.**

**The Christmas trees that will be used to decorate for the Cookie Walk will be arriving at 1:00pm and your assistance is needed and greatly appreciated in helping to unload and assemble the trees.**



## Mission of the Month



### Christmas Angels

Again this year we are looking to bless several children with Christmas gifts through the Christmas Angels ministry. Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 17. If you were unable to get a gift tag you can make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase gifts for other tags that might not be chosen. For more information contact the church office at 979-828-3355 or Beth Vickers at 979-255-1406.



### 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*

Please join us at worship on Sunday, December 10 when the choir will be performing Bethlehem Wind.

Choir will not practice on Wednesday, December 6 because the Sunshine Strummers will be giving a lunch time performance that day for the GEMS at Fire Station #2.

There are still plenty of seats available in the choir, so, come join with us as we "sing to the Lord a joyful song."



"Sing"cerely, Rhonda 

### IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE

**The first Church Charge Conference as a member of the Global Methodist Church will occur immediately following the worship service on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Please plan on attending.**





## Sunday Small Groups at 9:00 am

**ARK-Nursery**, Pre-K & Kindergarten

**Kingdom Kids**-1st thru 4th grade

**Encounter**-5th thru 8th grade

**Fusion**-9th thru 12th grade

**Home Builders**-Adult

**Wisdom**-Adult

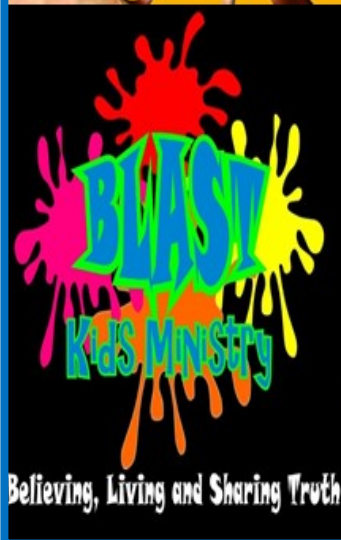


**Click below to see a short video.**

How do kids see Christmas? In this heart-warming clip, a child's voice relates the nativity story from Luke 2, with Chapman's gentle underscoring. It may bring some child-like wonder to your Christmas.

## The Christmas Story with Steven Curtis Chapman

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



Kids K-2nd & 3rd-5th are invited to join us Wednesday nights December 6 & 13 from 6:00-7:30pm for dinner, worship, games, & small group time. Blast will then take a winter break until Wednesday, January 10 when we will meet again in the church Education Building.

## 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 items that might not be a priority in the church or 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 searching in Amazon by the church's name or email address.



On Wednesday, December 6 the Baptist church is inviting the community to participate in their

## *Hometown Country Christmas.*

There will be

**Live Nativity • Tree Lighting • Christmas Carols  
Hot Chocolate • Kettle Corn • Christmas Cookies  
Ornament Making • Face Painting**

**... and chestnuts roasting over an open fire!!**

It is free to the community! But you have an opportunity to love your neighbor—bring non-perishable food items for the Franklin Food Pantry. Invite your friends & bring your entire family and don't forget the lawn chairs & blankets!

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

# Cookie Walk

It's that time of year again...time to decide on which Cookies you will be baking for our 8th 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 8.

## **\*\*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!

## **MOPS News This December:**



**Join us for our Christmas  
meeting**

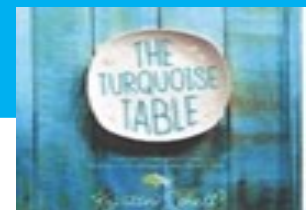
**Dec 6th @ FMC 10-12**

**\*MOPS meetup at Xtreme**

**Dec 27th 10-12**

**Bring the kiddos and let them  
burn off some of that extra  
holiday energy!**

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



**December's meeting will  
be December 7.**

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 details contact Deborah Hicks 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell 979-255-2966.

# 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.

Denver Richard  
Health Concerns

Terrie Foltermann as she continues to heal

All those who suffer from  
dementia



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

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st	Scott Hailey	16th	Cathy Reed
	Casey Chanley		Tatum Rae Todd
	Zachary Marak		Mary Kay Smith
2nd	Erabella Cloat	17th	Steve Conrad
3rd	Scott Huggins	18th	Lauren Comer Rojas
	K.C. Kamas	19th	Rachel Kamas Kwon
4th	Sandra Hoegemeyer	20th	Kevin Marak
	Kip Kissinger	21st	Georgia Frieda
	Charles Ellison	22nd	Alex Huggins
	Lilly Harris	24th	Wayne Cloat
5th	Madison Sexton	26th	Lara Thibodeaux
9th	Ariel Kissinger		Bobby Graham
10th	Jeff Ripley	27th	Earnest Smith
11th	Rhonda Miller		Mallory Marak
13th	Luke Kamas	28th	Lauren Ripley Todd
15th	Issac Kamas		Birgitte Bly
		29th	Caleb Moran

## Lay Readers

3rd	Jeff Ripley
10th	Julie Neyland
17th	Julie Jarrell
24th	Wayne Huggins
31st	Julie Jarrell

## Ushers for December

Bob & Donna Otto

## Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	24,331.06
Building Fund	\$	975.00
Memorial-Designated	\$	2,850.79

We appreciate and need your continued faithful giving.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

